traddodiadau cymru

folk development for wales

rhifyn/issue 23
haf/summer 2009
am ddim/free

on trac

Eisteddfod 2009
folk together: Tŷ Gwerin!

dyfodol y traddodiad a traddodiad y dyfodol

the future of the tradition and the tradition of the future

trac
folk development for wales
datblygu traddodiadau gwerin

I Ddarllenwyr Newydd ...

Cylchgrawn trac, corff datblygu gwerin Cymru, yw Ontrac. Mae trac yn bodoli er mwyn cefnogi'r rhai sy'n gwneud gwahaniaeth i'r celfyddydau traddodiadol o fewn Cymru, boed yn perfformwyr, cyflwynwyr, athrawon neu'n selogion. Mae ar gael yn rhad ac am ddim a chaff ei bostio atoch dair gwaith flwyddyn.

Cymdeithas Alawon Gwerin Cymru

Mae manylion Cynhadledd Flynyddol Cymdeithas Alawon Gwerin Cymru wedi eu cyhoeddi. Cynhelir ddigwyddiad eleni ar Fedi 26ain a 27ain yng Ngwesty'r Fron Olau Hotel, Dolgellau. Y darlithwyr gwadd eleni fydd: yr Athro Prys Morgan yn trafod Cylch Llanofer a'r adfywiad o ddiddordeb mewn caneuon ac offerynnau gwerin; Dr Rhidian Griffiths yn bwrw golwg yn ôl ar Gylchgronnau'r Gymdeithas; Dr Christine James yn ystyried digwyddiadau 1588 drwy lygaid y baledwyr; a René Griffiths yn troi ei sylw at ganu gwerin ym Mhatgonia a'r Ariannin. Bydd adloniant nos Sadwrn hefyd yng nghwmni René Griffiths.
Cost y penwythnos breswyl fydd £70 (£10 di-breswyl). Cewch ragor o wybodaeth oddiwrth y Dr Rhiannon Ifans, Rhandir, Penrhyn-coch, Aberystwyth SY23 3EQ 01970 828719.

CDd'au newydd

Lansio y delynores/gantores Gwenan Gibbard ei hail CD ym Mehefin. Yn ymuno â Gwenan ar yr albwm *Sidan Glas* fydd y cerddorion gwadd canlynol:Maartin Allcock, y ffidlwyr Stephen Rees ac Angharad Jenkins, y ffliwtydd Dafydd Roberts a'r offerynwyr taro Dewi Ellis Jones a Kuljit Bhamra. Hefyd ar gael erbyn yr Eisteddfod fydd albwm newydd 9Bach, sy'n dwyn yr un teitl ag enw'r band, a CDau gan Linda Griffiths, casgliad gan Bob Roberts Tai'r Felin a recordiad gyntaf y Glerorfa. Rhagor o fanylion yn www.sainwales.com

Blwyddyn fawr Cymdeithas Cerdd Dant Cymru

Mae 2009 yn flwyddyn fawr i Gymdeithas Cerdd Dant Cymru – yn flwyddyn o ddathlu ei phenblwydd yn 75 oed. Maen nhw'n nodi'r garreg filltir hon gyda sawl digwyddiad yn ystod y flwyddyn, gan gynnwys y perfformiad yn Aberystwyth ddiwedd Mehefin o 'Dan y Wenallt' wedi ei osod ar gerdd dant gan Bethan Bryn. Bydd cyfle arall i weld rhannau o 'Dan y Wenallt' yn cael ei pherfformio yn ystod wythnos yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol.

Mae eleni hefyd yn flwyddyn o newidiadau o safbwynt gweinyddiaeth y Gymdeithas. Mae'r trefnydd profiadol, Dewi Jones yn parhau i fod yng ngofal uchafbwynt blynyddol y calendr Cerdd Dant, sef yr Ŵyl Gerdd Dant. Mae'r trefniadau yn mynd rhagddynt ar gyfer gwyl eleni fydd yn cael ei chynnal yng Nghasnewydd ar ddydd sadwrn, Tachwedd y 14eg. Ond mae'r Gymdeithas hefyd yn croesawu aelod newydd i'r tîm sef Swyddog Gweinyddol newydd, Siôn Gwilym Jones. Mae Siôn newydd gwblhau gradd mewn Peirianneg ym Mhrifysgol King's yng Nghaergrawnt, ac wedi dychwelyd i'w wreiddiau yn Llansadwrn ar Ynys Môn. Mae ganddo ddiddordeb mawr yn nhraddodiadau gwerin Cymru, ac yn mynd i fod yn gofalu am waith y Gymdeithas o ddydd i ddydd.

Cofiwch am un arall o ddigwyddiadau blynyddol y Gymdeithas sef y Cwrs Gosod ger Llanfair ym Muallt ar y 11-13eg o Fedi. Os am fwy o fanylion am y digwyddiad, cysylltwch â Haf Morris ar 01248 713097, neu mae yna ffurflen gais ar y wefan - www.cerdd-dant.org

Cadeirydd newydd Clera

Mae Clera yn edrych ymlaen at y flwyddyn o'n blaenau gyda Chadeirydd newydd, yn dilyn eu Cyfarfod Blynyddol yng Nghorwen. Bydd Stephen Rees yn olynu Robin Huw Bowen. Yn y cyfarfod hefyd fe benodwyd Ysgrifennydd newydd, Elin Roberts, sydd newydd raddio o Goleg Prifysgol Cymru, Aberystwyth.

Yn dilyn y cyfarfod cafwyd cyngerdd arall gan y Glerorfa o flaen cynulleidfa frwd. Ynghynt, yn y Cyfarfod Blynyddol, roedd y trefnydd Arfon Gwilym wedi atgoffa pawb cymaint o ddatblygu a fu ers ychydig dros ddwy flynedd – un cyngerdd yn 2006, un yn 2007, pump yn 2008 (gan gynnwys tri yn An Oriant) a chwech eleni. Un o'r uchafbwyntiau eleni fydd ymddangosiad yng nghyngerdd agoriadol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Y Bala ar Orffennaf 31, cyngerdd a ddarlledir yn fyw ar S4C.

Cyngerdd mawr arall eleni oedd yr un yn Galeri, Caernarfon, ym mis Ebrill. Cafodd ei recordio gan gwmni Sain a'r canlyniad fydd cryno ddisg a gyhoeddir yn Eisteddfod Y Bala ar ddydd Sadwrn, Awst 1af, mewn tri perfformiad: yn Nhŷ Gwerin, ar Lwyfan Sain ac yn y Pafiliwn Dawns. Bydd y cyngerdd olaf eleni ym Mangor ar Hydref 10 – cyngerdd cyhoeddi Gŵyl Cerdd Dant 2010.

Yn y Cyfarfod Blynyddol trafodwyd y pwysigrwydd o gadw cydbwysedd iawn rhwng gweithgareddau'r Glerorfa – sy'n amlwg yn dwyn llawer o amser – a threfnu gweithdai, sy'n allweddol i gynnal y twf a'r momentwm. Bydd rhaglen gyflawn o weithdai yn digwydd yn 2010. Yn y cyfamser, bydd y Gweithdy nesaf gan Clera yn Amgueddfa Sain Ffagan ar Fedi 19.

New Chair for Clera

Clera are looking forward to the year ahead with a new Chairman, after their AGM at Corwen. Stephen Rees will take over the Chair from Robin Huw Bowen. At the meeting, a new Secretary was also appointed: Elin Roberts, who has just graduated from University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

The meeting was followed by another Clerorfa concert in front of an enthusiastic audience. Earlier, at the AGM, Clerorfa organiser Arfon Gwilym had reminded members how far they had come in just over two years: one concert in 2006, one in 2007, five in 2008 (including three in Lorient) and six this year. One of the highlights will be an appearance at the opening concert of the National Eisteddfod in Bala on July 31, to be broadcast live on S4C.

