

## RAL Music Club 2018/2019

**Chairman:** Dr Tristan Youngs (x1250)

**Secretary:** Mr Ronnie Brumfitt (x5048)

**Treasurer:** Mr Dan Beckett (x6634)

### Chairman's Statement

*"2019 was a relatively quiet year for the club from an external perspective. We held one Open Mic night on the 25<sup>th</sup> July, which encompassed a BBQ, and was a real success. Such was the attendance at the event, some profits from the BBQ were made. Further live music events were prohibited by the lounge / bar re-fit, and general difficulties associated with finding a suitable date in amongst life, work, other events, and facility operating schedules. MaDFest 2018 was challenging to organise, but ultimately successful, apart from the weather!*

*Many bands associated to the club are busy with external gigs – e.g. Life is Elsewhere and Full Circle are plying their trade – which is great to see, and only helps to promote the club. The key thing that the club provides is practice / rehearsal space for these bands and, beyond a few locally-organised events, the rest is up to them!*

*To continue providing facilities that are suitable for our membership we need money for certain types of equipment, and for that we need the support of the RecSoc. 2018 saw a very generous donation of ~£2k which bought us a whole host of new gear – such contributions rely on us maintaining a two-way relationship, not just with the RecSoc members, but also with the wider populous on site. With the support of the RecSoc we are able to provide events, bands, and entertainment, and arguably that contributes strongly to Health & Wellbeing on site which is one of the basic reasons for the RecSoc's existence."*

### Club Matters

#### AGM

The Music Club held an AGM on Monday the 21st of January at 12:00 pm in the R58 Lounge, and which was well attended by the membership.

#### Nomination of Club Officers

Tristan Youngs was nominated to continue as Chairman, Dan Beckett as Treasurer, and Ronnie Brumfitt as Secretary. All nominations were approved at the meeting.

#### Noise Pollution

There have been reports in the first half of the year of a few incidents where users of the Music Room have not been as considerate to other building users as would be liked. If asked to play less loudly please respect the other RecSoc building users.

### Membership / Activity

- 19 new members + 1 pending. 7 opted out or left RAL
- 67 active members & 40 non-active members
- Music Room Calendar shows bookings on 259 days with 589 separate sessions

## Accounts

RAL Music Club - Income and Expenses for 2018																																			
Date	Description	Category	Income Money IN	Expense Money OUT	Overall Balance																														
26.07.18	Beginning balance	Membership fees to date	£167.50		£167.50																														
12.09.18	Membership Fees	Membership	£25.00		£192.50																														
12.09.18	BBQ Profits	Event Profits	£26.00		£218.50																														
12.09.18	Drum ring (Becky Fair)	Equipment purchase		£15.00	£203.50																														
16.10.18	Shure Clip-On Mic (Ron Brumfitt)	Equipment purchase		£60.00	£143.50																														
<table> <tr> <td colspan="2">2018 Summary</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Opening Balance</td><td>£0.00</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Income Money IN</td><td>£218.50</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Expense Money OUT</td><td></td><td>£75.00</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">End of Year Balance</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>£143.50</td></tr> </table>						2018 Summary						Opening Balance		£0.00				Income Money IN		£218.50				Expense Money OUT			£75.00			End of Year Balance					£143.50
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RAL Music Club - Income and Expenses for 2019																																			
Date	Description	Category	Income Money IN	Expense Money OUT	Overall Balance																														
01.01.19	Opening year balance	Balance	£143.50		£143.50																														
17.01.19	Piano Tuning (Expenses for R. Brumfitt)	Equipment maintenance		£60.00	£83.50																														
21.01.19	Membership fees	Membership	£40.00		£123.50																														
07.02.19	Membership fees	Membership	£25.00		£148.50																														
11.02.19	Piano Repairs (Expenses for R. Brumfitt)	Equipment maintenance		£30.00	£118.50																														
20.02.19	Membership fees	Membership	£5.00		£123.50																														
12.04.19	Membership fees (Bank transfers to T. Youngs)	Membership	£90.00		£213.50																														
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## Equipment Purchase

Having undergone a period of discussion with the growing number of Music Club members, it did not take long to establish that some new equipment was needed. A list was compiled and the RecSoc Committee asked if they would be happy to purchase some or all of the items on the list. The club is eternally grateful that the answer was “Yes” to all of the items requested.

The largest item in terms of cost was a new acoustic drum kit to replace the ageing existing one – the number of live events that the music club put on will hopefully only grow, and a good acoustic kit is an essential item for nearly all of the bands that regularly use the room to sound their best. The existing kit is currently “on loan” from Jonny Ranner, but it is sensible for the club to own one as an asset, since it essentially reflects ‘permanent’ standard equipment. Similarly, the owner of the workhorse large bass amp in the room (which the club uses for all live events) will also shortly be reclaiming it as their own. Again, for the club to own one as an asset for general use would be the preferred option.

