



Friends of

Newsletter No.8
Christmas 2015



friends@musicpool.org.uk

Dear Friends

As a *Friend of The Music Pool* you no doubt are asked sometimes to explain what we do!! I must admit I am often a bit lost for words when people ask me!

They think we deal in music. Correct. Maybe we are an orchestra that is aiming to produce able musicians? Not really, other very capable people do that. So what is *The Music Pool* all about?

Our entry in the Charity Commission's directory states that "we are a social development and community charity, aiming to enhance the quality of life and well-being for people of all ages, abilities, disabilities, and financial means."

There we are, that's clear! In the last year we ran over 40 projects of varying size, for toddlers to older folk. We are busy! Just look at what we're doing in Herefordshire in this month alone:

- 13 sessions for adults with special needs, 11 for young people & children with special needs
- 18 sessions for pre-school children, some with their parents
- 6 sessions for older/retired people
- 5 all-day pre-school and school music days
- 3 *Livewire* sessions for young people at the Castle Green Pavilion
- That's 56 sessions in total - averaging almost 2 sessions *every single day* of December!

If you browsed through our project appraisals you would be impressed by the vast number of extremely positive comments.

There is the young person involved in our *Livewire* youth project who wrote, "being in *Livewire* has saved my life, and now I want to study music at college." Or how about the sixty-year-old who told us how wonderful it is being in *The Garrick Singers*. She loves the singing and now has a large circle of friends who enjoy meeting up every week. Finally the comments from teachers who had volunteered their children in their schools for *Sing Spring In* were "brilliant, engaging, very effective, really helpful and encouraging".

I could go on but the point is made that no matter where *The Music Pool* gets involved outcomes are positive. We have a large number of excellent leaders with a wide range of skills ready to produce more life-changing outcomes across the range of people in and around our county.

What *The Music Pool* constantly seeks is the necessary finance to fund further projects. Our grateful thanks go to anyone who has generously [donated](#) during this year, helping to raise over £8,500! We are forever hunting out grants, donations and trust funding. Rob our Director and Dennis are brilliant at this but there is only so much around, and so we need to raise funds ourselves. What I do ask is that if you have the time and inclination to volunteer to help out, just contact the staff in the office and they will advise you as to the best form of help you can give. Currently we have two major events being led by our new fundraising events organiser Helen Cotterell. A *Burns Night Supper and Reels* is planned for 30th January in *Lyde Arundel*, and another *Hog Roast and Ceilidh*, with *Bandemonium* performing, on June 11th in the barns at Caradoc, which proved very popular last year. Two dates for your diary!

As you can see, there is so much to tell you about *The Music Pool* but I hope these few words will help to explain what we do!

Robin N Cox (Chairman, Board of Trustees)



A Merry Christmas from the whole team at The Music Pool

Rob Dennis/11 Mina

Your [support and donations](#) help to keep The Music Pool afloat. Thank you!

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2016 DIARY DATES

sneak
peek ahead

Garrick Singers (Courtyard 12.00 & 2.00)	Mon 11 th Jan
Garrick Singers (Courtyard 12.00 & 2.00)	Mon 18 th Jan
Garrick Singers (Courtyard 12.00 & 2.00)	Mon 25 th Jan
Burns Night Supper & Reels – Lyde Arundel	Sat 30 th Jan
Garrick Singers (Courtyard 12.00 & 2.00)	Mon 1 st Feb
Saturday Café – Jon Watson	Sat 6 th Feb
Garrick Singers (Courtyard 12.00 & 2.00)	Mon 8 th Feb
Saturday Café – Mike Graver & Erika Lyons	Sat 13 th Feb
Garrick Singers (Courtyard 12.00 & 2.00)	Mon 22 nd Feb
Saturday Café – Ludlow Jazz Quartet	Sat 27 th Feb
Garrick Singers (Courtyard 12.00 & 2.00)	Mon 29 th Feb
Garrick Singers (Courtyard 12.00 & 2.00)	Mon 7 th March
Garrick Singers (Courtyard 12.00 & 2.00)	Mon 14 th March
Saturday Café – Box Band	Sat 19 th March
Garrick Singers (Courtyard 12.00 & 2.00)	Mon 21 st March
Saturday Café – Gary Hall	Sat 26 th March

Please remember...

giving a bit
to charity by shopping

By using **Giving A Bit**, you can support **The Music Pool** when shopping online!

There are over 80 participating retailers including big names such as Amazon, Argos, Domino's, M&S, Sainsbury's, Waitrose and MANY more.

YOU DON'T PAY A PENNY

it's the retailers that make the donation!

You can now download the **FORGET ME NOT** widget, that makes your online shopping experience even easier!

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THE MUSIC POOL - 2015 HIGHLIGHTS IN PICTURES



Sing Spring In attracted over 2,220 children from 44 schools across Herefordshire.



The Dean of Hereford (here with Dennis on a leg of his walk) raised over £1,500 for The Music Pool.



This December, **Yam Jams** enjoyed record attendance of 70 enthusiastic participants!



Over 200 singers, aged 8 to over 80, took part in **The Gathering Wave**, final event of the Three Choirs Festival. An audience of almost 1,000 attended the Cathedral concert.

Photo by Derek Foxton



Livewire Central returned from its short hiatus with a week-intensive during Autumn half term, thanks to funding from **Youth Music**.



Whiskey River, just one of the many bands entertaining the crowds at **Old Market** over the May bank & August Summer holidays.

[click to watch video of folk dancing to the music!](#)