

# ROY WELLS' COLLAGE OF MUSIC

Occasional News Letter - Vol.1 No.8 Aug 2012  
*Super Olympian Bumper Dumper Issue!*

## TINGLE FACTORY NEWS

[www.myspace.com/tinglefactory](http://www.myspace.com/tinglefactory)

Steve played for a full hour at the **Riverside Summer Fair** (organised by **Southwark Arts Forum**), where he found himself competing with a giant water feature (apart from the river that is). He performed Tingle Factory songs as well as a few covers.



**RIVERSIDE SUMMER FAIR**

**28 July 2012 12-5pm**  
**Family Friendly**

**Art,  
Craft,  
Jewellery,  
Performance  
& Fun!**

**Hay's Galleria  
Southbank  
between London Bridge  
and Tower Bridge**

contact Alex Ressel for more info:  
[alex@southwarkartsforum.org](mailto:alex@southwarkartsforum.org)  
[www.southwarkartsforum.org](http://www.southwarkartsforum.org)

"Enchanting"  
"Stunning set"  
(Southwark  
Arts  
Forum)



Photo courtesy of  
Jady Tran

## TINGLE FACTORY NEWS (cont'd)

Steve has also been working hard promoting his own music at open-mic spots. He was at **The Star** in Dorking, (**No Angry Man's** old haunt, where he met up with some old friends)...

The Star  
Dorking



...at **House Gallery** in Camberwell, twice at **The Green Dragon** in Croydon, (where his set included "Toad in a Hole". Video watchable at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7Upt2Sdg54>), and at **The Cock and Bull** in Guernsey. Here, he "sampled" some fine ales - including one on the house for his efforts (after which he managed to get home and crash without waking his mum).

Steve has been crow-barring all this in between his community music work.

## Work in the community

Steve felt a bit pressured at times with work, especially during the brief heatwave, but his home-made deodorant performed very well. As he runs so many different types of music activity, and storytelling, his minuscule flat is packed with paper work and resources of all kinds; from files full of old time songs, to bags of props used with early years children. He even turned down a leisure trip to Brighton. He thought his time would be better spent organising his soft toys and puppets into taxonomic groups.

## Songs in the community

**LETSwing** (<http://www.myspace.com/letswingband>)

LETSwing continue working through **Music in Hospitals (MiH)** with great feedback. As they have been going for about 15 years now, they have had to keep pace with the music of the older demographic's teenage years, and their repertoire now includes some **Elton John**.

Music  
Education  
UK



LETSwing were pleased to have this mention by **Catherine Pestano** in **Music Education UK** (issue 2 - February 2012) under **Music, Health and Well-Being** on page 48 - *"In hospitals and older people's homes across the land , musicians are being invited in to help address issues of isolation and withdrawal. Arriving as entertainers, LETSwing play age appropriate standards but bring instruments and aim to encourage as much participation as possible. "Staff are often surprised at how residents respond, often dancing, playing and singing along where normally they would be withdrawn and non-verbal," observed Steve Barbe, lead musician. The **Alzheimer's Society** has also taken up this theme with their carefully designed singing and movement programme, **Singing for the Brain.**"* Guests also often hand-jive and "conduct".

There is a trend for the "Dementia Cafe" at various day centres, where guests shake, rattle and roll along with the band.



LETSSwing are thankful to our special guests, who cover when core players are not available.

For example **Gabrielle Gad** (pictured right) stepped in for an Olympic themed concert at **Baxendale Woodside Home**. Other guests have recently included **Chris Leeds** and **Ross Anderson**.



Gabby with "Algiers Stompers"

Usually Steve is there, but occasionally he is busy elsewhere, in which case the gig can still go ahead. For example, **Mark, Hugh** and **Hannah** played at **The Royal British Legion** in Broadstairs, where they were specifically asked to include songs which *did* "mention the war".