Another major concert this year was the performance at Galeri, Caernarfon, in April which was recorded by Sain. The result will be a CD which will be released at the National Eisteddfod – three separate events on the Maes on Saturday, August 1st, in Tŷ Gwerin, the Sain stage and the dance pavilion. The final concert of 2009 will be in Bangor on October 10 – a concert to publicise the 2010 Gŵyl Cerdd Dant.

A full programme of workshops will take place in 2010. Meanwhile, the next Clera workshop will be in St Fagans National History Museum on September 19.

New Readers Start Here ...

Ontrac is the magazine of trac, the folk development organisation for Wales. trac exists to support those who are making a difference to the traditional arts within Wales - performers, teachers, presenters or enthusiasts. It's available free and will be posted to you three times a year.

Welsh Folk Song Society's conference

Details of the Welsh Folk Song Society's annual Conference are out. This year's event will be held on 26th and 27th of September at Fron Olau Hotel, Dolgellau. Guest lecturers this year are Prof Prys Morgan on the Llanofer Circle and reviving interest in folk songs and instruments; Dr Rhidian Griffiths with a retrospective of the Society's Journals; Dr Christine James looking at the events of 1588 as portrayed in ballads; and René Griffiths with a look at folk song in Patagonia and Argentina. Saturday night entertainment will also be in the company of René Griffiths.

The residential weekend is £70 (£10 non-residential). Further details are available from Dr Rhiannon Ifans, Rhandir, Penrhyn-coch, Aberystwyth SY23 3EQ (01970) 828719. Please note that the Society's activities are through the medium of Welsh.

New releases on CD

Harpist and singer Gwenan Gibbard launched her second CD in June. Gwenan is joined on *Sidan Glas* by guest musicians Maartin Allcock (Jethro Tull, Fairport Convention), fiddlers Stephen Rees (Crasdant) and Angharad Jenkins (Calan), flautist Dafydd Roberts (Ar Log) and percussionists Dewi Ellis Jones and Asian music scene phenomenon Kuljit Bhamra.
Also out in time for the Eisteddfod are the new self-titled 9Bach album and CDs from Linda Griffiths, a collection from Bob Roberts Tai'r Felin and Y Glerorfa's debut disc.
More details at www.sainwales.com

Landmark year for Cerdd Dant Society

2009 is a landmark year for the Cerdd Dant Society of Wales – this year the Society celebrates its 75th birthday. It's marking this milestone with several events during the year, including a performance in Aberystwyth at the end of June of 'Under Milk Wood', in Bethan Bryn's cerdd dant setting. There will be another opportunity to see parts of 'Under Milk Wood' being performed during National Eisteddfod week.

This year is also one of changes in the Society's administration. Organiser Dewi Jones remains in charge of the annual high point of the Cerdd Dant calendar - the Cerdd Dant Festival - and arrangements are well in hand for this year's festival which will be held in Newport on Saturday, November 14th. The Society also welcomes a new member to its team, new Administrative Assistant, Siôn Gwilym Jones. Siôn has just graduated with a degree in Engineering from King's College, Cambridge, and has returned to his roots in Llansadwrn on Anglesey. He is interested in Welsh folk traditions and will be responsible for the day to day work of the Society.

Don't forget another of the Society's annual events, namely the Setting Course which will be held near Builth, September 11 – 13. For further details of this event contact Haf Morris on 01248 713097, or see the website - www.cerdd-dant.org

Tŷ Gwerin

Newyddbeth arall, a'r tro hyn mae'n digwydd yn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Meirion a'r Cyffiniau. Bydd ymwelwyr i'r ŵyl eleni, a gynhelir rhwng Awst 1af a'r 8ed yn y Bala, yn gallu mwynhau ystod o brofiadau cerddorol traddodiadol Cymreig, a'r cyfan o dan yr un to yn y "Tŷ Gwerin" newydd.

trac fydd yn cyd-gysylltu'r lleoliad canolog hwn ar gyfer traddodiadau cerddorol Cymru ar faes yr Eisteddfod, a 'dyn ni wrth ein bodd bod cymaint o bartneriaid am ymuno â ni.

Mewn un babell enfawr cewch gyfarfod â Thŷ Cerdd a Live Music Now!; y Gymdeithas Cerdd Dant a'r ŵyl Cerdd Dant; y gymdeithas er hyrwyddo offerynnau traddodiadol, Clera; Cymdeithas Alawon Gwerin Cymru; Celfyddydau Gwirfoddol Cymru ac wrth gwrs aelodau staff ac o fwrdd trac.

Yn y babell hon bydd gofod wedi'i neilltuo ar gyfer gweithdai a cherddoriaeth fyw. 'Rydym wrthi'n cynllunio rhaglen o weithdai am 10.30 bob bore – ac, os oes digon o alw amdanynt, efallai ambell un yn y prynhawn hefyd. Bydd na weithgareddau offerynnol a lleisiol, gan gynnwys 'sesiynau blasu' ar delynau a chrythau trac. O bosib byddwn hefyd yn cynnal gweithdai clocsio a gweithdai ffidl, a chynnig y cyfle i ganu caneuon Plygain a charolau haf.

Cewch ddanteithion i'ch difyrru drwy gydol yr wythnos gan gynnwys cerddoriaeth gan gerddorfa hanner-can-aelod Clera, y Glerorfa a fydd yn lansio ei CD gyntaf ar ddydd Sadwrn Awst 1 am 11.00yb

Hoffech chi gynnal gweithdy neu arddangosfa? Cysylltwch â trac a chawn weld beth y gallwn drefnu. Mae croeso i storiwyr hefyd.

Am bedwar o'r gloch bob prynhawn bydd sesiwn agored i gerddorion o bob lefel gallu. Chi offerynwyr, cofiwch ddod â'ch offerynnau. Byddwn yn dosbarthu taflenni caneuon i gantorion. Diweddglo perffaith i ddiwrnod yn yr Eisteddfod.

Yn ôl ein harfer, byddwn yn cynhyrchu rhaglen yn rhestru'r holl ddigwyddiadau hyn, yn ogystal â gwybodaeth am ddigwyddiadau gwerin a thraddodiadol eraill o gwmpas y maes. Cewch gopïau o'r rhain am ddim, felly mynnwch gopi'n ddi-oed er mwyn i chi gynllunio'ch wythnos o gerddoriaeth draddodiadol. Dim esgusodion!

**os byddwch yn arbennig iawn o neis. Ystyrir ceisiadau (ymlaen llaw wrth gwrs).*

Dewch i ymweld â ni yn yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol wrth i trac ddod â nifer o'n sefydliadau cerddoriaeth pwysica' at eu gilydd o dan yr un tô – stondinau, gweithdai, cerddoriaeth fyw, cwcis chwedlonol Siân*, a mwy . . .

Dewch i'r Tŷ Gwerin i gwrdd â . . .

trac

Erbyn hyn 'dyn ni'n gobeithio nad oes angen ein cyflwyno, ond cofiwch bod croeso mawr i chi i daro heibio a chysylltu enwau â wynebau. Bydd y cyfarwyddydd, Siân Thomas, a'n gweinyddydd Blanche Rowen yn bresennol drwy gydol yr wythnos.

Clera

Mae gan Clera – Cymdeithas Offerynnau Traddodiadol Cymraeg – enw da am gynnal gweithdai un diwrnod ar gyfer offerynwyr o bob lefel gallu. Cafodd ei cherddorfa werin, y Glerorfa, lwyddiant ysgubol yng Ngŵyl Lorient y llynedd.

