



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
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FLINTSHIRE COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND
IMPACT REPORT OCTOBER 2017

CONTENTS

Introduction	3
News	4
Fund History & Overview	7
Financial Performance	8
Fund Statement	9
Additional Services for Local Authorities	10
Summary of Grants	11
Analysis	17
Case Studies	18

Picture on Front Cover – Live Music Now – Dan Walsh residency within Ysgol Pen Coch.

INTRODUCTION

The Community Foundation in Wales is pleased to report grant-making that has continued to increase year on year, distributing over £2.6 million last year to over 540 groups and individuals, supporting over 5,000 volunteers and 62,000 beneficiaries. Our endowment portfolio currently stands at over £13m, a long-term, sustainable source of funding for communities across Wales.

Within our portfolio the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund is a long-term source of funding to support education in Flintshire, helping us to fulfil our vision for a Wales with a thriving voluntary and community sector where local people have the financial resources to deliver projects addressing local needs. We see the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund as a catalyst for developing local philanthropy – an inspiration to a new generation of philanthropists in Flintshire. The

Hawarden Relief in Need Fund, which supports groups and individuals in and immediately around Hawarden, was transferred to us shortly after establishing the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund and helps to ensure that some of the most vulnerable people in Flintshire have access to funding to support them when in financial crisis.

I hope you will once again enjoy reading and digesting the details of the awards made from the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund in 2016 and 2017. We are delighted to work with you to support community groups and individuals, focussing on educational attainment, especially with those seen as the most vulnerable in communities.

As always we continue to add value to your Fund by ensuring organisations that receive awards are appropriately constituted, compliant and managing

their money efficiently and effectively. We monitor award recipients to discuss their work in the first instance through a written report, and by following up compliance with Charity Commission requirements where appropriate. On occasion we will follow this up with a phonecall to further discuss their work and sometimes a visit.

Please do advise us if you have any suggestions or changes you would like to make regarding the content or format. We're always pleased to receive feedback and are continually looking for ways to improve our reports.

With best wishes from the team at the Community Foundation in Wales.

Andrea Powell
Grants & Programmes Manager
October 2017

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION IN WALES NEWS

UPDATE

In Philanthropy Week 2016 the Community Foundation in Wales was delighted to honour three very different philanthropists, all of whom we have worked closely with in recent months and years. People who give their time, treasure and talent to help communities throughout Wales.

We gave an award to Ali and May Mosawi, who from humble beginnings have now set up their own family Foundation to distribute funding to organisations both in the UK and beyond working to further their passions and beliefs. They are also committed to supporting our work within the Community Foundation in Wales. You can read more about their story in our Annual Review (pages 18 & 19)

We also awarded Kelly Davies. As a former Premier League football player herself, Kelly understood that sports clubs have a unique position of trust and connection in their local communities. At the same time thousands of clubs fail due to a lack of proper management.

Kelly founded Vi-Ability in 2010 to engage unemployed local youth in re-energising run-down clubs and turning them into thriving and sustainable community hubs whilst equipping youth with valuable employability skills. Starting a pilot in her hometown club of Colwyn Bay, Kelly engaged 20 NEETs age 16-18, taking on school drop-outs as well as ex-offenders. The success was unheard of with 20 out of 20 completing the course and 18 of them going into full-time jobs. Kelly gave up her football career after playing in the highest women's league and being at the top of her career as a full Welsh international. A year after piloting, Vi-Ability was awarded the Wales Social Enterprise of the Year. Soon after, Kelly was awarded the Big Society Award by the UK Prime Minister, and decided to dedicate her full-time attention to bring Vi-Ability's model to its full potential across the UK.

Our third award was to Chris Rogers, a volunteer who gives up her time - a considerable number of hours each week - to support the community of Bro Aberffraw on Anglesey. We met Chris

through our work on the Spirit of 2012 funded Fourteen project. She epitomises volunteering in Wales and accepted the award on behalf of ALL volunteers. Chris was keen to point out that she gets as much out of volunteering herself as the community gets out of her, and if it wasn't for the Fourteen project she would never have had so much fun!



