

community albums



ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2025

BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES
THROUGH MUSIC AND MEDIA



“IT WAS A JOY TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY ALBUMS’ PROJECT BEATS WORKING THROUGH AMPLIFY LONDON. WITH WELLBEING AT THE FOREFRONT OF THEIR ACTIVITY, THE YOUNG PERFORMERS WERE GIVEN SPACE AND FREEDOM TO CREATE NEW WORK AND DEVELOP THEIR EMERGING TALENT IN A SUPPORTIVE AND NURTURING ENVIRONMENT. ROB AND JAN’S UNWAVERING SUPPORT OF THE PARTICIPANTS WAS INSPIRATIONAL – IT WAS WONDERFUL TO SEE THE YOUNG MUSICIANS FIND THEIR VOICE, GROW THEIR CONFIDENCE AND BECOME PART OF A STRONG LIKE-MINDED COMMUNITY THROUGH THIS PROJECT.”

Kate Kelly,
Interim CEO,
London Music Fund

“YOUR REPORT PRESENTS SOME REALLY GREAT EVIDENCE TO INDICATE SUCH A BROAD RANGE OF DIFFERENCES EXPERIENCED BY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE. WHAT COMES THROUGH SO CLEARLY IS THE TRUSTING RELATIONSHIPS DEVELOPED BY BENEFICIARIES AND THE SESSIONAL MUSICIANS WHO SUPPORT THEM WITH THEIR JOURNEY OF CHANGE AND TRANSFORMATION. WE KNOW THROUGH EXPERIENCE HOW MUSIC CAN ENGAGE EVEN THE MOST TIMID AND ANXIOUS CHILDREN, AND THROUGH ACTIVE PARTICIPATION THEY CAN GROW AND EMERGE INTO CONFIDENT AND ASPIRATIONAL YOUNG PEOPLE, WITH CLEAR HOPE AND POSITIVITY FOR THE FUTURE.”

Pam Bacon,
Regional Impact Officer, South East
BBC Children in Need

“THANKS FOR INVITING ME TO YOUR WONDERFUL PROJECT... IT WAS AS INSPIRING FOR ME AS IT WAS FOR THEM.”

Andy Gangadeen,
Chase and Status Drummer

“I’VE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WORKING FOR COMMUNITY ALBUMS FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS. WHAT THEY ARE PROVIDING, APART FROM OODLES OF SELFLESS SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, IS THE GIFT OF MUSIC. MUSIC HAS THE ABILITY TO ENGAGE THOSE WHO MAY OTHERWISE SOMETIMES BE DIFFICULT TO REACH AND CONNECT WITH. IT HELPS PROVIDE A SENSE OF BELONGING TO THOSE IN NEED OF A WARM MUSICAL HUG. KUDOS TO THIS AMAZING COLLECTIVE!”

Alle Pearse
CA Music Practitioner,
Composer and Performer

“WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE TEAM AT COMMUNITY ALBUMS FOR HELPING OUR CHILDREN BUILD THEIR CONFIDENCE AND THEIR SENSE OF SELF. OUR STUDENTS HAVE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED THEIR EXPERIENCE, WITH ONE PUPIL SAYING:

“I’M REALLY ENJOYING THE EXPERIENCE BECAUSE IT WAS MY FIRST TIME DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS AND THE PEOPLE THERE WERE REALLY NICE. I’VE LOVED SHARING MY SONGS WITH PEOPLE!”

“THEIR CONFIDENCE AT SCHOOL HAS SHOWN A MARKED IMPROVEMENT, ACCESSING MORE OF SCHOOL, SO THANK YOU!”

Billy Allgood,
SENCO
Gallions Primary School

“CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL HAVE WORKED WITH COMMUNITY ALBUMS FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS NOW AND WE REALLY APPRECIATE THE STRONG AND TRUSTED PARTNERSHIP WE HAVE CREATED. THE WORK THE TEAM DELIVERS IS OF SUCH HIGH QUALITY AND HOW THEY ENGAGE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IS FANTASTIC, BUILDING TRUST WITH THOSE THAT NEED SUPPORT THE MOST AND HAVING SUCH A POSITIVE IMPACT IN THEIR LIVES. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING OUR WORK WITH COMMUNITY ALBUMS AS WE MOVE INTO 2026.”

Jon Wild,
Community Development Lead
Cherwell District Council



ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2025

BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES
THROUGH MUSIC AND MEDIA



CONTENTS

From the Chair	5
Theory of Change	6
In the last year...	7
Empower	8
Inspire	12
Unite	15
Financial Report	20
Trustees and Staff	21

FROM THE CHAIR



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

This year, we've continued to witness the extraordinary power of music through partnerships across a wide range of community settings. In addition, Community Albums now delivers life changing, studio-based activities in creative community hubs at The Well in East London, The Hill in Banbury, and The Branch in Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.

Our work is rooted in helping people of all ages find refreshment, rise above challenges, and develop shoots of hope and skills in music and media.

