



## Roy Wells makes leaps..... (continued)

Roy Wells' Collage of Music (RWCM) is a shamelessly pretentious umbrella term covering all music activities pertaining to Steve, including his own *Tingle Factory* music as well as community projects, all shown on the new website - [www.roywellscollageofmusic.org](http://www.roywellscollageofmusic.org)

Demarcating all this was a challenge, but the website drew heavily on work already put in on the promotional "*RWCM media files*" DVD (pictured right). Roy Wells encourages you to probe his inner reaches online. Any comments/interactions are still best done through [www.facebook.com/steve.barbe.12](http://www.facebook.com/steve.barbe.12) (or email) though, as the website itself is for reference only and is not interactive. The site has already proved useful in getting Steve an interview at *The Royal College of Music* (RCM), an organisation with very similar pedigree and acronym.



Photo courtesy of Southwark Council

## ...with new ipad

The leaping continued when *Councillor Colley* (pictured left with Steve) of Southwark Council presenting Steve with an iPad as a prize for accessing Housing Services online.

He was baffled at first as to how it worked, but then he figured, by its name, that it was something like Google Glasses. So the main challenge for him was then to find a way of fixing it to his face to cover one eye, which he's now achieved in very futuristic style. If he closes the other eye, he thinks he's seeing a pure white digital cloudscape (in actual fact it's just the box), and he expects that data will come streaming through directly to his retina any time soon.

He's already had a few "admiring" looks from people in the street, and he assumes they are impressed by his new cyber-human appearance.



Photo by Marcus Armstrong

# Tingle Factory (TF)

[www.roywellscollageofmusic.org/tf.html](http://www.roywellscollageofmusic.org/tf.html)

It's been an eventful time for TF since the previous Newts Letter, with paid gigs for fee-paying audiences, airplay, reaching Number 12 in the *Reverb Nation Alternative Charts for London* ([www.reverbnation.com/main/search?q=tingle%20factory](http://www.reverbnation.com/main/search?q=tingle%20factory)) and a video screening. But 2015 was also a year marred by severe illness and misfortune among many of our supporters and colleagues.



## Farewell to Julia

Not least we lost our dear friend *Julia Edgington* (pictured). TF performed a special open mic spot at *The Star* in Dorking to a gathering of Julia's friends in her memory, and songs included *Flight to Paradise* which was a favourite of hers.



Photo by Jacine Bravery

Julia's absence was deeply felt on this occasion. Despite being ill with cancer she had been there with us in person at a similar event only a few weeks before, and many times previously. (Steve performing at The Star - video by Julia's sister Jane.

[www.facebook.com/jane.turnbull.56/videos/10200895966236767/?pnref=storyI](http://www.facebook.com/jane.turnbull.56/videos/10200895966236767/?pnref=storyI))

The Star had been one of her favourite venues and she'd had some of her paintings on exhibition there at one time (see Newts Letter Vol 1. No 9 p2 [www.roywellscollageofmusic.org/Newtsletter%28small%29.pdf](http://www.roywellscollageofmusic.org/Newtsletter%28small%29.pdf)).

Julia's funeral and life celebration was on Friday 8th May.

Two church ministers who are both big fans of *Genesis* (i.e. the band, not the book - or perhaps both) contributed hugely to the day. The significance of this was that Julia herself was a *Genesis* fan, and the minister at her funeral, *Stuart Tanswell*, played some of their music from his i-pod at the crematorium in her memory.



30 minute TF performance. The format was a kind of variety/cabaret show, and Steve included his macabre and twisted version of "Feed the Birds" from the Sound of Music as part of his "tour through the animal kingdom".

## Sunistice Sunny Party



On 5th June Steve played some TF songs at this "alternative cabaret" night by ProperGanda. (Have a gander and you'll see him on the bill <https://www.facebook.com/events/484689415015864/>.) He also gave away some of his CDs as prizes.



Photo courtesy of George Lincoln



Photo by ProperGanda

## Weighting 2015 at Dulwich Park, Southwark:

### The premiere

Steve played a mixture of TF material and covers as a side-show feature in Dulwich Park for this groundbreaking and uplifting summer show by *Extraordinary Bodies*, the UK's only integrated circus company with disabled and non-disabled artists.