In February 2016, Mari-Wyn Elias-Jones joined the Community Foundation in Wales as our Development Manager. Following the successful partnership with Carmarthenshire business Melin Tregwynt., Mari-Wyn built a relationship with Welsh jewellery designer and maker Emma-Kate Francis. Emma-Kate used

our daffodil logo as her inspiration to create a range of jewellery, with 30% of the sale proceeds being donated to the Fund for Wales. The new design was launched in November 2016, just in time for the Christmas market.

We are also delighted to announce the appointment of Richard Williams as the new Chief Executive of the Community Foundation in Wales.

Richard joined us in September 2017 from the charity Action on Hearing Loss, where he was Director for Wales. Prior to working in the third sector, Richard was a newspaper editor heading up the South Wales Echo and Wrexham Evening Leader, having also held senior positions on the Daily Post and Wales on Sunday. He is a board member of the Wales Council for Voluntary Action and Hafan Cymru, and national third sector representative on the Powys Regional Partnership Board.

Reflecting on his appointment, Richard said: "I am delighted to be joining the Community Foundation in Wales team and look forward to working to ensure we make an even bigger positive impact on communities across Wales."

We are delighted that Alun Evans was appointed as the new Chairman of Community Foundation in Wales. Alun is Business Development Director at Quilter Cheviot Investment Management and is also a trustee of UK Community Foundations, Walthamstow Hall School, and St David's Academy School.



New Programmes

We followed through on our work with the **Pears Foundation** through 2016 to run an interfaith community cohesion programme. The fund culminated in a very successful event in September 2016 where each of the groups funded through the programme attended a

learning and sharing event where they updated the invited audience made up of Foundation Trustees, other groups working in the area, key stakeholders including Welsh Government and other funders, on the work that has been undertaken with this funding. Feedback was incredibly positive with the groups telling us how valuable it was to meet with and hear from others working in a similar field of work.

We also established a completely new fund working with the **South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner's** office, the Fund has a focus on victims of crime. Organisations that submitted applications were invited to pitch their ideas to an audience that included specially selected panel members that included victims of crime. Ten organisations received funding and will be closely monitored to inform the future work of the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner.

We are continuing our partnership with a handful of UK Trusts and Foundations to deliver the '**New Beginnings Fund**'. The fund will this year focus on unaccompanied minors in response to the recognised gap in provision for this very vulnerable group of refugees and

asylum seekers moving to Britain. Funding is available to increase the capacity of small to medium sized charities and community organisations to meet the support needs of children and young people from families seeking asylum.

Grant making

Over recent months, we have noticed that an increased number of cheques sent though the post have not been received by groups. As of April 2017, all of our payments are made by BACS transfer. This will mean a slight change in our processes and our communication

with groups but will ultimately be a safer, quicker and more streamlined method of payment.

FUND HISTORY & OVERVIEW

HISTORY

The Flintshire Community Endowment Fund was established in September 2013 following the decision by Flintshire County Council to transfer the assets obtained following the closure of a range of historic trust funds to a new 'umbrella' Fund at the Community Foundation in Wales. The Fund was officially launched in November 2013 at Airbus in Broughton. The value of the endowment on transfer was £178,998.

OVERVIEW

Flintshire Community Endowment Fund grants are awarded at an annual grants panel. The Fund has its own grants panel which is made up of six members, each with good knowledge and experience of the needs within Flintshire. The members are nominated by the Council and serve for a minimum period of three years. The current members are:

- Karen Armstrong, Flintshire Council Officer
- Trevor Jones, Flintshire Council Officer
- Aaron Shotton, Leader, Flintshire County Council
- June Brady, Flintshire County Voluntary Council
- Christine Sheibani, local businesswoman and philanthropist

The Panel is chaired by a senior staff member of the Community Foundation in Wales. Panel recommendations are presented to the Foundation's board of trustees which reviews and ratifies grant decisions. The input and knowledge of panel members has been invaluable and ensured that all grant decisions are made locally, informed by knowledge of local needs and priorities.