We are committed to amplifying voices to power. This year, that commitment shone brightly through a sparkling exhibition and orchestral performance at London's City Hall - previously known as The Crystal - celebrating creativity, empowerment, and community.

Our work with traumatised young people continues to be especially powerful. As they explore their dreams and fears, they begin to broaden their sense of ambition and belief. Through this process, we hope to inspire them to BE the change they want to see.

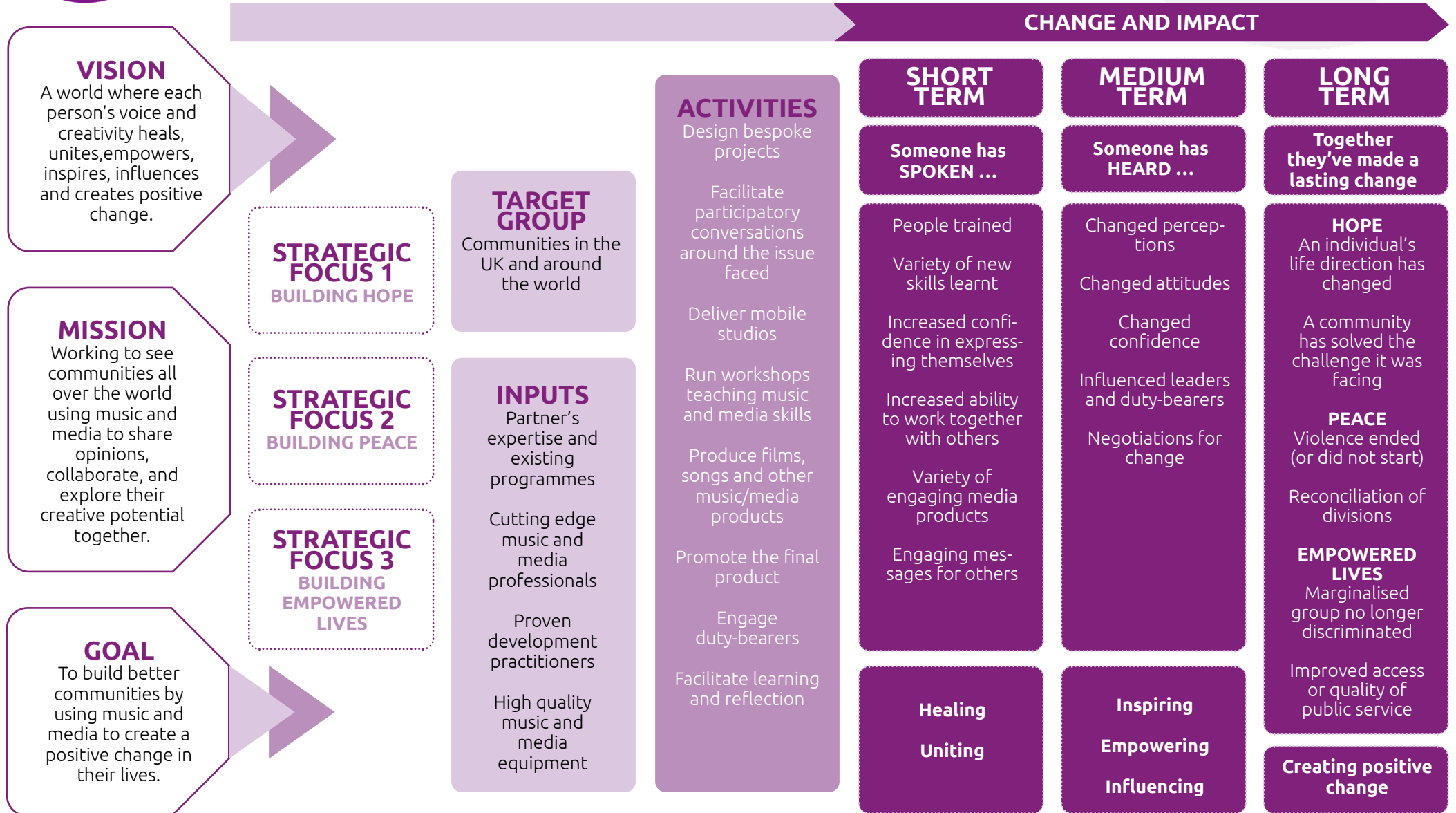
Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in making this transformation happen.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Mann".

DAVE MANN

community albums

THEORY OF CHANGE



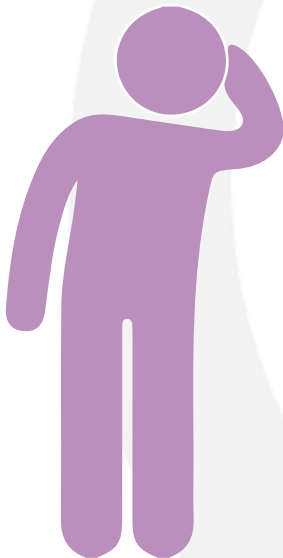
IN THE LAST YEAR ...