Cymdeithas Alawon Gwerin Cymru

Mae Cymdeithas Alawon Gwerin Cymru wedi chwarae rôl bwysig wrth fynd ati i gasglu a chyhoeddi caneuon Cymraeg am dros fwy na chanrif.

Cymdeithas Cerdd Dant Cymru

Y Gymdeithas er hyrwyddo ffurf ar gelf unigryw Cymru sydd eleni'n dathlu ei phenblwydd yn 75 oed. Gweler dudalen newyddion Ontrac am newyddion newidiadau'r Gymdeithas ac hefyd ….

Gŵyl Cerdd Dant Cymru

Mae Eisteddfod undydd flynyddol y Gymdeithas yn cynnig canu gwerin a dawns yn ogystal â cherdd dant.

Tŷ Cerdd

Mae'r Gymdeithas hon, a adwaenir gynt o dan yr enw 'Ffederasiwn Cerddoriaeth Amatur Cymru', yn cynrychioli bron i 400 o gorau, bandiau a chymdeithasau. Dyfarnwyd clodfawr Wobr WS Gwynn Williams y Gymdeithas i Clera yn 2008.

Live Music Now!

Elusen Yehudi Menuhin sy'n helpu cerddorion ifanc ymhob maes ceddorol gael profiad drwy chwarae mewn amrywiol leoliadau megis e.e. ysbytai.

Tŷ Gwerin

Visit "The Folk House" at the National Eisteddfod as trac brings many of the major 'players' under one roof: stalls, workshops, live music, Siân's legendary cookies*, and more . . .

Another first, and this time it's at the Meirion & District National Eisteddfod. Visitors to this year's festival at Bala, from 1st to 8th of August, will be able to sample a range of traditional Welsh musical experiences under one roof at the new "Tŷ Gwerin" tent.

trac's co-ordinating a central location for Wales' music traditions on the Eisteddfod field, and is delighted that a range of partners will be joining us.

In one huge tent, you'll be able to meet Tŷ Cerdd and Live Music Now; the Cerdd Dant Society and the Cerdd Dant Festival; the traditional instruments society Clera; the Welsh Folk Song Society, Voluntary Arts Wales; and of course staff and board members of trac.

There'll be a dedicated space within the tent for workshops and live music. A programme of workshops is being planned for a daily 10.30 slot – and, if we get enough call, perhaps a few in the afternoon as well. There'll be activities for both instruments and voices, including 'taster sessions' on trac's harps and crythau. Other possibilities include clogging workshops, fiddle workshops, plus a chance to sing Plygain songs and summer carols.

There'll be delights throughout the week, including music from Clera's fifty-strong folk orchestra the Clerorfa, launching their debut CD on Saturday 1 August at 11.00 a.m.

Would you like to offer a workshop or demonstration? Get in touch with trac and we'll see what we can do. Storytellers, too, are invited.

At four o'clock every day there'll be an open session for musicians of all abilities. Instrumentalists, remember to bring your gear with you. Singers, we'll have song sheets. The perfect end to an Eisteddfod day.

As usual, we'll be producing a programme giving details of all these, plus other folk and traditional events around the field. Copies will be available free; get yours early and plan a week of traditional music. No excuses!

**If you are very very nice. Requests (in advance) considered.*

Come to Tŷ Gwerin and meet . . .

trac

No introductions needed by now, we hope, but do call in and put faces to names. Director, Siân Thomas, and administrator Blanche Rowen will be there all week.

Clera

Clera - The Society for Traditional Welsh Instruments - has a solid reputation for day-long workshops for players of all abilities. Its folk orchestra, Clerorfa, was a runaway success at last year's Lorient Festival.

Cymdeithas Alawon Gwerin Cymru

The Welsh Folk Song Society has played a major role in the collection and publication of Welsh song for over a hundred years.

Cymdeithas Cerdd Dant Cymru

The Society for Wales' unique art form, this year celebrating its 75 anniversary. See Ontrac's News page for the latest on changes at the society as well as …

Gŵyl Cerdd Dant Cymru

The Society's annual one-day competitive festival offers folk singing and dance as well as cerdd dant.

Tŷ Cerdd

The Organisation Formerly Known As the Welsh Amateur Music Federation has close to 400 amateur choirs, bands, and societies under its wing. Its prestigious WS Gwynn Williams Award was presented to Clera in 2008.

Live Music Now

Yehudi Menuhin's charity to help young musicians of all genres at the start of their careers to gain experience by taking music to venues such as hospitals

Darganfyddiad i'r Arbrawf Mawr!

Mae'n rhy gynnar eto i ni gyhoeddi y bydd Yr Arbrawf Mawr yn ôl yn 2009 ond rydym wedi gwneud cais am gyllid at Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru.

Mae'r cynigion cyfredol yn cymryd i ystyriaeth llawer o'r sylwadau a dderbyniwyd oddiwrth Ddosbarth '08. 'Rydym yn bwriadu cadw at y drefn tri-diwrnod ar yr un penwythnos – eleni, bydd hynny'n golygu bod y cwrs yn rhedeg o nos Iau Hydref 29ain hyd at brynhawn Tachwedd 1af, yn dibynnu ar argaeledd ein tiwtor gwadd arbennig. 'Dyn ni wedi bwcio – yn amodol, ar hyn o bryd – cyfleuster newydd sbon, sef 'Margam Discovery Centre', Parc Margam, Port Talbot. Am le gwych! – mannau hyfryd i gerdded, Orendy, parc ceirw a golygfeydd ysblennydd. Hwn yw'r mwyaf newydd o ganolfannau Cyngor Astudiaethau Maes y DU ac mae ei hadeiladwaeth yn cynnwys nifer fawr o agweddau 'gwyrdd'. (Cewch weld rhagor yn: www.wrw.co.uk/portfoliodetails.aspx?ID=93)

Ein bwriad yw glynu at yr egwyddor o waith *ensemble,* a bydd Arbrofwyr yn cael eu didoli yn ôl eu gallu a'i diddordebau; hefyd bydd mwy o gyfle i offerynwyr fynd ati i ganu. Byddwn yn cyhoeddi enwau'r tiwtoriaid yn nes ymlaen, ond gallwch fod yn dawel eich meddwl y byddant oll o ansawdd!

Y fynedfa i'r 'Discovery Centre' newydd ym Margam

'Rydym hefyd am awgrymu trefnu cyfleoedd arbennig ar gyfer chwareuwyr o safon uwch a chefnogaeth i'r rhai sy'n weddol newydd i chwarae sesiwn.

Ac ar hyn o bryd, 'dyn ni'n trafod ffyrdd o ddosbarthu gwybodaeth ymlaen llaw – nid yn unig manylion cofrestru ond hefyd alawon a chaneuon – fel bod yr Arbrofwyr yn gallu cychwyn ar y gwaith ar unwaith.

Mae'r amserlen ddrafft yn cynnig cyfle am ragor o weithdai mewn pynciau sy'n gysylltiedig â cherddoriaeth draddodiadol a'i berfformio, ond sy' ddim yn ymwneud yn uniongyrchol â chreu cerddoriaeth; cefndir hanesyddol, tips perfformio ayyb. Mae croeso i chi gyflwyno unrhyw awgrymiadau wrth gwrs! Rhagor o newyddion cyn bo hir ...

Sgiliau Creadigol a Diwylliannol

Sgiliau Creadigol a Diwylliannol yw asiantaeth y Deyrnas Unedig sy'n gyfrifol am ddatblygu … wel yr hyn mae'n dweud ar y label. Mae swyddfa Cymru'n cyd-weithio'n agos gyda Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i sefydlu hyfforddiant a chynlluniau datblygu staff hir-dymor ar gyfer artistiaid proffesiynol, perfformwyr, cynllunwyr, rheolwyr – pawb sy'n gweithio yn y diwydiannau creadigol.

