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# The Cat's Whisker

## Community Music Wales *Spring Newsletter '12*



*Cathy Jewson, former CCM participant.  
Photograph by Emma Owen.*



## Celebrating CCM

This spring marks the end of the Reach the Heights project. Reach the Heights was a £49 million initiative to help around 30,000 11–19 year-olds across West Wales and the Valleys improve their career opportunities. It aimed to raise the skills and aspirations of young people by giving them the best possible chance of future career development and expanding opportunities to gain work related skills. The project was led by the Welsh Government and delivered collaboratively by CMW and a range of joint sponsors which included Arts Council Wales, Children in Wales, Funky Dragon, Save the Children, Techniquet, SNAP Cymru and Urdd Gobaith Cymru. The project was part funded by the European Social Fund (ESF).

Under our Reach the Heights project, we ran our scheme Complete Control Music 14-19 (CCM 14-19), a mentoring scheme for young people aged 14-19 years old. The project worked with young people involved in, or interested in becoming involved in, making music. It was a mentoring scheme which gave practical advice on the music industry along with opportunities to promote and develop participants work, offering recording opportunities, possible releases, gigs, support and advice.

This project worked with a wide range of young people from many different musical genres, from singer songwriters to bands to DJs. CCM 14-19 paired young people with mentors who have worked professionally within the music industry to

provide specialised individual mentoring. It targeted disaffected young people who may not reach their full potential through traditional learning. Through recognising and encouraging their musical talents the project aimed to improve their sense of worth, self confidence, communication, business skills and enable them to create a brighter future for themselves.

Our participants all had individual plans unique to their situation and we worked with them to focus their ideas and realise their goals.

In addition to the CCM 14-19 project CMW also procured out a programme of participatory music to a number of other organisations across Wales including Area 43, Andrew Kent Music Academy (Swansea Youth Offending Service), Coleg Llandrillo Cymru, Mentor Mon and MEWN Swansea. Their projects were all unique, from DJing based accreditation offered by the Andrew Kent Music Academy with young people through the Youth Offending Service, to guitar and more traditional music composition with young minority ethnic women with MEWN Swansea. These projects allowed CMW to work with a range of new organisations on activity with young people. The results speak for themselves in terms of their achievements, with hundreds of young people benefiting from this programme.

You can read some of the participants stories on pages 4 & 5.

## Welcome to the Spring edition of the Cat's Whisker!

After a rather long winter it's lovely to sense spring in the air!

We're having a busy time already this year in CMW, saying 'farewell' to some existing projects, and welcoming some new ones. In this special Reach The Heights edition of The Cat's Whisker we celebrate the successes of our 4 years of funding for our Reach The Heights project. You can read all about it opposite and there is more on pages 4-5.

Our Children in Need project continues to blossom with participants in Newport experiencing exciting music tech, MCing and DJing workshops. We've worked on some really fun commissions this year including a project with Literature Wales. Welsh language project Cwddod continues to flourish as participants play gigs this month in Swansea. We are pleased to be running our Community Music Tutor Training course again next month and preparations are in full swing for this.

We were sad earlier this year to say 'goodbye' to our longest serving member of staff, Programme Manager Charlotte Little who left us to open her own shop, Doodlebug in Cwmbran. Without Charlotte's dedication, commitment and hard work over the years CMW would not be the organisation it is today. We wish her the very best in her new venture!

Thanks for reading

Hannah Jenkins

DIRECTOR



*Good Luck Charlotte!*

# FEEDBACK

## Music Industry Seminar

Earlier in February CMW headed out to the Gwyn Theatre in Neath, South Wales to deliver a Music Industry Seminar for 14-20 year olds. The seminar was developed in partnership with Neath Port Talbot Community Arts.

The day offered the young people professional support through workshops, talks and interactive discussion forums from a professional industry panel including Adam Williams from Community Music Wales, Shaun Preece from Design for Bands, Pete Dowsett from Goulsh Records, Craig Thomas from Opposite Images, Amy Wadge; singer songwriter and Paul Grey; bassist, songwriter and Musicians Union Regional Officer for Wales and the South West.

