



**RHWYDWAITH RADIO
CYMUNEDOL CYMRU.**
WALES COMMUNITY
RADIO NETWORK.

Community Radio in Wales

November 2025

Prepared by

Wales Community Radio Network

www.wcrncymru.org

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WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR



**NATHAN
SPACKMAN**
WCRN CHAIRPERSON

I'm delighted to be able to present what we understand to be the first report to showcase the state of the Community Radio sector in Wales.

We are releasing this report, in the year that Community Radio celebrates 20 years since the licencing of the first services in the UK.

Whilst the uptake of Community Radio Wales is considerably less, compared to the rest of the UK, with well over 350 Ofcom-licensed services across the Country, compared to eleven services in Wales, those stations that exist continue to create new opportunities, shed light on local organisations and give charities, groups and individuals a voice within their community.

This report showcases the work of the eleven stations in Wales and how individually and collectively, they are changing lives, creating community cohesion and filling the gaps left behind by larger broadcasters, newspapers and the BBC.

Whilst the sector is celebrating its 20th year, this is the first report that has been released focusing on the vital work that Community Radio stations in Wales are doing to create more cohesive communities, give local people a voice and champion the unheard.

This report wouldn't have been possible, had it not been for the support of the Welsh Government's Creative Wales. The Wales Community Radio Fund, distributed by WCRN, allowed us to collate information from our members, that have formed the basis of this report.

I hope that this report will showcase the work being undertaken in communities across Wales and that the work will be further recognised and supported by Government, both in Cardiff Bay and Westminster, the wider media sector and with grant funders, so Community Radio can continue to be here in Wales for years to come.



INTRODUCTION TO WCRN

Whilst the Wales Community Radio Network has existed in some form for over ten years, its official formation was recommended by the then National Assembly for Wales' Culture, Welsh Language and Communication Committee in November 2019.

The recommendation followed a symposium organised by the committee at the University of South Wales, which was attended by Community Stations, Ministers and members of the wider media sector.

The Committee recommended that the body (WCRN) would offer practical support to stations, perform a representative role and co-ordinate cross-station co-operation and knowledge sharing, along with practical support and the forging of links between stations and other interested bodies, including commercial and BBC Radio.

Whilst the recommendation to form WCRN was made in 2019, initial plans were scuppered due to the coronavirus pandemic, with stations re-convening in late 2023 and officially forming WCRN Cyf in March 2024.

The late Tony Wyn Jones of Mon FM was elected unanimously as the organisations founding Chairperson, leading the organisation during its founding year up to his passing in August 2024.

Through Tony's leadership, relationships were formed with Ofcom Wales, BBC Cymru Wales and Creative Wales, building a strong footing for the future of Community Radio in Wales.

The passing of the WCRN founding chair Tony Jones had a huge impact on the organisation, but the foundation of his work have allowed the organisation and its members to thrive.

In its first twelve months the Wales Community Radio Network has:

- Supported stations in launching on Small Scale DAB,
- Provided practical support to improve the management and sustainability of Community Radio services,
- Provided opportunities to collaborate and share content, including during the 2024 General Election campaign and Welsh Language Music Day,
- Represented Welsh Community Radio at quarterly sector meetings with Ofcom,
- Developed a working relationship with departments within the Welsh Government's Creative Wales,
- Supported in the organisation of the UK Community Radio Network (UKCRN) Conference and Community Radio Awards in Cardiff, providing discounted opportunities for members to attend.

The Community Radio Awards in Cardiff saw the work of a number of Welsh Community Radio stations recognised, including Radio Cardiff's Robin Zhang who won Gold in Volunteer of the Year, Rhondda Radio who won Gold in Community Show of the Year and Bro Radio who won Silver in Outside Broadcast or Live Event of the Year.

The WCRN was honoured to be able to nominate its founding Chair Tony Wyn Jones, for a Community Radio Honour, for his work as a founding member of Mon Fm in North Wales and his work in establishing the organisation.



Rhondda Radio collecting a Gold Community Radio Award for Community Show of the Year 2024 at the Cardiff City Stadium - November 2024

SECTOR OVERVIEW



Across Wales, there are eleven Ofcom-licensed Community Radio Services. Of those services, eight stations are analogue FM services, whilst three stations are broadcast on Community Digital Sound Provision licences on DAB.

