

The Bridge Centre Music Project



Annual Report 2015/2016

HISTORY

The Bridge Centre Music Project was launched in October 1992 and has since then become one of the foremost extra-curricular music providers in East Lothian. The Project's main aim is to teach various aspects of music production to children and young people regardless of their initial ability, stylistic preference, social or economic position.

The Project provides the facilities for young people to participate in music and receive tuition in a relaxed and supportive environment. Young people are readily given the opportunity to showcase their abilities by performing at gigs and are encouraged to express themselves by writing and recording their own music.

While based at the Bridge Centre, Haddington, over the years the Project has participated in a number of diverse programmes and initiatives throughout East Lothian and beyond.

In October 2012, the Bridge Centre Music Project celebrated its 20th anniversary.

OVERVIEW



It has been a busy and successful year for the Project, with young people and Project staff taking part in a diverse range of activities.

The Project's facilities are in Haddington and supported by a team of nine part-time sessional workers.

Senior Project Worker Iain Bruce has continued in his position as the East Lothian Strategic Music Partnership Co-ordinator, based at The Brunton Hall, Musselburgh.

FUNDING

Band work sessions continue to be funded by East Lothian Council's Youth Work Budget. Annual Band membership fees of £35 per person help to contribute towards the upkeep of Project equipment.

Instrumental lessons are now completely self-funding. Each session now costs £6.00, the same price as last year and still very good value for money.

Young people, parents and guardians are still encouraged to contact the Project if the price of tuition threatens to cause a barrier to their musical education.

The Haddington community continues to be extremely supportive of the Project.

BAND WORK

The Project currently caters for two bands on a weekly basis, amounting to 10 young people. The age range of these young people is 16-25 years old.

The two bands have had various opportunities to perform at the Bridge Centre and various community events over the years. They have also begun to receive gig offers from promoters in Edinburgh.



TUITION

The Project currently tutors young people on a weekly basis across three different instruments:

- Guitar
- Bass Guitar
- Drums

Young people who attend instrument tuition are taught a wide range of music styles and techniques. This is a mixture of material that young people *want* to learn and material that will prove beneficial to their musical development in the long term.

It has been acknowledged that the number of young people attending lessons has made a gradual decline. This is in part due to other organisations in Haddington offering music lessons on a commercial basis.

Many young people attending lessons have also reached an age where they have left high school and had to stop lessons in order to move to university.



MUSIC PROJECT EVENTS

In the past twelve months the Project has been involved in a number of activities and music events. These included:

Haddington Gala Day 6th June 2015

Once again the Bridge Centre Music Project was delighted to be asked to provide music and bands for Haddingtons annual gala day. Setting up the stage and providing all the equipment for bands to perform including a dedicated sound engineer is no easy task, so this year the Music Project decided to cut out a lot of the work and hire in a stage truck with a state of the art sound system and dedicated sound engineer.

Weeks before the event Precise Events & Audio Ltd were sought out and were extremely happy to provide their services for the day. Meeting very early on the day of the event set up got underway. With very high winds the whole day was looking like it could be cancelled, but with the professionalism of the men setting up the stage it was made safe and secure for our bands to perform.

Luke Hunter was first to take to the stage performing a fantastic acoustic set! Other bands that performed on the day included The Bridge Centre's very own Kvasir and The Well-Scrubbed Social Club.

A big thank you to the other bands from around East Lothian that performed, they included: Will McNeil, Vacant Life, Bones of Carnival, Zombie Arcade, Emma & Rebecca. Due to high winds and light rain this year's Gala numbers at the event were low. All the acts played absolutely fantastic and we hope that next year we are back with the weather on our side!



Volunteering Fair Knox Academy & North Berwick

Both the Bridge Centre Music Project and Motorcycle Project (BCMP) were invited along to knox academy to promote both projects and volunteering. The volunteering fair was set up to inspire young people to get into volunteering and speak to older people who have done a lot of hours volunteering, and get more information on the kinds of opportunity's it can lead too.



It is hoped that more young people will actively seek taking up volunteering which is great for a future CV as well as many other awards including Saltire Awards which awards young people for the hours they put into volunteering.

The Bridge Centre also received an award for its dedication in supporting young people to undertake volunteering opportunities in general.



Haddington Gala Day 4th June 2016

The Haddington gala day took place this year with the Bridge Centre Music Project providing live music for the day. The day went without a hitch as the beautiful sunshine beat down on top of us and spectators lay on the grass soaking up the atmosphere.

All the bands performed fantastic, and a lot younger newer bands also took to the stage and gave quite the performance to the crowds watching.

Big well done to all bands and staff involved. Until next year!!



The Bridge Centre Ltd Bus

As you may have seen on our Facebook page last December we said a tearful goodbye to one of the Bridge Centres greatest assets The Variety Sunshine Coach. The bus had been with the Bridge Centre for 12 years allowing the transport of music equipment and young people as well as many other uses covering many miles. It was handed back to the Variety Club.

With a kind donation from the Lamp of Lothian towards the cost of a new vehicle the Bridge Centre now owns a new custom built bus for kitted out for both Music Project and Motorcycle Project.

The Mercedes bus has a rear section split into 2 sections. The bus has 6 extra seats, 9 in total and with privacy glass windows and speakers for music to keep the young people entertained. The second section has been kited out to accommodate the transport of heavy equipment and motorbikes

It can hold up to 3 motorbikes as well as helmets and all other accessories for off-road sessions. The bus can also hold all music equipment with anchor points to safely strap in all equipment. A picture of the old and new bus are below:



VOLUNTEERING

The Bridge Centre Music Project has always been very privileged to have a large number of young people willing to volunteer during their free time to help facilitate a number of Project activities. Not only does volunteering contribute to the smooth running of the activity in question, but it also provides valuable experience for the young person and gives them an insight into many of the aspects of work in the music industry. This can be useful for gaining work in the future.



A number of former volunteers with the Project have now gone on to become paid workers.

In the past year, young people have assisted in various roles. This includes:

- Setting up and taking down equipment for gigs
- Helping as a teaching assistant during guitar lessons
- Managing the door and selling tickets during gigs
- Helping staff to use the PA system and lighting control desk
- Selling and serving refreshments at numerous events
- Volunteering as a general helper for various outreach sessions and workshops

These activities require a high degree of maturity and responsibility from the volunteer.

THANKS

Project Workers :

Chris Aien
Iain Bruce
Mark Brunton
Chris Cockburn
Mike Foy
Andrew Moncrieff
Liam Morrison

Volunteers :

Gary Hollingsworth
David Ryan

Funders : Creative Scotland
East Lothian Council
East Lothian Strategic Music Partnership

Partner Agencies : Caroline Davis – Dialogue Youth
Drum Central, Edinburgh
East Lothian Council Arts Service
East Lothian Council Community
East Lothian Strategic Music Partnership
East Lothian Youth Music Forum
ElJam
Knox Academy, Haddington
Lamp of Lothian Trust
Learning & Development Service
Longniddry Community Centre
Red Dog Music
The Bridge Centre Motorcycle Project
Upward Mobility

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on the Bridge Centre Music Project is available on request from



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