During the first half of the day workshops were delivered to the young musicians on social media, branding and web presence. The young people found these really inspiring and one band even designed a logo there and then!

In the afternoon the young musicians were treated to insightful talks from Pete Dowsett, Amy Wadge and Paul Gray. Areas covered were independent labels and the music industry, band promotion, publishing and songwriting, royalties and musicians' rights alongside many more topical themes.

Adam Williams, Project Officer said: "It was good to see the young musicians engaging with the industry professionals and learning about the business behind their creativity. The business of music can be very complex and this is a great way for them to find out more about the industry and introduce them to potential career paths."

CMW is hoping to provide further seminars of this nature in the future, so please keep an eye on our events page.



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



## Children in Need Participants Rock Newport!

CMW continues to work in partnership with Newport City Council, Riverfront Theatr, Urban Circle and local musician/DJ Jamie Winchester on an innovative music industry project funded by Children in Need. The project has been taking over disused shop spaces and turning them into temporary performance and studio spaces.

In late February, the participants enjoyed a very exciting week working with Akil from legendary Los Angeles hip hop group Jurassic 5. The week of workshops included MCing, rapping and DJing. The week ended with the participants performing outside Urban Circle in Newport city centre.

The project aims to increase the confidence, aspirations, basic skills and employability of young people in deprived areas of Newport and is set to continue for another two years.

# Make Some Noise with Literature Wales

Community Music Wales were recently commissioned by Literature Wales to provide workshops for two of their exciting projects; Eat My Words and Make Some Noise.

The projects, which were both funded by The Millennium Stadium Charitable Trust worked with Youth Groups and Young Carers groups across Cardiff.

An inspirational collective of poets and writers provided creative writing workshops. The workshops had themes for the participants to explore and write around, such as 'identity'. Following these workshops, CMW tutors worked with the groups to support them in putting music to their poetry and recording these new compositions.

Martin Daws, Tutor on Eat My Words said, on working with the Wrexham and Rhyl groups: 'It's been a real pleasure. The young people have shown a great depth of talent in their writing, and have worked with a consistent focus to produce finished pieces that are both polished and genuinely represent different aspects of their experience as young people in North Wales.'

Many thanks to Literature Wales for involving us in these two exciting projects, we hope to work together again.



Caerphilly Young Carers.

## Staff Profile: Neil White

### COMMUNITY MUSIC TUTOR

Neil is a self-taught musician and one of CMW's longest standing tutors. He has toured as a professional guitarist, and worked as a producer, producing many well known Welsh bands and musicians.

Neil has a very wide range of musical skills and has worked in a wide range of settings, using a range of styles and musical techniques. His work includes youth music, working with disabled groups, schools and childrens projects.

**If you had to be stuck in a lift with anyone who would it be?**  
Someone who mends lifts. Doh!

**Favourite film?**  
*What's Eating Gilbert Grape?*  
Ask me tomorrow, it'd be different.

**What was the last album you bought?**  
*Gabrielle Aplin - English Rain, Pre-ordered, comes out the end of April Hope it's good....*

**What is your greatest fear?**  
*Losing my hair. Oops! too late.*

**Which person do you most admire and why?**  
*Mary Chapin Carpenter. Intelligent, thoughtful songwriter. The beauty of the song is in the detail.*

**What's the first gig you went to?**  
*The Pretty Things at The Ace of Spades in Porth. I was twelve, and very much out of my depth.*

**Cat or dog?**  
*Used to be a dog but now it's a cat... Tabby. Goes be the name of Dennis.*

**Star sign?**  
*Leo. I don't believe in any of it, but Leos are definitely the best, and not competitive at all.*

**If you could have an alternative career what would you be?**  
*Someone who mends lifts. Doh!*

**What do you like to do when you're not in work?**  
*Sorry, Don't understand the phrase "Not in work".*



Neil in action.