All grants are awarded subject to strict terms & conditions and are monitored after six months to ensure compliance with the terms of the grant and to measure the impact of the grants on individuals and communities.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

The value of the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund on transfer in Autumn 2013 was £178,998. This was following the top-slicing of £20,000 of unspent historically accrued income in order to provide immediate grant-making over years one and two. As at 30 September 2017 the endowment is valued at £209,652.

In accordance with our investment strategy, which manages risk through a diversified portfolio split between three investment managers, the endowment was invested with Rathbones, M&G Investments, and latterly, CCLA.

The Performance of the investment managers is monitored on a regular basis by the Foundation's Finance Manager and scrutinised quarterly by the Finance, Risk & Investment Committee. A full review of our Investment Managers is carried out every three years. The last review was carried out in January 2016 and we were pleased to report that all of

our investment managers performed above their agreed benchmark over a three year period.

Last year we reported on a rather difficult investment environment. The first quarter of 2016 saw the UK economy enter a bear market, and investors were preoccupied with fears about the pace of China's economic slowdown and the threat of deflation. A year later, and almost 10 years since the start of the global financial crisis, a synchronised global economic upturn is at last under way, which includes the US, Europe, Asia and most large developing countries. Interest rates, though rising, are still low; deflation fears have receded; and company profits are high in the US and recovering in the rest of the world. As might be expected we have seen improved performance throughout 2016 and into 2017. This saw the value of the endowment rising by over 14% on the 2016 valuation, with a further 2% unrealised gain through the first two quarters of 2017/18. It takes the total

return (gross) over the first four years of managing the trust to 35%.

Because of strong returns over the last 12 months we have now generated a real term capital buffer of £12k, or 7% of the original value. In line with our total return approach to investment, and in response to the strong demand for funding in Flintshire during 2016/17, we decided to supplement the income from the endowment by realising some of the capital gain, enabling us to meet needs whilst still growing the capital above inflation.

Looking back to September 2013, when the Fund was transferred, we have now made grants totaling £34,082, which is almost one fifth of the original value of the endowment. Over the same period, we have successfully grown the endowment by 18% (7% above inflation) which leaves it in a strong position to meet future needs in Flintshire.

FUND STATEMENT

As at 30 September 2017

	Income & Expenditure	Capital	Total
Income			
Initial capital endowed	-	£178,975	£178,975
Top-sliced income for grant-making	£20,000	-	£20,000
Investment income	£31,154	-	£31,154
Interest	£379	-	£379
Total income	£51,533	£178,975	£230,508
Expenditure			
Grants (4 years)	£34,082	-	£34,082
Annual management fee (4 years)	£14,001	-	£14,001
Total expenditure	£48,083		£48,083
Gains/(losses) on investments	-	£30,677	£30,677
	£3,450	£209,652	£213,102

ADDITIONAL SERVICES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

In addition to our trust transfer service, which has been adopted and endorsed by 7 Local Authorities in Wales, we also offer professional fund management and optional grant making service to trustees of charitable trusts where the trustee is bound by law to remain the custodian of the trust.

In October 2009 Powys County Council embraced our fund management services for its Welsh Church Acts Fund. At the time of transfer the capital value of the assets totalled £1,643,763.

As at 31st March 2017 the capital value of the Fund had increased to

£2,368,522, an unrealised capital gain of £724,759 or 44%. The Fund has also achieved gross income, net of fees, and available for grant making, of £345,176, a return of 21%

The overall performance of the Fund during the period October 2009 to 31st March 2017, net of professional fees, demonstrates a healthy return of 65%

Following the Foundations presentation to members of the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CROSC) in May 2016 members in attendance supported further investigation of the potential transfer of

the management and administration of the Flintshire Tri-Partite Welsh Church Acts Fund to the Foundation. In the interim period the Foundation has submitted a formal proposal for consideration by the Trustee of the Fund and its tri-partite members namely Denbighshire and Wrexham Councils. The outcome of their considerations and recommendations are contained in a report to be presented to members at the time of the CROSC Meeting to be held on 14th December 2017.

