



NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Welcome to this the very first edition of the Totaleigh Music Newsletter which as to yet I am not sure will become a monthly or termly publication....watch this space, I guess!

The beginning.....

Little did I know how things would transpire just over 12 months ago when I left my working life as Director of Performing Arts at Swindon Academy, Wiltshire (2013 - 2020), to move home once more to where my heart is, here in Tywyn. I always planned to move back full time at some point and continue to hold dear to my heart the fond memories of previous times teaching music at Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn (2005 - 2012). With the onset of the pandemic back in 2020, wheels were set in motion sooner than originally planned for a permanent return to Wales, to join my beloved Bob who was already living at our home here and working full time in Llwyngwril as a Grounds man. It wasn't easy to leave a job and a career I loved but as the saying goes..."as one door closes another one opens"...and it has done just that. I have so many people to thank for the success of Totaleigh Music in its first year- our local community here in Tywyn, the endless support and encouragement from family and friends, ex-colleagues and friends back in Swindon and of course YOU - my students and your families!

I am so excited about what the future now holds and plan to keep music live here for many years to come, including ensembles, bands, an orchestra, a samba band, a ukulele group, concerts, recordings, workshops with visiting musicians and many more musical opportunities for all ages, abilities and instruments. As the famous composer Richard Wagner is quoted as saying "Imagination creates reality".

Wishing you all a peaceful year ahead full of love, luck, happiness and of course music!

Leigh Matthews (Totaleigh Music)

**DATES FOR
YOUR DIARY**

**TERM STARTS BACK WEEK
BEGINNING MONDAY
JANUARY 10th**



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NEWSLETTER

STUDENT SUCCESS

ABRSM EXAM SUCCESS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

ALICIA BISHOP - Initial Grade Piano
 MOLLY O'DEA - Initial Grade Piano
 SARA WOODWARD - Grade 1 Piano
 LEONORA NESBITT - Grade 1 Piano
 ELIN VAUGHAN-JONES - Grade 1 Piano
 ANNE-SOPHIE TRONET - Grade 2 Piano
 SUSAN GRIFFITH - Grade 2 Clarinet
 FLEUR WOODWARD - Grade 3 Cello
 SUSAN GRIFFITH - Grade 5 Music Theory

XMAS LIGHTS PERFORMANCE

WELL DONE to all those who performed at the Tywyn Christmas market & lights switch on. Great effort and lovely performances despite the challenging weather conditions!



MUSICIAN OF THE MONTH

AUGUST 2021

Susan Griffith



SEPTEMBER 2021

Polly Richards



OCTOBER 2021

Keegan Brady



NOVEMBER 2021

Harry Kendall



DECEMBER 2021

Ruby Parsons



FASCINATING MUSICAL FACT

Musical Education Leads to Better Exam Scores. Studying music is an actual workout for your brain. Learning an instrument has been proven to help students in myriad ways from mastery of memorisation, pattern recognition and emotional development. Students who have experience with music performance or taking music appreciation courses score higher on the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test). A report indicated that they score, on average, 63 points higher on verbal and 44 points higher on math.

<https://shinemusicschoolonline.com/2020/05/20-bizarre-and-interesting-musical-facts/>



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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



My musical journey so far by Susan Griffith.

I played the violin many years ago as a child. Life took over, work and being a busy Mum, I stopped playing. Moving to Tywyn a few years ago and I enquired about lessons to try to get back playing, but was told that there were no string teachers in the area. A few years passed by and I was a member of a choir, but was not able to take up the violin again.

When I heard that Leigh was teaching in Tywyn, I enquired about Banjo lessons for my husband. I was then delighted, if very rusty and apprehensive, to find out Leigh would give me violin lessons too. My lessons were very enjoyable, I progressed quickly and I also took up the treble recorder. Deciding I needed to refresh my theory knowledge I started music theory lessons, progressing through the grades with Leigh's help. As I am one of the more senior students, I couldn't believe that I was able to achieve my grade 5 (with distinction) after only 2 years, a tribute to Leigh's tuition. During this time I really got hooked and have developed into a multi-instrumentalist. Since last Christmas I have started learning the following instruments; Soprano recorder, Guitar, Clarinet, Piano, Ukulele, Banjo, Glockenspiel, Flute, Soprano Saxophone. I am at varying levels, with each instrument. Taking up the clarinet last Christmas, (resulting in a panic zoom lesson Boxing day, as I couldn't even blow the Clarinet) I have just passed my grade 2. I am working towards grade 5 on the violin and treble recorder. On the other instruments I am mostly beginner level.

Working as a Community Nurse my music is a way of de-stressing after a busy day. Each instrument gives me a different feeling. Some exhilarating, others relaxing, some more challenging than others. I am thoroughly enjoying the journey. I hope to keep progressing, taking grades along the way to mark the level I manage to achieve. I never planned or even dreamt that I would Learning so many instruments. Being part of the Totaleigh Music school with Leigh has enriched my life and I hope eventually to be able to pass on my knowledge to others and teach part time.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO FEATURE IN A FUTURE EDITION OF STUDENT SPOTLIGHT, PLEASE CONTACT LEIGH AT TOTALEIGH MUSIC.



