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# The Cat's Whisker

## Community Music Wales

Summer Newsletter '13



### Supporting Young People in North Wales

Since April we've been running a new project across north Wales working with young people who are not engaged in education, employment or training. This work follows on from our successful Reach the Heights project and works with a wide variety of young people across Gwynedd, Ynys Mon, Denbigh and Conwy. This is an intensive 3 month initiative funded by the Arts Council of Wales.

We're working in partnership with over 15 organisations who work with vulnerable young people, such as Maes Geirchan Youth Club in Bangor, Ysgol y Gogarth in Conwy, Digartre Ynys Mon in Anglesey and Denbigh Youth Project. Our projects range from band workshops to DJing, to more individual support and are all tailored to the needs and interests of the participants.

Hannah Jenkins our Director said "Music is a powerful engagement tool, especially with groups who may not have found their way through traditional learning, so we're delighted to be working with the Arts Council in this way." Through this project we're also looking at how we measure the impact of our activity and are hoping to continue our partnerships with the organisations involved to keep in touch with participants and see the longer term effect of taking part in projects. As CMW has a 20 year history of community music delivery we know from experience that the effects of taking part in community music can be long reaching. Last year we met up with Andrew Brown, a young man who'd been a participant in one of our workshops ten years previously. He'd been interested in music but this was his first experience of playing and he was immediately hooked. Over the years Andrew went on to take part in a number of CMW projects and is now a professional musician. With the current concern with immediate outputs of any project we're keen to make sure we're still looking at the longer term impact these kind of social engagement projects have.

Young people across Wales have a variety of different needs stemming from complex individual circumstances. We understand that a workshop can't transform their lives overnight but it can be a step forward for them and we're delighted to be working with the Arts Council of Wales on supporting young people in this way.

There are more stories about young people we've worked with, like Andrew Brown, on our website [www.communitymusicwales.org.uk](http://www.communitymusicwales.org.uk)

### Welcome

to the summer edition  
of the Cat's Whisker.

And it actually has felt like summer over the last week – although it may well have gone back to the rain we're all used to by the time you read this!

We've had a really busy spring with lots of events and some innovative projects which you can read about in this edition. Ciwddod has been really busy with workshops as part of BBC Radio Cymru's Taith C2 in schools across Wales. Our Children In Need project continues to do really well; we've been working on DJing projects with Potensial and drumming and percussion in Port Talbot – to name a few.

In March we were sad to say goodbye to Lindsey Leven who worked on our Reach the Heights project; we wish her all the success in the future. She's currently working on a new album with her band Gulp and we're really looking forward to hearing it.

Finally we were delighted that Martin Daws, one of our talented community music tutors, was named Young People's Laureate for Wales. Martin is a Performance Poet and will spend the next two years helping young people write their own poetry and have confidence in their own words. We can't think of anyone better!

Thanks for reading.  
Hannah Jenkins  
Director



# Hei Mistar Urdd!

Ciwddod had a very busy week in the Urdd Eisteddfod in Boncath, Pembrokeshire. This year saw the addition of Pentref Mistar Urdd (Mistar Urdd's Village) - a dedicated area with activities for children and young people, like a salon, crafts and a café. In amongst it all was Ciwddod Corner, where we set up all our instruments and ran drop-in workshops. At the start of the week our tutor Justin Preece ran drumming workshops which luckily coincided with the sun making an appearance, so we took the drumming outside to make noise in the sunshine. On the Thursday and Friday we had band workshops run by our 'Eisteddfod Dream Team' tutors Dan Amor and Huw Owen. The workshops were a success, we had a record number of young people joining in and having a go. People called in and tried out any instrument they wanted, some for the first time. It was also an opportunity to play instruments with others and to jam in a band situation. In Huw's words "It



was an absolute pleasure working there and seeing everyone enjoy themselves". Angharad Jones the Urdd Officer who organised Pentref Mistar Urdd added, "We were very pleased with the music workshops from Ciwddod. The children and young people were in their element enjoying new experiences. The tutors were excellent and obviously enjoyed working with the children. It was great to see so many enjoying new activities through the medium of Welsh. We look forward to working with Ciwddod again" We look forward to working with the Urdd again too!



Our Community Music Tutor Training Course is running in Cardiff. Trainees are about half way through the classes and embarking on community placements soon. They will be holding an end of course performance on the Glanfa Stage of the **Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff on July the 18th and 6.30pm**. Come along and see them! The course covers a range of theory and practice in community music, with practical workshops from professional community music trainers.