Being on the list of freelance artists for the Southwark events, Steve gets this kind of work occasionally. (E.g. we forgot to mention last year's (2014) appearance at *Bermondsy Carnival* through this team.)



Photo courtesy of Southwark Council

### Radio Play

"*GENRE IS A DIRTY WORD*" is the actor, musician and renaissance man *Ian Renshaw's* new regular musical genre busting radio slot on *Surrey Hills Community Radio* and featured Tingle Factory's "*Cold Wandering Stars*" was featured on 23rd November

[www.mixcloud.com/surreyhillradio/playlists/genre-is-a-dirty-word/](http://www.mixcloud.com/surreyhillradio/playlists/genre-is-a-dirty-word/)

Ian had also been the landlord at The Star for many years and is therefore a well known champion of music and the arts in Dorking.

### Chart Success

TF also reached at least number 12 in Reverb Nation's alternative charts for London.

### CD Sales

There was evidence of a national economic recovery when Steve sold one of his CDs for hard cash (proceeds to *Foodcycle*). Normally the CDs just get exchanged for mugs of tea and carrot cake, or given away to charity raffles. One was even spotted in a charity shop in Stony Stratford. But this upturn is a sign that the recession is over, with promise of wider economic recovery. Steve is convinced that this time it'll be a PROPER economic recovery, with money spent on all the right things; health, social care, education, genuinely affordable housing, the arts, sustainable technologies, small socially responsible enterprises, waistcoats for fish etc. Roy Wells waves his sonic screwdriver and makes it so. Huzzah!

## Video Screening

"*Toad in a Hole*" *The Pop Video* was screened at The Cranbrook Video Festival at High Weald in February 2016, where Steve spoke about his fine collection of small bits of string.



## The Weeping Tigers (previously Slice)

**BOO HOO GRRRR!** [www.soundcloud.com/user-677346983](http://www.soundcloud.com/user-677346983)

Steve fronted on vocals for opening and closing sets at a charity event at *Queen Mary College London*, where the bass player is also a professor in materials science. The guitarist is also a journalist. The remaining member is a proper full-on full-time excellent drummer. With the band though he plays the bagpipes (joke.) The audience comprised staff from the college plus friends and guests.

**Winter Rock Night**  
29/01/2016  
*Griff Inn, (Student Bar, Whitechapel)*  
*Live music from 7pm - 11pm*  
**Entrance £5**  
Featuring:  
Crown the Fool, feat. Jerome Burnet (DPSU)  
The Weeping Tigers, feat. Andy Bushby (SEMS)

A similar event at The Griff Inn student bar in Whitechapel later in the year was also a stonker, with two other great bands plus a salsa workshop. The audience supported well a record number of original songs in the band's set, and went freaky for standard covers including Jean Genie as a Bowie tribute.

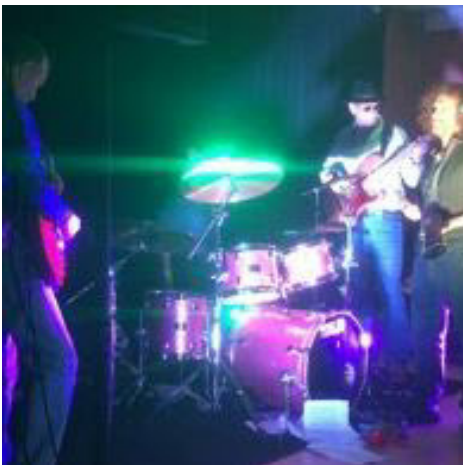
Steve's voice was on good form, possibly aided by abstaining from alcohol before going on. "It's only a hunch, but being a relaxant, it might be that alcohol makes the laryngeal warble-twanger too slack. The mechanism shouldn't be too tense, but there should be a bit of ping available there for the top notes" Steve hypothesises.

He went a bit ape on the hand percussion though, sustaining life threatening injuries (small cuts, a splinter and muscle pain), but all in a good cause.