Not all concerts are with the older demographic. In June they were on Her Majesty's Secret Service for a Jubilee gig at **Trekkers Camp** for disabled people at **Woodlarks** in Farnham, where the theme was "James Bond". LETSSwing banged their heads together, and the best they could come up with (by way of a nod to the theme) from their existing repertoire was "**Teddy Bears Picnic**". (You'd better go in disguise.... beneath the trees where nobody sees..." etc.) Such a song may normally be considered non-PC in such a context (too patronising) but we would rather see it as kitsch-chic. Anyway it went down stormingly.

There also seemed to be another theme running completely in parallel with this one, and this was to do with a significant date in the reign of some monarch or other.... although they weren't really paying much attention.

Anyhoo, themes aside, the gig was a riot, and they saw some very creative wheel-chair dancing., and were also provided with cake and delicious Martinis, "shaken, but not shtirred.)



Trekkers Camp



## Steve out on his own

Now and again Steve is asked to play solo for MiH, for example recently two concerts in Maidstone.



"Steve reacted and made his performance perfect for our residents. We would love to see him again."  
*Betsy Clara Nursing Home, Maidstone.*

Another regular client recently has been **Time and Talents (T&T)**. For example he provided "Old English Songs" at a St. Georges Day event for over 60s.

Steve said "Oh well, if that's REALLY what they want, then I've got a lovely bunch of coconuts for them; even though coconuts are from the Caribbean (as are Mangoes, bananas and other fruits which will also feature in calypsos which I'll include whether they like them or not, that's how rock-and-roll I am.)" He also presented a more interactive session on a workshop basis at T&T 2 months later.



Steve performing with Alan Glen

Regular monthly sessions continue with **Three C's** and **Robertson Street Project**, and weekly ones with **Equinox**.

He also played some blues and rock'n'roll with renowned harmonica player **Alan Glen** at the **Jubilee Party** in his local tenants' hall.

## Community Choirs



Steve sang with **John Donne Community Choir** at the culmination of "The School's Happiness Week" and again at the end of the summer term. He also sang with **The Caribbean Community Choir** at **Brockley Societie's** summer barbeque. As far as singing goes, you just can't shut this man up, neither for love nor money.

## Other regular music work in the community

### Guitar teaching on the HOurBank

Steve doesn't normally teach on a one-to-one basis, but is sometimes persuaded. He finds teaching a good motivation for scrutinising his own playing. He cast his mind back to when he was a beginner himself, and changing chords was painfully slow. These days he often prefers to wear shorts.

He was an HOurBank rep. at **The London TimeBank** New Year party at Cafe de Paris. We will now have to wait and see what happens to Hourbank now that **Peckham Settlement** (where their office was) has closed down.



Cafe de Paris

## Bootleg Bee Gees

Of course, "showbiz is all hair and teeth" and Steve is not yet deficient in either. He played **Robin Gibb** (not Barry this time) with Bootleg Bee Gees, in a pilot called "Fakin' Favourites" about tribute bands, by **Westminster University** students. (These days always Robin, never Batman - it's a *# Tragedy #*.) Steve used his hot disco moves for the band's live gig at **The Benn Hall** in Rugby. (He had these specially rehearsed and ready; after all, if he'd got them wrong it would have been a *# Travesty #*.)



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

*# I've Just Gotta Get  
a Message to You #*

If Robin can read this...

"you are officially invited to  
make your presence felt at  
our next gig".

## Cultural and Faith Groups

### Christchurch Clapham

Steve led the congregational drumming group for services on **Mothering Sunday, Pentecost, The 150th Anniversary Service**, and a special eucharist visited by the **Bishop of Southwark, Rev. Christopher Chessun**. For the Bishop's service Steve composed and rehearsed some new rhythms with the drumming group. Services are an eclectic mix of C of E High Church, modern praise hymns, and African drumming with some spontaneous dancing. Lovely food after in the vicarage grounds and hall as well, and some more of that wine they let everyone taste in the church. More tea vicar? No, mines a Burgundy. Steve also provided some songs for a Jubilee garden party at the vicarage.



