

Music Alive

Annual report and accounts

June 1 2004 – May 31 2005

Registered Charity Number 1093868, Company Limited by Guarantee Number 4441222

Music Alive

Bentham House, Purton, Swindon, Wiltshire SN5 4HZ; Tel 01793 770699
musicalive@v21.me.uk

Status

Music Alive is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status and as such it is bound by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Purpose

To offer opportunities and support for disabled people to make and appreciate music in Wiltshire and the surrounding area.

Aims

- To improve access to music for disabled people.
- To initiate and develop creative music making with disabled and non-disabled musicians.
- To support disabled people who wish to achieve more independent, fulfilled and integrated lives.

Objectives

- To provide access to Music Alive's resource of well-equipped Music Rooms and information.
- To provide opportunities for disabled people who wish to participate in the cultural life of the community.
- To provide professional development and training opportunities for musicians and those who work with disabled people.
- To enable people with disabilities create and perform music.
- To complement the work of other organisations and individuals who support people with disabilities.

Patrons

David Jacobs
Paul Robertson

Trustees

Patricia Baker	Chair (to March 05)
Tim Evans	(from June 05)
Jason Keene	(from Sept 05), also Secretary (from Dec 05)
Tim Swingler	(to June 05), also Secretary (to June 05)
Sandra Pearce	
Dave Pike	(from Sept 05)
Paul Taylor	(from Mar 05)
Steve Warner	(from June 05) also Treasurer (from Dec 05)
Yvette Wyatt	Chair (from June 05)

Employees

Debbie Wolfsohn BMus(hons)(full time)
Director and Community Musician
Cheryl Heatherington (part time
to February 2005), Administrator
Neil Harding (part time from March 2005),
Administrator

Music Alive Volunteers

Paul Barnes
Julian Dason-Barrow
Joy Dodridge
Laurence Gibson
Melanie Hopkins
Dominic Johnson
Mark Johnson
Natalie Kimber

Andrew Milne
Karen Prager
Drew Smith
Clare Smith
Paul Taylor
Stephen Theil
Helen Trowbridge
Anthony Walsh
Dug Wolfsohn

Advisors

Clare Smith, Arts Management Consultant
(voluntary)
Mark Johnson, Retired Charity
Administrator (voluntary)

Carl Concannon, Fundraiser
(remunerated)
Judith Robinson, Projects Coordinator
(remunerated)

Lease Guarantors

Patricia Hearn
David Laudat

Accountants

Ms. Dorothy Clarke
Back on Track Associates
39 Hawkins Street,
Rodbourne
Swindon, Wilts. SN2 2AQ

Chairperson's Report

Music Alive's third year has seen growth both in the range of musical activities offered and the numbers of disabled children and adults taking part. Whilst consolidating our work with learning disabled adults, we have extended our work to children and young people. The drum circles project has enabled outreach into the community. The year has also had its challenges.

None of this excellent work would have been possible without the ongoing energies of Debbie Wolfsohn, our Director/Community Musician, supported by our Projects Co-ordinator Judith Robinson, who has been working with us to develop our projects and funding base. I am also grateful to the other musicians who work with us, our other administrative and freelance staff, our many dedicated volunteers and last but not least, my fellow trustees.

After three years as Chair of the Trustees, it is the right time to resign from the board and hand over stewardship to Yvette Wyatt, who has also been with us since Music Alive's foundation in 2002. The board will be strengthened by a number of new members who bring an exciting range of experience and expertise with them. I look forward to seeing Music Alive go from strength to strength in the years to come.

Patricia Baker, Chair of the Trustees to June 2005, September 2005

It is quite a challenge for me to take over the Chair from Pat, who has done a fine job since Music Alive was born. Knowing the quality of the new Trustees, I feel sure they will keep me focussed and in line. I look forward to the next stage in our exciting venture.

