



# The Cat's Whisker

Community Music Wales *Autumn Newsletter '11*

## Welcome

to the Autumn edition of  
the Cat's Whisker

AS the nights start to draw in and the leaves turn brown, we are reflecting here at CMW on what has been another fantastic summer filled with exciting projects and workshops. One of the highlights was our 3 month Accredited Tutor Training course. You can read more about its great success on page 2. We've also been experimenting with new technology in our 'Jump to the Beat' project that you can read about opposite.

We are anticipating a very busy Autumn. Our WCVA Engagement Gateway scheme is under way, and we're looking forward to working in partnership with the Amber Project to provide a series of music workshops that are funded by Lloyds TSB Foundation.

We have some exciting projects being run by our Welsh language initiative, Ciwddod, including a continuation of the Taith C2 Schools Tour. Ciwddod is being run by our new Welsh Language Project Officer, Mirain Evans. Welcome Mirain!

We'd also like to welcome Kathryn Slattery to the Admin team. Kathryn has recently started with us as Administration Assistant.

Finally we would like to say 'Happy Birthday Charl!' to Charlotte Little, our Programme Manager who recently celebrated a special birthday.

Thanks for reading!

**HANNAH JENKINS**  
Director



*Many Happy Returns*

## Jump to the Beat!

COMMUNITY MUSIC WALES recently began running music technology and performance workshops at Communities First wards around Wales. The workshops focus on group activity, fostering mutual intercultural & intergenerational respect within an informal, enjoyable and safe environment. These workshops are aimed towards integrating people in their communities and offer musical opportunities that appeal to many ages to promote cohesion. These workshops encourage people with no musical experience to interact with music in a safe and fun environment. This work is funded through the Arts Council of Wales Lottery fund.

CMW has always remained at the forefront of new music technologies and has spent the last year developing new accredited courses and activities that bring together a range of digital technologies, combining them with traditional music to create cutting edge activity.

The Merthyr workshops ran at the end of August for groups of young people between the ages of 3 and 15, each with their own abilities and musical interests. The project combined movement and

dance with the creation of new music and composition. New technology was used in the form of 'dance mats', which are large mats with pressure points that trigger computer actions. The young participants also used familiar gear such as Nintendo Wii remotes and controllers for the Buzz Playstation game as re-purposed music instruments. The user triggers a series of musical notes and drum sounds with different moves, allowing them to incorporate music composition and dance in the same activity. This encourages the participants to be expressive and creative in several art forms; building confidence whilst at the same time having a lot of fun.

The project proved to be a great success. Chris Tarbuck, Youth Development Officer at the Willows Centre in Troedyrhiw said; "It has been a pleasure to once again work with Community Music Wales. The participants have enjoyed all aspects of the project. A good project."

For further information on workshops and projects ran by CMW, please visit [www.communitymusicwales.co.uk](http://www.communitymusicwales.co.uk).



# CMW Tutor Training Rocks!

CMW's most recent Community Music Tutor Training Course came to a flourishing Grande Finale recently when the trainees played a gig at Clwb Ifor Bach in Cardiff.

The training lasted 15 weeks, one day each week, covering a range of theory and practice in community music with practical workshops from professional community music trainers. The workshops included group work skills, assertiveness, devising and adapting workshop material, facilitating client learning and growth, working with soft outcomes and transferable skills, an awareness of child protection, insurance, assessing basic skills, health and safety, equal opportunities and diversity, and best practice.

The 16 trainees, skilled musicians from all ages and backgrounds, highly praised the re-vamped and unique course. The trainees will be accredited by Agored Cymru and hope to take their new knowledge and skills into the workplace. Sian Donavan, a trainee, said; "Thank you to all the tutors for a totally brilliant, awesome, life changing experience! CMW Rocks!"

The course climaxed at Clwb Ifor Bach when each musician showcased their individual talents and positive collaboration skills. The gig demonstrated the variety of skills that are available for sharing as a tutor and stressed the importance of being able to work together as a community group.

For further details and information on any future courses, please contact [admin@communitymusicwales.org.uk](mailto:admin@communitymusicwales.org.uk) or 029 2083 8060.