Slice also appeared for a few Jolly Jams at *Jolly Farmers* in Purley, [www.jollyfarmers-purley.co.uk](http://www.jollyfarmers-purley.co.uk) where, in addition, a couple of the band members along with another guest Jason, grunted out a Motorhead set (as a tribute to Lemmy) in January, which was the most excellent rockin' thing heard in ages. Steve thinks that now we have lost another great icon in music i.e Terry Wogan, the Weeping Tigers should rock the world with the Floral Dance at their next gig.

This band produced an awesome demo of four original little ditties by Ed the guitarist, at *Press Play Recording Studio*. (This Bermondsey based studio apparently has a "proven track record", and is situated in the uncannily named Record Street. [www.pressplaystudio.co.uk/home/](http://www.pressplaystudio.co.uk/home/))

Although the tracks sound pretty testosteroney, they're not without respect for the ladies. In fact the first song "Gardenia" is a tribute to a female musical icon. Can you guess who, after listening at [www.soundcloud.com/user-677346983](http://www.soundcloud.com/user-677346983)





## Bootleg BeeGees

A September Saturday night ended with Tragedy when The BBGs brought the house down, as a surprise birthday treat, at a party in a big old house in the beautiful Brecon Beacons. (Steve was Barry; you could tell that by the way he used his walk.). After the gig itself the musicians joined the extended family for a friendly sing song around the piano, where the Bee Gees were put to one side for an hour or so, and the repertoire ranged instead from Gershwin to Beatles.



Photo by  
Tomoko  
Nakahara

## Steve the "Half-Man Half-Band"

Work of this kind has picked up a little. This tends to be the staple income generating side of RWCM work; just enough to keep the wolf from biting the maggot from the door.

## Participatory Performances and gigs with Steve in the Wider Community.

One of these was a pre-screening set of popular covers, at *Animated Worlds* as part of *Peckham & Nunhead Free Film Festival*.



Film poster - "Persepolis"

Steve also played for the *Peckham Coal Line* afternoon tea party in *Kirkwood Nature Reserve*, with the famous *Alan Glen* on harmonica. Alan has had a long and distinguished career, playing with the likes of Fleetwood Mac and Dr Feelgood, and now Steve. He's famous in fact (had we mentioned that?).



Photo courtesy of Friends of Cossall Park and Kirkwood Nature Reserve

Even though Steve's a pretty secular guy, he accompanied hymns for *Christchurch in Clapham* on his guitar, along with Janet on her piano accordion, for an outdoors service for Pentecost, which was a feast for all the senses. He also played the Vicarage gardens for the same church at their Summer BBQ again, for the umpteenth year running. Steve entertained friends at another summer barbecue event in Dorking. His navigation skills came to the fore and he covered the three miles through dense undergrowth from the station in only about two hours, arriving at the party just before the host thought of sending for search and rescue. Getting hopelessly lost did mean though that he had a chance to observe a stunning valley. He also met a very cute and friendly pony, to whom he fed some weeds which probably weren't poisonous. Unfortunately the beast did not appear to know the venue, and so was unable to advise him. Steve vows that's the last time he will offer plants to any animal without some assurance in advance.

He often also plays covers at Peckham Foodcycle events on Saturday evenings. This is one of his favourite projects, which he occasionally helps to host, and support in other ways, usually by eating there. The project rescues surplus food from supermarkets and other traders, and cooks and serves it to all-comers. In December he played there along with *Jacqueline Grant* for the Hourbank Christmas Party. The duo included some calypsos which Jacqueline had taught Steve years ago when he sang in her *Caribbean Community Choir*.

In January he was joined there by Hugh (from LETSwing) on sax, and he also appeared as "Stevie Stardust" (a new tag we've just invented) for a one-song Bowie tribute (by request) plus other songs. (But where were the spiders?!)

He performed songs around *St. Peter Port* in Guernsey through the December festive period as an official busker through *Guernsey Arts Commission*. Passers by stopped for a while and made good spirited donations to his own emergency music in hospital helicopter fund, much of which he then spent in pubs on fine local ales. But his takings more than paid for his ferry. He kept telling people that he'd have to keep blasting the streets with his raucous noise until he'd raised enough money to get back to England, and so they gave very enthusiastically.