GTFM in Pontypridd is the longest-running service in Wales, launching in May 2002

under an Access Radio trial, which then led to the creation of Community Radio more widely, seeing the station launch full-time in 2006.

Compared to other parts of the UK, the uptake of Community Radio has been limited, with low interest in some areas, stations failing to launch after being licensed or closing at a later date due to financial difficulties sustaining the service.

Despite that, there has been a steady growth in the number of Community Radio services on air in recent years. Since 2023, the sector has grown by 30% as new and online services make use of access to Small Scale DAB (SSDAB) multiplexes. Premier Radio in Wrexham, Newport City Radio in Newport and Rookwood Sound in Cardiff have all taken advantage of the new route to broadcast.

As the roll-out of SSDAB continues, long-standing services have taken advantage of the access to the platform, with Bro Radio, GTFM, Radio Cardiff and Rhondda Radio all broadcasting on DAB multiplexes local to their original broadcast area, making their services accessible to new audiences on digital platforms.

COMMUNITY RADIO IN WALES - STATS

* VOLUNTEERS & TRAINING

Community Radio stations across Wales rely heavily on volunteers for roles in and out of the studio. These roles cover everything from presenting, producing, news gathering and administration, as well as the Board Members and trustees that steer the direction of services, as well as supporting volunteers, securing advertising, grants and administrative activities.

Within each station's key commitments set out by Ofcom, it has an obligation to provide training and volunteering opportunities to members of the local community. Whilst training varies across Wales, at its core, stations aim to upskill members of the community, whilst engaging them in the delivery of their services.

Across Wales, over **520 volunteers** are dedicating their time to the delivery of services, with an average of **47 volunteers per station**. In 2024, stations collectively **trained 220 new people**, with an average of **20 volunteers trained per station**. Typically, stations with a lower turnover have a strong core volunteer base, but provide fewer training opportunities compared to stations with a higher turnover.

* STAFF

Across Wales, community stations are heavily reliant on volunteer managers, directors, or trustees for the day-to-day management of their services.

Just three of the eleven stations broadcasting in Wales employ paid staff, with a total of **10 paid staff working across the sector**.

Each of the three stations employs one full-time member of staff, with two of those collectively employing seven part-time staff.

These part time staff are largely employed on a freelance basis, on an ad hoc basis for the delivery of grant-funded projects and activities.

* TURNOVER

Community Radio turnover across Wales varies dramatically, with stations delivering services for as little **£4,400** up to over **£115,000**.

Stations with a higher turnover are typically stations employing staff, along with those delivering a variety of grant-based projects and activities.

The total **estimated turnover for the sector in 2024 was £450,172**, with a **sector average £41,066** according to research by WCRN.

According to the Ofcom Communications Market Report 2025, the UK sector average was **higher at £51,980 during 2024**.

PROMOTING CULTURE & THE WELSH LANGUAGE

* PROMOTING LOCAL HISTORY AND CULTURE

Welsh Community Radio stations play a vital role in promoting local culture in their respective communities, with each finding unique ways to serve the needs of its area.

Each station provides programming with a focus on local music created within their community, with stations like Radio Cardiff embedding local music into all of their output, creating a platform for new artists to be heard and for venues to promote grassroots gigs and campaigns.

Rhondda Radio has partnered with the Rhondda Heritage project to air a weekly programme, featuring local voices and personalities, sharing their stories and memories. The programme aims to keep local history alive, sharing untold stories through real storytelling. The project has been supported by twelve stations as part of a new Rhondda Heritage Trail, which features audio content at significant historical sites.

* ATTENDING & ORGANISING EVENTS

Across the sector, events are seen as a key part of each community station, providing an income stream and an opportunity to raise awareness of their work in their local area.

Whilst a number of stations attend and host events organised by local community groups or councils, a small number of stations run their own events.

Newport City Radio host a Love Live Music Awards, focusing on its passion for local music in the City, whilst Bro Radio hosts a Community Awards, celebrating the people that do good in their community.

Whilst many stations focus on small events, Community Radio plays a vital role in large-scale events, with GTFM covering the National Eisteddfod in Pontypridd and MônFM broadcasting from Sio Môn.

* WELSH LANGUAGE

Each station provides a vary degree of Welsh language content, dependent on volunteer availability and the needs of its community.