## Training News



### Tutor Training for students:

Following the success of last year's workshops, CMW were once again commissioned by the University of Glamorgan to run our two day Community Music in the Workplace course for their students. This course is designed to give a thorough understanding of community music and covers a range of theory and practice in community music with practical workshops, including the basics of group work skills, assertiveness, devising and adapting workshop material and facilitating client learning.

The course was held at the University's impressive Atrium building in Cardiff city centre. Students participated in what turned out to be another inspiring two days. The students involved had an existing strong interest in community music and the course gave them further opportunity to explore community music: learning the skills of one to one tutoring and leading their own group workshops.

We are delighted that some of the students will be continuing to develop their skills by attending CMW's full Community Music Tutor Training course starting in April.

## Harry's Holding Out for a Hero



With his trademark husky vocals and history of easy rock singles, 80's star Harry Tyles has been chosen to represent Britain in what promises to be the most barking mad Eurovision yet. He hopes his new song Biscuits in Me will get a better result than last years entrant Englebert Humperdog.

Harry said "I'm so proud to have been asked this year and I promise to give every bark I've got for the UK"

CMW are, of course, rooting for Harry and we'll be tuned in to the contest when it goes live on May 18 from Malmo, Sweden.

Graham Norton was unavailable for comment.

# Reflecting on Reach the Heights

## Cathy Jewson



Cathy Jewson was a participant on CCM in 2011.

Cathy has been making music for as long as she can remember and has been actively involved in songwriting and bands since the age of 14. When she was 16 Cathy took part in a Community Music Wales project called 'Sort Your Song', a weekend course for musicians to come along and work on their original material with experienced songwriters. One of the tutors on the project was Molara Awen who also worked as a mentor on the CCM scheme. Molara was impressed, saying, "We were blown away by her raw talent and natural ability" and suggested Cathy may benefit from the mentoring offered by CCM.

With the help of CCM mentoring Cathy developed her musical skills, from her guitar playing and singing to her songwriting, and has gained the confidence and experience of recording and performing to move on with her music. With CCM's support Cathy has recorded a debut EP, entitled 'Woah', which is available on CD and MP3, and through iTunes, Amazon and Spotify.

Since completing the CCM scheme Cathy has been promoting her EP and playing a number of gigs. She recently supported Edinburgh based outfit 'Southern Tennant Folk Union' and Welsh band 'The Blims'. She also appeared at the biggest Biker festival in Europe: 'The Bulldog Bash'.

Things are currently very exciting for Cathy after being voted R&R World Artist of the Month in November 2012. Cathy was recently interviewed by Radio Pembrokeshire and will be featured in Pembrokeshire Life magazine. She has a couple more gigs lined up that you can find out about on her website [www.cathyjewsonacoustic.com](http://www.cathyjewsonacoustic.com)

Cathy says: "The CCM scheme helped me greatly with my music and confidence to perform. I was encouraged and supported to make my EP. I'm now working on new material and making an album. Thanks CMW for all your help."

## Jonathan Matson

Jonathan Matson from Maesgeirchen first enrolled on the CCM Scheme at the age of 19. He had been singing in the Bangor Cathedral Choir and wanted to take his interest further. He spent six months with CMW mentors who shared their knowledge of the music industry. Jonathan was given guitar and singing lessons alongside learning some composition and rehearsal skills. He then went on to gain a Level 1 accreditation on the CMW Community Music in the Workplace scheme.

Jonathan expressed an interest in opera singing and CCM referred him to the Canolfan Gerdd William Matthias Music Centre in Caernarfon where he took some opera lessons. He is still receiving lessons from the centre, which he enjoys very much and benefits from greatly.

After a lot of hard work, Jonathan was offered an audition with the National Youth Choir of Wales. He received one of the highest scores in the audition and was then invited to join the choir which consists of around 80 young people

from all over Wales. Jonathan is very excited about his time in the choir. They have future performances booked at prestigious venues such as Llandaff Cathedral in Cardiff and The Royal Albert Hall in London.

