

Trustees Annual Report 2022.

SW15 Music.

Charity registration number: 1197468

Date of registration: 12th January 2022

Address: The Community Clubroom. Toland Square
Roehampton London
SW15 5PA

Website: www.sw15music.org

Names of trustees.

Rowshara Zaman (chair)

Roger Stanislaus

Sarah Laue

Paul Vincent

Aims and objectives.

The primary aim of the project is to provide young people with access to musical instrument tuition and learning to play in a band all completely free of charge. This is to ensure there are no financial barriers to participation.

The project works with young people aged between 6-18 years some of whom facing specific challenges. Over the years participants have been referred for a range of complex issues including risk of anti-social behaviour and exploitation, eating disorders, autism, gender dysphoria, agoraphobia, ADHD and depression.

Participants have formed bands and been assisted to play at UK venues and festivals, also providing music workshops at these events for other young people.

The primary ethos of SW15 Music is to teach young people to play guitar, bass guitar, drums, piano and ukulele free of charge. Once young people have learned to play, they are given a guitar or ukulele if their family are not in a position to provide an instrument. These are guitars that have been donated, or bought cheaply, and repaired to a good standard. The project has also, in the past, been able to give two drum kits to young learners.

Apart from teaching young people how to play an instrument of their choice the objectives include building the confidence of the young people by encouraging them to

form a band and perform at local venues. They are also required to help teach the ukulele to other young people at the ukulele workshops SW15 Music hold in local schools and at music festivals. This further encourages the building of their confidence through the process of teaching and of helping others.

Activities, achievements and performance.

In our first year as a charity, we are proud to say that we have increased the number of young people that have joined the sessions we run each week. These are young people from within the London Borough of Wandsworth and also our neighbouring boroughs of Merton and Richmond. We have also had four young people from the estate where the charity meets join the project. We have been pleased to welcome young people that are in Local Authority Care and a couple of young people who have needed to flee their war-torn home countries. Over the year we have had around eleven young people attending weekly and another six who have attended infrequently. SW15 Music has also provided a ukulele workshop in a local primary school. We believe the above provides a community benefit.

We look forward to welcoming more young people from countries such as Ukraine and Afghanistan in the coming months. Whilst initially we have had language communication issues, the power of learning to play an instrument and becoming part of a group has overcome this, with participants returning week after week.

SW15 Music welcomed large numbers of young people into the festival tent at Weyfest for the twice daily ukulele workshops and jam sessions. These sessions were facilitated by the young people from SW15 Music and overseen and supervised by the adult volunteers. Each session had an average attendance of approximately 25 participants. Over the three day event we taught about 120 children and young people. We also had some of the parents join in. We did the same at the Plumstead Make Merry running one workshop on the day.

We welcomed four patrons from the entertainment industry, “Mike Flowers Pops” , “La Roux”, “Peter Guinness” and “Mari Wilson”. Three of these attended a fundraising evening in November, where money raised was shared 50/50 with the BBC Children in Need campaign.

The team from BBC London News visited the Community Clubroom we use in Roehampton and adults and young people were interviewed live on the BBC. A huge achievement for some of our young people who spoke about the charity and played live in the background whilst interviewer Wendy Hurrell talked about what SW15 Music were doing.

We have been fortunate to have a number of people who have donated instruments, guitars, keyboards and drums. We have gifted some of these instruments to young people

who attend the project and are not in a position to afford to purchase a instrument. There was one case where a parent insisted on making a donation to our charity for a drum kit. We have also used the sale of some the instruments to raise funds for the Charity.

Young people from SW15music have formed Duo's, Trio's, and bands to perform in public, assisting other charities to raise funds. These have included St Mary's Church in Putney , The Basement Door in Richmond, The Oasis Children's Project in Lambeth and The Plumstead Make Merry fun day.

Two of our young people have moved on to study at university, the feedback from them is that the instruments that they learned to play at SW15 Music, have assisted them into joining bands at their respective universities.