Whilst services like MônFM broadcast bilingual, the majority of stations broadcast dedicated Welsh language programmes, whilst stations like Welsh Coast Radio promote local opportunities to learn Welsh or engage in the language for learners.

Some services have identified the need to increase the provision of Welsh language content, working to recruit volunteers who wish to broadcast in the Welsh Language.

Services like Premier Radio provide bilingual elements in their output, whilst also embracing other languages in their community, including Polish and Ukrainian, to make sure everyone has a voice in their community.



THE CHALLENGES FACING THE SECTOR

The reporting surrounding the WCRN Community Radio Fund has offered an insight into the key challenges facing the Community Radio sector in Wales. Whilst 2025 sees the sector celebrate its 20th anniversary, stations still face regular challenges in delivering their services, retaining and training volunteers covering core costs and expanding their services. In addition, stations referred to a lack of Welsh and UK Government advertising, which can be heard on Commercial Radio stations being a challenge that needs to be overcome.

* **Recruiting, training and retaining volunteers**

The Community Radio Sector in Wales is heavily reliant on volunteers, with just 10 paid staff across the sector and many stations relying solely on volunteers. Many stations have cited issues with managing their key objectives, whilst also trying to recruit, train and retain volunteers.

One new station stated it had “underestimated the need for additional staff and robust operations to manage this significant transition” when launching on Small Scale DAB (SSDAB). Whilst the station has overcome this challenge, WCRN recognises its role in supporting stations during this transition period and offering opportunities to share resources between members.

Whilst stations like Bro Radio have launched an academy to train and develop new and existing volunteers, and BGFm runs funded educational courses, seeing them both train around 40 people annually, on average, stations trained just 8.6 people during 2024. Whilst the reasons for this vary, the main reasons continue to be available staff or suitable volunteers to deliver training.

One solution could be for WCRN to deliver training for stations, similar to a scheme operated by Cornwall Community Media Network (CCMN). The network has developed a shared training scheme, which runs Digital Skills Bootcamps in collaboration with BBC Local Radio, directing participants' skills to nearby community radio services, to further develop their skills and gain volunteer experience in the media sector.

* **Succession Planning and the development of future leaders**

As the sector celebrates its 20th year, one of the key issues identified is succession planning and the development of future leaders, to continue to drive the sector forward. This has been identified as one of the key challenges for MonFm, which saw the unexpected loss of its chairman, Tony Wyn Jones, back in 2023. Whilst the station has found a stable footing now, it initially struggled to grasp the operations of the station and gain full control of operational activities.

WCRN, along with partners at UKCRN, will continue to encourage stations to consider succession plans for all staff, directors and key personnel, where possible, delivering risk management training to identify the key risks to the future sustainability of organisations.

All stations continue to be a platform for developing future talent, with many identifying volunteers who have gone on to roles in the wider media sector, within the BBC, S4C, Commercial Radio or undertaking relevant university courses.

Whilst this is a positive result for individual stations and the sector as a whole, work needs to be undertaken to provide routes for young people who wish to do so, to enter management roles within the sector, allowing them to play a part in the future of the sector - which is currently led by an ageing population of managers.

* **Welsh Language**

WCRN can accept letters, e-mails and other communications in Welsh as well as in English and respond in either language as required. The use of Welsh by the WCRN member stations varies according to the linguistic make-up of the communities they serve, however, all of them are aware of the need to promote the use of the language. For example, around half of Mon FM's weekly output is in Welsh, reflecting the large number of speakers in the community. But volunteers across the stations are all offered opportunities to use the language. For example, although BGFM serves a predominantly non-Welsh-speaking area, three of the station's volunteers over the past year have been Welsh speakers. GTFM in Pontypridd airs five hours of Welsh-language programmes each week, alongside a weekday Welsh bulletin from Radio Cymru.

Commercial stations in Wales have significantly reduced or eliminated their Welsh language content following Ofcom licence changes, which mean that many stations will have no written commitments to provide any Welsh Language content in future. This was a consequence of the Media Act 2024, which as part of the UK Government's deregulatory objectives for commercial radio, did not contain any requirements for commercial radio stations in Wales to use the Welsh language in their output.

