

# ROY WELLS' COLLAGE OF MUSIC



Occasional News Letter - Vol.1 No.10 Apr 2014

Humdinger issue - shorter version!! Featuring Roy Wells as the commentator

<http://www.ideastap.com/People/stevebarbe>

<https://soundcloud.com/steve-barbe>

**Nominated and shortlisted for a SAFTA!**



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghNSQPsjAGY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghNSQPsjAGY)

*Candidates were asked to wear cocktail dresses or lounge suits.*

*The above picture shows that Steve opted for a guitar shaped codpiece.*

**Steve Barbe** was shortlisted in the music category (won by Corsica Studios). He was also invited on stage to accompany Michelle Baharier CEO of *Cooltan Arts* to receive their "*Celebrating Diversity*" category award. Steve has been involved with Cooltan since the mid 90's, and his music was used for the film "*Innovation in Mad Culture*" (see RWCM Newsletter Vol. 1 No. 6 - Sept 2011), including a guest appearance from *Ruby Wax*.

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*Roy Wells* took it all very seriously of course, and is making the most of it, as it's completely "his bag", commenting: "It seems like only 40 years ago that Steve didn't make even vaguely musical noises with the Guernsey 2nd Company Boys Brigade Band, and only 30 years ago that he didn't get a major recording deal with EMI Records! This has been a dizzying climb to the heights of relative obscurity. It's all happened so quickly! Who knows, in another ten years time he might neither be awarded a Mercury prize for his CD, nor a BAFTA prize for his video. But he knows how quickly these things can pass, so he's enjoying them while they last."

Tribute to **Richard Muzira**, who was very involved in the making of "Innovation in Mad Culture", and who sadly died last year:

<http://www.cooltanarts.org.uk/2013/11/tribute-to-richard-muzira/>

**OCM presents The Industry Talks –  
Earning a living in the music industry**

Oxford  
Contemporary  
Music



Steve spoke to thirty 6th form Oxford & Cherwell Valley College music students at this event in January about RWCM, and ways to generate income from community music while balancing it with one's own creative work.

The 10 minute talk can be heard here:

<http://www.ocmevents.org/ocm/tools/music/player?track=846>

# TINGLE FACTORY NEWS...

*Steve's own original music and videos*

<http://stevebarbe.ideastap.com/Project/93d2faed-2c7d-460a-a8e6-a22300a3915f/tingle-factory>

and follow Steve on Facebook

It has been a busy few months, including the following events:

- Two evenings with Lady D's "Simply the best showcase" at Camden People's Theatre
- and one at T. Chances in Tottenham. To see Steve at the showcase:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRct59cTCA8&index=6&list=ULq7Upt2Sdg54>
- Street performing at St Alban's "Summer in the city" (3 days of busking) and
- East Dulwich "Christmas Cracker"
- "Our Big Gig" at Harmony Hall E17  
[www.superact.org.uk/ourbiggig/componenent/obg\\_events/355?view=obgevent&Itemid=483](http://www.superact.org.uk/ourbiggig/componenent/obg_events/355?view=obgevent&Itemid=483)
- Southwark Arts Forum (SAF) Summer Fair. Steve returned to Hayes Galleria for the third year in succession - this time for both days. (SAF informs Steve that his recorded music was also played at a pop-up fair at Borough Market which they ran.)
- Open-mic session at The Star in Dorking.



- "Toad in a Hole" (the pop video) - screening. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7Upt2Sdg54](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7Upt2Sdg54) This video (about annual spawning journeys) made it's longest journey so far in September to share it's story on the screen at Onca Gallery in Brighton, alongside those of other animals. It received a warm reception, along with Steve's introduction. Onca is run in partnership with Sussex Wildlife Trust and the film fitted the theme of "journeys" perfectly.

## Keeping up with the past



Photo courtesy of  
Coralie Moynihan

At the Cock and Bull in Guernsey with Nick Windsor. (Those are the lights of the vast metropolis of St. Peter Port shining through the window, outshone only by Steve's radioactive trousers.)

## A toast to



with jam  
(and other old preserves)

Roy commented: *"Jolly jams at The Jolly Farmers continue to be jolly good fun! It's great for Steve to meet up with old Slice members Andy and Ed again after all these years (and the fine new drummer Alan)."*



Photo courtesy of  
Julia Edgington

## Early Years work and primary



### *Icarus 1*

*Ready for launch and positioned with the correct end pointing upwards - as far as the slightly wonky nose-cone will allow.*

*(Incorrect positioning in the past led to this kink in the first place.)*

*Duck, mouse and elephant are included in the picture to provide a sense of scale.*

**Tiddlers** takes place at Christchurch on Barry Road, and the "worship and praise" element is entirely at participants discretion. The attendees are asked not to overdo it though, as it may go to Steve's head. Sessions are always on a Monday, and often follow Jolly Jam on a Sunday night. So Steve has to transform himself from the rutting stag of rock, to a sunny, delightful family-friendly marmoset after too little sleep.

