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The Cat's Whisker

Community Music Wales *Summer Newsletter '12*



Peer Mentoring in the Arts

Community Music Wales are continuing our history of ensuring a high standard of training delivery and sharing best practice by running a series of courses across Wales with an aim to train young people to mentor their peers.

The course is for young people who are currently involved with local community arts and are interested in leading arts sessions for other young people in their local community. Participants will learn what's involved in teaching others and be given a chance to practice. The course will also provide an understanding of what being a 'peer mentor' means; what a mentor is responsible for and when to ask for help. During the course, the participants will lead a one-to-one and a group session in their chosen art-form, which could be anything from music to graffiti, dance to photography. The course will also provide the chance to plan a project that mentors can put into action in their own centre.

The course lasts two days and is accredited through Agored Cymru, helping the young mentors to further their learning.

During the two day course and beyond, CMW aims to help the participants increase in confidence, levels of basic skills, community cohesion and to strengthen community ties as well as develop practical skills.

CMW has been running training since 1992 and has had a huge success rate with over 700 people going through our courses.

Community Music Wales Project Officer Chris Dawson said: "This two day course is a great starting point for anyone interested in mentoring others. The training programme provides broad enough learning that's suitable for those with or without previous experience"

If you are interested in our peer mentoring training, or any bespoke training that CMW may be able to offer, please contact Chris Dawson, CMW; chris.dawson@communitymusicwales.org.uk / 029 2083 8060.

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

We're enjoying the warmth here in the CMW office and working hard on loads of new and exciting projects that will be starting over summer.

Our BBC Children in Need project has got off to a great start in Newport. We reported on our delight at receiving a grant from BBC Children in Need in the previous issue (which can be found online at www.communitymusicwales.co.uk/welcome/newsletter) and we'll let you know how it's been going in the Autumn issue.

Our WCVA Engagement Gateway projects are coming to an end. Some of our highlights have been the fun ukulele workshops in the Botanic Gardens of Wales, Community Music in the Workplace training in Colwyn Bay and a wonderful week of Social Media workshops in Pembrokeshire.

We've still got plenty to keep us busy however! Ciwddod mentors are working with some bands that have been seeing some success (read more on page 2). CCM have also been busy mentoring and the scheme has seen participants in Kinmel Bay gaining accreditation for their new musical skills (see page 3). We're looking forward to our regular summer workshops, such as Musicmix in St David's Hall and Unity Festival in the Wales Millennium Centre.

We're also excited to report that Martin Hoyland, our full time Music Mentor in North Wales is off with his band 9Bach to play at the Cultural Olympiad in London in July. Go, Martin!

I hope you all have a lovely, sunny summer!

Thanks for reading.

Hannah Jenkins
DIRECTOR



Martin Hoyland, 9Bach

Ciwdod doesn't slow down with *Fast Fuse*

CMW's Welsh Language project Ciwdod has been providing mentoring for Fast Fuse, a young rock band from Swansea, whose members all attend Ysgol Bryn Tawe. The work seems to be paying off as the band have been enjoying further success recently.

Fast Fuse have received guidance on how to promote themselves via social media websites, gain more experience in the music industry, play more gigs and learn more about recording.

Last month Fast Fuse spent a day in a recording studio to learn recording techniques with one of Ciwdod's mentors. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and came away with three newly recorded and mixed tracks.

After receiving Ciwdod guidance Fast Fuse are working on promoting their band and their new material, so watch out for them! Here they are performing on S4C programme 'Y Lle'.



Fast Fuse

For up to the minute news and project information:
www.communitymusicwales.co.uk

Olympic Harry!

CMW are currently keeping quiet amidst rumours that Harry the Noiseworks dog has been spotted in training with the Team GB gymnastics team.

Among his many other talents, Harry has been known to throw a few moves on the high bar. Earlier in the year, reports suggested that the team would be facing a difficult task of whittling down the olympic team to five members. Will Harry make the five? We managed to catch up with Harry and question him about the likelihood of seeing him compete, he said quite simply; "I think everyone could be barking up the wrong tree".

Sir Steve Redgrave and Sue Barker were both unavailable for comment.



Kinmel Bay Music Mentoring Success



Community Music Wales' Complete Control Music scheme has recently been working on a music mentoring project with Communities First in Kinmel Bay for young people aged 14-19. The project was funded by European Social Funds Reach the Heights Programme and the Red Nose Day Community Cash Fund. CMW mentors helped the young people to develop various skills including playing electric and bass guitars, keyboard, drums and vocals.

Huw Owen, Guitar Tutor and Music Mentor for Community Music Wales said; "Working with CMW gave the young people in the area an opportunity to try something new or something that they might never get a chance to do without the help and funding that was given to kick start the project. Everyone involved has learnt a new skill that they can carry on using in the future"

All participants have gained an Agored Cymru accreditation in their chosen musical genre and have learnt a skill that will stay with them for life.

Jen Sharp, Youth Development Worker, Communities First Kinmel Bay said; "I have immensely enjoyed working on this project with the young people in Kinmel Bay. It has been so beneficial and has given them not only an opportunity to gain an accredited musical skill in something that they are really interested in, but also has given them a great confidence boost as individuals. Community Music Wales have been brilliant and the young people have really enjoyed and respected working with the mentors who are not only talented musicians but have also worked professionally in the music industry."

At the end of the scheme Communities First very kindly donated the equipment used during the project to CMW. We would like to extend a huge 'Thank You' for this generosity; we will use this equipment to run more music projects across North Wales. For more information on CMW mentoring schemes please visit communitymusicwales.co.uk/our-work.