Mae ein rhaglenni'n cynnwys Prentisiaethau Creadigol, Cymwysterau'r Sector, hyfforddiant Arwain Creadigol a Diwylliannol a datblygiad proffesiynol parhaus. Mae'n bosibl y bydd y categorïau canlynol – Cerddoriaeth, Hyrwyddo Cerddoriaeth Fyw a Threftadaeth Diwylliannol – o ddiddordeb i ddarllenwyr Ontrac.

Yn ogystal, mae safwe 'Creative Choices' (www.creative-choices.co.uk) yn cynnig llawer o wybodaeth ynghylch y pethau y dylai ymarferwr (neu ddarpar ymarferwr) proffesiynol wybod amdanynt, o ddod o hyd i gwrs hyd at lenwi ffurflen dreth.

Dylai unrhywun sydd â diddordeb mewn gweithio yn y diwydiannau creadigol – p'un ai'n chwilio am swydd gyntaf, am newid gyrfa neu am ddatblygu gyrfa bresennol – gysylltu â Simon Dancey, Cyfarwyddwr Cymru, ar 029 2049 6826 neu simon.dancey@ccskills.org.uk

Caneuon Conwy

Mae Clwb Gwerin Llanrwst yn awyddus i glywed oddiwrth unrhywun sy'n ymddiddori yn nhraddodiadau cerddorol yr ardal ar gyfer prosiect a gynhelir yn ystod yr hydref.

Gyda chymorth trac a Chynllun Gweithredu Iaith Llanrwst, bydd y clwb yn mynd ati i ddysgu casgliad o ganeuon ac alawon sydd â chysylltiad â'r ardal. Y bwriad yw cynnal nosweithiau llawen o gwmpas yr ardal er mwyn i fwy fyth o bobl gael bod yn rhan o'r gweithgareddau!

Elin Alaw, cerddor llawrydd ac aelod o'r Glerorfa, fydd yn gyfrifol am ddethol y repertoire ac am drefnu'r "dotiau" *ac* mp3au o'r gerddoriaeth. Felly nid yw'r anallu i ddarllen cerddoriaeth yn esgus dros gadw draw!

Am ragor o fanylion cysylltwch â trac, neu Dafydd Apolloni yn Llanrwst ar 01492 642108.

BEAM me up . . .

An informal late-night session at last year's Big Experiment residential event

It's too early for us to report that The Big Experiment will be back in 2009 "by popular demand" but an application for funding is with the Arts Council of Wales.

The current proposals take on board many of the comments made by the Class of '08. We intend to keep the three day format, probably on the same weekend (depending on the availability of our special guest tutor) – this year, that would be the evening of Thursday October 29th to the afternoon of Sunday November 1st.

We have a 'pencil booking' at the brand spanking new Margam Discovery Centre, Margam Park, Port Talbot. What a fantastic place: lovely walks, an Orangery, deer park, and great views, it's the newest of the UK Field Studies Council centres and incorporates any number of 'green' principles. (Take a look at: www.wrw.co.uk/portfoliodetails.aspx?ID=93)

We're intending to stick to the principle of ensemble work, with Experimenters sorted according to ability and interests, but we're working in opportunities for instrumentalists to do more singing. We'll announce the tutors at a later date, but rest assured they will be Quality all the way!

We also propose special opportunities for more advanced players and support for those who are just getting to grips with session playing.

And we're currently working on ways to get information out in advance – not just registration details but also tunes and songs – so that Experimenters can hit the ground running.

The draft timetable makes room for more workshops in subjects related to our traditional music and its performance apart from the actual music-making: historical background, performance tips, etc. We're still open to suggestions, of course! More news soon ...

Creative and Cultural Skills

Creative & Cultural Skills is the UK agency charged with developing … well, what it says on the label. The office in Wales works closely with the Welsh Assembly Government in setting up long-term training and staff development for professional artists, performers, designers, managers – everyone employed in the creative industries.

Programmes include Creative Apprenticeships, Creative & Cultural Leadership training, Sector Qualifications, and continuing professional development. The Music, Live Event Promotion and Cultural Heritage categories could well be of interest to readers of Ontrac.

Additionally, the UK Creative Choices site (www.creative-choices.co.uk) provides quite a cartload of information on things the professional, or the would-be pro, needs to know, from finding a course to filling in your tax form.

Anyone interested in working in the creative industries – whether it's their first job, mid life career change, or developing an existing career – should contact Simon Dancey, Wales Director, on 029 2049 6826 or simon.dancey@ccskills.org.uk

Caneuon Conwy

Clwb Gwerin Llanrwst wants to hear from people interested in the area's music traditions for a project this autumn.

With the help of trac and the Llanrwst Language Action Scheme, the club will be learning a collection of songs and tunes with a local connection. The plan is to hold nosweithiau llawen around the area and get even more people involved!

Elin Alaw, a freelance musician and member of Y Glerorfa, will be gathering the repertoire together and providing the club with both "the dots" *and* mp3s of the music. So don't let the fact that you don't read music keep you away.

For more details, contact trac, or Dafydd Apolloni in Llanrwst on 01492 642108.

Rhowch dro ar ganu'r crwth!

Gan eu bod wedi profi mor boblogaidd yn ystod Yr Arbrawf Mawr, mae trac wedi prynu tri chrwth

Un o agweddau mwyaf poblogaidd Arbrawf Mawr trac y llynedd oedd y gweithdai crwth i ddechreuwyr o dan arweiniad Cass Meurig. Llogwyd tri chrwth oddiwrth y gwneuthurwr o Orllewin Cymru, Jens Schroeder, ac roeddent ar gael i bawb i roi tro arnynt.

Gan fod cymaint o ddiddordeb ynddynt, penderfynodd trac brynu'r tri offeryn. Byddant yn cael lle amlwg yn yr Eisteddfod eleni ac mewn digwyddiadau eraill sydd gennym ar y gweill. Ond cyn hynny, maent wedi mynd i'r Unol Daleithiau i fod yn rhan o ŵyl Bywyd Gwerin Amgueddfa'r Smithsonian yn Washington DC ym Mehefin.

Mae'n ymddangos bod adfywiad mewn diddordeb yn y crwth diolch i chwareuwyr megis Bob Evans, Cass Meurig, a Gillian Stevens. Pan na fydd trac yn eu defnyddio bydd ein crythau ar gael i'w llogi fel bod athrawon crwth yn medru cynnal sesiynau crwth cychwynnol.

Mae trac eisoes yn berchen ar dair telyn fach 'Dryw Bach' o wneuthuriad Telynau Teifi, ac mae'r rhain hefyd ar gael ar log i athrawon telyn sydd am gynnal sesiynau 'mynnwch dro' i'r cyhoedd.

Mae'r delynores Bethan Nia wedi gwneud hyn mewn amryw o ddigwyddiadau cyhoeddus ac wedi sôn bod y cyhoedd wastad yn dangos llawer o ddiddordeb ynddynt. Yn ddiweddar cafodd hi a'i thelynau bychan wahoddiad yn ôl i Gastell Caerffili i gymryd rhan yn Wythnos Dysgu Oedolion eleni yn sgil poblogrwydd ei hymweliad fis Mai diwethaf.

