

Cwmclydach Primary pupils win first prize at Schools Heritage Initiative



by Mark Smith, Rhondda Leader
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A PRIMARY school with a thirst for history is celebrating after bagging more than £1,000 in a heritage competition. Cwmclydach Primary pupils won first prize in the Welsh Schools Heritage Initiative thanks to their dedicated research into the Cambrian Male Choir.

Children used recollections, interviews, photos and newspaper articles to find out the history of the group, which was formed in the late 19th century by members of the local colliery.

In the 1930s, the group set a record by becoming the first choir to win at the National Eisteddfod for three consecutive years. And the choir is still going strong, performing at charity events, Christmas concerts and weddings across South Wales and beyond.

To help pupils find out more about the ensemble, a number of choristers visited the school to answer questions from inquisitive pupils in Year 4. And after creating attractive wall displays in the school's hall and hosting a presentation, Cwmclydach joined forces with Cambrian Choir on July 17 for an unforgettable Community Cheer concert.

Phoebe Shanley, Rhys Evans, Lily Evans, Cian Adams and Courtney

Williams all performed solos to the packed crowd.

Deputy headteacher Margaret Duncan said: “The evening was an immense success with a full house attending. The Mayor of RCT attended, as did David Maddox – one of the trustees of the initiative – and governors. We are so proud of the pupils, who put everything into the project.”

Cwmclydach Primary also published a book about the changing role of women in society, which it says will serve as “primary source material” for future pupils and community members.

More than £1,000 was handed over to the school by the Welsh Schools Heritage Initiative for their outstanding project, with Caegarw Primary in Mountain Ash coming a close second for its research into the roots of the song Calon Lan.

The prize money is likely to go towards IT equipment.