For example, back in January this year, following Global Radio's decision to close Capital Cymru which served north west Wales and contained a significant amount of Welsh language content, Llyr Gruffydd MS accused the UK Government of abandoning any linguistic commitments for commercial radio, "The Senedd's Culture Committee made several recommendations to the UK Government during the passage of the new Media Bill last year - specifically to ensure that Ofcom, the industry regulator, was able to ensure commercial broadcasters offered a Welsh-language service as part of their licensing conditions... regrettably, the UK Government neglected to do so and the consequence is that jobs are now being lost at the studio at Gwersyllt, near Wrexham, and Welsh speakers are being deprived of a service".

Despite these changes in the commercial sector, we believe that community radio is in a good position to help fill this gap in Welsh Language provision and offset the reductions being made by the commercial sector. We will continue to attract volunteers who wish to broadcast in Welsh and encourage interest from our local communities. We will also continue to develop our working relationship with BBC Radio Cymru and explore whether we can re-broadcast news and other content produced by the BBC in Welsh.

* **Financial Stability, generating advertising and access to grant funding**

Whilst stations say that funding received via WCRN and Welsh Government, the majority referenced concerns about their stations' long-term financial stability. Stations referred to the cost-of-living as a key concern, with the cost of rent, services and equipment being key concerns, along with the changing nature of the high street, making securing local advertising more challenging than ever.

One concern amongst the sector remains the limited amount of Welsh Government and UK Government advertising placed on Community Radio services. GTFM referenced a decline in Welsh Government bookings placed on their station in recent years. In the 2022-23 financial year, the station received 15 bookings worth around £9,000, dropping to just 3 bookings in the whole of the 2023-24 financial year, worth less than £1,000.

Whilst WCRN acknowledges that Welsh Government advertising spend has decreased since the pandemic, members have referred to the number of adverts that continue to be aired on commercial services for Welsh Government campaigns. WCRN and its members will continue to challenge the Welsh Government and its partner agencies' placement of Commercial Advertising, focusing on the key demographics that the sector can reach, that traditional media outlets cannot.

Accessing grant funding continues to be challenging for WCRN stations, with many referring back to a lack of suitable staff or volunteers to be able to complete grant applications. Whilst the WCRN welcomes the increase in the Ofcom Community Radio fund over the 2025-2026 financial year, it's concerned that the delivery of this funding through just one round, instead of the usual two, will lead to increased competition for funding, with those stations with full-time staff with the ability to write funding applications having a stronger advantage.

WCRN will continue to highlight funding opportunities to its members, working with partners including UKCRN and CCMN to deliver in-person and online training, development and 1-2-1 sessions with funders, to encourage stations of all abilities to apply for grant funding available.

* **Maintaining Equipment, Upgrades and the costs of going digital**

With the sector celebrating 20 years in 2025 and many of the Welsh stations being on air for over 10 years, ageing equipment and infrastructure remain a concern for many stations. Members have expressed issues with covering the cost of studio upgrades, computers and transmission equipment, citing issues in accessing funding for capital costs from grant funders and local supporters. WCRN is committed to working to secure funding for the sector, directly focused on equipment and infrastructure upgrades to support the delivery of services.

With the sector encouraged to look towards a digital future, those looking to operate SSDAB multiplexes say they are struggling to access funding for the purchase of infrastructure to build networks, which typically cost £6 - £15k per site. Whilst grant funding can be sought in some areas, in the wider UK, stations have been forced into accessing finance to deliver it roll-out.

STATION SPOTLIGHTS

BGFM

Blaenau Gwent



BGFM is a community-focused radio station based in Blaenau Gwent, which is known for its rich industrial heritage and close-knit communities. The station's mission is to serve the diverse and vibrant community by providing a platform for local voices, fostering community engagement, and promoting cultural, educational, and social initiatives.

The station's key objectives include engaging and representing their local community, promoting culture and history through dedicated programmes, supporting local artists, musicians and events, bridging gaps between different segments of the community, promoting inclusivity and understanding, empowering young people through training and skills development, whilst also providing an entertaining and informative public service to the community.

Key Highlights:

- Creating opportunities for students at Goleg Gwent.
- Welcomed new volunteers, providing training in media production, broadcasting and administrative roles, equipping volunteers with transferable skills. Two volunteers obtained City of Guilds qualifications that have taken them into permanent employment.
- Expanded its Warm Hub initiative, offering a welcome space for residents to enjoy refreshments, socialise and access local support services.
- Delivered digital inclusion workshops, helping residents access technology and improve their digital skills with gifted laptops and data SIM cards. The project led to a visit from the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology.
- Ran a “Shop Local” campaign to support small businesses, featuring interviews and advertisements highlighting local shops and services in the community.