Yvette Wyatt, Chair of the Trustees from June 2005, September 2005

Director's report

Introduction

This has been a busy year for Music Alive, and I will begin by thanking all our staff and volunteers for three years of unstinting support as we have worked to establish ourselves as an organisation. Two Trustees have handed over responsibility to new members of the board this year. As they step down, I would like to offer my warmest thanks to Patricia Baker and Tim Swingler for their faith in Music Alive as it grew from small beginnings. I also offer a big welcome to Steve Warner and Paul Taylor, who joined the board in March this year, and to Tim Evans and Jason Keene, who have joined us since the beginning of the new financial year. Our new Trustees bring additional skills and expertise that will carry Music Alive's work into a new era of development.

Thanks are also due to the many funders listed at the end of this report. Without their generous support we would not be able to continue and extend our work. One aim of 2004/05 has been to diversify our funding sources, and towards the end of the year progress has been made in this direction as we have secured lottery funding from Youth Music and funding from the European Union. We hope these will stimulate further lottery and statutory-body funding.

Music Alive exists to provide music-making opportunities for disabled children and adults in Wiltshire and the surrounding area. We now have an expanding and loyal core of people who attend our workshops on a regular basis. We have extended our work to reach new groups building on some of last year's initiatives so that a wider range of people can benefit from our services. Below is a summary of our activities.

Review of 2004 – 2005

Music Alive has worked with over 200 disabled people of all ages in almost 500 music sessions and live music events. Some of these people also brought their families and friends to participate. In addition, Music Alive volunteers contributed hundreds of hours to the success of our activities, gaining valuable experience, and in the process aiding their own personal development.

Regular music sessions for adults

This area of work has remained at our core. This year, Music Alive worked with 5 disabled adults in a total of 57 individual sessions. A further 43 attended in 9 groups, receiving 138 sessions in total. This makes a total of 48 adults attending a total of 195 sessions. Some attend on a weekly basis and some on a monthly basis, depending on need and demography. Sessions are generally booked in blocks of 8 and the majority choose to return for block after block. These music sessions are often the highlight of the participant's week.

Music sessions for children and young people

This area of work has seen great development this year thanks to the award of a Local Network Fund grant of £6,000 (received in the previous financial year). This grant enabled Music Alive to run a summer holiday project for disabled children and young people – Partners in Music. Local children and young people were offered the opportunity to attend individual or small-group sessions with their own friends and siblings (who may or may not be disabled themselves). A total of 23 disabled children attended up to 4 sessions each. Feedback from parents was very positive, with the lack of appropriate opportunities for disabled children locally being a recurrent theme. This project has formed the basis for a successful application to Youth Music, which will fund 2 strands of activity for children and young people from July 2005 to March 2006.

This year has also seen the establishment of a Saturday group for young people, who have become known as "Beatz 'r' Us". The group met once a month, and this will develop to

include more participants meeting on a weekly basis thanks to the successful application to Youth Music.

“My son,, who has cerebral palsy and attends Music Alive music sessions, working in a small group creating music, gives him a real sense of achievement and an opportunity to socialise.”

Parent

Work with volunteers

Volunteers have continued to play a vital role in the life of Music Alive. Enabling volunteers to develop new skills has become a major part of the Director's role. The skills and abilities of our volunteers range from those willing to help with cleaning and making refreshments to those who want to learn how to share their musical skills together with those able to offer IT support and advice. Some volunteers have disabilities, and these people are often workshop participants who wish to extend their involvement in Music Alive. We see this as a key way of responding to the needs of our disabled user group, and of involving them in the day-to-day running of the organisation. The level of voluntary activity has now reached a point where the Director cannot recruit or support more volunteers, and people who potentially have a great deal to offer may be turned away as a result. A major piece of work this year has been to write a bid to the Community Fund requesting 3-year funding for a full-time Volunteer Facilitator, who would be able to take on this area of work and develop it further.

Natalie and Laurence (both disabled volunteers) in particular have worked extremely hard to make significant improvements in their musicianship. Natalie has gained lots of experience in sharing her musical skills with other disabled people and Laurence has developed new skills ranging from cleaning to hard disk recording.

“I have met so many people whilst doing voluntary work with Music Alive and have been successful in exceeding my own expectations.

In the Jam nights we have on a Monday night I have learnt to play a lot of folk music. I have also learnt that it doesn't matter how experienced you are at playing music as long as you can play an instrument you can play anything!