SUMMARY OF GRANTS AWARDED

	Round	Grant Applicant Name	Project Description	Amount applied for	Amount Awarded	Notes
GROUPS						
1	2016	Cylch Meithrin Terrig	To purchase new storage units and new play equipment/ toys.	£750.00	£500.00	£250 for toys £250 for storage
2	2016	Flintshire Optec Japanese Youth Exchange Trust	To provide an annual cultural and educational exchange between three towns in Miyagi Prefecture in Japan and Flintshire involving six students.	£750.00	£750.00	Specify that this grant is to be spent on airfares
3	2016	Gwyl Cadi Ha	Towards Welsh folk-dancing training for staff and pupils of Flintshire primary schools. Creating a CD of dance accompaniment to practise for it.	£750.00	£750.00	Conditional upon naming the schools who will participate in the project
4	2016	Live Music Now Wales	For a three day residency in Ysgol Pen Coch, to involve music making workshops delivered by musician Dan Walsh, tailored to the children's needs.	£750.00	£750.00	Conditional upon the school knowing about the project

5	2016	Techniquet Glyndwr (trading name of North Wales Science)	Towards the costs of hands-on science clubs to support the educational development, teamwork and communication skills of young people and their families through fun, science themed activities.	£750.00	£750.00	
INDIVIDUALS						
6	2016	Anita Winterbottom	Contribution towards the cost of competing at the Dance World Cup in June 2016.	£695.00	£500.00	
7	2016	Bethan Goodwin	Contribution towards the cost of competing at the Dance World Cup in June 2016.	£750.00	£500.00	
8	2016	Catrin Mai Edwards	Contribution towards a trip to Patagonia, selected by Urdd Gobaith Cymru, to form cultural links with the Welsh colony there.	£1,000.00	£750.00	
9	2016	Charlotte Elin Davies	Contribution towards the cost of competing at the Dance World Cup in June 2016.	£750.00	£500.00	
10	2016	Daisy Elizabeth Miller	Contribution towards the cost of competing at the Dance World Cup in June 2016.	£750.00	£500.00	
11	2016	Emily Rose Miller	Contribution towards the cost of competing at the Dance World Cup in June 2016.	£750.00	£500.00	

12	2016	Jonathan Phillips	To help with travel expenses and fees for the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain and Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra.	£750.00	£750.00	
13	2016	Maddison Spencer	Contribution towards the cost of competing at the Dance World Cup in June 2016.	£750.00	£500.00	
14	2016	Olivia Millington	Contribution towards the cost of competing at the Dance World Cup in June 2016.	£750.00	£500.00	
15	2016	Olivia Preece	Towards the costs of volunteering abroad with Volunteer Eco Students Abroad (VESA).	£750.00	£750.00	
15	2016	Sasha Hayes	Contribution towards the cost of competing at the Dance World Cup in June 2016.	£750.00	£500.00	
16	2016	Shikiera Davies	Contribution towards the cost of competing at the Dance World Cup in June 2016.	£750.00	£500.00	
GROUPS						
1	2017	2480 (Holywell) Squadron Training Corps	To replace 10 education tables. As part of larger project looking at many aspects of our provision.	£750.00	£750.00	
2	2017	DangerPoint	Pupils from 5 schools in Flintshire will visit DangerPoint to receive interactive safety education	£700.00	£700.00	

