

A successful 9 months of Dancing!



dawnsibawb

In October 2023, Dawns i Bawb received the exciting news that we were successful in our application to remain as a Portfolio Member of the Arts Council of Wales. This would enable us to form an agreement with ACW to receive a revenue grant which would enable us to continue with our Community Dance Programme. As part of this agreement, we have developed a number of targets which we aim to achieve in relation to ACW's priorities which are **Creativity, Widening Engagement, Welsh Language, Climate Justice, Nurturing Talent, and Transformation.**

As part of our 2024-2027 Business Plan, Dawns i Bawb has created '5 strands of Community Dance.' These 5 strands inform all of our artistic and strategic planning and enable us to continue to ensure that we develop a Community Dance Programme that offers dance activity to everybody. The 5 strands also work in response to ACW's priorities ensuring that we deliver our best work as an Arts Portfolio member. Dawns i Bawb's 5 strands of Community Dance are:

- Dance & Community Cohesion
- Dance & Education
- Dance for Health & Well Being
- Dance & Welsh Language
- Strategic & Artistic Development



As we come to the end of 2024, we would like to take this opportunity to share what we have achieved since this agreement began in April 2024 in response to ACW's priorities:



Creativity

-Throughout the year we have run regular sessions that have been developed in response to our 5 strands. Many of these have been developed in collaboration with other community organisations and include:

Dawnsyr Dre – dance for children & young people (*Dance & Community Cohesion, Dance & Welsh Language*)

Llwybrau – weekly sessions for disabled adults in partnership with Llwybrau Llesiant (*Dance & Community Cohesion, Dance & Welsh Language, Dance for Health & Well Being*)

Clwb Seiont – sessions for older people in partnership with Porthi Dre Community Hub (*Dance & Community Cohesion, Dance & Welsh Language, Dance for Health & Well Being*)

Mencap Mon – weekly sessions for disabled adults and their parents/carers in partnership with Mencap Mon (*Dance & Community Cohesion, Dance & Welsh language*)

Dance for Care Homes Programme – delivering an extensive programme of dance sessions to care homes across North West Wales including hospitals with a focus on elderly people and Dementia (*Dance & Community Cohesion, Dance & Welsh Language, Dance for Health & Well Being*)

Dance in Schools – working regularly with schools across North West Wales to deliver dance as part of Expressive Arts on the Curriculum for Wales (*Dance & Education, Dance & Welsh Language, Dance for Health & Well Being*)

Working in partnership with Together 4 Colwyn Bay to deliver a programme of dance sessions, resulting in a community performance (*Dance & Community Cohesion*)

Working in partnership with Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board and Canolfan Gerdd William Mathias to deliver dance and music sessions to children with Autism and their families (*Dance for Health & Well Being*)

In 2025 we are excited to be working in partnership with Dementia Actif Gwynedd to develop a new dance performance group, Na'd Fi'n Angof, for people who are living with Dementia, families and carers or people who have lost someone to Dementia. We also look forward to collaborating with Anglesey Council's Older People department on an intergenerational project with local care homes and schools.

In February 2025, Dawns i Bawb's annual community dance production, 'Gafael yn Fy Llaw' will take place at Galeri and will involve all participants of our Community Dance Programme from 4-90+ years of age.



Widening Engagement

We are pleased to have appointed a freelance Marketing Officer who is currently working with us to explore ways in which we can make our communication with our communities more accessible. For our upcoming annual production, we will be exploring the development of audio posters and other accessible formats.

This year we were pleased to receive a training workshop from Krystal Lowe exploring audio description for dance and how we might incorporate this into our future productions. As our production now includes people of all ages and abilities, we will also be incorporating accessibility audits into all future productions including for people living with Dementia, disabled people and other sensory needs.

We are looking forward in 2025 to collaborating with a number of partners to create a network of Community Dance hubs. These hubs will enable us to work in partnership with a number of organisations to develop dance activity that can make a positive difference to people's lives including people living with Dementia, those in recovery from addiction, young carers and those supporting people who are displaced.



Welsh Language

We are currently developing a Welsh language dance vocabulary document to support our Welsh speaking and Welsh learning staff in their work. Much dance terminology does not have a Welsh language translation that suits the movement it is describing so we are keen to work with our professional artists and the wider sector to develop terminology. We are very keen to develop this in partnership with the sector and for it to be shared sector wide, and would love to hear from anyone that would be interested in collaborating with us on this.

Climate Justice

We believe strongly in our roles and responsibility to make our world a better place so have committed ourselves to targets that will enable us to play our part. We are currently working with our Board to develop our Climate Action Plan and in the meantime, have taken steps to make positive changes.

At the start of the year we cancelled our photocopier contract. We gave ourselves the target of cutting our paper usage by 95% by the end of the year and we have achieved this target. All our admin work including invoices, contracts, bills, payslips and communication are now electronic.

We will no longer be issuing paper copies of our production programme but will be creating digital copies that can be accessed through our website and social media pages.

We have committed to ensuring that all our costumes and props will be ethically sourced as much as possible – either through being locally made, recycled or donated.



Nurturing Talent

We have continued to employ 2 disabled members of staff who had previously faced barriers in entering the workplace.

This year we have developed dance training and performance opportunities for disabled dancers. Members of our Llwybrau group performed at the Charing ceremony of Gwyl Ddrama Mon and Eisteddfod Mon. We also collaborated with Mencap Mon, Llwybrau Llesiant, Antur Waunfawr and Seren to hold the event Strictly Gwynedd and Mon. During the project, dancers were taught a series of ballroom dances and techniques and then came together to perform at an event. Over 250 people took part and we are currently planning a similar event for 2025.

We have continued our long term partnership with Ballet Cymru and the Duets programme to offer ballet training and experiences to children from our communities that face barriers in accessing the arts. The programme is in its 5th year and remains strong, innovative and exciting.

Transformation

We have had a very positive response to our recent call out for new Board Members and look forward to inviting them to join us in the New Year. Alongside growing and strengthening our Board, we will be creating a series of Board Sub-Groups. This will enable us to work more closely with Board members on specific areas of work but also invite people to join us independently. These sub groups will include Artistic Programming, HR, Finance & Fundraising, Widening Engagement, Welsh Language and Strategic Planning.

Dawns i Bawb is a small company with a huge programme of work . 2024 has been a challenging year with financial uncertainty, staff changes and funding cuts. But we have also achieved a lot, created some very exciting partnerships and collaborations and developed unforgettable experiences. We look forward to more dancing in 2025!