Jonathan said; "It's really thanks to my mentor, Martin Hoyland at Community Music Wales that I have found my way with classical music. I wasn't sure what way I wanted to go with music and CCM helped me to focus. During the CCM scheme I grew in confidence. I found the singing lessons they provided for me inspiring."

Jonathan is working very hard and hopes to build a career in classical singing.



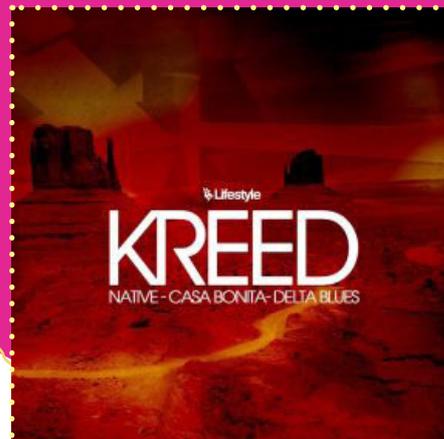
## KREED

In October 2012 we were thrilled to report that one of our participants has signed to release an album on Lifestyle Records.

15 year old Joe Baker from Haverford West had been making Drum & Bass music under the name Kreed since he was around 10 years old.

His CCM mentor Joel Lipman was delighted with Joe's progress, saying he is "really talented". Joe was in the process of self recording an album when he started the CCM mentoring scheme and mentor Joel guided him through the process of finishing and promoting the album. The album is set for release by UK label, Lifestyle Records. Joe has also been playing live and recently played an exciting set at the Blue Lagoon festival in St Davids.

Joe says: "I really enjoyed my time with Community Music Wales. It was great being able to share music and ideas with someone involved in the city scene. Living in an area with a very small variety of music, time spent with someone with a similar taste was inspiring."



# Andrew Kent Music Academy

Swansea Youth Offending Service's project 'Andrew Kent Music Academy' (AKMA) was one of the successful organisations to tender for a Music Participation Project.

The project provided DJ workshops in Swansea for over 70 young people within the Youth Justice System. The young people were all from different backgrounds and abilities, including teenage parenthood. The project was largely DJ based, and the young people were offered a choice of workshops including beat-matching, scratching and song-writing. The project also provided a series of two day workshops where small groups of participants worked with a studio engineer and gained the experience of producing their own track or remix. The workshops were all accredited through Agored Cymru. The workshops were lead by Wayne Hannigan, a well known Drum'n'Bass DJ from Swansea.

Wayne said: "This project was really successful as it gave participants more knowledge of music technology, which several then used when they went on to start college courses. It also helped a group of young men who are desperate to learn more about music production. The project has also given a young person the opportunity to volunteer for the music and dance organisation. This is significant as she was at risk of educational and social exclusion due to non-engagement and limited participation."

In recognition of the work of AKMA, they were invited to deliver a presentation at the International Conference 'Toolquiz: Celebrating Young People's Participation in the Arts June 2012'. The participants wrote and delivered presentations showing how the project has helped them to develop skills in DJing and has given them positive time away from home/school and has reduced the risk of them offending due to being involved in the programme. Janice Hall from Swansea YOS says: "The young people benefited hugely from presenting at the conference and shared their views and opinion in how to develop a Welsh youth arts based festival which they are all keen to continue to help develop."

AKMA will continue to offer workshops and has developed a new venture in the shape of the AKMA podcasts. These will be produced by the young people at the AKMA studio and will feature their favourite music tracks, a discussion on a specific issue or topic that effects them in their day to day lives and a guest mix either from the young people or established and up and coming local DJs. The young people are really excited about getting their music heard more widely. The project has given them confidence in their abilities, increased their aspirations and opened them up to new opportunities in their future.



