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# The Cat's Whisker

Community Music Wales *Spring Newsletter '12*



Gyda chefnogaeth/Supported by

**BBC**

**Plant Mewn Angen**  
**Children in Need**

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## Children in Need supports CMW

Community Music Wales are delighted to announce that we have been successful in receiving a grant from BBC Children in Need to run an innovative new project in Newport over the next three years.

Working in partnership with Newport City Council and local musician Jamie Winchester, CMW will take over disused spaces across Newport and convert them into temporary mobile community music studios and workshop spaces. Contemporary music workshops will be held to focus on issues surrounding the lives of the young people. These sessions will be run on a drop in basis and will include DJing, song writing, rap, VJing, and playing rock/pop. Workshops will also cover studio engineering and recording, providing the young people with an opportunity to learn how to operate the studio and supporting them in developing it as a social enterprise.

As the project develops and a core group has been established, CMW will run mentoring courses for the young people to learn how to mentor their peers, acting as positive role models. Trained mentors will be brought in to offer the participants positive guidance through music.

The project aims to increase the confidence, employability, aspirations and basic skills of young people in deprived areas of Newport.

Hannah Jenkins, CMW Director said; "This is an exciting opportunity for young people in Newport and also an exciting development for us as an organisation. CMW is committed to running projects in the community and transforming disused spaces like this is a great way of ensuring that music has a place at the heart of the community."

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

What a busy and exciting year it has been already! We've been getting stuck into the preparation of lots of new and innovative projects to take place during 2012.

We are thrilled to have received a grant from Children in Need to run workshops for young people in Newport. You can read more about that opposite.

Another project that we are very much looking forward to is our Arts Council of Wales funded technology project, Stats in Sound. It is a new project blending science, technology and the arts in a unique and educational way. Stats in Sound will create musical and visual installations with young people at the National Botanic Garden of Wales later this year. There will be more about this in our summer issue and you can read about the project at [statsinsound.org.uk](http://statsinsound.org.uk) and follow it on twitter.

We are delighted to report that Ciwddod successfully continues into its second year of funding from the Welsh Language Board. Read more about Ciwddod on page 2.

After three years, Complete Control Music 14 - 19 is heading into its final year, but it's not too late to benefit from the scheme as you can see on page 2.

In this issue we will also take a look at how our course 'Community Music in the Workplace' has been a benefit to students and we will unveil the five organisations that we have contracted through our Reach the Heights participation programme.

Thanks for reading.

Hannah Jenkins  
DIRECTOR



# Another successful year for Ciwdod!

Community Music Wales reported last year that they have secured a further three years of funding for its Welsh Language music project Ciwdod. The first of those three years is now drawing to an end and has seen a wealth of successful projects.

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

One of Ciwdod's biggest projects to run in the past year was 'Roc R'Afon', an innovative new scheme aimed at developing skills for young people interested in the promotion and marketing of contemporary Welsh language music. The project ran music industry related workshops in Newport covering the promotion, marketing, management and design of a newly formed young band. The workshops led to a gig in the Riverfront Theatre in Newport in December 2011.

This year's annual Taith C2 school's tour has seen schools across Wales rockin' out some great new songs on Radio Cymru after a full day of workshops with a CMW tutor. The tour is part of a long-standing relationship between CMW and BBC Radio Cymru.

Ciwdod can also be commissioned to run bespoke workshops. Over the half term holiday in February, Ciwdod provided African drumming workshops for Menter Iaith Caerdydd at their Bwrlwm sessions.

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



Taith C2 at Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle, February 2012

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

## Reach the Heights Music Participation Programme

As part of CMW's Reach the Heights programme, we have contracted five organisations to deliver music participation programmes across the Convergence area of Wales.

The successful organisations are; Coleg Llandrillo Cymru, Menter Mon, Swansea Youth Offending Service, Minority Ethnic Women's Network Swansea and the Cardigan Youth Project, Area 43.

They are all running a variety of interesting projects within their local area. We are very much looking forward to watching these projects unfold.

Procuring work in this way marks an exciting new phase for CMW's future development.

## Staff Profile: Mirain Evans WELSH LANGUAGE PROJECT OFFICER

Mirain is the Welsh Language Project Office based in our South Wales office. Her primary responsibility is overseeing the delivery of our Welsh language project, Ciwdod. She has experience in delivering educational music workshops and has a Masters Degree in Composition. Mirain is an accomplished violinist, playing in various Welsh language bands.

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

George North, for obvious reasons!

**Favourite film?**

Forrest Gump probably

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

The Best of Etta James

**What is your greatest fear?**

Spiders, moths and bombs!

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

My grandmother, she's a superwoman!

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

Going back a few years... it must be the under-age gig with Welsh band 'Mega!'

**Cat or dog?**

Dog. Team Harry!

**Star sign?**

Virgo

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

When I was a child, I was fascinated with stars and planets and wanted to grow up to be an astronaut! I'll stick with that plan.

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

Baking cakes, being lazy and catching up with friends



# Tutor Training for Students

CMW recently worked with the University of Glamorgan to run a short introductory course in community music tutor training for students. The Community Music in the Workplace 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. Twenty-three students from the BA (Hons) Popular Music course at the University participated in what turned out to be a very successful 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.

The students were enthusiastic about the training. One student said: "It was such an enjoyable two days! I will be using the skills I have learnt, so it's been a brilliant opportunity. Thank you so much for coming and running the course."

For more information on the CMW Community Music in the Workplace course please visit [communitymusicwales.co.uk/our-work/training](http://communitymusicwales.co.uk/our-work/training).



Glamorgan University students



## CCM singer set for the Royal Albert Hall

CMW's music mentoring scheme Complete Control Music (CCM) continues to see great results as it goes into its final year of funding.