STATION SPOTLIGHTS

BRO RADIO

Vale of Glamorgan



Bro Radio is a community radio service covering the Vale of Glamorgan. It promotes a feeling of social identity and community pride amongst the urban, rural and coastal communities which exist within the County it serves.

Its on-air programming reflects the life of the residents it serves, with a mixture of locally relevant news, information and music during the day, with specialist music and information programming, covering sport, key communities, Welsh Language and specialist music genres during the evening and weekends.

At the core of its off-air work is the station's Academy, which encompasses training sessions and programmes held for adults, multiple youth clubs that are run in partnership with local partners and an ever-growing ambition to get out in the community which it serves via its Outside Broadcast Vehicle.

Key Highlights:

- Launched its Bro Radio Academy, a new training and development arm which provided over 100 opportunities to local people and 30 young people with a recognised Agored Cymru unit in radio broadcasting
- Re-launched its Community Awards, celebrating the people who make the Vale a great place to live
- Attended over 45 local events, engaging with 1,000's of local people
- Expanded its "Search for a Star" scheme, developing local young performers through development sessions and gig opportunities, including the winners performing in front of 7,000 people at GlastonBarry Juniors
- Partnered with Barry Shop Local to launch a DAB Christmas service, spreading festive cheer and promoting local shop areas and shop local initiatives in the Town.



STATION SPOTLIGHTS

GTFM

Pontypridd and RCT



GTFM began as a 28-day low-power RSL broadcast in 1999, primarily to encourage positive community cohesion in a Pontypridd council estate which was experiencing social tensions. Due to its popularity, the station returned under a further RSL in 2000, before the station partnered with the creative department at the then University of Glamorgan to bid for an Access Radio experiment going on air in 2002.

After securing the first full-time Welsh Ofcom Community Radio licence, GTFM went on air full-time in January 2006. The station aims to provide a quality community information service to local residents, including its own local news bulletins focusing on RCT and national Welsh issues, supported by a broad-appeal and entertaining music mix by day and more specialist music programming during the evenings and at weekends.

In addition to local news, other regular community information slots include traffic and travel news, weather and sport - plus appearances by Citizens Advice staff, local health board and other experts, advising on topics including wellbeing and mental health.

Key Highlights:

- Continued to make ends meet, despite rising costs and the cost-of-living crisis
- Securing an Ofcom licence to build a DAB transmitter network capable of carrying 30 radio services in the South Wales Valleys
- Broadcast over 25 hours of content from the National Eisteddfod in Pontypridd
- Launching on Cardiff SSDAB to reach listeners in Cardiff and Caerphilly, a main route of transportation for residents
- Provided extensive coverage of the National Eisteddfod of Wales in Pontypridd, encouraging residents to attend and speak Welsh through interviews with organisers, politicians, visitors, stall holders and performers.



STATION SPOTLIGHTS

MÔNFM

Anglesey and Gwynedd



MônFM is a bilingual community radio station serving Anglesey and Gwynedd. Founded initially in Llangefni as an online station in 2012, it launched on FM in 2014, recently expanding to three FM transmitters, allowing it to cover the wider region.

Its mission is to reflect the culture, lives and challenges of the communities it serves, providing an inclusive platform for local voices whilst fostering meaningful connections. The station's programming offers a dynamic mix of music and speech, including local news, discussions, and features on cultural and community events. It showcases local talent, highlighting activities across the region and providing specialist shows during the evenings and weekends to cater to a wide range of interests.

As a bilingual station, it's proud to promote the Welsh language and culture alongside English, ensuring its content is accessible to everyone. Beyond broadcasting, MônFM actively engages with the local community through Outside Broadcasts and participation in local events, such as the Eisteddfod and regional festivals.

Key Highlights:

- Supported key charities in the local area, including the RNLI, Hospice Dewi Sant, the Welsh Air Ambulance, and the DPJ Foundation, helping to raise awareness of their invaluable work.
- Increased involvement in community events, with OBs from Sioe Môn, Gwyl Fwyd Caernarfon, and Sioe Nefyn, increasing connection with listeners and showcasing life within the region.
- Increased sports coverage and commentary from local games, which has been received positively by listeners.
- Two volunteers secured roles with the BBC, Radio Cymru & S4C.