Also on the list of requested items was a handful of sundry items (cables, microphone stands, wired vocal mics in good working order etc.) which the club is in very short supply of. Larger ‘desirable’ items were a drum mic kit to enable us to record and produce music in the RecSoc, and an electric

piano to sit alongside the upright piano already in place, to cater for the growing number of pianists who use the room and take lessons on a weekly basis.

To summarise the costs to the nearest pound:

- Pearl drum kit / throne + courtesy repair of old kit : £625 + £125
- Harley Benton bass amp : £200
- Piano stool / music stand / metronome / cables / vocal mics : £385
- Korg electric piano bundle : £475
- Drum mic kit plus cable : £270

All items were purchased online from Thomann.

### Piano Lessons

Popularity of piano lessons is strong with nine members taking piano lessons during the reporting year (12 in total since lessons started in Oct. 2017, 3 new in 2018).

- Lessons cover Classical, Jazz and Pop and include improvisation, composition and duets.
- Standards vary from complete beginner to Grade 6.
- During 2018 sessions were held on 46 days which totalled 261 individual lessons.
- One student passed ABRSM Grade 1 exam with Distinction, another will be taking the Grade 1 exam in 2019.

### Events Calendar

2018

#### Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June – Private Event

Three Music Club bands played at a private birthday party event held at the RecSoc. Much fun was had by all!

#### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July – Active Wellbeing Week

For the Civil Service Active Wellbeing week a couple of Music Club guitarists entertained the Lounge during the Friday lunchtime whilst looking after the RecSoc display stand.

#### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July – Live Music

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July saw the latest Live Music event put on by the RAL Music Club. Held at the RecSoc, it was a balmy summer's evening, complete with barbecue providing hot nibbles for all those who attended.

The night kicked off with Subatomaton providing some of their original rock-y-metal-y-Bowie-y style. Minus their drummer Luke they were ably assisted by Becky (Tyro) who filled in on the night, and did a fabulous job all round. Following SubA were the newly-named Orbit 42, who absolutely smashed (no other word for it) out some songs to the delight of the crowd. You want energy in a performance? They got it!

Monkfish then stepped in to the limelight, performing an acoustic set since they were without their bass player, and captured the attention of the listeners with some "dark country" music. I confess I was outside trying to insert a screaming toddler in to a car for a fair chunk of their set, but I am reliably informed that they played their acoustic socks off. We'll try to get them back as a full band to get the whole experience! Dark Matter rounded off the evening as our headliners, throwing out

blues covers and their own material with consummate professionalism, and great musicianship all round. Hats off to you, gents – topped off the evening nicely.

The lounge was busy from the outset, with a good time being had by all. Everyone who played on the night should once again be thanked and congratulated on putting on a good show, not just for those friends and family who were invited, but to the casual attendees, especially those from outside the Music Club, who will have experienced the quality we have on offer.

Special thanks go out to Jonny Ranner for once again performing acoustic miracles as our engineer, Josh Preston and Dave Hunt for manning the bar, and to Paul Sedwards (our RecSoc Chairman!) for looking after the grill.

### Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September – RAL Music and Dance Festival (RAL MaDFest)

The second RAL Music & Dance Festival was held on Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, and encompassed music acts courtesy of the RAL Music Club, dance troupes, local food vendors, local artisans, kid's entertainment, and science exhibits from the departments on and around Harwell Campus.

We must first say a massive “thank you” to our principal sponsors, without whom the event simply would not have been possible. Contributions from ISIS, CLF, PPD, Technology, RAL Space, SCD, and Element6 were gratefully received, and helped us put on the event that we wanted to deliver. Many lessons were learned from MaDFest 2017, and set-up and planning was, dare I say, “almost smooth”. Nevertheless, the heavy organisation workload puts an enormous strain on those who are leading the charge, and if MaDFest is to continue as a regular event, more support from the outset of the preliminary planning stages will be required.

All the effort was worth it – the event looked great, sounded great, and tasted even better (we have some great local food vendors in the area). Sadly, the weather did not play ball. A full account is given in an accompanying report.

### Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December – RecSoc “Last Day of Term” Party

Several Music Club members played at the RecSoc's “Last day of term” party held in the lounge, before Christmas began and mince pies got eaten.

## 2019

### Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March – SHE Fayre

For the SHE Fayre Dan produced our new information poster and Ronnie managed to get in a little bit of guitar practice during the quieter moments when the RecSoc and CSSC stands weren't busy.

### And Finally...

On behalf of the Music Club and its members I'd like to thank the RecSoc for their continued support and financial assistance over the past year.

During the forthcoming year we hope to:

- 1) *Continue our Open Mic / Live Music@RecSoc events* – so far it has been difficult to find a suitable time in 2019 to hold one, but we will persist! Piano recitals will definitely be involved.
- 2) *Investigate Basic Noise-Reduction* – while there is generally a lot of harmony between clubs in the RecSoc, we will make efforts to reduce our “noise impact” by installing some basic sound-proofing in the music room.