



## NEWSLETTER NO.4 – MAY 2015



Welcome to our round-up of recent activity and future planning which has seen us turn our attention to enabling more people, including adults as well as young people, get involved in music-making with us. We hope you enjoy reading it.



### Spring – Time for new growth!

Our Spring term saw two important developments.

Firstly, in our band workshops, the kids spent the Spring term testing out new musical ideas without the pressure of preparing for a show. The sessions where they created their own soundtracks to imaginary films were particularly successful. The one involving a balaclavered heist in the Californian, buzzard-strewn desert, is a must-see film (in your head).

Secondly, our **new sessions for adults** got underway, which have allowed grown-ups of all ages and musical abilities to have fun making music and improving their skills. Our ‘**Rockers**’ sessions have started with two bands being formed from people who previously didn’t know each other, or knew their secret desire to rock. Now they are devising and playing music in a rock band on Monday evenings 7.00 – 8.30pm. It’s great to see our studios being used by more people, and they seem to be enjoying it....

*“..... it has been good to meet and play with other people & instruments and make some music, which actually sounds quite good (or it did to me anyway lol)”*

*“Everyone is very friendly and encouraging which means you are not frightened to have a go and give things a try.”*

*“I absolutely LOVE my Monday nights and spend the whole week looking forward to the next one!”*

*“Thank you.... This is best fun I’ve had in a long time!”*

There are still some spaces in these bands for other players (especially bass) and we have another studio ready to accommodate a third band... so what are you waiting for? Come and join the fun.

Our acoustic group, **Strummers**, has had contributions from guitar, banjo, ukulele and mandolin players, strumming along to some familiar songs like Jolene and Sweet Home

Alabama. One of our members summed it up perfectly, when they said: "It's like singing songs around the campfire.... er, but without the campfire!" Very well put. Strummers sessions run on Mondays but we're looking at starting another session on Thursdays too. Wanna strum?

Remember, our studios are fully equipped and you can borrow our instruments or bring your own.

### Here comes summer!

With the summer term well underway already, our focus now turns to our **Summer Show 2015** at the Theatre Royal Winchester on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July**.



This year, we really want to fill all the seats, generate a great atmosphere for all our performers, and give everyone an encouraging and well-deserved cheer. As well as the usual great original songs by our young musicians, we are hoping for some great support acts, including another cute contribution by our junior Ukulele players from Winnall Primary School, the adults in our Rockers and Strummers classes and no doubt, some crazy concoction from the Tutors... all topped off by our annual Awards ceremony and frenetic finale.



Tickets cost £5.00 for adults and £1.00 for under 18s. Please get your tickets soon, and encourage your family and friends to come along too. We know what a genuinely great night the Summer Show really is, let's celebrate these talented young people and showcase their achievements to as many people as possible.

**Tickets are available from Winchester Theatre Royal: 01962 840440**  
**[boxoffice@winchestertheatroyal.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@winchestertheatroyal.co.uk)**

### Every Little Helps!

Coming along to join us at our Summer Show is one brilliant way of helping us raise funds. As a charity we rely on donations, ticket sales and the generosity of our partners to support our amazing and vital local charity project, which as you know provides free music workshops for young people in the Winnall, Stanmore, Highcliffe and Weeke areas of Winchester.

We are really pleased that the lovely councillors at Winchester City Council have agreed to support us again this year to the tune of £7,000, which is great news. We also received a very welcome boost recently from all the shoppers at Winchester Waitrose, who put their green tokens in Winnall Rock School's bucket, helping to raise £415 from the Community Matters Fund. Thank you!



We are always looking for new ways to raise much needed cash, and so in the coming months we are planning all sorts of activities and fundraising initiatives. For example we'll be sending some of our acoustic players to perform at Tesco in the hope that their shoppers will show their generous side. Who needs the O<sub>2</sub> arena, honestly?

As we are now a registered charity, you will soon be able to make a donation directly to us, even if you've exhausted all the possibilities of Summer Show tickets, Waitrose green tokens and strumming your heart out. We're setting up our very own online fundraising site, where anyone can make a donation to the project and, if you are a UK taxpayer, make a Gift Aid declaration too, which enables us to claim even more from the government to increase the value of your donation. Good news indeed! And, seeing as we've already mentioned Tesco, I think we can quote their catchphrase here, "Every Little Helps!"



### **More Ways to Get Involved!**

Winnall Rock School is looking to increase the range and availability of our services, and be a local hub to help people of all ages and abilities create and play rock music. We will soon be publishing a list of our services including studio hire, band workshops, individual and group tuition, songwriting clubs and music creating workshops. If required, we'll come to you. We will also endeavour to provide for people who require additional supervision and support. We are keen to help everyone make music, so do please give us a call if you'd like us to devise something tailored to your needs.



### **Sign off**

So – it's "on with the show", literally! Hopefully we will see you there. Maybe you could even get involved with us and be a part of it! There's a thought...

All the best

**Chris Redmond**  
Music Leader at WRS