Mothering  
Sunday  
daffodil

## Tiddlers (Storytelling and music for babies and toddlers)

Steve's monthly input continues for the early years sessions at **Christchurch** in Barry Road SE22. Although the venue is a URC church, *God insists that non-Christian babies are welcome too; be they Muslim babies, Jewish babies, Buddhist babies, pagan babies, atheist babies, existentialist babies....., or simply babies who've not yet made up their minds.*

## COOLTAN<sup>©</sup> ARTS

Steve was hired for some interactive drumming on their **MayDay Cultural Walk** starting at **The Tate Modern**, and finishing at Camberwell Green for the unveiling ceremony of the new CoolTan Arts **bench sculpture**.



Photos sourced from CoolTan Arts Facebook page

## Community Scrapbands (CS)

<http://www.myspace.com/communityscrapbands>



Steve provided an ongoing junk percussion activity in the Early Years Space for **Finsbury Arts Festival** at **St. Luke's Community Centre** with **TalkAction**.



A similar activity was provided for a **Green Day** run by Friary Environmental Network .



Community Scrapbands are also pleased to have found a new client **Parrabbola**, who have so far engaged CS for The Danson Festival and **Hollington Summer Fayre** at **Churchwood Community Primary School**, St. Leonard's-on-sea.

### Music House for Children

Steve gave some hand drumming tuition at Music House for Children's "Instrumental Extravaganza Day".

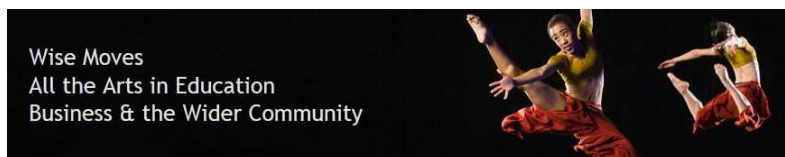
<http://www.musichouseforchildren.co.uk/PDF/InstrumentalExtravaganzaPoster.pdf>



### Storytelling

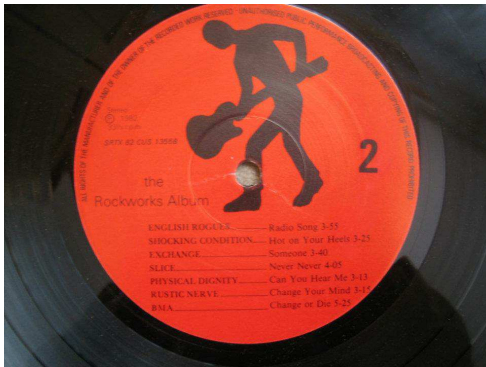
Steve has always incorporated storytelling along with his music for early years. He tried something new last term however, telling stories (with music) from The British Isles for **Manor House Independent School's** theme week, in Little Bookham, for children up to and including year 7. This was through "**Wise Moves**".

Steve doesn't normally work for the **Posh Sector**, but on this occasion was won over by the apple crumble.



RARE OBJECT UNEARTHED NEAR DORKING!

# The Rockworks album



One expert described the find as a one foot diameter flat disc with a hole in the middle. "It's a one foot diameter flat disc with a hole in the middle" he said. (If anyone knows of any similar objects, we would be very interested to hear from them.)

The artefact includes the voice of singer Steve Barbe when he was about 22, singing with two different bands: No Angry Man and **Slice**, along with a selection of tracks by other bands from the area. All these bands we connected through the organisation Rockworks run by **David Joy**, which showcased local acts at **The White Hart**, Bear Green.

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*Steve does most of his social networking these days on FACEBOOK,*

[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1576685688](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1576685688)

*where he also occasionally posts events open to the public.*

*Please search on Facebook for "Steve Barbe London".*



See the main RWCM website: [www.myspace.com/rwcmstevebarbe](http://www.myspace.com/rwcmstevebarbe)

Email: [rwcstevebarbe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rwcstevebarbe@yahoo.co.uk)

Edited by Steve Barbe assisted by Marcus Armstrong

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