For up to the minute news and project information: [www.communitymusicwales.co.uk](http://www.communitymusicwales.co.uk)

## Ciwdod

COMMUNITY MUSIC WALES are pleased to announce that they have secured a further three years of funding for its Welsh Language music project Ciwdod. Entering into its 7th year, Ciwdod has previously given a helping hand to many rising Welsh language acts such as Yr Ods, Race Horses (Radio Luxembourg), Plant Duw, and Derwyddion Dr Gonzo to name a few.

Ciwdod works at a grassroots level providing workshops for those interested in Welsh language contemporary music. It also works with more experienced musicians providing mentoring, music industry support and guidance for those seeking a professional career in music.

This year, Ciwdod launches an innovative new scheme aimed at developing skills for young people interested in the promotion and marketing of contemporary Welsh language music. The project will run music industry related workshops covering promotion, marketing, management and design. Participants will develop skills through activities exploring all aspects of music making and its promotion. The project aims to get more young people involved in 'behind the scenes' roles in the music industry.

Community Music Wales continues its long-standing partnership with BBC Radio Cymru, running music workshops on the annual Taith C2 School's tour. This year's tour kicks off in the autumn and will provide activity for schools across Wales.

Composer and musician Mirain Evans has been appointed to run the scheme. Mirain has experience in delivering educational music workshops and has a Masters Degree in Composition. She is also an accomplished violinist, playing in various Welsh language bands. Mirain said: "Ciwdod is working on some exciting new workshops - it's rewarding to see so many talented young people keen to take part in our projects, especially our music industry promotion and marketing project that will hopefully be carried out this November in Newport. I'm looking forward to working with young musicians and seeing them getting involved with Welsh language music-making within their own community."

Community Music Wales' Ciwdod scheme is funded by the Welsh Language Board.



## Community Music Activity Resource Pack

WE are delighted to announce Kevin Brennan MP is launching CMW's Community Music Activity Resource Pack at The Norwegian Church, Cardiff on September the 30th at 3pm.

We began development on the pack in 2009 with an aim towards helping organisations use music as a valuable part of their activities.

If you would like a copy of the resource pack, please contact us on 029 2083 8060 or [admin@communitymusicwales.org.uk](mailto:admin@communitymusicwales.org.uk). You can also download a copy from our website.

# Social Media & the Music Industry

BAND or Brand? Or, are they the same thing? It is becoming more and more important for bands and musicians to establish a recognisable brand for their work across the multitude of digital and social networking services that are currently available and used on a regular basis in the music industry. There seems to be a new service or provider being launched every day, all claiming to be, or claiming to be part of, the correct 'tool' to make your band a success.

This Autumn, Community Music Wales will be delivering a series of 5 day workshops across the West Wales area for unemployed or economically inactive musicians that are aged 16 and above. The workshops will aim to explain, in detail, what these digital social networks and services can do and how musicians can maximise the benefit.

The workshops will start by looking at a band or musician's identity, both visually and digitally, and how this is presented on their website or Wordpress. We will then look at the importance of identity and how to keep it consistent across the current crop of popular networks including, Facebook, Twitter, and Youtube. Progressing from there, we will explore the more music specialist services and how to decide if they're the right service for your music and how to integrate them into an online identity and online business strategy.

If you're interested in booking a place on a workshop, or would like to find out more, contact: Adam Williams, Project Officer - Community Music Wales on 029 2083 8060 or [adam.williams@communitymusicwales.org.uk](mailto:adam.williams@communitymusicwales.org.uk)

The first workshops are running in Bridgend 'Just @sk' centre from 26-29 September. Further dates and venues are to be confirmed.

This project is funded through WCVA's Engagement Gateway programme.



## No sleep 'til Strictly



HARRY Cha-Cha has been very busy training the last couple of weeks for the latest series of 'Strictly Come Barking'. He's taking it very seriously.

Paired with Flavia Chihuahua he is very excited to get his paws moving to the music. He is nervous, but also feeling confident.

When he found out he was dancing with Flavia he was very happy; 'I too have been known to rock the Argentine Tango. Some people say I have four left paws, but I'm going to show them what I'm made of.'

Robbie Savage was unavailable for comment.

## Staff Profile:

Lindsey Leven

ADMIN & MARKETING ASSISTANT

Lindsey supports the organisation's marketing and administration. Lindsey's education history is in Fine Art and Design. She also has experience of working with and playing in bands and is still writing and performing.