## Louis Milne

Whilst on the CCM scheme Louis Milne from Maesgeirchen, Bangor, expressed an interest in becoming a guitar tutor. His Mentor, Marcus Peachy, helped to prepare him for this by giving him some music theory and teaching tips. Louis then attended CMW's two day tutor training course 'Community Music in the Workplace', where he achieved a Level 3 accreditation through Agored Cymru, as well as learning a number of valuable practical skills.

CMW then put Louis in touch with Menter a Busnes who provide grants to help individuals start up a business. Louis applied to help him start up his guitar teaching initiative. CMW also put Louis in touch with Maesgeirchen Youth Club where we have been running many workshops over the last 3 years as part of the scheme. Louis is now volunteering as a guitar teacher to some of the younger participants who are not eligible for CCM.

Since leaving CCM Louis has been very active in music; he's has joined a new band as a guitarist, and started up his own new group. He is also a founder member of BYGS, a Bangor youth group which has been set up to give young people in the area somewhere to meet and exchange ideas to try and combat any negative effects of the recent curfew on young people.

Louis has recently been in touch with us to let us know that his Menter a Busnes grant application has been successful and he is now in the process of starting up his own business. We are delighted with his progress and wish him the very best in the future.



# Diary of events



## Stadwen Group Sessions

**Stadwen Youth Support Centre, Lansamlett, Swansea:**

**Thursday evenings 6.30-7.30pm, February 7 – March 28**

CMW have been commissioned by Stadwen Youth Centre in Swansea to run a series of music workshops for young people. The course will be accredited by Agored Cymru. These workshops are not open to the public.

## The Mix - Penydre DJ and music Technology

**Penydre Community Education Centre, Penydre High School Campus, Merthyr:**

**10.00am - 1.00pm, March 4, 11, 18 & 25,**

Community Music Wales have been commissioned by Head4Arts as part of their Reach the Heights project 'The Mix' to deliver DJ workshops for young people at Penydre Community Education Centre. The workshops will encourage numeracy and literacy through music technology and DJ skills. The course is accredited by Agored Cymru. These workshops are not open to the public.

## Creative Choices

**Chapter Arts Centre, Market Road, Cardiff:**

**Every Tuesday (ongoing)**

Following the success of our current workshops with Vision 21 in Cardiff, the sessions are set to continue into 2013. CMW provide drumming, singing and participatory for adults with learning difficulties.

These workshops are not open to the public, but please contact Vision 21 on 029 2062 1194 if you would like further information.

## Tredegar Funday

**Tredegar Leisure Centre, Stable Lane, Tredegar:**

**2:30 – 4:30pm, Wednesday 27 March**

Community Music Wales have been commissioned by Blaenau Gwent Youth Service to provide DJ workshops at the Tredegar Funday.

## NPT Women's Aid

**Tuesday's 2.00pm – 4.00pm 4 June – 2 July**

CMW have been commissioned to deliver a series of workshops around puppetry, storytelling and music for children attending an after school club at NPT Women's Aid. These workshops are not open to the public

## Fun and Friendship Cardiff

**Sbectrwm, Fairwater, Cardiff:**

**Tuesday 26 March 9.30am – 3.00pm**

As part of a larger project, Vision 21 in Cardiff have secured Children in Need funding and have commissioned CMW to provide 11 workshops per year at different venues in Wales. In this instance, CMW will provide a day of band / song-writing and percussion workshops for 14-18 year olds in Cardiff.

## The Gate Workshops

**The Gate, Keppoch Street, Cardiff:**

**Thursday's 2.30pm – 4.30pm from 21 March – 4 June**

CMW have been commissioned to provide music workshops for out patients who have been referred by the Occupational Health Community Team. The workshops will start with an introduction to different musical styles, instruments and rhythms of West Africa. Participants will then be given the chance to improvise, experiencing and expressing themselves in sound and music, both as individuals and part of a group. The workshops are designed to encourage expression, creativity and confidence.

These workshops are not open to the public, but for bespoke workshops similar to this one please contact CMW on 029 2083 8060.



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