

6 months of Dancing in 2025!



dawns**i**bawb

In 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 halfway through our second year on the Portfolio, we would like to take this opportunity to share what we have achieved during 2025 and the exciting plans we are currently developing for 2026:



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 – weekly sessions for children & young people including a new group specifically for children with additional needs (*Dance & Community Cohesion, Dance & Welsh Language*)

Llwybrau – a performance group with 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 local groups who support individuals and families with refugee status to offer dance and theatre experiences (*Dance & Community Cohesion*)

Working in partnership with Ballet Cymru to deliver the DUETS Programme which offers ballet experiences to children who face barriers in accessing the arts (*Dance in Education, Artistic Development*)

In December 2025, Dawns i Bawb's annual community dance production, 'Taith yr Eira' will take place at Galeri and will involve all participants of our Community Dance Programme from 4-90+ years of age.



Widening Engagement

We were pleased to be invited by WISP Dance Company to collaborate on the development of the 'We Dance Too' festival which took place at Pontio Bangor in July 2025. This was the first inclusive dance festival in Wales and Llwybrau and Mencap Mon created work to perform. Dawns i Bawb staff also received training in including audio description within choreography.

After the success of Strictly Gwynedd & Mon in 2024, Dawns i Bawb is teaming up with Mencap Mon, Llwybrau Llesiant, Stand NW and Conwy Connect to hold 'Dawnsio Gogledd Cymru 2025.' This event will bring disabled dancers from all over North Wales together in a Strictly Come Dancing style event. Over the past months, DiB tutors have been working with groups across North Wales to learn different ballroom styles and they will come together to perform at Venue Cymru in November in an event that champions inclusivity, talent and dance skills. Keep a look out for some famous faces on the judging panel!

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.

We are pleased to receive a Diwylliesiant grant from Cyngor Gwynedd that will enable us to work in partnership with Cwmni Pen Productions and local musician Ellie Davies to create a new performance work that will tour care homes, hospitals and libraries throughout Gwynedd.

We have been working in collaboration with Rural Dance Touring Initiative, Creu Cymru and Canolfan Ucheldre to bring professional Contemporary Dance into North Wales communities and develop new audiences for dance with community groups that might face barriers in accessing the arts. Two exciting performances will be coming to Ucheldre in November and December.



Welsh Language

This year we will be working with a strategic partners to establish a long term strategy for supporting and upskilling Welsh language dance practitioners. This will enable us to acknowledge our ongoing difficulties in finding practitioners to deliver our work, offer the opportunity to expand our workforce and support local practitioners in developing their Welh language skills or learning the language.



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 and Mencap groups performed in the We Dance Too festival in July alongside other amateur and professional disabled dancers from across North Wales.

We are excited to be able to offer a paid internship in the New Year for a local movement artist who would like to develop their Community Dance leadership skills. This scheme offers a professional development opportunity for movement artists to develop their facilitation skills in leading dance sessions with different groups of people and the opportunity for employment opportunities with Dawns i Bawb.

Transformation

Next year will be a big year for Dawns i Bawb and plans are in full flow. For the past two years we have been planning a new business model that will see the development of a network of Community Dance hubs across North West Wales. To start with, we will be moving out of our main base at Galeri and into two already existing community hubs to develop a community dance programme which will operate alongside our current outreach work.

The hubs will enable us to develop new partnerships to grow our dance programme with a focus on health, well being and community cohesion, be more integrated within our communities and offer more support and professional opportunities to local artists that have an interest in community work. As part of the transformation we will be advertising two new posts of Community Dance Hub Coordinators who will play a vital role in the dance hubs development.

If you would like to learn more about Dawns i Bawb you can follow us on Facebook and Instagram or get in touch to arrange a cuppa and a chat!