And the winter festivities continued with two apple tree wassailing events.

Photo courtesy of *Pickling Peckham* - the urban foragers guide.



Steve joined the community choir Peckham Rye Sings with a bit of singing plus impromptu drum accompaniment at Wassail Peckham with *Growing Southwark* and Pickling Peckham, and then a couple of days later he sang carols to trees for the *Cossall Woodcraft Folk* in Kirkwood Gardens in exchange for some leaves (props) generously crafted and donated by Sam. In Feb 2016 Steve was hired to play at a party for *Southwark Foodbank* volunteers, who got their freak on along with Steve's acoustic guitar on the dancefloor.

## Voice workshops

- Steve ran 5 voice workshops for *Cooltan Arts* and *Morley College*.
- In August Steve took over as the *Voice Exercise Class* facilitator for *Henley-on-Thames* branch of *Parkinson's UK*, where he also spoke at one of their monthly meetings and ran a short voice session there in order to recruit new participants.

MAKE WAY, I'M A MUSIC PROVIDER FOR THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SECTOR!



Photo by *Silvana Belmonte*

## Sing songs with Steve in Health & Social Care Contexts

Steve's song-based sessions every six weeks for *Outward* ended in 2015. However this loss was more than compensated for when sessions for *Thamesreach* went from monthly to bi-weekly at a care home in Battersea. (Not the dogs home by the way, but if you've seen videos of dogs playing piano you'll know there is potential there.) These sessions follow dinner. Steve is driven by a survival instinct to follow dinner, and as his food is vegetarian, his capture rate is near 100%.

The activities are for older residents with "challenging behaviour". In fact they often show fine joining-in-ship, and much of their behaviour is to be applauded, especially when they take over on the guitar and play some of their own songs, thereby making Steve's job much easier. Steve was going in once a month over many recent years up till August 2015 when he was bumped up to bi-weekly. Back in the days the hostel booked Steve even more. Then the cuts. But this recent development is a turn up for the books.

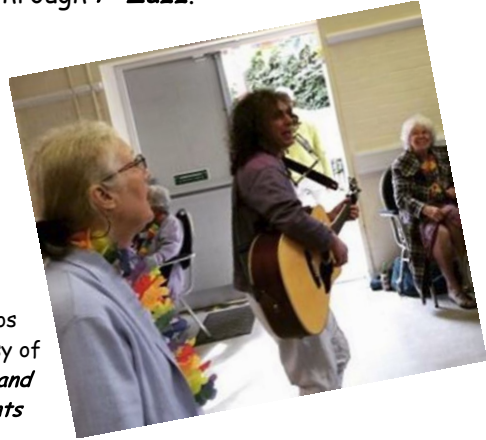
Another care home where Steve used to do monthly sessions is planning on having him back regularly, following a cracking Christmas session in December.

These are further signs of that wider economic upturn. Greece can now look to the future with renewed hope, and there will be further positive repercussions world-wide.



Other work included;

- four sessions in London care homes through *P-Zazz*.



Photos courtesy of *Time and Talents*

- three sessions for Time and Talents [www.timeandtalents.org.uk/](http://www.timeandtalents.org.uk/) i.e. two for the *Stroke Club* (including their birthday party), and a very rowdy sing song for the centre's Summer Party.

[www.facebook.com/timeandtalentsse16/videos/112742465402925/](https://www.facebook.com/timeandtalentsse16/videos/112742465402925/)

Photo courtesy of Silk Court

- three sessions at *Silk Court* in Bethnal Green, two for their virtual cruise and one Christmas sing-song attended by the Mayor of Tower Hamlets. This home (along with others run by *Anchor* which Steve also worked at) was dropping anchors in various virtual waters for about a week at a time, and having multi-media events reflecting each region. Steve covered music sessions for both the Scottish and Welsh stop-overs, although some of the songs he used connected to those countries rather tenuously!



For example a few of the "Scottish" songs were familiar ones about abundant rain, while the Welsh session was an Elvis tribute, on the basis that Wales hosts the largest Presley festival in Europe. Thanks to Silvana Belmonte, the Activities Co-ordinator and very good sport at Silk Court in Bethnal Green, for organising this and for the photo below. Steve feels he must emphasise that THIS WAS NOT HIS IDEA!