3	2017	Quay Watermen's Association	To establish a Junior Quay Watermen's Group, to interest local youngsters in river-based activities and give them skills and an understanding of the maritime heritage of their town	£750.00	£750.00	Clarify the need for audio equipment in what appears to be a photographic based arts project.
4	2017	Stop it Now! Wales (Lucy Faithfull Foundation)	To meet audiences of parents and carers to deliver 2 hour education sessions on how they can keep their children safe and prevent child sexual abuse and exploitation.	£750.00	£750.00	Condition - that the work addresses gaps within existing provision. Identify groups and schools that the project will work in.
INDIVIDUALS						
5	2017	Catrin Mai Edwards	Training and performing with the National Youth Choir	£300.00	£300.00	
6	2017	Charlotte Parsonage	Attending a mental health volunteering event in Bali	£750.00	£0.00	Charlotte declined the offer as she is unable to attend her course this year due to family illness.
7	2017	Ella Brown	Travel to Germany to represent Wales in the National Dance World Cup	£500.00	£500.00	
8	2017	Erin Ramsey	Travel to Germany to represent Wales in the National Dance World Cup	£1,283.00	£500.00	
9	2017	Esme Kennedy	Travel to Germany to represent Wales in the National Dance World Cup	£1,823.00	£500.00	

10	2017	Freya Harrison	Representing Girlguiding Cymru at an International Jamboree in Sonderborg and Copenhagen	£400.00	£400.00	
11	2017	Harry Smallman	Travel to Germany to represent Wales in the National Dance World Cup	£750.00	£500.00	
12	2017	Melissa Jenkins	Travel to Germany to represent Wales in the National Dance World Cup	£500.00	£500.00	
13	2017	Nel Meirion	Travel to Germany to represent Wales in the National Dance World Cup	£750.00	£500.00	
14	2017	Rhiannon Goodwin	Travel to Germany to represent Wales in the National Dance World Cup	£668.20	£500.00	
15	2017	Robyn Morgan	Travel to Germany to represent Wales in the National Dance World Cup	£1,283.00	£500.00	
16	2017	Rowan Crosby	Specialist lessons to help a para-rider (disabled dressage writer) represent Team GB at the 2024 Paralympics	£750.00	£500.00	
17	2017	Georgia Ellis	To undertake a Doctorate in Physiotherapy in Connecticut USA	£500.00	£500.00	
18	2017	Katie Dawson	Travel to Germany to represent Wales in the National Dance World Cup	£500.00	£395.00	
19	2017	Mia Dawson	Travel to Germany to represent Wales in the National Dance World Cup	£500.00	£395.00	

20	2017	Amber Dawson	Travel to Germany to represent Wales in the National Dance World Cup	£500.00	£395.00	
21	2017	Hannah Carrington	Towards the cost of an Accounting Qualification	£500.00	£500.00	Initial application through Kim Inspire. Volunteer was encouraged to apply as an individual

ANALYSIS

As the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund has become more established, it is becoming more well known within the county. The following table shows the increase in grants awarded since the beginning of this Fund.

Year awarded	Number of Grants	Total Value
2013/14	7	£4,830
2014/15	9	£6,655
2015/16	20	£12,262
2016/17	20	£10,335

The Fund has now spent down the accrued underspend which will mean that funding available is likely to be less next year - without the underspend to fall back on the sum available with be reliant on the income accrued in the previous 12 months.

The Fund is now beginning to receive repeat applications from groups and

individuals year on year, often for the same or similar project. In the last round particularly the panel took the decision to give preference to organisations and individuals that have not received a grant from the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund previously. Emphasis is being placed on funding individuals who show a degree of talent and are representing Flintshire on at least regional level and/or who can satisfactorily demonstrate financial and/or social need. The number of applications may well continue to increase, so it will become more important to have a clear rationale for rejection, the criteria has been updated to clearly state these preferences as a means of managing expectation.

LEVERAGE FOR FLINTSHIRE

During the last 12 months we have awarded a further £97,610 in grants to organisations and individuals in Flintshire from 6 different funds. The Community Endowment Fund in the neighbouring

county of Wrexham has funded work with Kim Inspire, Menter Iaith Maelor and Dangerpoint, with the Community Endowment fund in neighbouring Denbighshire also funding work with North Wales Superkids and Dangerpoint.