**If you had to be stuck in a lift with anyone who would it be?**

Johnny Depp as Willy Wonka in his Great Glass Elevator.

**Favourite film?**

It changes all the time. I'm into Jean Luc Goddard films at the mo, but I always love Breakfast at Tiffanys.

**What was the last album you bought?**

I just ordered 'Waveforms' ep by Django Django.

**What is your greatest fear?**

Snakes

**Which person do you most admire and why?**

I like to find something I admire in everyone!

**What's the first gig you went to?**

D:Ream in Aberdeen Music Hall. Things did get better...

**Cat or dog?**

Cats. Lots of them. I don't dislike dogs though. I'd like a venitian pot-belly pig - does that count?!

**Star sign?**

I'm on the cusp between Sagi and Capricorn. I'm mainly of Capricorn nature, but watch out for the firey side sometimes!

**If you could have an alternative career what would you be?**

A painter and yoga instructor on a caribbean island.

**What do you like to do when you're not in work?**

Too much to mention. I like being busy!



CMW is a registered Charity and relies on grants and donations to survive. For more info on donating please visit: [www.communitymusicwales.co.uk](http://www.communitymusicwales.co.uk) **get-involved/donate**

# Diary of events

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## Soar Sounds!

**Merthyr Tydfil Centre and Welsh Initiative, Soar Hall, Pontmorlais:**  
Tuesday 20 & 27 September, Thursday 6 & 13 October, Tuesday 18 October  
6.00pm - 7.30pm

Young people at Merthyr Urdd Youth Club will have the opportunity to take part in this rock songwriting and performance Ciwddod workshop.

These workshops are not open to the public.

## The Gate Music Workshops

**The Gate, Keppoch Street, Roath, Cardiff:**  
Tuesday 27 Sept & Tuesday 4 October 15:45 - 17:45

CMW are providing African drumming and DJing activity for young Czechs and Romanians that attend a weekly group at the Gate arts centre in Cardiff.

These workshops are not open to the public.

## Taith Ysgolion C2 / Ciwddod

**Venues, dates & times tbc**

CMW and BBC have teamed up once again to run music workshops in schools across Wales.

A band will be formed at each school and advised by CMW tutors. New material will be performed at the end of each day and will be broadcast live on Radio Cymru, C2.

These workshops are not open to the public.

## Social Media & the Music Industry

**Venues, dates & times tbc**

As part of WCVA's Engagement Gateway scheme Community Music Wales will be delivering a series of 5 day workshops around West Wales. The workshops are for unemployed or economically inactive musicians that are aged 16 and above. They aim to explain, in detail, what digital social networks and services can do, and how musicians can maximise their benefit.

Please contact CMW for more details.

## Merthyr 3Gs Music Tech Workshops

**Gurnos Resource Centre, Chestnut Way, Merthyr Tydfil:**  
Every Wednesday for 12 weeks, starting 14 September 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Community Music Wales in partnership with 3Gs and Head4arts are delivering a series of accredited music technology workshops for young people in Merthyr.

These workshops are not open to the public.

## The Amber Project

**Every Thursday from 22 September - 24 November 1.30pm - 3.30pm**

Following taster sessions in August, CMW are working in partnership with The Amber Project to provide music workshops. A quiet space and an experienced counsellor will be available at all workshops. The workshops are funded by Lloyd TSB Foundation for England and Wales.

These workshops are not open to the public.

## Coalition of Disabled People Participatory Workshops

**Coalition of Disabled People, Cowbridge Road West, Cardiff:**  
Fridays 1.00-3.00pm ongoing

These workshops will provide opportunities for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities to explore music making through the introduction of varied music technologies. After a successful 8 weeks of workshops, the residents at the Coalition of Disabled People have decided they would like the workshops to continue indefinitely

These workshops are not open to the public.

## What's Next?!

**Merthyr Leisure Centre, Rhydycar, Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Village:**  
Friday 14 October 9.30am - 1.00pm

CMW is running Drop in DJ taster sessions for school pupils with learning difficulties as part of the annual Careers Wales 'What Next' conference.

These workshops are not open to the public.

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## CONTACT DETAILS

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