## **"CHEEP SHELVES ELVIS"**

Featuring classics such as:

🎵 **Are You Loathsome Tonight** 🎵

**This is my latest cut-price venture. I offer a no-frills deal. It's only for an hour, but it'll feel a lot more. No PA, no lighting, no smoke machine, just a paltry Presley impersonation and some barely adequate musical entertainment at a price any care home can afford.**

**Other trifles dispensed with are:**

- **looking remotely like Elvis**
- **sounding remotely like Elvis**
- **singing any songs he ever performed anywhere.**



"Far from being like Elvis is in the room, it's more like Elvis has left the building, if he was ever there in the first place" Steve quipped.. Close inspection will reveal that "Elvis" is playing left-handed. The image was flipped around deliberately to avoid confusion with the real Elvis. A tighter fitting suit would also have made the illusion too real, and in any case we needed to consider the frail hearts of some of the residents. The home ordered the get-up especially for the occasion and then kindly let Steve keep it after he'd been gyrating in it for an hour in the very warm room. So now a budget Elvis tribute act is another part of what Roy Wells Collage of Music can offer. This Pay-Less Presley joins other no-frills tribute options including "The Budget Bee Gee", "Bargain Basement Björn" (from As-da-bba), Alan Half-Price, Two-for-One Direction, "Jim Morrisons" and "Lidl

Richard" (thanks to Jennifer Liliansdaughter for the last two suggestions, and do email in or facebook any more you can think of).

**LETSwing** [www.roywellscollegeofmusic.org/letswing.html](http://www.roywellscollegeofmusic.org/letswing.html)

This group of musicians play in various combinations, usually with Steve fronting, for audiences in health and social care settings, and occasionally in the wider community. Besides Steve on vocals, percussion, flute and occasional guitar, there are;

- *Hanna Heissenbuettel* on rhythm guitar and vocals
- *Mark Treasure* on bass and occasionally rhythm guitar
- *Hugh Harris* on sax
- and occasional guests (including *Gabriel Gad* on piano and *Ross Anderson* on guitar and bass)

(Hugh was recently a short-listed candidate for a *SAFTA* - music category. Steve's name also came up for a second year running. Sadly this was just an admin error. Great evening it was though, at the *Unicorn Theatre*.

The première of the orchestral version of Hugh's *Pavanne* was performed by the *Philharmonia Britannica* 5th July St Silas church, St Islington, conducted by *Peter Fender* [www.the-angel-orchestra.co.uk/tao/Welcome.html](http://www.the-angel-orchestra.co.uk/tao/Welcome.html) )



Ross Anderson

## LETSwing in health and social care settings

In all there were about 65 LETSwing gigs in health and social care contexts throughout the home counties and beyond since the previous Newsletter in Feb. 2015. Much of this work comes from the organisation *Music in Hospitals*, who's aim is to have residents/patients joining in as much as possible, and this often involves adapting what/how musicians play to accommodate this. Budget cuts have meant that smaller LETSwing ensembles are being called for lately; usually duos and occasionally just Steve on his own, but occasionally as a trio, such as at the lovely Wadhurst Park.

As well as kicking off with Pims, the trio later had afternoon tea with the guests in the beautiful orangery. From that location the fine view of the stunning estate included deer and a lake.

Photos by  
Michael Flegg  
and stakeholders  
(Park and  
*Wadhurst  
Disability  
Group.*)



A LETSwing trio also returned to the *Springwell Centre* (for mental health) - *Barnet Hospital* in April with great feedback "Everyone on unit attended. Continued singing when performers had left!"

The musicians also raised several smiles, plus occasionally a few tears on return visits to *St. Mary's* in Paddington and *Southampton General* Hospitals, once to deliver a double dose of "Happy Birthday".

The musicians also played at several care homes around the South East, including return visits to Bexhill on Sea, and there was often a surprising amount of movement and singing along, given the frail condition of some of the patients/residents.

