awen Ymddiriedolaeth Ddiwylliannol Cultural Trust

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

QUARTER 3
PERFORMANCE REPORT

for Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

2025–26

This report summarises activities undertaken by Awen Cultural Trust during **Quarter 3** of 2025 / 2026 in support of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's Corporate Objectives. It includes a summary of each service area as well as some case studies and customer feedback that help illustrate impact.

Service Area Summary:

THE MET

RAPUNZEL

ULTIMATE FLOYD

AWEN TECH

AYDMS - SIX

Quarter three at The Met was the busiest period of the year with 83 events taking place, including a diverse programme of community and professional performances along with our annual pantomime.

This quarter saw the highest footfall and ticket sales of the year to date, but was slightly lower than the same period last year due in the main to reduced audiences for the amateur programme. Quarter three in the previous year also featured a significant programme of SPF Funded Activity which inflated last year's figures somewhat. There has been a reduction in that funding this year which accounts for the reduced attendance and participation figures when comparing this quarter with the same period last year.

Live music continues to be a popular draw at The Met with tribute acts **Fleetwood Shack**, **Ultimate Floyd**, and an almost sold-out Christmas version of **That 80's Rock Show** which was hugely popular. Peter Green's *Man of the World* gig received a standing ovation and attracted audiences from within Blaenau Gwent and further afield with people travelling from London, Bristol, Gloucester, Hereford, Caerphilly, Newport and Cwmbran to attend.

Our drama programme included Black Rat Productions with **Dai Cula** and Lighthouse Theatre with **A Child's Christmas in Wales** by Dylan Thomas; and around 50 people also attended our regular comedy club.

Family programming included the ever-popular Talegate Theatre with **Beetlespoof**, **Hummdrumz** and our pantomime **Rapunzel** which attracted audiences of over 1200 including great support from local schools with over 500 pupils attending during the course of the run.

Local amateur company AYDMS put on high quality performances of **SIX** which almost 600 people came to watch, with LRS, Showstoppers, Studio 78, Brynmawr RC School and Hospice of the Valleys also holding events.

Community engagement work came through our regular sessions for **Open Mic**, **Tea Dance**s and our **Golden Melodies** choir as well as the Aberfest event *Scare on the Square* organised by Ffrindiau Tyleri - which was moved into The Met due to poor weather. There were live performances by AYDMS, Silent Disco in the auditorium, storytelling in the bar area, and sock monster puppet making in the Seaborne Gallery provided by Awen's Associate Artists. The Silent Disco and the puppets were especially popular and overall, 280 people attended.

We also ran two more Awen Tech training opportunities for lighting and sound, delivered by Production 78 which a further 23 people attended and a series of one-day free training courses on marketing-related topics, in partnership with Roseblade Media.

"We came to the panto and my two daughter absolutely loved it!"

"A fabulous show!"

"Well done everyone, it was really good."

"Super proud of the Junior ensemble, and to have the chance to be part of a production like this was really special, thank you."

Rapunzel

MAIA, TEACHER, WILLOWTOWN PRIMARY

"I am emailing to thank you for a fantastic morning at the Met today, where we attended the pantomime 'Rapunzel'. Our children absolutely loved their experience in the theatre and enjoyed every minute of the show.

Please pass on our thank you's to the team and cast and a massive 'Well Done' to all those involved. It was fantastic to hear the Welsh language being incorporated into a stage production, providing our children with a rich experience of both the language and the theatre.

Thank you as well for your staff's patience with the children during the interval! We will certainly look to bring our children back soon!"

Ymddiriedolaeth
Ddiwylliannol
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Awen Cultural Trust is registered in Wales as a company limited by guarantee.