Ymwelwyr ifanc i Gastell Caerffili yn rhoi tro ar y telynau 'Dryw Bach' yng ngweithdy Bethan

Dwedodd Bethan wrth Ontrac, "fel rhan o Wythnos Dysgu Oedolion cyflwynais weithdy 'Blas ar y Delyn' yng Nghastell Caerffili. Roedd hi'n ddiwrnod llwyddianus a chefais y fraint o gyflwyno'r delyn i tua 20 oedolyn ac i ddau grŵp o blant ysgol a oedd yn digwydd bod yn ymweld â'r castell. Roedd y telynau 'Dryw Bach' yn boblogaidd iawn gydag oedolion a phlant fel eu gilydd. Roedd pawb wedi dotio wrth iddynt ddysgu chwarae alaw draddodiadol syml 'Pwt ar y bys', a chafwyd llawer iawn o hwyl!"

Yn newydd ar wefan trac: tudalen gwneuthurwyr offerynnau

Tudalen i hysbysu gwneuthurwyr offerynnau traddodiadol Cymru yw'r atodiad diweddarf i wefan trac. Hyd yn hyn mae'r dudalen yn cynnwys gwneuthurwyr ffidl, acordeon, drymiau ac (wrth gwrs), telynau. Un o bleserau mawr cerddoriaeth draddodiadol yw cael y cyfle i'w greu ar offeryn sydd wedi ei wneud â llaw, ac efallai wedi'i gerfio â llaw neu ei addurno'n gelfydd gydag argaenwaith neu frithwaith.

Mae croeso i unrhyw wneuthurwyr offerynnau traddodiadol sydd am gael eu cynnwys ar y safle gysylltu â ni – ebostiwch ni yn trac@trac-cymru.org

Have a go on a crwth!

After their popularity at the Big Experiment, trac buys three crythau

One of the most popular aspects of trac's Big Experiment event last year were the beginners' crwth workshops run by Cass Meurig. We hired three crythau from West Wales maker Jens Schroeder and made them available for people to 'have a go'.

Chris Travis and Lawrence Huxham getting to grips with crythau at last year's Big Experiment

There was so much interest that trac has now bought the crythau outright. They will feature at this year's Eisteddfod and other events we're planning. Firstly, though, they're off to the States as part of the Smithsonian Museum's Folklife Festival in Washington DC in June.

New on the trac website: instrument makers' page

The latest addition to the trac website is a page featuring makers of traditional instruments in Wales. So far the page includes makers of fiddles, accordions, drums, and (of course) harps. One of the joys of traditional music is the opportunity to create it with an instrument which has been hand-made, sometimes exquisitely hand-carved or embellished with inlays or marquetry.

Any makers of traditional instruments who'd like to be included on the site are welcome to get in touch by emailing us at trac@trac-cymru.org

It's seemed for a while that there is a resurgence of interest in the crwth, thanks to players such as Bob Evans, Cass Meurig, and Gillian Stevens. When not in use by trac, our three crythau will be available for crwth teachers to hire for introductory crwth sessions.

trac already has three 'Dryw Bach' little harps made by Telynau Teifi, which are also available for harp-teachers to hire for events where they can offer 'have a go on a harp' sessions.

Harpist Bethan Nia has tried this out at various public events and tells how there is always a lot of interest from the public. Most recently she and the little harps were invited back to Caerphilly Castle to take part in this year's Adult Learners Week after the popularity of her visit last May.

Bethan Nia introduces a visitor to the harp at Caerphilly Castle's Adult Learners' event

Bethan told Ontrac "As part of Adult Learners week I held a 'Harp Taster Workshop' at Caerphilly Castle. It was a successful day and I introduced around 20 adults to the harp in addition to two groups of school children who happened to be visiting the castle. The 'Dryw Bach' (Little Wren) harps proved to be very popular with adults and children alike. Everyone was amazed that they were able to play a simple traditional tune 'Pwt ar y bys' and there was much merriment to be had!"

Distil Cymru cyntaf

Ym mis Chwefror cafwyd atodiad newydd arall i sîn byrlymus cerddoriaeth draddodiadol Cymru.

Cyflwynir y cwrs arbenigol hwn yma gan un o'i sylfaenwyr, David Francis

Sefydlwyd Distil gan ddau gerddor a gweithredwr ym maes y celfyddydau traddodiadol, Simon Thoumire a David Francis, wedi iddynt sylwi bod na nifer cynyddol o gerddorion mentrus o'r gymuned gerddoriaeth draddodiadol a oedd yn ysgrifennu ac yn perfformio cerddoriaeth newydd, yn aml mewn cydweithrediad â cherddorion o ddisgyblaethau eraill. Cynlluniwyd Distil fel man cwrdd ar gyfer datblygiad creadigol i gerddorion proffesiynol sydd a'i gwreiddiau yn y traddodiad ond sydd am ddysgu sgiliau newydd, treulio amser gyda cherddorion eraill sydd o'r un feddylfryd â nhw, ac i fyfyrio ar eu gwaith.

Rydym yn gweithio gyda cherddorion traddodiadol gan ein bod ninnau'n rhan o'r gymuned honno ac oherwydd ein bod yn credu bod gan gerddorion traddodiadol gysylltiadau diwylliannol unigryw gyda'r gorffennol, gyda'i lleoliad ac eu bod yn deall cerddoriaeth sy'n deillio o'r gymuned ac o gof cymuned. Mae Distil yn cyfuno cerddorion traddodiadol (rhai ohonynt wedi eu hyfforddi mewn colegau cerdd ac wedi cyrraedd safon uchel yn eu meysydd eu hunain) gyda mentoriaid sy'n gweithio mewn meysydd cerddorol sy'n meddu ar egni y gellid ei drosglwyddo a'i gymysgu gydag egni cerddoriaeth draddodiadol – p'un ai bod hynny'n gerddoriaeth glasurol, gwaith byrfyfyr neu mynegiant fodern o gerddoriaeth draddodiadol sy'n deillio o ddiwylliannau o'r tu allan i Ynysoedd Prydain.

Y gobaith yw y bydd gwaith Distil yn arwain at waith newydd gan gerddorion traddodiadol sy'n cymryd i ystyriaeth y posibiliadau cerddorol sy'n deillio o'r tu allan i gerddoriaeth draddodiadol. Serch hynny, rydym am ddatgan yn glir ein gobaith y bydd y gwaith newydd hwn yn ffrwyth llafur cydweithio rhwng cerddorion, a ni fydd yn gwanhau cerddoriaeth draddodiadol fel y cyfryw. Os rydym am gyfoethogi cerddoriaeth yn gyffredinol gan gerddoriaeth draddodiadol, rhaid i ni, chwedl Hamish Hamilton, 'fridio stoc o dras traddodiadol ar gyfer y croesi'. Rydym hefyd yn gobeithio y bydd y cerddorion eraill yn elwa o'r drafodaeth hon gyda cherddorion traddodiadol Prydeinig.

Gyda hyn oll mewn golwg, cynhaliwyd y Distil Cymru cyntaf dros pedwar diwrnod dwys ym mis Chwefror yng Nghanolfan Trigonos yn Eryri, pan ddaeth saith cyfranogwr - Dylan Fowler, Gwenan Gibbard, Stephen Rees, Angharad Jenkins, Delyth Jenkins, Gerard Kilbride a Christine Cooper – at eu gilydd i weithio gyda tri thiwtor/mentor, y cyfansoddwyr Karen Wimhurst a Kuljit Bhamra, a'r trefnydd byrfyfyr Paul Rogers. Roedd y sesiynau'n cynnwys gwaith grŵp, sgyrsiau a sesiynau unigol (cafodd pob cyfranogwr sesiwn unigol gyda phob un o'r tiwtoriaid). Daeth pobl â gwaith gorffenedig, gwaith anorffenedig a hyd yn oed cnewellyn o syniad i'w rannu ac i'w ddatblygu. "Profiad a fydd yn aros gyda fi am gyfnod hir – roedd hi'n wych cael rhannu'r egni, deallusrwydd, anogaeth ac arbenigedd hwnnw!" – dim ond un ymateb oddiwrth un o'r cerddorion a fu'n rhan o'r digwyddiad.

