



NEWSLETTER NO.3 – JANUARY 2015

Welcome to 2015!



I am really pleased to be able to look back on such a successful term of achievement, see some of our new initiatives getting underway and look forward to new ideas being developed in 2015. I hope reading this newsletter encourages you to get involved in some way and / or make a donation to help this great project go from strength to strength. We'll soon be working hard towards our Summer Show. I hope to see you there.

Christmas Show – Our Best Ever?

Firstly, on behalf of the Rock School's committee, we just want to say a huge congratulations to everyone for a great Christmas Show 2014. We thought you all played to the best of your ability and I hope you are really pleased with yourselves.

Lots of people commented on the quality of playing, the songwriting and the focus of you, the performers, and rightly so. Every single person in every single band played well. You came across as being good at what you do, caring about what you do and determined to do a good job, despite the nerves. Well done and thank you for stepping up. All the time in rehearsals pays off when you put on a show like that.

The committee would also like to thank everyone who came along to support the kids, and helped us raise a fantastic £220 on the night.

A great autumn term!



We were really pleased to work with the Winchester Round Table to devise songs for their annual Bonfire Event. Our members found that recording is quite a different experience from our usual ways of devising and rehearsing music. Roger Jones, chair of the Bonfire Committee, said "We loved those tunes... Hope you enjoyed hearing them on our PA last night. For me it was a wonderful element of the night, thanks for all your hard work!" You can hear the songs on the Music switch at our website.



Could we get involved in writing and recording songs for your event? Let us know...

Courses for adults – Rockers and Strummers

In order to share the fun, and raise more funds to help support our core service for young people, Winnall Rock School is starting two new regular sessions for adults of all ages and musical abilities, to improve their skills.

Rockers will devise and play music in a rock (soft, pop, metal?) band format on Monday or Thursday evenings 7.00 – 8.30pm. Each session will cost £10.

Strummers will learn to play (and sing) some familiar songs on acoustic stringed instruments (ukes, guitars, banjo, etc) on Monday or Thursday evenings 7.00 – 8.00pm. Each session will cost of £4.

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

We held a free Meet and Greet Night for potential *Rockers* and *Strummers*, to see our studios and find out more about what our tutors can offer, on Monday 12th January. Just look at their happy faces! If you're interested in joining either the Rockers or the Strummers yourself, get in touch!



Spring Term

This term we will be working on cover songs, and writing song charts. We'll also be doing some interesting stuff writing music inspired by theatre shows, and breaking into smaller groups to do some songwriting. Sessions restart on 20th January and will meet every Tuesday (excepting 17th February) until 31st March.

Summer Show 2015

Right - pencil this in your diaries now! This year's summer show will be at the Theatre Royal Winchester on **Friday 17th July**. If you can help us promote the event, or make it extra special in any way, then please get in touch soon.

Calling all Tutors!

We need more fantastic and enthusiastic tutors to join the team at Winnall Rock School. If you are interested, or you know someone who might be, please get in touch. We are particularly on the lookout for singers / vocal coaches and more female tutors too.



We need a bright spark!



Speaking of needing great people, here's something we hope you can help us with. As you can imagine, the Rock School owns and uses a LOT of electrical equipment – from PA systems and speakers to keyboards, guitar amps and other devices. By law they all have to be tested regularly to ensure they are electrically safe. We are looking for someone who has the background and experience in PAT testing, and all the necessary testing equipment, to help us get all our electrical gear checked out in the near future. If you can help, please give us a shout.

Charity Status

Since our last newsletter, we have had confirmation from the Charity Commission of our official status as a Registered Charity. This is great news for WRS, as it means we can raise even more money to continue to grow and develop the Rock School experience for even more young people. If you have any ideas about how we might fundraise for WRS, please get in touch. It could be anything – from a business sponsorship to a marathon run, from a cake baking sale to selling unwanted items on eBay, a charity gig or even just good old donations. Every little helps (doesn't someone use that catchphrase somewhere...?). We'll be building a facility directly on our website to receive donations, and we will also be letting you know more on the subject of fundraising as the year goes on, so keep an eye out for that.



So – it's going to be a great year for the Rock School, we just know it. I also know that all the tutors and I are really looking forward to working with you all over the coming months!

All the best

Chris Redmond

Music Leader at WRS