

Trustee Profile

Heledd Evans | Trainee Solicitor

- **Founder & Chairman of Côr Taflais**



Describe your journey and what motivated you to take on these roles?

I was Chair of Cardiff choir Aelwyd Waun Ddyfal whilst at University (student choir) and when my time as a student came to an end, I felt there was a shortage of opportunities for young professionals in Cardiff to come together to sing and socialise. So, I decided to set up a new choir in the city so that young professionals had the opportunity to meet and make connections. I also wanted to make sure there were opportunities for the young people in the city to be able to continue to sing, to compete and to contribute to Welsh culture. I'm now Chairman of the choir.

Can you describe the mission of your charity and its impact?

Taflais - It's mission is to provide opportunities for Cardiff's young professionals to come together. The aim is to ensure that we continue to sing, compete and to support Welsh culture after our time as students. There are so many opportunities available while at University, and I wanted to make sure that continued beyond graduation. The Welsh community in Cardiff is growing from strength to strength and the choir gives those individuals the opportunity to get to know each other. This is helpful for young workers as they are able to network with individuals in similar positions and create contacts from various fields. [Côr Taflais](#)

What's your primary role and what skills or experiences do you bring to it?

I am Chairman of the choir. Mostly, I oversee everything from week to week helping everything run properly. This includes working closely with the rest of the committee, to communicate with the choir, organise any events, do a lot of administrative work (including helping run our social accounts) and to communicate and make contacts with any external bodies that contact us. I've had a lot of experience working with committees, from Aelwyd Waun Ddyfal Household, the Urdd committees, Young Farmers Club and County Youth Committees and from this work I understand what enables a committee to run effectively, how to keep order and how to ensure we draw on each person's strengths.

How do you balance your chairman responsibilities with your professional and personal life?

I'm very lucky because although there's a lot of administrative work to do with the choir, I really enjoy it. For that matter, I see the choir as a way to relax, and something that brings enjoyment! I also love working with the committee, and we've all become friends by now. Doing administrative work on behalf of the choir has become part of my day-to-day routine. I often use my lunch hour to see what needs to be done next, and then call committee members at the end of the day to see where we stand on everything. I enjoy communicating with others and have always been a social person, so I enjoy the kind of work I have to do. I also find that the job goes hand in hand with the choir because I learn key skills as part of my job (e.g communication skills, balancing different things at once, collaborating with others) and that has allowed me to do my duties in the choir more effectively.

What lessons have you learned along the way?

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Team work is a great tool. Without a doubt! One striking thing about Taflais is the strong sense of collaboration that exists within the choir. The committee works very closely together and that has enabled the choir to have a very strong foundation. What's more, every single member of the choir has been very helpful. Each person is as willing to lend a helping hand in any way possible. We have had individuals from the choir helping with everything, tapping into each person's strengths. I think that's what's allowed us to develop so quickly, and also to have such a positive sense in the choir. As the Welsh Football motto goes "Gorau Chwarae Cyd Chware", or "Teamwork gets the best results", I've certainly seen that through my work with Taflais.

What advice would you give your younger self?

Go for it! I remember getting the idea of starting a choir and talking about it for weeks, but I was worried that no one would turn up. I ended up creating a Facebook page inviting everyone I knew to that page and announcing the date of the first rehearsal. Immediately, so many people messaged to say how pleased they were to hear of the idea and that was a great relief. It would have been an easy option not to take on the challenge of trying to start something new. It's a lesson to go for it because people are often very pleased of any opportunity they're given. There was obviously demand for such a choir, and it would have been such a shame not to give it a chance.

What are your hopes for the future of your charity? How do you see your role evolving?

The hope is to continue to watch Taflais go from strength to strength. We have had a very successful initial year and now have 100 members. I hope Taflais continues to attract more people to the choir as new people move to Cardiff, and as more people finish university. We hope to support more cultural events in the annual Welsh calendar and to create links with choirs from different areas of the country. So many people have created new connections and friends through the choir and I'm very grateful for that, and I hope that positivity continues as we continue to grow and develop.