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CURRENT STUDENT NUMBERS

ONLINE TUITION:

7 x guitar
1 x violin
1 x piano
1 x cello
1 x flute
3 x music theory
1 x saxophone

FACE to FACE TUITION

27 x guitar
25 x piano
4 x music theory
2 x violin
2 x cello
3 x flute
1 x clarinet
3 x saxophone
3 x recorder
2 x banjo
2 x mandolin
8 x ukulele
1 x tuned percussion

SEVERAL INSTRUMENTS NOW IN STOCK FOR FREE HIRE & A FREE HALF HOUR TRIAL LESSON IS OFFERED FOR NEW STARTERS

COVID UPDATE

To keep us all safe, face to face tuition will resume in line with government restrictions & guidelines. Total Leigh Music has completed a thorough risk assessment procedure and the music studio is equipped with an automated hand sanitisation station, 2 x floor to ceiling Perspex screens to be used as and when necessary, space large enough to adhere to social distancing and certification in line with the Covid-19 Industry Standard as part of the Good to Go scheme.



When attending the studio, please ensure facemasks are worn (unless exempt), and hands are sanitised upon entering and leaving the studio. Please do not enter if displaying symptoms of Covid-19 or having tested positive by means of a LFT or PCR..

For the foreseeable future, only those participating in lessons will be allowed entry. When weather conditions allow, an outside waiting area with table and seating is provided. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding. In the event of face to face lessons not being viable, tuition will continue through the online platform Zoom.

MUSICAL JOKE 🤪

What did the bouncer say to the band QUEEN when they tried to get into a nightclub?
Freddie, Roger & John can't come in.....but Brian May! 🤪🤪🤪🤪🤪🤪



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NEWSLETTER

SPREAD THE WORD...

**TYWYN
SYNNAU SAMBA SOUNDS**



Register your interest by way of email:
totalaighmusic@gmail.com

REHEARSAL TIMES TBC

Samba is one of the most popular styles of music in Brazil, played at the famous carnivals in Rio. Samba band music is performed entirely on percussion instruments and is loud, vibrant and full of energy. **GREAT FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!**



Local musician and experienced music teacher/conductor now advertising for musicians to register interest in this exciting new musical opportunity.

Open to all ages and abilities.

CERDDORFA TYWYN ORCHESTRA



Register your interest by way of email:
totalaighmusic@gmail.com

- Do you play an orchestral instrument?
- Do you enjoy playing music with other instrumentalists?
- Are you interested in joining an orchestra?
- Maybe you played years ago and want to start playing again?
- Are you learning to play an instrument and want to gain experience of playing in a musical ensemble?

Local musician and experienced music teacher/conductor now advertising for musicians to register interest in this exciting new musical opportunity.

Open to all ages and abilities.

2 HOURLY REHEARSALS WILL BE HELD ONCE A FORTNIGHT DURING ONE EVENING A WEEK . DAY TBC.



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SALES & SERVICES

IN STOCK SOON - HAND MADE MUSIC THEMED CARDS by LOCAL ARTIST

Totaleigh Music
Keyrings, bracelets
& necklaces
£3 each in stock now -
hand made by Bee Timms.

✉ b_marietimms@icloud.com



Thank you to all those who have already ordered Totaleigh Music Merchandise.

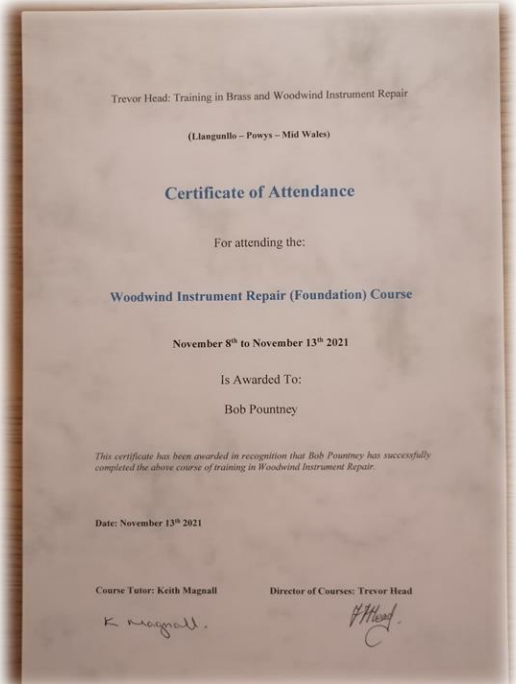


Look out for future emails detailing deadline dates for the next order.

COMING SOON BOB POUNTNEY INSTRUMENT SERVICING & REPAIRS.



Bob's workshop is located on site opposite the Totaleigh Music Studio,
High Street, Tywyn.



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