Although the bulk of LETSwing's work is with older people, their broad musical repertoire enables them to work with people of all ages. For example they entertained disabled children at a Summer garden party in Surrey. One of the highlights was a child-friendly clown interpreting their music in the form of dance. Carers got quite involved, but when they rattled loud percussion they were asked to do so away from the children's faces.



As well as jobs in bucolic regions, where animals such as donkeys and a llama were spotted, Steve had a day trip to Birmingham where he took his own menagerie of soft toys. While there he returned to *Acorns Children's Hospice*, and also played at a post operative rehab. unit at the *City Hospital*.

When it turned out his one day ticket wasn't valid on the bus, the driver let him play songs instead of paying his fee.

Homes and wards make an effort to highlight traditionally significant points in the calendar, and the musicians provide music, costumes etc. accordingly. A LETSwing duo turned up looking suitably horrific to play a Halloween special. The Activities Co-ordinator looked concerned when she saw their ghoulish faces, which made them wish they had worn some make up.

Songs included horrors such as Fire by Arthur Brown, The Monster Mash and Teddy Bears Picnic; (you'd better go careful down in those woods!).

A few days later, a home marking Guy Fawkes were treated to a spectacular display.. of party poppers.

And, of course, there was Christmas.

This picture was published along with a story in East London News, [www.eastlondonnews.co.uk/silk-court-residents-pull-out-all-the-stops-for-xmas/](http://www.eastlondonnews.co.uk/silk-court-residents-pull-out-all-the-stops-for-xmas/) and also in *Bangla News*.



Photo courtesy of  
Silk Court

It is a scientific law that the jingle intensity increases on the lead up to Xmas, along with huge doses of emergency Xmas music plus alcohol-based hand gel (which Steve developed an unhealthily liking for). Steve thinks he may need that helicopter. Perhaps he should approach the Rotary Club for a whip round (Rotor, whip round, do you see?) He was rewarded both financially and with festive treats. Once, he almost succumbed to the temptation to apply some hand gel to a chocolate in order to upgrade it to a liquor chocolate.

Christmas started early and finished late again for LETSwing, the first Christmas gig being on November 20th 2015 and the final one on January 9th 2016 (with full Christmas lunch plus all the trimmings!)

## In the wider community

LETSwing provided a trio for Rushey Green Festival ([www.rusheygreenfestival.co.uk/](http://www.rusheygreenfestival.co.uk/)) where they rose to the challenge of singing outdoors without the aid of microphones (no PA allowed) but the audience did bear with them and filled in the bits they couldn't hear.

Hanna was also running a stall there for her charity *Alanouwaly*. Which had it's own fund-raising event "*Salifest*" in September where LETSwing wowed the audience as a four-piece (a rare and special occurrence these days- the four-piece, not the wowing.)

[www.facebook.com/Alanouwaly.Salifou.Sylla?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/Alanouwaly.Salifou.Sylla?fref=ts) (photo-featured, courtesy of Brazilian group "*Badenhá Fol'*" who played their well-crafted set of Guinean music, which got people dancing)



There was also a LETSwing duo for a *Practical Action* [www.practicalaction.org/](http://www.practicalaction.org/) garden party benefit at Kent House Leisure Gardens.

In December a LETSwing trio gave a free gig at a neighbours Xmas party, which became a jam with other guests on their own instruments.

**green candle**  **dance company**

Steve continued to provided musical input for dance sessions for people with dementia, through Green Candle. These were all on a project basis, the projects being, namely, *Uplift!* In Woodford Green, *Having a Ball!* in Bethnel Green, *Time to Dance* in Poplar and *Shine!* in Edmonton.

Working as a team with a group of residents over a term or more really gives one the opportunity to observe the positive effects of sustained work, and Steve contributed to reports on this. Steve was also asked to write a testimonial for one of the interns. This made him feel very grown up and important.

As with Music in Hospitals, key points in the year were highlighted, with music, costume and props. On Chinese New Year for example, a dragon joined the dance and weaved it's undulating form around the room to the sound of cymbals and gong, granting us all good luck. Easter had them decorating Easter Bonnets ready for an Easter Parade around the room to the Irving Berlin song, and in the Summer Term there was much pagan goings on to celebrate the blossoming of the may with maypole and Morris dances..