"SOMEONE HAS SPOKEN, SOMEONE HAS HEARD,
SOMEONE HAS ACHIEVED"



SOMEONE HAS SPOKEN

- We have delivered **447 MUSIC AND MEDIA SESSIONS** to build confidence and skills in all those who took part in them
- We have worked with **680 PARTICIPANTS** through **15 DIFFERENT PROJECTS** to heal, unite, inspire and empower through music and media
- We have worked with participants aged between **6** and **80**



SOMEONE HAS HEARD

- Our participants have performed at **10 COMMUNITY CONCERTS**, showcasing their musical skills and achievements
- The track "My Obsession," created and performed by our Beats Working cohort, has now been streamed over 47,000 times
- More than **100,000 PEOPLE** have been directly engaged in watching or listening to the messages created in film or in song through targeted engagement in the UK

SOMEONE HAS ACHIEVED

- **35 young people** have achieved **AQA AWARDS** since working in our music studios

TOGETHER THEY WILL MAKE LASTING CHANGE

EMPOWER

Upbeat Banbury

Our Banbury studio, based at The Hill Community Centre, was the first music studio we opened and has now been serving the community for almost six years. During this time, we've had the privilege of working with many young people, supporting their mental health and well-being through the transformative power of music.

Just like its sister studio in London, we offer music technology, production, and instrumental tuition, including drums, keyboards, and guitar. Alongside developing musical and technical skills, young people also build important transferable skills such as teamwork, communication, and self-discipline. These skills extend far beyond the studio and positively influence their day-to-day lives.

Marc, one of our Music Practitioners, explains:

"The recording studio at The Hill is great – it allows us to produce, create and record music. Within these sessions, lyric writing and vocal recording are extremely popular. We have an array of work that has been completed, and the attendees love the freedom of expression they are able to explore."

J's story

J was recently referred to us because she was extremely anxious and struggling with confidence.

Diagnosed with AuADHD, she had not been attending school for some time. Since joining the studio, she has engaged incredibly well and begun to thrive.

Serena, another of our Music Practitioners, shares:

"J really looks forward to the sessions and has begun to open up. She practises each week and is doing so well that her mum has bought her a drum kit to use at home. It's great to see her confidence increasing week by week."

J herself says: *"I love coming to the studio and playing music. It helps me when I get overwhelmed as it calms me down a bunch."*

We are deeply grateful to BBC Children in Need, whose generous three-year funding enables us to continue this vital work and provide a safe, creative space for young people across Banbury.



Upbeat London

Upbeat London has now been running for three years. Like Upbeat Banbury, the programme supports young people who are finding school or college challenging, as well as those with special educational needs.

Each session, made possible by funding from SYP Trust and Baily Thomas Charitable Foundation, is individually tailored, based on what the young person would like to work on and what they feel able to achieve. For many participants, a key milestone is being recorded singing along to their favourite songs; these recordings can be shared with family and friends, helping to build pride and confidence. Several young people have even had their tracks played to classmates at school, creating meaningful moments of recognition and achievement. Other young people have vocal coaching, whilst others choose to focus on songwriting and production, developing practical and transferable skills such as self-discipline, creative problem solving, and

increased self-confidence - improvements that often extend beyond the studio.

Lucy, who leads the sessions, shares two examples of the programme's impact:

"N has comfortably taken to writing his own music with a great chorus line. I was told it's rare to see him produce a paragraph in English class, but in the studio he's writing two to three verses."

"D is on a transformative journey. Initially his lyrics were laden with profanity and misogyny, but he has been learning the power of expanding his vocabulary with cleaner words and more positive expression of complex emotions."

These stories reflect the significant personal development, increased confidence, and creative growth that Upbeat London continues to foster in young people.

EMPOWER



Drum Lessons in London

This year, we were thrilled to expand our Upbeat London one-to-one music provision to include drum lessons, made possible through the generous support of the Asda Foundation, SYP Trust and Baily Thomas Charitable Foundation. Drumming has been one of the most requested activities by our young people, so we were really pleased to finally make it happen! Many of our participants live with mental health challenges

or learning disabilities, and drumming has proven to be a powerful outlet for expressing emotions that can be difficult to articulate, such as sadness, anger, or anxiety. It's not only an effective way to release stress but also a valuable tool for building confidence, creativity, and self-esteem. Take V, for example, a 15-year-old who was referred to us after disengaging from school due to mental health struggles. At his first session, he arrived withdrawn - hood up and avoiding eye contact. The session was tough; he found the techniques challenging and became so frustrated he stormed out of the studio.

But he bravely returned the following week, and since then, he's shown incredible determination, pushing himself each session. In just a few weeks, he completed two AQA units and was very pleased to receive his certificates!

He recently told us: *"I hate it when sessions aren't on because it gives me a reason to do something that day and stops me getting bored."*

V has built confidence, found joy in learning something new, and now loves expressing himself through drumming. Even more encouragingly, V began attending our music production sessions which he soon realised he also really enjoys. The sessions have opened up new possibilities for him and helped him see a brighter future ahead.

The Branch

This year, we've been thrilled to partner with The Branch in Chipping Norton to help launch a brand new music studio in their community centre. The Branch invited us to deliver music sessions that engage the local community, expanding the work we already do across Oxfordshire, London, and internationally.