STATION SPOTLIGHTS

NEWPORT CITY RADIO

Newport & Chepstow



Founded in 2008, Newport City Radio has been committed to amplifying the voices of its diverse community, sharing local stories, and showcasing Newport's positive future. Starting as a small internet radio station, it expanded into DAB broadcasting in 2025 as it looked to reach more listeners.

The station's core aims are rooted in serving the people of Newport by providing engaging, inclusive, and relevant programming. The team focus on promoting positivity, fostering community cohesion, and creating opportunities for local talent, as well as nurturing the next generation of broadcasters through training and volunteering programs.

The station prides itself on producing a wide variety of programming that reflects the city's unique character. From Breakfast shows featuring news, weather and music, to specialised programmes like Pure Local, which exclusively plays music from Newport Artists. The station also engages with community initiatives, including events like Pride in the Port and its Newport County podcast, which highlights the city's passion for sport.

Key Highlights:

- Launched on DAB in Newport and Chepstow, expanding its reach and making programming more accessible
- Increased volunteer numbers, delivering training opportunities to increase skills, confidence and participation
- Continued to champion artists through its Love Live Music campaign on air and through events, the Love Live Music awards and summer sessions.



STATION SPOTLIGHTS

PREMIER RADIO

Wrexham



Wrexham Premier Radio was founded to give Wrexham a dedicated voice, connecting the community through inclusive and engaging content. Originally broadcasting online, the station launched on DAB in 2024, taking over the FM licence formerly operated by Calon FM through a transfer from regulator Ofcom.

Premier Radio aims to be a cornerstone of its community, delivering local events, championing key campaigns, and creating opportunities for growth and connection. The station is committed to mental health and well-being, recognising that community radio is a powerful tool to combat isolation and build self-esteem.

Its commitment to the community extends beyond the studio, hosting regular outside broadcasts at events like Johnstown Carnival, Garden Village Fete, Mold CIC Food Festival and the young Carers Parade. The station has supported several seasonal and charity events, including the Lord Mayor's Charity Football Match, the launch of a community hub in Eagles Meadow, and Fresher's Week at Colg Cambria. In addition, the station conducts interviews with local charities, CICs, businesses and organisations that give back to the community, with the aim of amplifying voices and sharing their stories.

Key Highlights:

- Worked to expand its service, becoming more diverse and inclusive, ensuring everyone can participate in its work.
- Supported volunteers in improving confidence and self-esteem, making sure all feel valued and accepted
- Several volunteers have moved on to full-time careers in entertainment or progressed to university courses through opportunities provided by Premier Radio.



STATION SPOTLIGHTS

RADIO CARDIFF

Cardiff



Radio Cardiff has been running for 19 years, as an independent service covering the Welsh Capital. The station has been managed by Safer Wales since 2019, following the closure of VCA Cymru, which managed the licence from 2017.

Radio Cardiff started as a pirate radio station before securing an Ofcom licence. To this day, it's the only licensed Music of Black Origin station in Wales, promoting the diverse cultures and communities which make up the City of Cardiff.

Radio Cardiff is a key platform for musicians and performers to showcase their work, contributing to the vibrant music scene in Cardiff and the surrounding areas, promoting local gigs, artists and festivals through its service. Its DJs are involved in local festivals, venues and events, from grassroots community events to festivals of thousands.

Key Highlights:

- Actively promoting local music events, including the Tan Windrush celebration event in June 2025 and monthly Neo Soul Jams and Chapter Arts
- Provides a regular platform for local artists to get their music heard, whilst promoting grassroots music venues and festivals
- Host a weekly third sector programme, hosted by Cardiff Third Sector Council, providing a platform to promote organisations through interviews and news features
- Involved in the promotion of the Black Welsh Music Awards 2025, including a nomination for its Head of Radio for her contribution to the Music of Black Origin



STATION SPOTLIGHTS

RHONDDA RADIO

Rhondda Valleys



Rhondda Radio was launched back in 2007 as part of an RCT Community Radio Project as Radio Cwmni, which later became Rhondda Radio in 2011. It's the only one of the three stations under the project to remain on air to this day.