Many elderly residents often show a readiness to dance. For example, once before a session had even begun, one participant grooved in her chair to the sound of Steve inflating a beach ball with a pump.. "It is quite a rhythmic noise, reminiscent of some early German industrial techno" she observed. (She didn't. That's just us being silly again.)

Having dementia as most/all of the residents do, they often come out with unexpected things which the team do their best to respond to. Life is never dull and there is a constant air of joy, even celebration, where although everyone is, to and extent, in their own world, there is still a degree of coming together in the moment.

"You've been a bit daft but we've had some fun" one resident said. (Steve was a bit disappointed by the "bit" daft, when he was going for off the scale barking daft.)

## Rhythm work (in and out of schools)

### Community Scrapbands (CS)



Community Scrapbands/*Beats Recycling* (it does what it says WITH the tin)-  
(More about "community scrapbands" here on the website:

[www.roywellscollageofmusic.org/communityscrapbands.html](http://www.roywellscollageofmusic.org/communityscrapbands.html))

## BEATS RECYCLING GOES ALL ARTS AND CRAFTS !

### "CRAFT SHAKERS"



"Rubbing shoulders with today's young entrepreneurs has made us realise that we've been far too modest about our own achievements. We're not all just about bashing tins and stuff; there is an artisanal quality to a lot of what we do. So we thought it was about time we showcased our beautifully hand crafted shakers.

It's hard to believe that these attractive musical instruments (seen left - photo by Marcus Armstrong) were made out of those discarded little bottles you get for lemon juice, but they were! We took these bottles and transformed them, by filling them lovingly with bits of old stones and stuff. Or rather, as our design team are keen point out; "we didn't fill them, we PART filled them".

Years of research and development have shown that completely filling the internal space is counter-productive, as there needs to be room for the stuff to move around inside the container, in order for it to produce a sound when the vessel is shaken.

It's incite such as this which makes Community Scrapbands/Beats Recycling one of today's leading music organisations.

### Junk Percussion Workshops

In March 2015 Steve ran a morning of four junk-percussion playing workshops through *Creative Volt* at an "*Interactive Music Day*" in Colchester, for about 120 girls from 15 different troops of Guides and Brownies, but not all at once. Four groups rotated throughout the morning, visiting Steve's own workshop, plus Samba/Afro-Cuban Percussion, Chinese Music and Dance and African Drumming, all run by other facilitators.

These other facilitators had turned up with van-loads of attractive instruments, and one facilitator was in a colourful traditional costume. Steve, however, had turned up on foot with a well-worn wheelie-case full of tatty old tins and tubs, plus some old chop-sticks to hit them with. Fortunately the content of his workshop was good enough to compensate for it's lack of physical beauty.

There was also one day of bashing for *Nimble Arts* at their *Sound Lab Holiday Play Club* at Goose Green School in East Dulwich. Four different groups of kids aged 4 -11 became community scrapbands and rattled those pots and pans.

- Community Scrapbands also saved the world in Hastings for *Eight Foot Square*, where a steady tide of passers-by of all ages got stuck in throughout a gloriously sunny afternoon beating out some sick urban rhythms, such as "*Down by the Seaside*" "*Rabbits and Horses*" and "Polly Put the Kettle on" (inspired by an old fashioned bijou kettle someone found in a skip that day.)

[www.hastingsobserver.co.uk/news/local/have-a-go-at-circus-skills-during-free-community-event-on-stade-1-6912982](http://www.hastingsobserver.co.uk/news/local/have-a-go-at-circus-skills-during-free-community-event-on-stade-1-6912982)

Steve ventured deep into Surrey on a mission to save the world by hitting things again, for the first morning of a hen weekend with 17 lovely young doctors, lawyers, nurses... They also provided him with coffee, cocktails and kept him entertained with witty repartee.

They'd found Steve on *Frogger*:

[www.frogger.com/locations/steve-barbe-london/listings/beats-recycling](http://www.frogger.com/locations/steve-barbe-london/listings/beats-recycling) and when they'd explained what they wanted, they negotiated a reasonable fee together; just something Steve could afford.