Here's a short clip to give you a glimpse inside the brand new studio.



Click here or Scan the QR code to view the video



Our sessions began mid November and are already having a noticeable impact. Marc, who leads the sessions, says:

"Having the recording studio enables us to produce, create, and record music to a professional standard. The students immediately respond to being in a high-quality creative environment, and in a short space of time their commitment, confidence, and output have been exceptional."

With such a strong start, we're excited to continue growing the programme in Chipping Norton over the months ahead. We look forward to seeing these young people grow in their love for creating music and performing.

EMPOWER



Sunrise Multicultural Project

Sunrise Multicultural Centre supports ethnic minority families in Banbury, primarily from Pakistani backgrounds. Their aim is to increase cultural awareness, confidence and integration within the community through workshops and creative projects, and we are delighted to be partnering with them in this work. We engage with their boys' group, a girls' group and a mixed session each week. In these sessions, we bring our mobile studio equipment, enabling participants to create digital music, record vocals and experiment with music technology. Podcast recording has been

especially popular with the young people, who love taking on the roles of presenters and producers. We also facilitate group lyric-writing activities. The groups include children and young people aged 6-15, with between 8 and 12 participants attending each session.

"We love recording podcasts, it's so much fun."

"I really enjoy playing songs and speaking in between like a radio host."

This partnership continues to grow, giving young people a safe and creative space to express themselves, build confidence and develop new skills.

“THE SESSIONS ARE FULL OF LAUGHS AND THE GIRLS HAVE BEEN REALLY HANDS ON IN THEIR APPROACH WHICH IS WONDERFUL.**”**

MARC, Music Practitioner

Music United at Nai's House

Nai's House is an inspiring organisation providing suicide prevention and holistic mental health support for young people under 30. We're honoured to have been partnering with them for four years now, and we're deeply grateful to Sanctuary Housing, Cherwell District Council, Bicester Village's Unlock Futures Fund and the Pye Trust, for making this work possible through their financial support.

Our sessions at Nai's House take place either one-to-one or in small groups, with a focus on band based instruments such as vocals, guitar, bass, keyboard, and drums. The groups work towards public performances several times a year, showcasing either their favourite songs or original music they've written together. These performances often play a significant role in the young people's recovery journey; achieving something as challenging as learning an instrument and performing in front of an audience can help them recognise their own capability and resilience. We've seen wonderful success stories where young people have gone on to apply for jobs or continue their education in music after attending the sessions.

The Nai's House Band regularly attracts attention from local newspapers and television. This year, they performed at the #BeNice Festival, which welcomed 1,000 people.

Partner Outreach Lead Mark Weightman said:

"The festival was a roaring success. The highlight of the day, without doubt, was Nai's House Band supported by the amazing Kane Chamberlain from Community Albums."

Kane adds:

"It's been amazing to see the young people's confidence grow, which is what these sessions are all about. Their self-belief and self-worth have improved greatly, and that has a huge impact on their mental wellbeing."



EMPOWER

Oxfordshire Hospital School

Working with the staff and young people at the Oxfordshire Hospital School at the John Radcliffe Hospital is a particularly special part of our week, and something we've been doing for nine years now. The school does incredible work to bring fun learning and a sense of 'normal' during difficult times, and we love being able to help children stay connected with music.

Our sessions take place in a variety of ways. Some involve music technology, where patients learn to create and record music using specialised software. At other times, Kane, our Music Practitioner, visits with

his guitar to sing some of the young people's favourite songs, either at their bedside or in the classroom. In classroom sessions, we often run band workshops where patients, (and often their families) can try out different instruments and play together.

Kane says:

"It's a real pleasure to be able to share these moments of joy, particularly with families who are going through challenging periods of their lives. I've seen the effects that music can have on both the patients and their families and for a short period, a weight is lifted from them."



Uganda

This year, we have continued to support our partners at St Joseph's Studio in Kamuli and Hope Studio in Kampala through remote mentoring and collaboration. It is always an honour to guide and work alongside talented people who are driven by a genuine desire to see their communities transformed through the power of music and media. Their dedication and impact continue to inspire us, as they offer hope and create meaningful change for the people they serve.

“WORKING WITH SUCH TALENTED PEOPLE COMMITTED TO TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH MUSIC AND MEDIA CONTINUES TO BE A JOY AND A PRIVILEGE.”

ROB, CA Co-Founder

INSPIRE

Beats Working

Last year we received funds from Amplify London, in partnership with YouTube, and kicked off our Beats Working project with a group of young people from Newham who were keen to get into the music industry. With support from our professional musicians and mentors, they worked together to write and record a song from scratch.

Throughout the project, they took part in songwriting, recording, mixing and mastering sessions at our London studio, visited LMA University to explore their music courses, and enjoyed an unforgettable day at the world-famous AIR Studios in Hampstead. There, they recorded live drums with Chase & Status drummer Andy Gangadeen, who spent time chatting with everyone, sharing what it's really like to be a professional musician. One of the cohort was especially thrilled to meet Andy, saying:

“I’m still gonna brag about seeing Andy! I felt like a celebrity. Meeting one of my heroes was amazing. I’ve been keeping up with his stuff since I was 10!”