After moving between homes, the station has found a secure location in the Treorchy & Cwmparc Boys & Girls Club and a second studio at Too Good To Waste, ensuring easy access to volunteering by all of its team members.

Rhondda Radio is run entirely by volunteers, broadcasting a wide variety of programmes from Jazz to Rock, alongside specialist programmes covering Welsh Language and Faith-Based content. Roadshows continue to play a big part in the station's work, as it supports local groups and charities with their events, mostly free of charge to improve community cohesion and connections.

Key Highlights:

- Launched on DAB to make its service accessible via Digital Radio
- Hosted multiple local events, including two fireworks displays and the Treorchy Christmas Parade, supporting it in growing to be one of Wales' premier Christmas parades.
- Secured Community Show of the Year at the 2024 Community Radio Awards for its weekly history programme, funded by the Rhondda Heritage Project through a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund Cymru
- Created a new Rhondda Heritage Trail with partners, with twelve stations at significant historical sites



STATION SPOTLIGHTS

ROOKWOOD SOUND

Cardiff and the Vale



Rookwood Sound is a dedicated health and wellbeing radio service, initially established as a hospital radio station back in 1987. Whilst only being available in a hospital initially, the station ran a successful 28 day RSL which recieved positive feedback.

Until 2023, the service was only available within the grounds of Llandough Hospital, where the service is broadcast from. On 31st October 2023, as it celebrated its 36th anniversary, Rookwood Sound launched on DAB covering Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

With the station growing into a health and wellbeing service for the wider community, it retains its Hospital grassroots, identifying the need for a service that has proven beneficial in lifting patients' moods and aiding in their recovery. Whilst focusing on health and wellbeing, the station has had a long-standing commitment to local sport, with its service providing coverage of every Cardiff City home game for over 30 years.

Key Highlights:

- Launched on SSDAB as a health and well-being-focused radio service
- Developed links with NHS staff and service users to undertake volunteer recruitment and retention
- Developed a training programme to increase live programming during weekdays and weekends
- Installed its app on 400 iPads for use across the Health Board, increasing access to the service within the hospital



STATION SPOTLIGHTS

SOUND RADIO

North Wales Coast



Sound Radio is a community station focused on and run by volunteers from the local community. It offers 24-hour programming from the North Wales coast, serving the towns of Abergele, Towyn, Rhyl and Prestatyn and the surrounding areas.

It aims to give volunteers of all ages in the community the opportunity to learn and produce creative content such as live radio, podcasting and video production to increase their own skill set in a fully working environment.

Sound Radio works closely with organisations and charities in the areas focused on and highlighting health and wellbeing, mental illness, isolation and dementia, together with sea and flood awareness and safety. It promotes and supports the local music and entertainment scene, giving opportunities to develop programming that reflects current trends.

Its mission is to produce local news content and entertaining radio that highlights the vibrant communities together, whilst undertaking event-based outside broadcasts and radio workshops in the community to give a wider voice and build a stronger sense of community on the North Wales Coast.

Key Highlights:

- Secured funding for the installation of a new broadcast production studio, allowing it to host interviews with up to four live guests simultaneously
- Developed a podcast with two local stage 4 cancer patients, giving them a platform to share their experiences with others, and developing opportunities to fundraise for local cancer charities through local events
- Partnered directly with local event organisers, including the three-day Rhuddfest, The Tir Prince August Bank Holiday Special and Towynfest at Browns Holiday Park.



STATION SPOTLIGHTS

WELSH COAST RADIO

Swansea



Founded in 2005 as Radio Tircoed and launching on air in 2007, Welsh Coast Radio broadcasts from Tircoed Village and proudly champions the real sound of the Welsh Coast. Rooted in its community, shaped by creativity and driven by a love of music, the station brings together local voices, presenter-led shows, and feel-good playlists, mixed in with the stories from the local community which it serves.

The station is led by a passionate team of presenters, who build their content which they broadcast on heart, not headlines. It broadcasts a broad mix of classical hit music and a local playlist showcasing Swansea's finest musical talent and the city's best new music.