Mae cynlluniau ar y gweill i gynnal ail sesiwn breswyl Distil y flwyddyn beilot hon ym mis Medi. Mae na lefydd ar gael a gallwch wneud cais drwy ysgrifennu at info@distil.org.uk yn sôn am eich cerddoriaeth a sut y gallai Distil helpu i'w datblygu.

Sefydlwyd Distil Cymru gyda chymorth hael Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru a Sefydliad y Gymdeithas Hawliau Perfformio.

"Roedd Distil yn brofiad hollol unigryw a hynod werthfawr, yn gyfle prin i rannu profiadau cerddorol newydd - ysbrydoliaeth gerddorol yng ngwir ystir y gair!"

Gwenan Gibbard

The first *Distil Cymru*

February saw another first for Wales' burgeoning traditional music scene.

This specialist course is introduced here by one of its founders, David Francis

Distil was set up by two musicians and traditional arts activists, Simon Thoumire and David Francis, who recognised that there was a growing number of adventurously inclined musicians from the traditional music community who were writing and performing new music, often collaborating with musicians from other disciplines. Distil was conceived as a space for creative development for professional, tradition-based musicians who wished to acquire new skills, spend time with like-minded musicians, and reflect on their work.

We work with traditional musicians because that's the community we come from, and because we believe that traditional musicians have unique cultural connections to the past, to place, and to a way of understanding music which derives from community and communal memory. Distil mixes traditional musicians (some of them conservatory trained, and all of whom have reached a high level in their own field) with mentors who work in areas of music which have an energy that complements the energy of traditional music – be it contemporary classical music, free improvisation, or modern expressions of traditional music from cultures originating outside the British Isles.

The outcome from Distil we hope for is new work by traditional musicians which takes account of musical possibilities from outside traditional music. We want to be clear, however, that our hope is that this new work will represent a distillation of ideas from a dialogue between musicians, not a dilution of traditional music itself. If music in general is to be enriched by traditional music, then, as Hamish Henderson put it, 'pedigree traditional stock must still be bred for the hybridisation'. We also hope that the other musicians will gain from the exchange with British traditional musicians.

With all that in mind, the first Distil Cymru took place over four intensive days in February at the Trigonos Centre in Snowdonia, where seven participants - Dylan Fowler, Gwenan Gibbard, Stephen Rees, Angharad Jenkins, Delyth Jenkins, Gerard KilBride, Christine Cooper - worked with three tutors/mentors, composers Karen Wimhurst and Kuljit Bhamra, and improviser Paul Rogers. The sessions comprised group-work and talks, and one to one sessions (each participant has a one-to-one with each of the tutors). People brought completed work, work in progress and even just the kernel of ideas to share and develop. 'An experience that will stay with me for a long time – it was great to share in that energy, understanding, encouragement and expertise!' was just one response from the musicians who took part.

A second Distil residential of this first pilot year is planned for September. There are places available and you can apply by dropping a line to info@distil.org.uk telling us about your music and how you think Distil could help to develop it.

Distil Cymru was set up with the full support of Arts Council Wales, and the Performing Rights Society Foundation.

> Distil was inspiring, challenging, thought-provoking, energising, relaxing and a thoroughly enjoyable weekend. It is about pushing boundaries and creating new music within a traditional setting, whilst embracing the qualities of every musical genre. Together, we created exciting new music which I never thought would be possible in such a short amount of time. I can't recommend the course enough!
>
> *Angharad Jenkins*

Tŷ a Gardd

Mae prosiect tair blynedd trac wedi cyrraedd ei derfyn

Wedi tair blynedd o waith prosiect ledled Cymru mae rhaglen 'Tŷ a Gardd' trac, sef cyfres o weithdai a phrosiectau yn y gymuned wedi dod i ben.

Mae Tŷ a Gardd wedi cynnig cefnogaeth i glybiau alawon, i sesiynau canu ac i weithdai offerynnol, ac wedi cyflwyno caneuon gwerin i ysgolion cynradd, a sgiliau chwarae wrth y glust ac ysgrifennu caneuon i ysgolion uwchradd; mae wedi comisiynu opera werin, dysgu carolau Plygain a thraddodiadau'r Fari Lwyd ac wedi cyflwyno gwesteion o'r byd Celtaidd er mwyn iddynt allu rhannu eu gwybodaeth am gerddoriaeth werin draddodiadol.

Mae cyllid oddiwrth Cyngor y Celfyddydau wedi galluogi trac i greu partneriaethau gyda chynghorau lleol, Mentrau Iaith a llu o weithredwyr gwerin a threfnwyr gweithgar ar draws y wlad.

Bydd prosiectau newydd yn cychwyn yn fuan, ond yn y cyfamser, dyma grynodeb o rai o weithgareddau diweddaraf Tŷ a Gardd.

Tiwtoriaid gwadd yn 'ffidlan' gyda Sesiwn Fach Caerdydd

Cymerodd sesiwn alawon traddodiadol Cymraeg hirsefydlog Caerdydd fantais o brosiect Tŷ a Gardd i wahodd nifer o diwtoriaid gwadd, gan gynnwys y ffidlwyr adnabyddus Robert Evans, Gerard Kilbride, Mark Prescott a sefydlwr y sesiwn, Gareth Westacott o Toreth. Roedd y sesiwn eisoes yn meddu ar repertoire eang o alawon ond daeth pob artist gwadd â rhywbeth gwahanol i'r grŵp, gan gynnwys etiquette sesiwn, technegau chwarae a gwrando a sut i ymateb i chwareuwyr eraill. Erbyn hyn mae'r sesiwn, a fu'n cyfarfod yn y Mochyn Du, yn cwrdd bob nos Lun yn y Cayo Arms.

You Tunes

Mae maestro Clwb Alawon Dolanog, Gary Northeast, wedi recordio cyfres o ganeuon traddodiadol Cymraeg er mwyn cyflwyno ei ddull hygyrch o ddysgu i gynulleidfa ehangach via YouTube. Mae chwech alaw sesiwn Gymreig adnabyddus wedi cael ei ffilmio er mwyn lledaenu gwybodaeth o'r repertoire.

Yn ogystal, talodd prosiect Tŷ a Gardd y costau ffilmio wrth i Delyth Jenkins fynd ati i chwarae deg alaw draddodiadol Gymreig ar y delyn. Wedi eu ffilmio'n gelfydd iawn fel rhan o'i gwaith i trac yn Ystradgynlais, mae'r fideos yn cyflwyno pob alaw mewn fersiwn syml nodyn-ar-y-tro, ac yna, i ddilyn, yn cyflwyno'r fersiynau llawn ar y delyn.

Yng nghyfraniad Gwenno Dafydd i'r prosiect 'Caneuon ein Gwlad', gwelwyd plant ysgol ardal Caerdydd yn cael eu cyflwyno i ystod o ganeuon traddodiadol ar gyfer Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Sant. O ganlyniad, gall athrawon gael mynediad at fideos o Gwenno'n dysgu'r caneuon via y fersiwn i ysgolion o YouTube, a bydd y rhain hefyd ar gael yn fuan ar dudalen trac yn **www.youtube.com/musictraditionswales**

Cantorion Carolau Mai yn canu'n iach yn Aberystwyth

Carolau Mai

Daeth cantorion at eu gilydd yn Aberystwyth ac yng Nghaerdydd – gweler y dudalen flaen - i ddysgu am y traddodiad o ganu caneuon arbennig i groesawu'r haf. Arweiniwyd y ddau weithdy gan y Dr Rhiannon Ifans, sy' hefyd wedi ysgrifennu llyfr, *Sêrs a Rybana,* sy'n ymdrin â'r pwnc, ac fe gyfunwyd cynghanedd pedwar llais gydag addurno'r Fedwen Fai mewn ymgais i gynnig trosolwg cyfannol o draddodiad a esgeuluswyd.