Andy, said:

“Thanks for inviting me to your wonderful project... It was as inspiring for me as it was for them.”

We’re so proud of what our Beats Working cohort achieved. Earlier this month they released their brilliant track ‘My Obsession’ under the name ME-HD, now out on all streaming platforms. On Spotify alone it’s already chalked up over 47,000 streams. They have also performed gigs in London, sharing their song with an even wider audience. We can’t wait to see how they progress!

You can find the song and a video showing how the track was made here:



Click here to listen to the making of track ‘My Obsession’

or Scan QR code to view video



“ROB AND JAN’S UNWAVERING SUPPORT OF THE PARTICIPANTS WAS INSPIRATIONAL – IT WAS WONDERFUL TO SEE THE YOUNG MUSICIANS FIND THEIR VOICE, GROW THEIR CONFIDENCE AND BECOME PART OF A STRONG LIKE-MINDED COMMUNITY THROUGH THIS PROJECT.”

KATE KELLY - Interim CEO, London Music Fund

INSPIRE

Newham Heritage Month



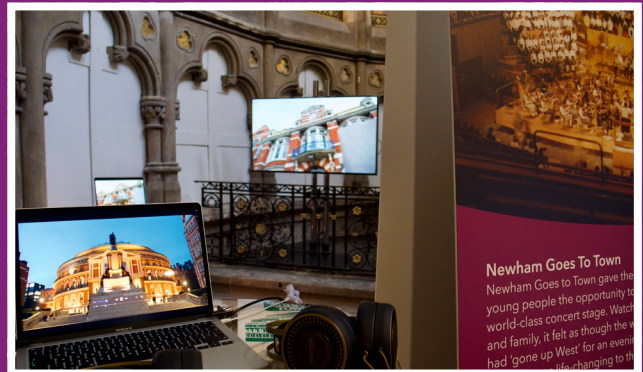
Newham Heritage Month is an annual festival celebrating the history, culture, and identity of the borough, led by Newham Council with support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This year's theme, "Newham at 60: A Borough Like No Other," marked six decades since the formation of Newham.

As part of the festival, we launched the Newham Academy of Music Exhibition at London's City Hall, celebrating the Academy's impact and legacy since 1965.

The exhibition highlighted the Academy's decades-long role in nurturing young musicians - including some of our own team - providing opportunities for artistic growth and helping shape Newham's cultural identity. Visitors explored archival photographs, rare recordings, and personal stories that illustrated the Academy's unique influence on generations of local residents.

The launch event featured live performances from

an alumni orchestra led by Karen Twedde, now Principal of Havering Music School, as well as a beautiful performance by counter-tenor and alumnus Paul Kusel-Baum alongside current Newham Music student, Anisa Campbell. Attendees, including local MP, Sir Stephen Timms, also heard powerful testimonials from former students whose careers in music and beyond were shaped by the Academy's inclusive ethos and community spirit.



As Rob, Community Albums Co-Founder, shared:

"The Newham Academy of Music has always been more than just a place to learn - it has been a family, a launchpad, and a creative home for so many people. This exhibition is a chance to celebrate that history and ensure its legacy continues to inspire future generations."

Following its success at City Hall, the exhibition moved to Newham Music, and is now available online.



Click [here](#) or Scan the QR code to view the videos.



Havering Music School

During the summer holidays we delivered songwriting sessions at Havering Music School. Working with their cohort of talented musicians we used mobile studio rigs to help them write, perform and record their songs.



INSPIRE

Chipping Norton School

At Chipping Norton School, we run an after-school club that enables students to explore all aspects of digital music. With CNS's fully equipped recording studio, pupils can produce, create, and record music across a wide range of genres. Over the year, we've recorded podcasts, live instruments, and a number of completed songs created by the students themselves. All finished work is shared with parents and guardians at the end of each term.

This school year, we've been working with two groups of 12 students, meaning 24 young people take part in our sessions every week. The pupils say:

"The club is super great and I'm glad to have an hour every week where I can work on my songs."

"I love everything about the club, particularly producing music on Logic."

"The club is lots of fun. I enjoy creating music whilst having a laugh at the same time."

“ THEY ARE ABLE TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN MUSICAL INTERESTS UNDER MARC'S GUIDANCE, TEAM UP WITH OTHERS TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY, AND LEARN HOW TO USE THE DIGITAL SOFTWARE TO WRITE REMARKABLE PIECES OF MUSIC.”

ROBYN BISSETT, Community Learning Coordinator, Chipping Norton School



AQAs

At Community Albums, we're committed to helping people develop new skills, grow in confidence, and recognise their achievements, and our AQA accreditation programme plays a key role in making that happen. Through the AQA Unit Award Scheme, participants can gain nationally recognised certificates for completing small, meaningful units of work in music and media.