DASU had received a further 3 years of funding via the Henry Smith Charity for work to support victims of Domestic Abuse. NEWCIS has also received a grant of 3 years funding to work with carers across North East Wales including Flintshire.

Grants have also been awarded to Flintshire groups from Santander Community Solutions fund and from Comic Relief Community Cash. The Hawarden and District Relief in Need Fund is becoming more widely known about. We continue to make crisis grant to vulnerable individuals in the area.

CASE STUDIES

Flintshire Optec Japanese Youth Trust works to promote, maintain, improve and advance education by arranging and funding exchange visits for the young people of Flintshire to Japan. The exchanges help to promote an understanding and appreciation of Japanese culture, education and commerce, as well as providing opportunity to learn and practice the Japanese language and encourage better international relations and friendship. The exchange has been in operation for over 30 years, and the Trust hopes to continue to offer the opportunity to other Flintshire students for as many years as possible. A grant of £750 from the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund contributed to airfares, thus supporting the Trust to extend the lifetime of the exchange.

A post exchange meeting was held in September where the students and families had an opportunity to give feedback, which was constructive and positive. The students and families felt that it was a unique and life-enriching experience, and hope to maintain the friendships they have made and return to Japan one day. Some of the students have undertaken to learn the Japanese

language and apply to university to study Japanese. The parents felt that the money they had spent was affordable and had not cost more than they expected and the whole experience was extremely rewarding.

Councillor Peter Curtis, Chairman of Flintshire County Council, said: *"The links that have been forged by this exchange are unique in offering the opportunity for both countries to come together to exchange ideas and learn about each other's way of life and culture. The youth exchange has proved to be a major success for developing an understanding and tolerance, particularly in our young generation, which can only be of benefit to future international relations."*



Techniquet Glyndwr provides support for the advancement of education and learning, particularly amongst children, of science and technology, and develops the public understanding of science and technology through the delivery of educational programmes, science festivals and other such activities. The group maintains a science discovery centre in Wrexham and visits schools across North Wales and North West England with hands-on workshops and shows linked to STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths).

The group was awarded a grant of £750 from the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund to set up two new five-week science clubs in Ysgol Maesglas and Ysgol Bryn Gwalia, both economically and socially deprived areas of Flintshire. The clubs have helped to engage pupils and their families in the local communities around the schools with STEM activities.

The science clubs were well attended by children aged 7-11 and their families, including younger siblings, parents and grandparents. The children were highly engaged by the activities on offer, and relished the opportunity to try out new experiences such as going inside an inflatable planetarium to stargaze.

The schools where the clubs were based could not fund a science club on their own and were grateful for a project to take place promoting family learning, especially using the expertise of an outside organisation. A teacher from one of the schools involved commented the most valuable parts were *“working collaboratively with each other and parents. The children were able to use skills in a way they found very enjoyable and interesting. Science through creative skills!”*



Jonathan Phillips is a musician, he was born in Wrexham, but brought up in Flintshire. His greatest musical achievement so far has been to secure a place with the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain for 2016. Jonathan is proud to say that he comes from Flintshire in the orchestra's publicity material. Although he has performed in some very prestigious regional and national groups, Jonathan has continued to perform with school and county groups as well. By staying involved with local music he is able to act as a mentor and a role model for other young musicians in Flintshire.

Jonathan was awarded a grant of £750 from the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund to help with travel expenses and fees for the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain and Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. The funding has supported Jonathan to achieve a high standard in his orchestral percussion playing, and has given him the opportunity to be conducted by some of Britain's greatest musicians and play with internationally renowned soloists.

As part of the National Youth Orchestra's 'Inspire' programme, Jonathan attended a three day course to work alongside younger and less experienced musicians, helping them move forward and attain confidence and motivation in their playing. The experience Jonathan gained also helped him to achieve a place at the Royal Academy of Music in September 2017.