Steve likes to make the theme resonate with children's own experiences (like the weather, times in the calendar etc). For example, around Guy Fawkes Steve produced his space-rocket - Icarus 1 - pictured above (made from plastic bottles). After a discussion on firework rockets, this took Steve and the kids to Mars and beyond, and they sang all the way. This rocket is about 10 years old now, and scorched from successive flights too near to the sun. It is probably the only re-usable multi-stage rocket in existence. It comes with its own instructions written on the outside. For example, "This Way Up".

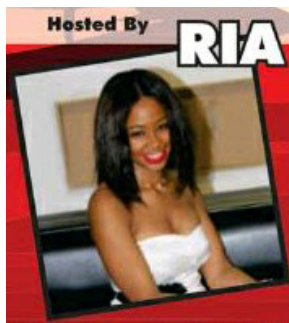
For Autumn half-term, Steve worked with Nimble Arts for a Halloween themed song-writing day at a holiday play scheme, with horrific results fortunately.



# Rhythm work in and out of schools

## African drumming

At the same Christchurch, Steve ran a drumming activity for "Our Celebration of Africa" for Asi Munisi of the Pan-African Book Foundation in October.



The congregational drumming group, led by Steve Barbe, continued at the other *Christchurch* in *Clapham*. (By this we do mean "the other Christchurch" as opposed to "The Church of the Other Christ".)

There were also a few whole/half days of African drumming workshops in schools. One was at a club for teenagers with learning difficulties in Harlow, and the other at a junior school in Norwood.

Steve also stood-in as facilitator for the after school drum club at *Holbeach School* in Lewisham, through Alanouwaly (run by his colleague Hanna who plays guitar with LETSwing).

## Community Scrapbands (CS)

<http://stevebarbe.ideastap.com/Project/2c902f06-e5e3-4a79-9cbc-a22300e9309a/community-scrapbands>



Community Scrapbands has an effective waste reduction strategy. It reduces waste by hitting it repeatedly with a stick.

In the Autumn they embarked on a new bi-weekly junk percussion project for housing charity "Outward". This is held at a music club in Waltham Forest for adults with learning difficulties.



Other CS work included:

- Peckham Peace Picnic (in its second year)



This bijou djembe has some damage and therefore occasionally joins Steve's junk collection.

Peckham Space/John Clare Photography

- Finsbury Arts Festival (for a second year)



"Spending Time, Building Community"

- Two "Bring and Fix" events for Peckham Hour Bank. (At the second of these Steve also sang some impromptu Tingle Factory songs, as well as being re-cycling monitor for the day.)



There were also three days of Community Scrapbands in schools. One close to home in Lewisham, one in Hendon, and one in Wootton (Northants).

At a networking event Steve attended last year, someone remembered him from a Community Scrapband project at *Sacred Heart Secondary School* (around 2005), where he joined in as a 6th form student. He told Steve that it had inspired him to continue with drumming, and he now facilitates with a youth project group *Kinetica Bloco*.

Community Scrapbands has the slogan "Bash stuff and save the world - beats re-cycling!". It has been running since 1999 and it seems to be working in that the world - thus far at least - has survived.

## Work in health and social care...

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

Goodbye to music sessions for Equinox.

# Equinox

2013 unfortunately saw an end to weekly music sessions at Brook Drive (a short-stay drug detox unit) after several years, due to funding restrictions.

Sessions were organised roughly on a rotation basis using:

1. Rhythm based activities with drums
2. Open tuning drone based "Indianesque" sessions
3. John Stevens/Rod Paton type approaches with various instruments
4. Song based and lyric writing sessions

Steve wishes all the people who took part over the years the best with their music, and with their lives in general.



## Regular work

### Monthly sessions continue for Thames Reach and Three Cs

Staff often seem to get as much from the music sessions as the residents do, which is a positive result as happy staff help make a happy care environment. One of the residents at Robertson Street Project wanted an additional session at her birthday party in December. She paid for it out of her own budget and specifically requested some rock music, so he learned "Living on a Prayer" by Bon Jovi. When it came to the key-change he hoped that it didn't really matter if he made it or not.

