



30/01/2023

We would like to highlight the wonderful partnership we have enjoyed between Gig Buddies Cymru and Awen Cultural Trust.

Gig Buddies Cymru is an innovative befriending scheme that matches people with a learning disability with a volunteer buddy who shares the same interests, so they can go to gigs and other events together. We help to tackle loneliness and social isolation through friendship, culture, and fun.

We believe that adults with a learning disability and/or autism should have the same access to the arts as everyone else in society.

Gig Buddies is run by Learning Disability Wales, a national charity that wants Wales to be the best country in the world for people with a learning disability to live, learn and work.

Working with partners in the arts who share our values and aims is an important part of the work our Gig Buddies project does. It helps us to raise awareness of the issues related to Gig Buddies, whilst helping us to recruit new Gig Buddy volunteers.

We are currently producing an event with Awen Trust and BAVO (Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations) that is intended to have an important impact on how adults with a learning disability and/or autism access the arts and other social activities in Bridgend.

We are holding an accessible and relaxed screening of 'Heavy Load' – a film about a learning disability band that highlights the barriers that disabled people face when they want to enjoy culture that takes place in the evenings. The film was recently named by film critic Mark Kermode as the 9th best music documentary of all time.

The screening will: bring people interested in disability and the arts together; help to raise the profile of Gig Buddies in Bridgend; help BAVO to raise the profile of their 'Activities at Anytime' group – which they are delivering on behalf of Bridgend Council; promote these issues to the general public.

Thanks to Awen Trust we have secured the Grand Pavilion Porthcawl at no cost. With the limited funding that Gig Buddies and 'Activities at Anytime' receive I cannot see this event taking place without Awen's support.

Awen have also arranged for the screening to be part of their 'Warm Welcome' season, enabling the general public to get free tickets for the event. This will also give Gig Buddies Cymru and BAVO a unique opportunity to inform and engage with the general public about the issues of disability, the arts and access.

We would like to express our gratitude to Nicola Edwards and Awen Trust for the excellent partnership we have forged and offer our full support to Awen's funding application.

Kai Jones

Project Coordinator
Gig Buddies Cymru

"A thrilling riposte to disablist prejudices and stereotypes, offering a slice of real rebellion...one of the best music documentaries of all time"

- Mark Kermode, BBC and Observer film critic

HEAVY LOAD

A FILM ABOUT HAPPINESS



THERE'S NOTHING BETTER
THAN BEING IN A BAND

7pm, Saturday 11 February
Grand Pavilion Porthcawl

Free 'Warm Welcome' relaxed screening and Q&A

- with Paul Richards (Heavy Load + founder of Stay Up Late) and director Jerry Rothwell



Registered Office: 41 Lambourne Crescent, Cardiff Business Park
Llanishen, Cardiff, CF14 5GG
Tel: 029 2068 1160 Fax: 029 2075 2149
Email: enquiries@ldw.org.uk
www.ldw.org.uk

Company Limited by Guarantee Number: 02326324
Registered Charity Number: 1062858 VAT Registration
Number: 762455911

Swyddfa Gofrestredig: 41 Cilgant Lambourne, Parc Busnes Caerdydd
Llanisien, Caerdydd, CF14 5GG
Ffon: 029 2068 1160 Ffacs: 029 2075 2149
E-bost: yholiadau@ldw.org.uk
Gwefan: www.adcymru.org.uk
Rhif cwmni cyfyngedig trwy warant: 0232 6324
Rhif elusen gofrestrdig: 1062858 Rhif cofrestru TAW: 762455911