Jonathan Matson from Maesgeirchen received mentoring from CMW trained mentors as part of the CCM Reach the Heights NEETs scheme. He was given keyboard and singing lessons alongside learning some composition and rehearsal skills with a band that was formed in his local youth centre with other CCM participants. 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, so CCM referred him to the Canolfan Gerdd William Mathias Music Centre in Caernarfon where he took some opera lessons. After a lot of hard work and a very tough audition, he has now been invited to join the National Youth Choir of Wales and will be singing with them later in the year at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

If you like the sound of the CCM scheme please contact Martin Hoyland at CMW on 029 2083 8060 / [martin.hoyland@communitymusicwales.org.uk](mailto:martin.hoyland@communitymusicwales.org.uk).



CCM Participants

## The Stig unmasked!

The world of community music was rocked recently when Harry the Noisework's Dog was unmasked and revealed to be the new Stig on the popular "Top Gear" programme!

A spokesman for the BBC said "We were so impressed by Harry's performance as the "Dog in a Reasonably Priced Car" that he was the obvious choice when the old Stig left the programme. Being white already he didn't need an outfit apart from a helmet and cushion for the seat. But as soon as he was seen out with Nicole Sherzinger and the press hacked into his mobile, his secret was out."

Lewis Hamilton was unavailable for comment.



## The Engagement Gateway

CMW is currently running a number of Engagement Gateway projects across Wales. The projects are generally open to people over 16 years of age who are unemployed or economically inactive (excluding those on the Work Programme.) These projects include music mentoring for unemployed or economically inactive adults living in Conwy, band workshops in various locations around North Wales including a series of workshops with the charity Gisda, professional music studio sessions in Blaenau Gwent, music workshops for women in Denbighshire and an exciting week of ukulele and song writing workshops in The National Botanic Garden of Wales.

Musician and freelance Creative Director Cheryl Beer is providing the ukulele workshops. She said; "The response to the course has been overwhelming. The fast uptake of places is undoubtedly a testament to partnership working, as well the focus on designing tailored courses which meet the holistic and creative needs of the unemployed and low income members of our community."

If you are unemployed or economically inactive, aged 16 years or over and interested in any of the above workshops or anything similar, please contact CMW on 029 2083 8060 / [admin@communitymusicwales.org.uk](mailto:admin@communitymusicwales.org.uk). You can also find further information at [communitymusicwales.co.uk](http://communitymusicwales.co.uk).

The Engagement Gateway has been developed as a collaborative venture by the Welsh European Funding Office, Welsh Government and Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA). The Engagement Gateway aims to help people back into employment or learning through a range of activities to give participant's new skills and increased confidence, enabling them to become economically active, which will also lead to greater social cohesion and sustainable development in the most disadvantaged communities in Wales.



Cheryl Beer by graffiti artist Lloyd Roberts

# Diary of events

## Penydre MC & DJ

Penydre Community Education Centre, Gurnos Estate, Merthyr:

Monday's from 16 January - 19 March 2012, 10.00am - 2.00pm

Community Music Wales are providing a session of ten weekly MC and DJ workshops for year 9 pupils in Penydre High School.

These accredited workshops are running as part of the Head4arts Reach the Heights project 'The Mix'.

## Clwb Canu Gwynedd 2

Tywyn Youth Centre, Neaudd Pendre, Brook Street, Tywyn, Gwynedd:

Tuesday evenings from February 21 - March 27

CMW have teamed up with Gwynedd Youth Services to deliver a series of six workshops in youth clubs throughout Gwynedd with the aim of participants writing and recording an original song. Tywyn Youth Club is the 4th venue to take on the successful project. The participants, aged between 13-16 will be playing Drums, Bass, Guitars and singing.

This event is open to Young People in Tywyn. For further information please contact Martin Hoyland: martin.hoyland@communitymusicwales.org.uk 01286 685248.

## Glan Clwyd Hospital Music Workshops

13, 20, 27 February and 5, 12 March

As part of WCVA's Engagement Gateway scheme, CMW are providing music workshops to patients at the Glan Clwyd Hospital.

## Wala Bala Bing Bang

Ysgol Y Berwyn, Bala:

8 & 9 March, 9:00am - 3:30pm

CMW have been commissioned by Ysgol Y Berwyn in Bala to provide two days of band workshops. The participants will spend the time composing original songs.

## Spitting Words

Ysgol Y Gader, Dolgellau, Gwynedd:

25 June, 9.00am - 3.00pm

CMW have been commissioned by Ysgol Y Gader to provide a rap and hip hop workshop. This one day event will see the year 9's at the school having fun whilst creating their own rhymes to music.

## Gisda Band Workshops

Gisda, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd:

21, 28 February 6, 13, 20 March

CMW are providing music workshops at Gisda in Caernarfon. Gisda is a charity that aims to offer vulnerable people in society the opportunity to improve their quality of life.

The music workshops will take place over five weeks and will include band rehearsal and composition with an aim to recording by the end of the course.

## Ukulele and Songwriting

National Botanic Garden of Wales

Tuesday 20 March - Saturday 24 March &

Tuesday 15 May - Saturday 19 May

Community Music Wales is thrilled to be working in partnership with musician and freelance Creative Director, Cheryl Beer. Cheryl will provide 5 days of Ukulele and Song Writing workshops for unemployed and economically inactive people living in West Wales. There are two courses to choose from running in March and May 2012.

This project is accredited through Agored Cymru and funded by Wales Council for Voluntary Action [WCVA] as part of their Engagement Gateway scheme.

For more information please contact Cheryl Beer at cherylbeermusic@googlemail.com

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