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# The Cat's Whisker

## Community Music Wales Summer Newsletter



## Arts Council of Wales Investment Review



**CMW is delighted that the Arts Council of Wales has decided to continue to fund us as one of their Revenue Clients following the recent Investment Review.**

This funding will allow CMW to continue to work on its mission of empowering disadvantaged people, and bringing communities together through music activity. From CMW's inception as a collective of musicians we have grown to be the leading community music organisation in Wales, and continue to deliver activity whilst capacity building other organisations and training them in using music as an interventionist tool.

Our delivery of grass roots activity centres on open access participatory music workshops providing opportunities for creative music making to those who live in disadvantaged communities and have little access to the arts. The majority of our projects target those who are disadvantaged or suffer social exclusion, and tackle these issues by improving self-confidence, motivation and self-esteem. We work

predominantly in areas of high deprivation, delivering client led activity for groups with specific needs.

As a community arts organisation with 20 years experience of delivering high quality arts activity, we estimate that we have touched the lives of over 40,000 people, and in doing so have transformed the landscape of community music in Wales.

Hannah Jenkins, Director said: "I am immensely proud of the work of CMW. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff, who have worked tirelessly to ensure that our work is of the highest quality, is always innovative and relevant, and continue to do so in these difficult times. We at CMW are always looking forward and we will be announcing some exciting initiatives in the autumn - watch this space!"

We look forward to working closely with the Arts Council of Wales in the future.

## Welcome to the Summer edition of the Cat's Whisker

WELCOME to our Summer edition newsletter. I'm happy to report that we've had about five days of sun here in the head office so the shades are out!

We're now in the full throws of a packed summer programme including work with Youth Offending Teams across Wales, Summer Festival Rock Schools and St. David's Hall Musicmix sessions. We have begun our 'Community Music in the Workplace' training for community music tutors which will take place in various locations across Wales over the summer months.

We were delighted that we retained our place in Arts Council Wales' new revenue portfolio and are looking forward to building on this in the future, by strengthening our partnerships and developing new, exciting and innovative work.

We've also had a couple of changes here in the office. Our long standing chair Simon Bracken has moved on to pastures new. He supported CMW for many years and we wish him all the best. We are lucky to have a new Simon as Chair, Simon Groves! As well as bringing business and marketing skills to the board, Simon is a keen musician and plays drums with his band Roosevelt who have been together for 25 years, featured on BBC Radio 2s 'Best of British Rock Show' and the soundtrack for Welsh BAFTA winning film 'A way of life'.

North Project Officer, Steffan Cravos has left us to go traveling and is replaced by Martin Hoyland. I'd also like to welcome other new staff members: Lindsey Leven, Admin and Marketing Assistant and; in collaboration with Creative and Cultural Skills - our new Future Jobs Fund Admin Assistant, Cerys Brokenshaw.

Thanks for reading,  
**Hannah Jenkins**  
Director



Simon Groves, Chair

# 'Choices' Participation Rap Launch



DURING the Easter school holidays, a bunch of talented youngsters from Bro Morgannwg School in Barry spent some time with Community Music Wales writing, rapping and recording a bi-lingual track for UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child). Last week they kick started their summer with a launch for the music video of the work they created.

Written around the theme of 'Choices', the rap focused on promoting participation and highlighting young peoples rights in Wales. The young rappers started the process by taking part in workshops with Youth Participation officers from Vale of Glamorgan. This gave them an understanding of UNCRC and it's Standards. Next, CMW stepped in to help write the lyrics and get them rapping in Welsh and English. They then spent some time with Vibe Creative team recording and filming the video.