Our accredited units cover a range of activities. Each unit is designed to be accessible, practical, and personalised, allowing learners to work at their own pace and celebrate progress in a way that suits them.

AQA accreditation is especially valuable for young people and adults who may not have thrived in

traditional education or who benefit from alternative pathways to achievement. The certificates they receive can boost confidence, support further education applications, and help open doors to new opportunities.

Jan, CA Operations Manager says:

"This year, we've awarded certificates to 35 young people, and we're so proud of each and every one of them. It's wonderful seeing how pleased they are receiving recognition for their achievements."

"For us, the most important part of the process is seeing participants recognise their own ability. Whether someone records their first track, performs live, or simply learns a new drum rhythm, accreditation provides tangible proof of their hard work and creativity, empowering them to learn, grow, and shine through music and media."



UNITE

Community Events

One of the highlights of our year is taking part in community events. This year, we've been thrilled to join a wide range of community days with our gazebo, drums, decks and laptops, inviting people to make beats and sounds, and also showcasing our choirs and bands. It's always uplifting to see people of all ages light up as they create, enjoy and perform music together. These events also provide an invaluable opportunity to introduce new audiences to our work, spark conversations, and encourage more people to get involved in our programmes.

This year, our community events included:

Oxfordshire:

- #BeNice Festival
- Banbury Play Day
- The Greatest Summerfest
- Banbury Celebrating Older People's Day
- Tell Your Story Festival
- Easter festival at the Crown Pub garden in Chalgrove
- Community Albums' Christmas Concert
- Royal Voluntary Service's Cornhill Centre Christmas Event

London:

- Go Wild Summer Scheme
- Specialist Children & Young People's Services Family Fun Day



Kane shares some magical memories from this year:

"We played an Easter festival in the garden of The Crown pub in Chalgrove, South Oxfordshire. It was a beautiful sunny day, which meant a fantastic turnout of more than 300 people. This made it a big challenge for the young people who had never performed in public before but they rose to the occasion and felt a real sense of achievement afterwards. The landlord and landlady were so pleased with both the turnout and the performances that they've invited us back whenever we'd like to return."

"The #BeNice Festival also received a lot of local press coverage, with a major focus on the Community Albums / Nai's House Band. Newspapers featured a large photo of the young people performing on stage, and their families were so thrilled they bought copies to proudly display at home on their fridges and walls."

Roll on next year...!

UNITE

Vocal Band

Vocal Band is our weekly intergenerational choir for residents of Bretch Hill, Banbury. Now in its tenth year at The Hill Community Centre, the choir provides a welcoming space for local people to come together, connect, and sing songs that offer hope and positivity. For many participants, it is one of the few regular opportunities they have to meet friends and feel part of a community.

J's Story

J is a 13-year-old boy who is home educated following a period of school avoidance. Vocal Band has become an essential space for him to socialise with peers and enjoy shared creative activity.

He explains:

"Coming to Vocal Band means I get to spend some time with my friends who I don't get to see as I don't attend school. I get to have fun with them and sing some songs we all like."

J's involvement has grown beyond singing. He has developed a passion for the technical side of music-making, and we have trained him to become one of the choir's recording engineers - something he takes on with real enthusiasm and skill. He also helps set up and clear away equipment each week, giving him valuable responsibility and a strong sense of purpose.



“THE CHOIR HAS HELPED ME SO MUCH WITH MY MENTAL HEALTH. IF I'M STRUGGLING I MAKE MYSELF GO AND I ALWAYS FEEL BETTER.”

PARTICIPANT

L's Story

L is a 9-year-old girl currently awaiting a neurodivergence assessment. She often finds social interaction and emotional understanding challenging, and school can be a difficult environment for building friendships. Since joining Vocal Band, she has found a warm and supportive group of peers who are always excited to see her. Her confidence has grown significantly - so much so that she now volunteers to sing solos in every recording session!

Her mum has described the change as transformative, expressing heartfelt gratitude for the confidence, joy, and sense of belonging L has discovered within the group.

Alongside weekly rehearsals, Vocal Band has enthusiastically taken part in many recording sessions and performed at numerous community events, showcasing the creativity, talent, and community spirit of Bretch Hill. Lacey, who leads the choir says:

"I look forward to each performance so much. I can't wait to see them shine, and for other people to be inspired by them all."

UNITE

Sing Out


'Sing Out for Wellness' is our choir for older people based at The Hill Community Centre in Banbury. The choir focuses on promoting mental health and overall well-being for older members of the local community. It's an inclusive environment where they can connect with others, make friends, build confidence, and experience the joy of collective singing. The sessions start with a light lunch, put on by our partners at The Hill Community Centre, followed by the singing session.

Lacey, who leads the choir said:

"We've had a whole year of our incredible Sing Out For Wellness sessions. When we started a year ago we didn't know what to expect but what it's become

is so special. It's a place to come with no judgement, a place to have a really good time, a place to leave with the biggest smile, a place to sing at the top of your lungs and enjoy. I'm so so proud of this group. They started not knowing what to expect and a bit nervous but now they shine and their confidence hits the rooftops!"