Three of the young people have chosen to remain with SW15 music after their eighteenth birthday as volunteer/ mentors.

SW15 Music has been faced with the worry about the future of the Community Clubroom where we rent a room to facilitate our weekly group. Wandsworth Borough housing plan is to demolish the clubroom and build 22 social housing flats. This was announced in March 2022 and has been a concern to us, from that initial announcement, with regard to us finding alternative facilities in Roehampton.

Roehampton is an area which has minimal resources regarding youth provision, activities and clubs. However, we were informed in August 2023, after much campaigning by local residents and parents of young people that attend SW15 Music, that a new clubroom will be built close by with a proviso that we have a space within that building.

Going forward the plan is to try and recruit more young people from the immediate area now we have had some reassurance that we will be provided with a room to hold our weekly sessions. The project coordinator has had contact with several more local schools who would like the project to provide ukulele workshops. Local gigs and festival attendance are also planned to continue.

Structure.

The SW15 weekly sessions are structured in a manner to give everyone space and an opportunity to achieve their full potential. Early afternoons are where music sessions for six year olds and junior school children take place. As the afternoon progresses the age of the young people attending rises, with teenagers up to the age of eighteen playing and rehearsing until 20.30hrs.

All parents and guardians are consulted regarding their children to assess for allergies or any special needs each individual might have.

The day trips and weekend activities such as festivals, are risk assessed separately and addressed accordingly.

Volunteers.

The work of the charity has been primarily facilitated by six volunteers. One currently the project manager, one acting as treasurer, one parent volunteer and three others helping with music tuition and other general duties. We are pleased that two of the volunteers are ex users of the project. Without the volunteers, and especially the project manager who started the charity, the project would not be viable.

Finances.

Running costs are met by donations and the sale of surplus equipment. The project has run on the goodwill of volunteers and the outgoings are relatively low.

Like most small charities fundraising has been a challenge. We started the year, at the inception of the charity, with a balance of approximately £2000. Over the course of the year the SW15 Music was fortunate to receive a grant of £3000 from the Breslaff Centre that was closing down. We also raised approximately £1600 from a charity event during the Children in Need day which we split 50/50 with them. Another significant benefactor was a local artist who donates £100 to the project every time she sells a painting, raising approximately £800 during 2022. Some money was raised by selling some donated instruments and equipment that we no longer needed. Our webpage has a donate button but to date this has not been successful at raising money. In total over the course of the year some £5800 was raised.

Fortunately, the outgoings of the charity are relatively modest. The largest single expenditure was on rent (£1000). Other larger expenditure was on equipment, vehicle hire and expenses at Weyfest. Approximately £400 was paid to four volunteers to contribute towards travel expenses and petrol to attend the weekly sessions and various events. All expenditure was agreed/reported to the trustees.

Ignoring the starting balance at the beginning of the year, the income received was £5,847 and the expenditure was £4219. This added £1628 to our starting balance of £2189 making a total of approximately £3817 at the end of the year. Overall we think this is a success. Currently we have not formulated any plan for the yearly surplus other than it must remain above the cost of renting the room for the next financial year (currently £1000). There are plans to repeat the Children in Need event and to apply for small grants from various grant awarding bodies in order to generate some income.

Given our low running costs, and the current balance, there is no immediate risk to the charity maintaining its current activities.

Management.

The day-to-day management of the project has been undertaken by the project coordinator Mr. William Marney. He has maintained regular contact with the trustees to keep us informed of events, progress, challenges, expenditure, and future plans. There has been three trustees meetings during the course of the year. We meet to discuss the running of the charity. We met on 22nd November 2021, 20th January 2022 and 11th November 2022. During these meetings we seek general updates about the running of the organisation, events attended and future booked events. We discuss fundraising opportunities and patronage. We received updates from the project coordinator and the finance officer.

The trustees have attended various events where SW15 Music have been performing as well as the weekly sessions.

Rowshara Zaman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rowshara Zaman', enclosed within a light grey rectangular box.

Chair

24th October 2023