"Noson i'w thrysori"

Wrth i dymor y Plygain ddirwyn i ben unwaith eto eleni, cafodd trac y cyfle i gefnogi gweithdai a oedd yn rhoi'r cyfle i gantorion Plygain traddodiadol gyd-drafod gyda chantorion proffesiynol, i rannu eu profiadau. Cydweithiodd Parti Pen Llan (Llansilyn), Mair Thomas (Llanfyllin) a Pharti'r Blewyn Glas (Llanfair Caereinion) gyda Brigyn, Gareth Bonello, 9 Bach, Lleuwen Steffan, Jeb Loy Nichols, a Katell Keineg. Trefnwyd y sesiynau gan Rhys Mwyn ac aeth llawer o'r cyfranogwyr ymlaen i gymryd rhan mewn perfformiad ar Ionawr 16eg, perfformiad a ddarlledwyd ar S4C a BBC Radio Cymru. Roedd hon, yng ngeiriau Lleuwen Staffan, yn *"Noson i'w thrysori".* Mae sawl un o'r artistiaid a gymerodd rhan yn bwriadu cydweithio unwaith eto.

Tŷ a Gardd

trac's three year project reaches its conclusion

After three years of project work across Wales, trac's 'Tŷ a Gardd' programme of community-based workshops and projects has now closed.

Tŷ a Gardd has backed tune clubs and song sessions and instrumental workshops, and taken folk songs into primary schools and playing-by-ear and songwriting skills to high schools; it's commissioned a folk opera, taught Plygain carols and Mari Lwyd traditions and brought guests from the Celtic world to share their knowledge of traditional folk music.

With funding from the Arts Council of Wales, it's also enabled trac to create partnerships with local councils, Mentrau Iaith and a host of hardworking folk activists and organisers around the country.

New projects will be off the ground soon in 2009, but meanwhile here's a round-up of some of the last of the Tŷ a Gardd activities.

Unplygged

As this year's Plygain season came to an end, trac had the opportunity to support workshops which brought traditional Plygain singers together with professional singers to share their experience. Parti Pen Llan (Llansilyn), Mair Thomas (Llanfyllin) and Parti Blewyn Glas (Llanfair Caereinion) worked with Brigyn, Gareth Bonello, 9 Bach, Lleuwen Steffan, Jeb Loy Nichols, and Katell Keineg. The sessions were organised by Rhys Mwyn and many of the participants went on to take part in a performance on January 16, broadcast by S4C and BBC Radio Cymru. *"Noson i'w drysori" (a night to treasure)* in the words of Lleuwen Steffan. Several of the artists involved intend to work together again.

You Tunes

Dolanog Tune Club maestro Gary Northeast has recorded a series of traditional Welsh tunes to take his accessible teaching style to a global public via YouTube. Six well-known Welsh session tunes have been filmed with a view to making the repertoire better known, and will be available to view very soon.

The Tŷ a Gardd project also paid for the filming of Delyth Jenkins playing ten traditional Welsh tunes on the harp. Beautifully filmed as part of her work for trac at Ystrad-gynlais, the videos take the viewer through a simple single-note version of each melody, then follow on with the tune played in full on the harp.

Gwenno Dafydd's 'Songs Of Our Nation' strand of the project saw schools in the Cardiff area introduced to a range of traditional songs in time for St David's Day. As a legacy, teachers can access videos of Gwenno teaching the songs via the schools' equivalent of YouTube, plus they'll be available soon on trac's page at **www.youtube.com/musictraditionswales**

For those not used to YouTube, it's a website which makes short videos available on your computer, free of charge, to anyone with broadband internet access.

May Carols

Singers in Aberystwyth and Cardiff gathered to learn the tradition of singing special Welsh songs to welcome in the summer, pictured on our front cover. Dr Rhiannon Ifans, author of a book on the subject, *Sêrs a Ribana*, taught two workshops where four-part harmonies combined with the decorating of the May Branch of birch wood to give a wholistic view of a neglected tradition.

Guest tutors fiddle with Sesiwn Fach Caerdydd

Cardiff's long-running traditional Welsh tune session took advantage of the Tŷ a Gardd project to invite a number of guest tutors including well known fiddlers Robert Evans, Gerard KilBride, Mark Prescott and the session's founder, Gareth Westacott of Toreth. The session already had a wide repertoire of tunes but each guest tutor brought something different to the group: session etiquette, playing techniques and listening and responding to other players all featured. The session, previously at the Mochyn Du, now meets every Monday at the Cayo Arms.

Guest Tutor Robert Evans listens to the session as regulars Clare, Meurig and Chris play

" Very Well-a-Done... "

Siân Thomas yn dod o hyd i hanes pobl brodorol Gogledd America a gweithredoedd anfad yng ngwreiddiau cân werin Gymraeg

Ar y ffordd wrth fynd i Rymni,
Very well-a-done Jim Cro,
Cwrddyd wnes â dyn a mwnci,
Very well-a-done Jim Cro;
Yn dod adre'n lled anhwylus,
Very well-a-done Jim Cro;
Wedi wado naw o Badis,
Victoria, Victoria,
Very well-a-done Jim Cro.

Dyma eiriau cân draddodiadol Gymraeg boblogaidd sy'n un o ddarnau prawf Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Glyn Ebwy 2010.

Yn ôl Phyllis Kinney a Meredydd Evans yn *Canu'r Cymry II*, cafodd yr alaw hon, sy'n fersiwn o 'Hob y Deri Dando', a'r pennill eu hanfon i Eisteddfod Bae Colwyn ym 1910. Mae'n bur debyg bod y cystadleuydd yn hannu o Dde Orllewin Cymru, er bod y gân yn sôn am ddigwyddiad ger y Rhymni.

I'r canwr cyffredin y byrdwn sy'n drawiadol, ac yn cael ei esbonio fel darn o ddwli sy'n atsain o sioeau'r clêr y 19eg ganrif. Gan bod "Jim Cro" yn ymddangos mewn o leiaf tair cân werin Gymraeg, mae'n werth ei hastudio'n agosach.

Priodolir creu cymeriad Jim Cro i'r perfformiwr wyneb-ddu Thomas "Daddy" Rice tua 1828, wedi iddo weld bonheddwr croenddu hŷn yn dawnsio ac yn canu:

"Weel about and turn about and do jis so,
Eb'ry time I weel about I jump Jim Crow."

Tyfodd "Jump Jim Crow", cân a ysgrifennwyd ac a berfformiwyd gan Rice i fod yn un o ganeuon mwyaf poblogaidd y 19eg ganrif ac yn gonglfaen o'r hyn a dyfodd yn ffenomenon Sioe y Clêr. Yn ddiau roedd y gân, ac eraill a esgorodd arni, yn ymgais gan bobl gwyn i wneud hwyl am draddodiadau dawns Affricanaidd-Americanaidd, lle y mae symudiadau adar ac anifeiliaid yn cael eu hail-greu.

Mae hynny'n esbonio tarddiad "Jim Cro" ond beth am "Victoria, Victoria, very well-a-done"?

Mewn trafodaeth ddiweddar ar y Mudcat Café[1], grwp trafod cerddoriaeth werin ar y we, daeth y cefndir diddorol canlynol i'r amlwg.