A review of one of Jonathan's performances commented:

"National Youth Orchestra gigs are tricky things to write about. What should we focus on? Marvel at teenagers doing a miraculous job? I prefer not. The measure of a good National Youth Orchestra gig is whether or not you can forget the players are the age they are. I did. This was a remarkable gig."

Talented teen beats a path to the top of the music tree

■ Jonathan Phillips

A MEMBER of Wrexham Symphony Orchestra has gained a place in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.

The national 160-strong orchestra is acknowledged as one of the best in the world for teenagers and percussionist Jonathan Phillips, 16, from Sychdyn, near Mold, is the only member from North Wales.

When Jonathan was only six his parents, Chris and Sally, arranged for him to have drum lessons in Northop and piano lessons in Gvernafield, and while at Sychdyn village school he played drums in a three-piece band at a school concert. He also joined Northop training band.

After moving to Mold Alun School Jonathan began playing for the County Wind Band and successfully auditioned for the Four Counties and North Wales Youth Orchestras.

Jonathan was taken under the wing of Dave Hassell, a leading drum teacher in Manchester, who taught him jazz and Latin percussion, and at the age of 13 was accepted for the junior school at the Royal Northern College of Music.

Every Saturday during term time young musicians from across the North West of England and North Wales spend the day learning about music theory and performance, and playing in a range of ensembles.

Over the years Jonathan has extended his range to include the full range of orchestral percussion such as timpani, xylophone and marimba, and has worked his way through the grade system. He recently sat the Grade 8 percussion exam.

Now in the sixth form Jonathan, who is studying music, German, history and politics, still finds time to play with a number of local bands and orchestras. He is percussionist with Northop Silver Band, has also played with the world-famous Fodens Band and also plays with the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra as well as Wrexham Symphony Orchestra.

In 2015 he represented Flintshire

Orchestra of Great Britain, which plays at some of the country's greatest venues and with international conductors and soloists.

He is also proud to continue to perform with school and county groups.

"By staying involved with local music I am able to act as mentor and, perhaps, a role model for other young musicians in the country," he said. "Throughout my musical career I have been supported by the school and Flintshire music service."

Asked what he would like to change in the world of classical

NYO challenges our teenage musicians

in two Welsh national ensembles, the National Youth Wind Orchestra of Wales and the National Youth Brass Band of Wales, and continues to enjoy playing drums in a jazz quartet with fellow students from the Northern College of Music.

He auditioned with 600 others for a place in the National Youth

music, he said: "The misconception that hand-held percussion instruments such as the triangle, tambourine and cymbals are 'toys' and easy to play. In fact they are completely the opposite."

Sarah Alexander, chief executive and artistic director of the National Youth Orchestra, said that being a member required a very high level of commitment on the part of the teenagers.

"As well as attaining the highest levels of brilliance in orchestral performance, NYO challenges our teenage musicians to engage in all kinds of other musical and extra-musical activity," she said.

Dance World Cup

Funding from the Flintshire Community Endowment Fund has enabled 17 young people to have the opportunity to travel to Germany to compete and represent Wales at the prestigious Dance World Cup in 2016. Bethan, Charlotte, Daisy, Emily, Maddison, Olivia, Sasha, Shikiera, Robyn, Rhiannon, Olivia, Nel, Ella, Esme, Erin, Harry & Melissa were awarded £500 each to travel overseas in June 2016 to compete in the dance competition.

“The chance to perform overseas and to compete against dancers from different countries has given me the confidence to dance on stage to a wider audience” Charlotte.



“I was lucky enough to meet people from all around the world and learn about the different aspects of their dance and culture. I have experienced how to act in a professional environment, therefore giving me valuable knowledge and skills that I will use in the future” Shikiera.

“I would like to thank you for your support, without which, competing at this level and in this competition would have not been possible. It is good to see young people receiving support for what they love to do most, and which helps them to excel/develop their knowledge of dance and the world's peoples” Father of a beneficiary.





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