**Adam Williams**, Project Officer for Community Music Wales attended the launch at Bro Morgannwg School last week. He said: "the young people involved with this project were excellent. At the start of the project, they had limited experience with music and video production. As the project progressed they embraced

every challenge with enthusiasm and creativity. More importantly, they succeeded in delivering a very important message for all young people in a fun and exciting way". The launch was well attended and guests included the Children's Commissioner for Wales, Keith Towler. Most importantly, the youngsters were proud, excited and happy with the final product, which can be seen on the Community Music Wales website. When asked to describe their experience in three words, they said:

**George:**  
Absolutely, positively, excellent.

**Ffion:**  
Funny, unforgettable, experience.

**Callum:**  
Extremely, exciting, experience.

**Scott:**  
IT. WAS. AWESOME.

**Bethan:** Honourable. Fun. BOOM!

## Staff Profile Sarah Smith ADMIN MANAGER

Sarah supports the running of the Cardiff office and the organisation's administration, finance and data systems. Before moving to Cardiff she spent seven years working in Charity Fundraising in the West Country.

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

The Welsh Rugby Team (well it's a big lift)

**Favourite film?**

Can't pick one - I have so many - it depends what day you ask me

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

Floggin Molly - Drunken Lullabies

**What is your greatest fear?**

Letting my kids down

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

My friend Maria for her amazing strength

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

Bay City Rollers - New Theatre, Oxford 1975

**Cat or dog?**

Cat (sorry Harry)

**Star sign?**

Scorpio

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

A Lawyer

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

Read, Walk and tend my farm!



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

## Community Music in the Workplace - Introductory Course

THIS course will give trainees a basic understanding of community music and the skills to deliver good quality, inspiring and safe music sessions. The course is aimed at people already working with music or who want to start using music in a work or voluntary context. It's suitable for youth workers, teaching assistants, carers, early years workers, play workers, day centre staff, after school club leaders, youth justice sector workers etc, and also for freelance musicians looking to work in these areas.

For further information, dates and a registration pack contact: [admin@communitymusicwales.org.uk](mailto:admin@communitymusicwales.org.uk) / 029 2083 8060

# Harry GaGa!

THE world of community music was rocked today when sensational singing superstar Harry GaGa was revealed as none other than star columnist, Harry the Noiseworks Dog!

Harry said "I was just chillin after a bad romance, when a poker faced paparazzi named Alejandro told me on the telephone that the love game was up and my secret was out. I just said "Eh, Eh, nothing else I can say, just dance."

A representative of Community Music Wales said "I see what he did there."

Beyonce was unavailable for comment.



## Soundwalk Success

IN partnership with Neath Port Talbot Community Arts, Community Music Wales recently worked with groups from Croeserw Primary, Cwmafan Junior and Sandfields Comprehensive to explore the area within the Afan Valley.

The Afan Valley is an area greatly affected by its surroundings. The 'Soundwalk' took the three community groups into local beauty spots to rediscover their environment with a view to gathering images and sounds such as leaves, stones and twigs.

The collected material was then gathered together to produce a video piece with animation and sound.

The project came to a successful conclusion when the film was shown at Croeserw Community Centre in July. The presentation was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Comments from the children involved included:

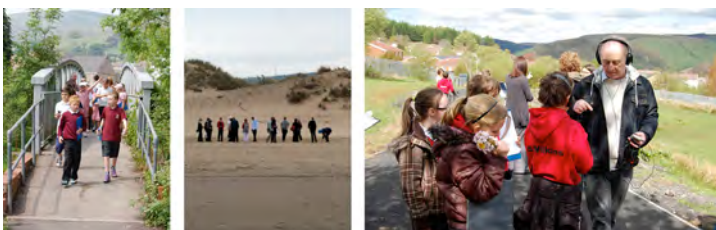
"I liked all of the tutors and I enjoyed it a lot, thank you"

"It was fun and interesting"

"I think the community should get more stuff for the kids"

"I would love you to come back"

This project was funded by Arts Council of Wales, Lottery Fund.



## Harmony at Unity Festival 2010

FOR the past three years, Unity Festival has been creating and celebrating art and music made by all to be enjoyed by all. Community Music Wales have been involved with Unity Festival since its creation and this year we very happy to be commissioned to deliver activities once again.