## Singing Gogledd Cymru

We have been working on an exciting new project in residential homes for older people in Llandudno, Bangor and Llanfairfechan. Working closely with Tai Gogledd Cymru we developed a project encouraging residents to get together and sing. Participants sang a mixture of their favourite Welsh hymns, traditional songs and contemporary tunes. The workshops were led by our tutor Sioned Webb who also encouraged the residents to discuss how the songs made them feel and what memories they triggered. The workshops became lively storytelling sessions, much to the delight of our Project Officer Osian Rhys Roberts who commented "It's great when workshops organically produce other creative work. It's rewarding and keeps us on our toes as well!" We hope to continue working with

## Can you hear the drums Fernando?



The Unity Festival is now six years old! Since 2008 it has grown to become one of Europe's largest international inclusive arts festivals. Each year Hijinx Theatre curate and host the event at venues across Cardiff, bringing some of the best examples of inclusive arts from all over the world. Unity showcases professional and community programmes of theatre, dance, music, family shows, comedy and participatory workshops.



Community Music Wales ran free drumming & percussion workshops in the Wales Millennium Centre, using the instruments and rhythms of West Africa as an introduction to different musical styles, instruments and cultures.

We had a great response to the lively workshop, with tutors and participants alike having loads of fun playing with rhythms. Unity is such an important event in the Welsh calendar and we're proud to be involved.



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

## Harry.com

Harry the Noiseworks dog has always been the first of us to adopt new technology. While we were still on Myspace, he was on Facebook; when we got to Facebook, he was light years ahead on Twitter; Instagram, Google Hangouts, Vine - he's always there before us, rolling his eyes because he thinks we're slow on the uptake. He's not laughing now though, with reports of alleged secret surveillance of the web all over the world. To protect our pooch we've banned him from the internet and he's only allowed magazines. He said "What do you mean this is last week's edition?"



Friends Reunited were unavailable for comment.

## Staff Profile: Nathan Manly Admin Assistant S. Wales

Nathan recently joined the team through the Jobs Growth Wales scheme. Nathan has a degree in Food Science Technology, and when we are lucky bakes us very tasty



cakes.

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

My little brother Luke, we would just talk about football and wouldn't even realise how long we had been stuck.

**Favourite film?**

I've seen 'A Knights Tale' 12+ times.

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

Bullet for My Valentine 'Temper Temper'. It is incredible.

**What is your greatest fear?**

I am petrified of bees and wasps.

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

Dwayne Johnson. He constantly shows how never giving up gets you what you want.

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

Korn in the CIA. It was an incredible night.

**Cat or dog?**

Dog - huskies are my favourite. (surely Harry isn't a huskie? - Ed.)

**Star sign?**

Aquarius

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

I dream of being a footballer, its just a shame that my feet do not agree with those dreams.

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

I enjoy spending time with my friends, family and girlfriend. I am also a sport fanatic and will watch anything from football

# MUSICMIX is back!



**Do you play an instrument, MC, Sing or Beatbox? Are you aged 14-18? If so MUSICMIX2013 is for you!**

We're working with ArtsActive and St David's Hall Cardiff again to bring you another great project. Over 5 days you will work to create your own music and form a vibrant rock orchestra. At the end of these jam packed days you'll perform on the main stage of St David's Hall with full lighting, sound and AV!

The course runs from the 5th to the 9th August and costs £50.

Places are secured through application and will be allocated on a first come first served basis - don't miss out, book online at [artsactive.org.uk](http://artsactive.org.uk) or by emailing [artsactive@cardiff](mailto:artsactive@cardiff)



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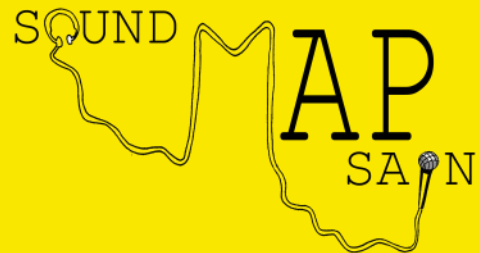


## Sound surrounds us wherever we are

Over the summer CMW is running a sound mapping project across Llanelli and Llandysul.

The Map Sain project is an opportunity for participants to interpret and play with sound. Working with local communities in Llandysul and Llanelli we will explore and capture the acoustic environment, telling stories and sharing our findings through an online interactive sound map. Over the summer the website will become more populated with sounds and music from the area so keep checking on its progress at: [www.mapsain.org.uk](http://www.mapsain.org.uk)

Map Sain is funded by the Arts Council of Wales.



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