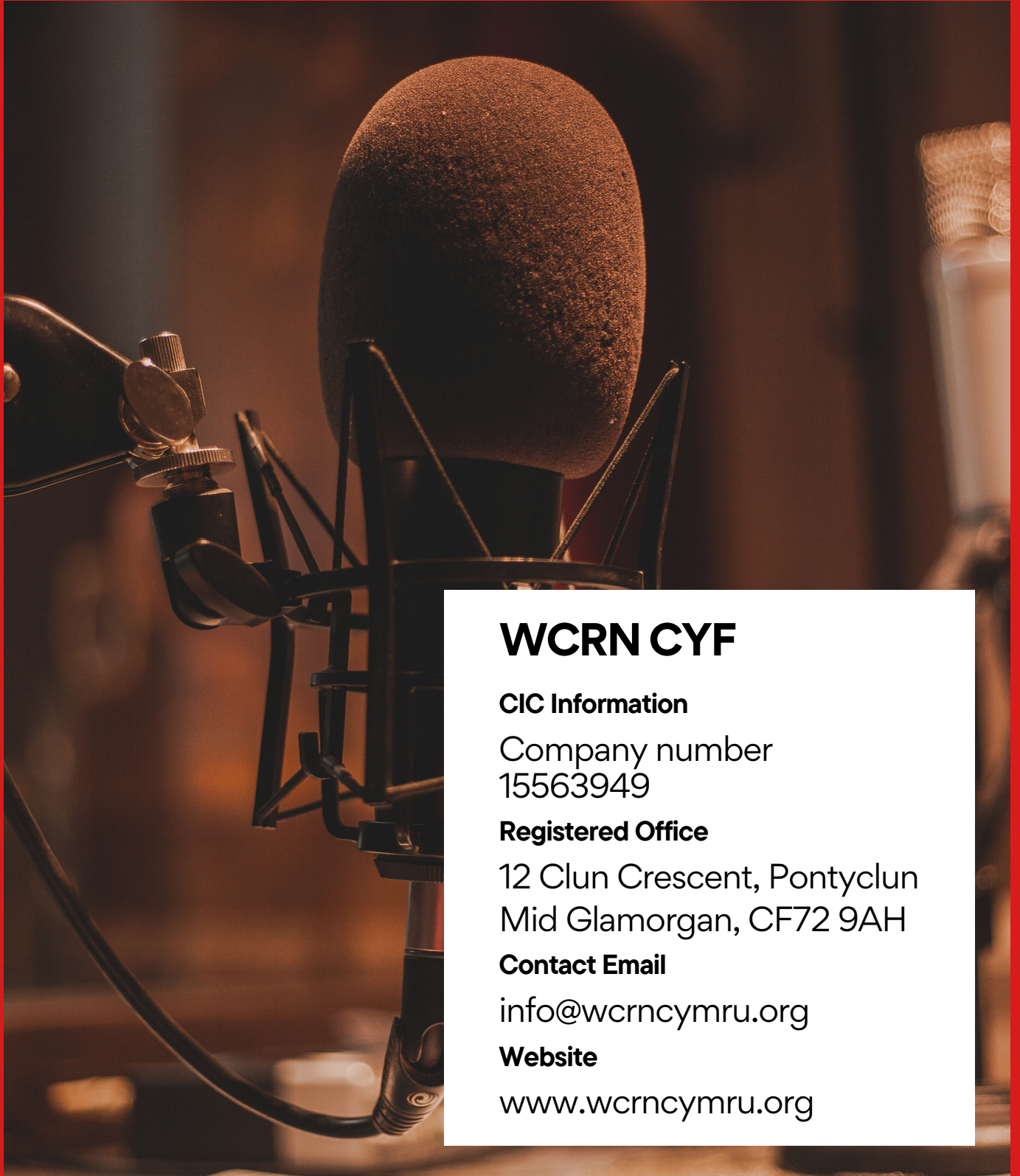
Welsh Coast Radio is regularly visible within the local community, supporting local events which attract thousands of people to promote its work and strengthen links with the people it serves.

Key Highlights:

- Recruited 10 experienced presenters and 2 technical advisors to strengthen its team and the service offered
- Saw increased listener figures, local interaction and interest from local businesses
- Supported local events, including the annual summer fete and lantern parade, which attract thousands of residents
- Developed partnerships with local charities such as Marie Curie Foundation, the Lifeboat Association and RNIB
- Strengthened its training programme by delivering a 6-week training programme, with a waiting list in place.



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