Here you can see a short video that captures just how much the choir means to two of our members and the powerful impact of shared singing.

 [Click here or Scan the QR code to view the Sing Out for Wellness Choir video](#)



Join The Beat

It's always exciting to launch new projects, and this year we've been fortunate to receive funding from the Connected Communities Fund to run a new music group for people aged 50 and over at The Hill Community Centre in Banbury. The project aims to engage older members of the community, with a particular focus on men and individuals with additional needs.

The sessions provide a warm, welcoming space where participants can play drums together, and enjoy making music in a relaxed, supportive environment. As well as building musical confidence, the group helps foster meaningful relationships and a sense of belonging. For some attendees, it's the only social interaction they have all week, making these sessions a vital part of their wellbeing and connection to others.

Serena, who leads the group, says:

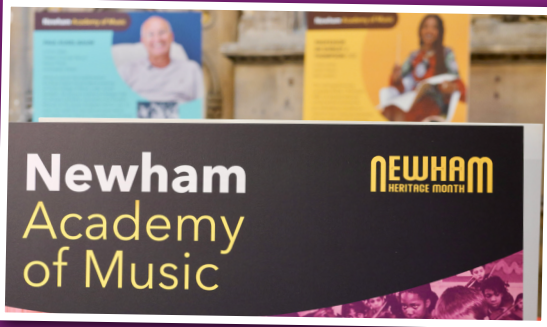
"Join The Beat is an all-inclusive, no-experience-necessary chance to tap, shake, slap and boom some drums, switch off from the outside noise, and drown it out with a spontaneous group. It's about building a community with improvised beats."

We're excited to see the power of music continue to make a difference in the lives of everyone who takes part in Join The Beat!



Better Together Award Finalists

We're very fortunate to receive funding from Cherwell District Council, Sanctuary Housing and Travis Perkins for both our Banbury choirs. Earlier this year, we were very excited to find out we'd been announced as finalists for the Travis Perkins #BetterTogetherAwards with Sanctuary Housing. The awards, hosted at Silverstone, and run by Travis Perkins Managed Services, shine a light on brilliant social value projects, and whilst we didn't come home with the award, we were absolutely thrilled that our Banbury choirs - Vocal Band and Sing Out - were finalists in the Community Projects category. Such a lovely recognition of the impact they're having!



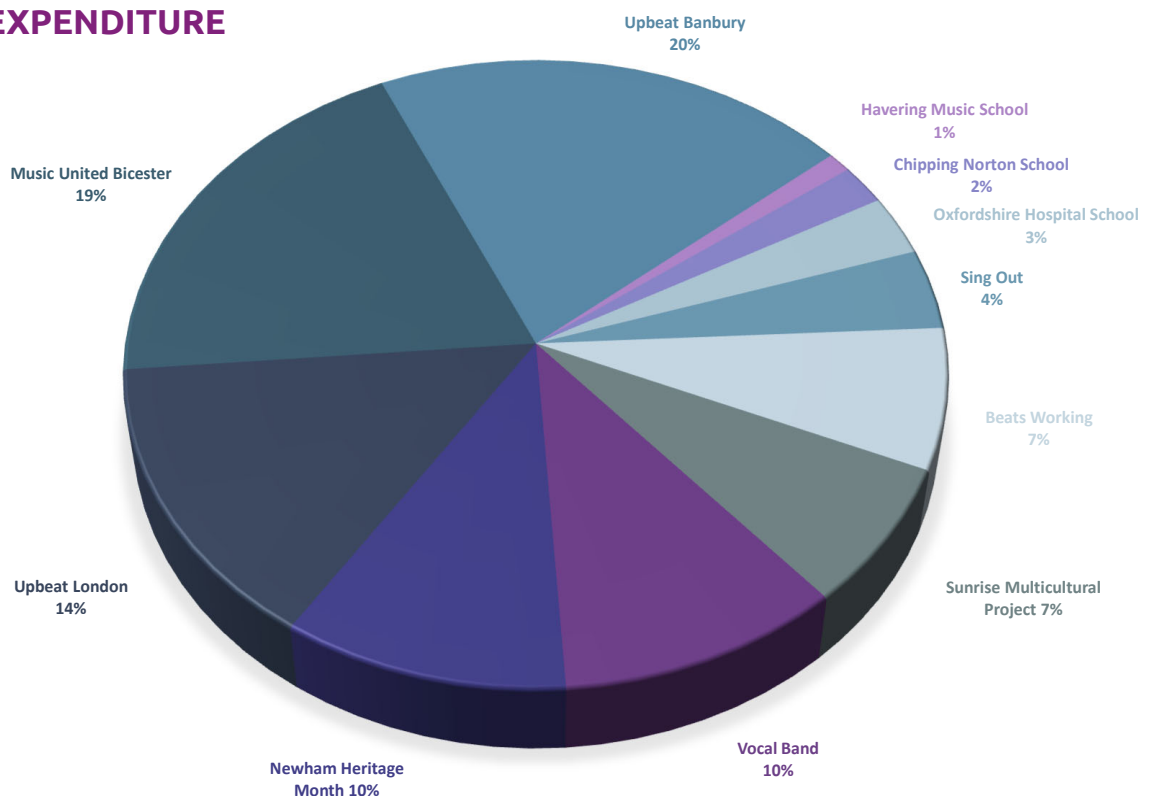


FINANCIAL REPORT



	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Income	86,984	95,414	72,112	107,624	75,849	97,702
Expenditure	81,741	113,979	104,637	89,149	72,833	73,292
Reserves Held	8,630	7,069	11,628	12,092	8,921	4,917