- Ran a Beats Recycling workshop for adopted teenagers through *Street Style Surgery*. These kids were very funny and also rhythmically gifted, to the extent that they left their project co-ordinators floundering on a few occasions and unable to keep up with their funky beats.

<http://www.streetstylesurgery.co.uk/>



Last year saw the final junk percussion session for Outward. Learning disabled adults had been bashing stuff to save the world with Steve for two and a half years, including the "bang bangs" for Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

## Drumming

Steve gave a couple of hand-drumming workshops for *St. Mungo's* homelessness charity through Cooltan Arts.

One of these was at the beautiful *London Wildlife Trusts* Nature Park in Camley Street for for *Mental Health Awareness Week*. It's hard to believe when you're there that you're only a few hundred meters from St. Pancras International.

[www.facebook.com/HNGStressProject/photos/a.563006970508125.1073741828.562214740587348/563043110504511](http://www.facebook.com/HNGStressProject/photos/a.563006970508125.1073741828.562214740587348/563043110504511)

**Festival in the park**  
To celebrate mental health awareness week

**BBQ music comedy and stalls**  
loads of fun and sun!



Photos by Kevin Ireland

- Presented the old Ghanaian song-story "Mr. Hawk and Mother Hen" at "*A Celebration of Africa*" benefit for the *Pan African Book Foundation* (in Black History Month) at St. Mary's Church in Battersea, a spectacular location right on the river.

Some very cute kids got up from the pews to join Steve on the drumming and the singing bits, and there was more clapping and singing along from the pews (or rather the people sitting on the pews).

Steve led one of the after-school drumming clubs at *Holbeach Primary School* through Alanouwaly.

## Other Instrumental Tuition

Steve gave a guitar lesson to one of the participants at the voice class in Henley. So now beginner's guitar lessons are another string to Steve's—er---bow.

## Early Years work

Steve ran a pre-school music session for *Sam and Beth Childminding* - a local child-minding service. It was the first time Steve's cut-out leaves had made an appearance since last autumn.

[www.childcare.co.uk/profile/352595](http://www.childcare.co.uk/profile/352595)

One of the children came back on Tuesday and her mum said she had been talking non stop all weekend

[www.facebook.com/samandbethchildminding/?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/samandbethchildminding/?fref=ts)

Video link:

[www.facebook.com/samandbethchildminding/videos/1666523610299060/](https://www.facebook.com/samandbethchildminding/videos/1666523610299060/)



Photos by  
Beth Moyler



(Three little ducks  
just about to go for  
a swim one day.)

## Miscellaneous titbits

**Cooltan Arts** - Steve was involved in a campaign to save this organisation which he has worked for over many years. It is felt by many that their CEO has been treated very unfairly in her protracted suspension which is jeopardising the organisation's future.

**Hourbank** - Apart from playing at the Christmas Party, Steve represented Hourbank at two other events:

1. *Nunhead Cemetery Open Day* where he helped on the Hourbank stall
2. *Age UK Lambeth and Southwark AGM* where he talked informally with delegates over refreshments.

His creative writing was also included along with that of other Hourbank members in a new book of work reflecting urban isolation just published by *Vanguard Editions*.

**Guardian Interview** - Steve gave a telephone interview to a Guardian journalist *Sam Bungey* who was writing about "eventing" (i.e. ligger) lifestyles. (As it happens, he also thought that the previous Newts Letter was "pretty funny".) Living in a state of precarious self employment, as many social entrepreneurs and sole traders do, attending free events with refreshments provides networking opportunities as well as vital nourishment. Steve also takes an eco-warrior stance and does his best to rescue food left over at the end.

As a regular blood donor, Steve would also like to point out that a lot of this food which he ingests goes into producing an abundance of high quality life sustaining fluid, which he then passes on to those in need. It's a generous act of philanthropy in fact, and he asks for no thanks, just for ongoing invitations to Champaign receptions so that he can continue the selfless good work.



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Edited by Steve Barbe assisted by Marcus Armstrong.

*Printed on recycled, low CO2 paper & in "ECO" mode to save ink.*