Whilst volunteering, I have learnt a lot about other disabilities and that everyone can contribute in making music. I get so much enjoyment and confidence from what I do for them!” **Natalie Kimber, volunteer**

Live music events

Music Alive's musicians and volunteers have continued to provide entertainment on a weekly basis in the “Ding us a Dong” sessions every Monday evening. This year, we have extended the scheme to include an additional venue, and the sessions now alternate between The Bell Inn, Purton Stoke and The Rose and Crown at Highworth. The sessions are attended by up to thirty disabled and able-bodied musicians and audience. They are valuable in many ways. Disabled musicians are able to make music along-side able-bodied players in a convivial and adult environment. Musical skills are shared and the general public are able to see disabled people in a positive light. It has been noticeable, for example, how the pub “locals” have warmed to the disabled musicians over regular visits.

Music Alive musicians with and without disabilities gave well-received performances of Christmas Carols to Ashgrove Nursing Home and Upham Road Resource Centre. They also performed at the Swindon Employers' Forum on Disability at The University of Bath in Swindon to great acclaim.

Drum Circles project

Following last year's pilot project, Music Alive secured funding from Awards for All and the St Monica Trust to enable a project on a more ambitious scale. Music Alive worked with drum circle facilitator, Chip Bailey to run 5 drum circle workshops in each of 6 local day centres – a total of 30 sessions. In addition, 4 training sessions for centre staff and a small number of centre users were held in Music Alive's own Music Rooms. The aim of the training sessions was to give staff and centre users the skills and confidence to continue the drum circle activity after the visits were over. A specially-created CD of rhythms and techniques, inspired by Drum Circle participants was created by Chip to further support independent Drum Circles at the centres.

The workshops themselves were extremely well received by staff and centre users alike, and some intend to purchase their own instruments in order to continue the activity. All the participating day centres wish to participate in any further workshops offered by Music Alive, and we are currently developing proposals that would also include an element of performance in the project.

“Everybody really enjoyed the drum circles project. Members who rarely participate in activities enjoyed themselves and joined in in ways that they don't normally do”

Jason, support worker at Open Door

Support Worker Training

Support from Nationwide enabled us to extend our provision of information, advice and guidance to those who work with disabled people in residential care. This innovative approach ensures that 19 support workers are better able to sustain and develop their disabled clients' interest in music.

“I usually escort everybody to Music Alive which means that I know how to help everyone better. All my clients look forward to music and are really cheerful whilst I help them get ready. I love playing and singing in the music sessions, although I'm not very musical – it's not about that. When I join in, the people I work with get more out of the session.”

Support Worker

Conclusion

Music Alive has had a successful year, developing and establishing its different strands of work. This is being supported by a diversification of funding streams, with income received from more lottery funding sources and - for the first time – European funding.

In addition, we have a significant change of management, with three Trustees retiring and the board being boosted by four new Trustees (two this financial year and two in the new financial year). Our key aim for the next year is to continue to develop our work with disabled children and adults, supported by successful fundraising from a range of sources, and by revised administration structures. In order to achieve this, we will be drawing up a development plan that maps out our ambitions for the next three years.

Debbie Wolfsohn, Music Alive Director and Community Musician

September 2005

Music Alive is grateful to the following funders for their generous financial contributions in support of our work:

Angus Allnatt Charitable Foundation
Awards for All
Bazley Charitable Trust
Blunt Trust
Clifford Charity Oxford
David Solomons Charitable Trust
Edward Vinson Charitable Trust
Fitton Trust
Greyfriars Trust
Halcrow
Hiscox Foundation
Jonathan Vickers Charitable Fund
Kevin McDonald General Charitable Trust
Lord Faringdon Charitable Trust
MFPA Fund
Millfield Trust
Music Sales Charitable Trust
Nationwide Charity Ball
Saddlers Company
St Monicas Trust
The Alfred and Peggy Harvey Charitable T
The Cameron McKenna Foundation
The Hillcote Trust
The Stansfield Trust
The Walter Guinness Charitable Trust (2 donations)
Thomas Curtis Trust
Triumph International
Tyco Electronics
Wessex Water
Wilkinson
Zurich Financial Services