Yn *The Voyager's Companion and Adviser* gan Henry John Webber (1885), cafodd yr un byrdwn ei ddyfynu o sianti "wladgarol iawn", ac yn y 1920au, casglodd JM Carpenter, y llên-gwerinwr o Americanwr y sianti "Victorio", a oedd yn dwyn y teitl amgen "Very Well Done Jim Crow" oddiwrth dri chanwr o'r Alban.

Roedd Victorio yn bennaeth enwog ar yr Apache (T'Inde), cydymaith Cochise a Geronimo, yn ystod rhyfeloedd yr Apache yn America. Cafodd ei bobl eu hurddio'n ddi-drugaredd o'u tiroedd traddodiadol, eu newynu a hyd yn oed eu hela am fownti a phleser. Dihangodd Victorio a'i ddynion o'u rhandiroedd ym Mecsico Newydd ac ymgyrchu'n ffyrnig yn erbyn byddin America ar draws Mecsico Newydd ac Arizona yn ystod 1879 a 1880.

Daeth dechrau'r diwedd yn Rattlesnake Springs, Tecsas ar Awst 6, 1880. Tra'n chwilio am ddŵr glân, cudd-ymosodwyd ar Victorio a'i ddynion gan ddau Gwmni o Ddegfed Cafalri'r Unol Daleithiau. Rhain oedd "Milwyr y Buffalo", cwmnïau o gyn-gaethweision a oedd am wella'u byd a chael eu derbyn i brif lif y gymdeithas yn America, ac a ffurfiwyd yn sgil y Rhyfel Cartref. Mae'n eironi trist bod yr Americanwyr gwyn wedi defnyddio'r milwyr Affricanaidd-Americanaidd hyn fel sgowtiaid yn eu hymgyrchoedd milain yn erbyn pobl brodorol Gogledd America.

Felly mae'n ddigon posibl bod "Victorio, Victorio, very well done, Jim Crow" wir yn sianti "wladgarol", yn dathlu cyfraniad Milwyr y Buffalo at y rhyfel – er yn sicrhau yn y broses bod y deyrnged yn cadw'i flas o hiliaeth.

Gan bod yr erthygl hon wedi cychwyn gan gyfeirio at Eisteddfod Glyn Ebwy y flwyddyn nesaf, gadewch i ni hefyd sôn am Dŷ Jim Cro, Croesyceiliog, Cwmbran. Er i Wasanaeth Archif Gwent[2] ymdrechu'n ddiwyd ar ran Ontrac, mae manylion yr enw'n aros yn dywyll. Cafodd ei gynnwys ar fap am y tro cyntaf yn 1851; mewn erthygl yn 1968 yn y cylchgrawn "Presenting Monmouthshire", dywedodd yr hanesydd F.J. Hando taw 'morwr o Loegr' oedd Jim Cro a'i fod yn ffrind i deulu preswyl yr Ifansiaid.

Efallai nad oes unrhyw gysylltiad rhwng y Jim Cro hwn a'r gân neu'r sianti; mae'n amlwg bod yr amseru'n anghywir. Efallai bod dyddiadau gorchfygu Victorio gan filwyr Jim Cro yn 1880 a'r casgliad o ganeuon a gyflwynwyd i Eisteddfod Bae Colwyn yn 1910 ond braidd yn cyd-fynd. Ac yn sicr nid ydym wedi cyffwrdd â "het Jim Cro" a drysorwyd gan ddyweddi Gwenno Pengelli, neu Jim Cro Crystyn anrhifog "Dacw Mam yn Dwad" – ond cawn ddychwelyd at y rheini y tro nesaf efallai!

Gyda diolch i [1]Jim Dixon, Vaughan Hully ac Azizi Powell [2]Frances Younson

National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution NAA INV 02040900

" Very Well-a-Done ..."

Siân Thomas finds Native American history and dark deeds in the roots of a Welsh folk song

Ar y ffordd wrth fynd i Rymni,
Very well-a-done Jim Cro,
Cwrddyd wnes â dyn a mwnci,
Very well-a-done Jim Cro . . .
Victoria, Victoria,
Very well-a-done Jim Cro.

Thus goes a popular Welsh traditional song, one of the set pieces for the 2010 National Eisteddfod at Ebbw Vale.

According to Phyllis Kinney and Meredydd Evans in *Canu'r Cymry II*, this tune, a version of 'Hob y Deri Dando', and verse were sent to "the Colwyn Bay Eisteddfod of 1910. The competitor probably came from Southwest Wales," although the song describes an event near Rhymni.

To the casual singer, it's the refrain that stands out, generally explained as a bit of nonsense harkening back to minstrel shows of the 19th century. As "Jim Crow" appears in at least three Welsh folk songs, it's worth taking a closer look.

Black-face performer Thomas "Daddy" Rice is credited with creating the Jim Crow caricature around 1828 having seen an elderly black gentleman dancing and singing:

"Weel about and turn about and do jis so,
Eb'ry time I weel about I jump Jim Crow."

"Jump Jim Crow", written and performed by Rice, went on to become a 19th century hit and a cornerstone of what grew into the Minstrel Show phenomenon. The song, and its progeny, are undeniably a white mockery of bona fide African-American dance traditions in which bird and animal movements are re-enacted.

That explains the roots of "Jim Crow" but what of "Victoria, Victoria, very well-a-done"? A recent discussion on the Mudcat Café[1], an internet folk music discussion group, brought some interesting background to light.

In *The Voyager's Companion and Adviser* by Henry John Webber (1885) this same chorus was quoted from a "highly patriotic" chantey and in the 1920s, the American folklorist JM Carpenter collected the chantey, "Victori**o**", from three Scottish singers with the alternative title, "Very Well Done Jim Crow".

Victorio was a famous Apache (T'Inde) chief, ally of Cochise and Geronimo, during America's Apache Wars. His people were notoriously herded from traditional lands, starved, and even hunted for bounty and pleasure. Victorio and his men escaped from their New Mexico reservation and, from 1879 to 1880, waged a bloody campaign against the US army across New Mexico and Arizona.

The beginning of his end came at Rattlesnake Springs, Texas on August 6, 1880. Seeking fresh water, Victorio and his men were ambushed by two Companies of the Tenth US Cavalry. These were the "Buffalo Soldiers", companies formed in the aftermath of the American Civil War made up of former slaves looking to better themselves and become accepted into mainstream American society. It is sadly ironic that white America then used these African-American troups as scouts in the oppressive campaigns against North American native people.

So, it could be that "Victorio, Victorio, very well done, Jim Crow" was indeed a "patriotic" chantey celebrating the Buffalo Soldiers' contribution to the war effort – although ensuring that the compliment retained a taste of racism in the process.

As this article began with a reference to next year's Ebbw Vale Eisteddfod, let us mention in passing Jim Crow House, Croesyceiliog, Cwmbran. Despite substantial effort by the Gwent Archive Service[2] on Ontrac's behalf, details of the name are sketchy. It was first mapped in 1851; in a 1968 article in "Presenting Monmouthshire" historian F.J. Hando reported that the name Jim Crow was that of a "seafaring man out of England" who was a friend of the resident Evans family.

Perhaps there's no connection between that Jim Crow and the song, or the chantey; the timing is obviously wrong. Perhaps the dates of Victorio's defeat by the Jim Crow soldiers in 1880 and the collection of songs submitted in Colwyn Bay in 1910 just barely fit. And definitely we haven't even touched upon the "Jim Crow hat" treasured by Gwenno Penygelli's fiancé, or the innumerate Jim Cro Crystyn of "Dacw Mam yn Dwad" – but we'll leave that for another time, shall we?

with thanks to [1] Jim Dixon, Vaughan Hully, Azizi Powell [2] Frances Younson

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Ontrac is the magazine of **trac: traddodiadau cerdd cymru / music traditions wales**, the folk development organisation for Wales.

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