



John beats the drum for Cartrefi's Got Talent!

A samba band is drumming up interest in a special talent competition for tenants of a housing association.

Cartrefi Conwy is celebrating its first birthday this year and the contest, Cartrefi's Got Talent, is one of the events being organised to mark the occasion.

The search for a star is supported by an employee with talent - John Roberts, a joiner in the building maintenance department at Cartrefi Conwy.

In his spare time, John, 43, from Conwy, is a member of Batala Bangor, an afro-brazilian street carnival group.

Cartrefi's Got Talent is being held at the Interchange, in Old Colwyn, starting at 4pm on Thursday, October 22, and proceeds will go to the children's hospice, Ty Gobaith.

The hospice, located in an idyllic spot in the Conwy Valley, is also celebrating an anniversary this year, its fifth birthday.

The competition is open to all Cartrefi Conwy's tenants with a first prize of £200 and a photo session with a top professional photographer. The two runners up will receive prizes of £75 each.

Entrants are being asked to post their auditions on You Tube and they will be looked at by a panel of judges at Cartrefi Conwy with the best acts being invited to the final.

Cartrefi Conwy's Communications Coordinator Kath Molloy is organising the event.

She said: "Cartrefi's Got Talent will be on similar lines to the popular TV show, Britain's Got Talent.

"We're hoping to unearth our very own Susan Boyle but I can promise that we won't have anybody quite as cutting as Simon Cowell among our judges.

"We're looking for a variety of acts, individuals or groups. If it's a group at least one of their number has to be a resident in one of our 3,800 properties – and the only other proviso is that they need some talent.

“It’s going to be a lot of laughs and you never know it could be the launching pad for a new career in the world of entertainment.

“But it’s not just going to be about fun and frivolity because we’re also aiming to raise money for Ty Gobaith.

“A charity like Ty Gobaith certainly puts everything else into perspective - we really don’t know how lucky we are.

“There are many good causes but few are better than Ty Gobaith which is one of our three chosen charities at Cartrefi Conwy.

“Many people might be surprised to learn that Ty Gobaith is a very happy place and a wonderful caring environment with brilliant staff.

“It is a much-needed facility in North Wales. It is really important for parents that the right support and facilities are available if their children become ill.”

Bass drum player John Roberts and Bataala Bangor will be playing at Cartrefi’s Got Talent, along with several other talented members of staff.

His samba band have just returned from performing at the world-famous Notting Hill Carnival.

John said: “It’s a fantastic event - you don’t really ever imagine being part of it, so to be able to do that is something special.

Bryn Davies, the Musical Director of Bataala Bangor, said: “It’s very important for people to get enjoyment out of performing.

“I am sure the tenants will get something out of their performance - people should pull together and find the talent within themselves.”

Any tenants who want to enter Cartrefi’s Got Talent should post their audition on You Tube and send a link to communications@cartreficonwy.org or speak to Kath Molloy for more details on 01492 805503.