Early July saw national and international artists specialising in inclusive and disability arts join forces at the Wales Millennium Centre for a week of workshops leading to a fantastic final performance.

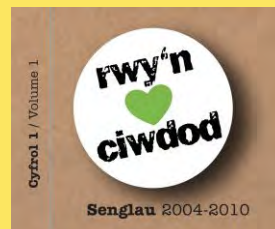
In the first half of the week, CMW held percussion workshops in the open space at the Millennium centre. Chris Dawson, Project Officer popped along to one of them and said: "The drumming workshops were really well received. It was such a great atmosphere".

CMW also followed up previous work with Hijinx Theatre's performance group, Odyssey Pod. Time was spent song writing and rehearsing with Vaguely Artistic, the band that has formed from this theatre group. They went on to rock out an amazing gig at the festivals closing show at Cardiff's Student Union. As a result of this show, Vaguely Artistic have been booked for other gigs, so keep an eye out for them playing at a venue near you!

## Ciwddod Launch

IN June, we launched the Ciwddod compilation album, 'Rwy'n Caru Ciwddod'. The first launch celebration was in the Eisteddfod yr Urdd, Aberaeron. It was followed by an evening in Fwch Goch, Cardiff, where we were entertained by Tom, formerly of The Zimmermans, who feature on the CD.

The album is available from various record outlets and online at iTunes.



# DIARY OF EVENTS

## Cardiff Summer Arts College

Cardiff City Football Stadium, 9th – 27th August

Community Music Wales has been commissioned by the Cardiff Youth Offending Team to deliver three weeks of music and video production based activity throughout August to young people currently in the Youth Justice system. This event is not open to the public.

### Basement DJ

August 18th 11.00am – 4.00pm

CMW are working with the Crumlin Basement Youth Information Network to provide practical and fun DJ workshops during the summer holidays. This event is not open to the public.

### ISSP Summer Arts

Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama: Various, throughout August

Community Music Wales and ISSP Youth Justice Board are providing DJ, Rap and Dance workshops as part of the Summer Arts College at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. This event is not open to the public.

### Our Stories

Newi Centre, Wrexham: 16th & 17th August 10.00am – 3.30pm

St Mary's Community Church, Carmarthen: 18th & 19th August 10.00am – 3.30pm

The Fostering Network and Community Music Wales are working with fostering families who will take part in workshops to make digital films about their treasured items and memories. This event is not open to the public.

### Community Music in the Workplace

Bangor Quakor Meeting House: Friday 13th & Saturday 14th August

The Grand Pavillion, Porthcawl: Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th August

The Dance Centre, Powys: Wednesday 25th & Thursday 26th August

3Gs Centre, Merthyr Tydfil: Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th September

St Mary's Community Church, Carmarthen: Wednesday 8th & Thursday 9th September

This course will give trainees a basic understanding of community music and the skills to deliver good quality, inspiring and safe music sessions.

### Barry Parks National Playday '10

Porthkerry Park, Barry: Friday 27th August 10.00am – 4.00pm

The Vale Of Glamorgan's Summer Play Programme climaxes with the annual Family Fun Day on 27th August. CMW invites you to get to the roots of the rhythms used in contemporary urban music in the great outdoors. This event is open to the public.

### The Mix Youth Club Fochriw – The Mix

Fochriw Youth Club: Mondays 7 – 9 starting 6th September for 8 weeks

The Vale Of Glamorgan's Summer Play Programme climaxes with the annual Family Fun Day on 27th August. CMW gets to the roots of the rhythms used in contemporary urban music in the great outdoors. This event is not open to the public.

### Caerphilly Detached

Hanger Youth & Community Centre, Bargoed:

Monday evenings: 6th September – 25th September 7.00pm – 9.00pm

CMW are providing a DJ skills course combining track recording and mixing to MP3. This event is not open to the public.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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## TWITTER

[www.twitter.com/CMW\\_CGC](http://www.twitter.com/CMW_CGC)

## FACEBOOK

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