PROJECT EXPENDITURE



- Havering Music School 1%
- Chipping Norton School 2%
- Oxfordshire Hospital School 3%
- Sing Out 4%
- Beats Working 7%
- Sunrise Multicultural Project 7%
- Vocal Band 10%
- Newham Heritage Month 10%
- Upbeat London 14%
- Music United Bicester 19%
- Music United Bicester 20%

We currently have 1 member of staff and 2 volunteers who work towards core operational activities, and a group of 14 incredibly gifted musicians, filmmakers and producers who help us deliver activities with participants. Paid hours of work equate to approximately 48% of the time required to deliver projects successfully. 52% of the total time required to deliver projects is completed on a voluntary basis.

We are grateful to those who give up their time to support our ambition and achievements as a charity, and are working hard to ensure that funds are raised for more staff to support project delivery.

***If you would like full details of our charity finances, please feel free to download our organisation's audited accounts from the Charity Commission website.**

TRUSTEES AND STAFF

Many thanks to our trustees who have guided our work throughout the year.

TRUSTEES

David Mann, **Chair**

Dave Pilkington, **Vice-Chair**

Dave Newman, **Safeguarding Officer**

Peter Laing, **Treasurer**

Chrispin Phiri, **Secretary**

Many thanks to our staff and freelance project practitioners - professional musicians, filmmakers and producers, who have implemented the work throughout the year.

STAFF

Simon Hill, **National Director and Co-Founder**

Rob May, **International Director and Co-Founder**

Jan Sheldon, **Operations Manager**

Lesley Lane, **Bookkeeper**

FREELANCE AND PROJECT CONSULTANTS:

Alle Pearse **(Music)**

Dave Healey **(Music)**

Dawn Smith **(Music and Film)**

Jason Byfield **(Music)**

Kane Chamberlain **(Music)**

Lacey Leonard **(Music)**

Lucy Randell **(Music)**

Luke Craig **(Music)**

Marc Clifton **(Music)**

Nigel Weekes **(Music)**

Serena Donnelly **(Music)**

Toby Sheldon **(Graphic Design)**

THE COMMUNITY ALBUMS DISTINCTIVE

We understand that music and media has a far greater value than just entertainment or commercial return. We believe that music and media has the power to empower, inspire, heal, unite and bring about positive change. Each project we deliver is unique. They are all:

LIFE CHANGING - designed to empower individuals

VITAL - excellent in quality

FORWARD LOOKING - designed to produce a positive outcome in communities

We are passionate about changing communities through music and media.

WHY NOT GET INVOLVED AND BUILD BETTER COMMUNITIES WITH US?

CONTACT US

The Well Community Centre, 49 Vicarage Lane,
East Ham, London, E6 6DQ

Email: jan@communityalbums.com

www.communityalbums.com

FIND OUT MORE

 Community Albums

 @communityalbums

 @communityalbums

 vimeo.com/user11315378

 Community Albums

Registered UK Charity: 1140485

A BIG THANK YOU TO:

Individual supporters, who have given their encouragement, time and financial support.

Partner Organisations, who are delivering amazing programmes. We are fortunate to work with them and play a small role in all they do:

Bonny Downs Community Association
CAMHS
Chipping Norton School
East London NHS Foundation
Gallions Primary School
Havering Music School
Horizon Academy
Nai's House
Newham Music
Oxfordshire Hospital School (John Radcliffe Hospital)
Salesians of East Africa
St Joseph's Vocational Training Centre
Specialist Children's and Young People's Service
Sunrise Multicultural Project
The Branch
The Hill Youth and Community Centre
The Mill Arts Centre

Grantmakers and Other Organisations, who have supported us with time, and financial support.

Asda Foundation	London Music Fund
Axis Foundation	Newham Heritage Fund
Baily Thomas Charitable Trust	Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action
The Bartle Family Charitable Trust	Oxfordshire County Council
Bicester Village	Oxfordshire Youth
Charles S French Charitable Trust	Pye Trust
Cherwell District Council	Sanctuary Housing Association
Children in Need	South Oxfordshire District Council
Community First Oxfordshire	SYP Trust
Easyfundraising	The Percy Bilton Charity
John The Drum School	Travis Perkins
Jordan & Company	Webmart UK

"Together we are building better communities through music and media"



FIND OUT MORE

 [Community Albums](#)

 [@communityalbums](#)

 [@communityalbums](#)

 [vimeo.com/user11315378](#)

 [Community Albums](#)

Registered UK Charity: 1140485