Staff Profile: Osian Rhys Roberts PROJECT OFFICER NORTH WALES

Osian is responsible for overseeing the delivery of a wide range of workshop based community music activity including both grant funded programmes and commissioned work across North Wales. Osian is an experienced singer songwriter, performing both as a solo artist and in a band. He is also an award winning visual artist.

If you had to be stuck in a lift with anyone who would it be?
Anyone I don't already know.

Favourite film?
'Wild at Heart' is a good one

What was the last album you bought?
The Basement Tapes – Bob Dylan and The Band

What is your greatest fear?
I'd hate to go deaf

Which person do you most admire and why?
I admire many people, too many to mention all of them. At the moment I am compelled by Billy Childish – For his prolificness and vast body of Art, Music, Poetry and Literature.

What's the first gig you went to?
John ac Alun at Llanystumdwy Village Hall.

Cat or dog?
Cat

Star sign?
Virgo

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

What do you like to do when you're not in work?
Making art, music and Pizza



Training News

CMW's Training schemes aim to increase the skills of musicians who want to become self-employed community music tutors, those with music skills, those who work with disadvantaged groups or who would like to incorporate music into the work of their organisation, those with music skills who would like to use those skills in a community setting and individual Music teachers/tutors who would like to work with groups. Increasing these skills will ensure higher quality music delivery and more effective intervention. In this new section of 'The Cat's Whisker' we will keep you up to date with all of CMW's training news.

Peer Mentoring in the Arts

You can read on the front page about CMW's new training scheme, Peer Mentoring in the Arts.

Tutor Training in North Wales

In April this year CMW ran our Community Music in the Workplace course in Engedi Arts Centre, Colwyn Bay. The course was a great success. Thirteen participants from varied backgrounds spent a packed two days gaining a thorough understanding of community music with a range of theory and practice in community music.

Tutor Training for Students at Newport University

Another successful days training took place at Newport University in May. Similar to the course CMW ran in the University of Glamorgan earlier this year, the students all had an interest in community music and extended their skills and best practice.



Newport University Students

Unity Festival returns with a Bang!

A bang of a drum that is! Now in its fifth year, Hijinx Theatre's Unity Festival is Wales' international inclusive arts festival. Held over two weeks, the festival has a packed programme of comedy, theatre, children's shows, dance, cabaret, street theatre, music, workshops, talks and much more.

CMW have been a welcomed part of Unity Festival since it began. This summer CMW will be providing two African Drumming workshops on Tuesday 26 June 1pm and Thursday 28 June 1pm at the Glanfa Stage, Wales Millennium Centre. There is no need to book – just turn up on the day. For more information on this workshop and everything else the festival has to offer, please visit wmc.org.uk/makeityours/unity.



Happy Drummers at Unity 2011

Diary of events



Hafal Music Workshops

Llanhilleth:

Fridays 11 May - 15 June 10.15am - 12.15pm

CMW, as part of WCVA's Engagement Gateway scheme are providing music workshops for anyone aged 16+ who is unemployed or economically inactive and living in Blaenau Gwent.

In this particular workshop CMW are working with Hafal to provide 6 weekly workshops for people with mental health problems.

The workshops will be accredited through Agored Cymru.

Eisteddfod yr Urdd Tipi Workshops

Maes Eisteddfod yr Urdd, Glynllifon, Caernarfon, Gwynedd:

Friday 8 & Saturday 9 June 10.00am - 12.00pm

This year on the Eisteddfod yr Urdd field Ciwddod has arranged Samba Drumming workshops in a Tipi tent!

This is an open workshop for young people so come and have a go!

Menter Caerdydd jammin' session

Ysgol Glantaf, Bridge Road Cardiff:

Thursday June 7, 11.00am - 2.00pm

Ciwddod has been commissioned by Menter Caerdydd to provide a jamming session for young people who would like to play a rock instrument, learn new skills, form a band for a day and write songs.

This is an open event arranged by Menter Caerdydd and will be delivered through the medium of Welsh. For more information please contact Mirain Evans: mirain.evans@communitymusicwales.org.uk.

Peer Mentoring in the Arts - Cardiff

The Howardian Centre, Hammond Way, Cardiff:

Thursday 7th June 10.30am - 4.00pm & Friday 8th June 10.30am - 4.00pm

CMW are delivering 2 day Peer Mentoring courses across Wales. The courses are aimed at young people who are currently involved with local community arts and would like to lead arts sessions for other people their own age in their local youth club, school or other venue.

This course is open to the public. If you would like further information please contact Chris Dawson - chris.dawson@communitymusicwales.org.uk / 029 2083 8060.

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.

Music Production and Rapping Workshops

Ashley House, Mount Pleasant Road, Cwmbran:

Mondays and Wednesdays 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27 and 28 June, 10.00am - 2.00pm

CMW are providing a series of 7 workshops for young people in Cwmbran, South Wales, to learn the techniques of music production and rapping. The participants will work towards a final performance at The Riverfront Theatre in Newport.

The course will be accredited through Agored Cymru.

This course is running as part of the Head4arts Reach the Heights project 'The Mix' and is not open to the public.

Sbectrwm Open Day '12

Sbectrwm, The Old School, Bwlch Road, Fairwater, Cardiff:

Wednesday July 4 11.00am - 1.00pm

Community Music Wales are pleased to be involved once again with Sbectrwm Community Centre's Annual Open Day.

Drumming and percussion workshops will be part of the well attended annual event.



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*Bringing Communities Together
Through Music*