### Green Candle Dance Company

Steve took on three new projects ("*Uplift*", "*Having a Ball*" and "*Remember to Dance*") providing live music for movement based sessions for people with dementia.

Green Candle Dance Company is based at **Oxford House**.

(The photograph to the right shows Steve at Oxford House for Cooltan's "Nutty Professors" exhibition. See RWCM Newsletter Vol. 1 No. 3 - July 2010.)



Photo courtesy of Emma Thatcher

Green Candle has long believed that dance is one of the best prevention measures for dementia and has significant benefits for people already living with the condition. Researchers from the *Sidney de Haan Research Centre for Arts and Health* at *Christchurch University*, Canterbury, are evaluating "Remember to Dance" to ascertain how the sessions impact the health and well-being of the participants. Steve got this work partly on the strength of his involvement with LETSwing, whose repertoire he is using and extending in this work.

Many songs have been about rain lately



Photo courtesy of Tim Sutton and Green Candle

# LETSwing

<http://stevebarbe.ideastap.com/Project/ebbd871b-def6-4550-9092-a22300e97647/letswing>

Since the last newsletter in April 2013 LETSwing have performed about 40 concerts in southern England, much of this is in the health and social care sector, mostly through Music in Hospitals (MiH). When concerts begin it can be a struggle to get focus, but the audience are gradually won over, and by the end the place is rocking.

LETSwing provide anything from one (usually Steve) to four players, or even more with guests, as when Gabrielle Gad joined them for a public jam at the *Hill Station Cafe* in Telegraph Hill in February 2014.



Steve had an opportunity in Autumn 2013 to talk about LETSwing at "*Tales of Transformation*" (a benefit concert for MiH) at *Kings Place* in Camden. His ambassador role was to talk and inspire audience members with stories and anecdotes from his time working for MiH. MiH do sterling work, providing entertainment for people in long term care, the vital enrichment to what can otherwise be a dull existence. Given his poor sales technique, it was good that his story was included in the program along with that of other artists, as this was far better than his patter.

Here are some examples of concerts throughout the last year..

## **Solo work**

As a soloist Steve can respond quickly to job offers, which sometimes come at two hours notice. The main challenge is to make himself look smart.

Before



After



**Ensemble work** - Steve also recruits players from the LETSwing pool when more than one player is required.

*For example Mark Treasure seen here on the left.*

Photo courtesy of  
Bankside Open Spaces Trust  
(BOST)



E.g. at a 90th birthday celebration in Eltham all four core players fitted quite comfortably into and on top of one Volvo, with all PA and instruments, including Steve's dinky-drum-kit.

It was a real mixed-age event from babies upwards, and the dance floor became full towards the end. Straight after the gig Steve's fridge was crammed with doggy-bag food, and his bank account was more healthy by several tens of pounds.

If you want a very reasonably priced beat combo who play songs ranging from Lambeth Walk to Three Little Birds, then you could do worse than to book LETSwing. They'll even take away your left over food for you at no extra charge.

## Miscellaneous

**BOOTLEG BEEGEEES:** The day after the gig Steve's breakfast included left-overs from the night before's take-away. (Cold and congealed curry sauce, mushy peas which were less than mushy - cos they too had congealed - were both eaten with reduced-to-clear stale bread.) This was on the car ride back from Blackpool, after the 2nd gig with the Bootleg BeeGees on a bank holiday weekend. These are the vertiginous heights the band have reached, playing caravan camps in Wales and Lancashire.

Talking of vertiginous heights, they had a good view of Blackpool Tower wrapped in it's neon glow.

Following their final set the DJ made the crowd get jiggy with holiday pop music so moronic that in retrospect it made our tribute covers sound like art.

**Community Choirs:** John Donne Community Choir - Summer 2013  
Steve joined the choir for "*Wishes, Lies and Dreams*" - a new work by Kate Whitley at *Bold Tendencies* in Peckham.

**Sounding Board features:** Steve covered the *Music Education Expo* 20-21 March 2013 (<http://www.musiceducationexpo.co.uk/>) along with *Catherine Pestano* for the national journal of community music - "*Sounding Board*" (2013 Issue 1 - pages 7 & 8) giving it a qualified thumbs up.

He also spoke up in the same journal (issue 2 page 8) for training vs accreditation, in response to an *Artworks* Platform "Do Participatory Artists Benefit from Accreditation?" at the *Barbican*.



See the main RWCM webpages: <http://www.ideastap.com/People/stevebarbe>  
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