

NEWS FROM THE CULTURAL QUARTER



Spent too much time on the fringe of society? Come and Join in the *real* fringe And make a Difference!

Volunteering at *Tees Music Alliance* (TMA) gives you an opportunity to trade in your *Nowhere Blues* for an upbeat experience that you won't want to lose. Organising events and bands and recording sessions is not all about *Sex drugs and Rock n Roll*— a lot of hard work, planning and training go into presenting some top class events and recordings - but it can be fun! You'll get your hands dirty setting up the stage, putting out the tables and even cleaning the loos but you'll get to learn real skills, develop your abilities, find your direction, get some guidance and training and meet a lot of like minded people—including the bands!

TEES MUSIC ALLIANCE presents

stockton riverside

09 fringe festival

Thurs 30th July - Sun 2nd Aug

30 JUL » James Grant
31 JUL » The Charlatans
1 AUG » Supergrass
2 AUG » The Proclaimers

plus MANY MANY MORE.

supported by

Stockton-on-Tees ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

please bookmark us and check for further details

“Argue For Your limitations and they are yours!”

Richard Bach

In April **Paula** and **Maria** organised the first 3 day *Volunteer Induction Programme* outlining the many benefits of volunteering; the great opportunities available for placements, job search, media training, studio work, event and festival management and much more. As with everything - what you get out of it is what you put into it and quite apart from the humdrum duties always involved in organising great events you also have the opportunity to create your events or pursue your own ideas—with

support! Mainstream society may be evaporating but the Fringe is expanding. Plug in and strike a chord!

CONTACT

For more information about any of these articles or have some ideas, or to get involved with any of them – Contact Maria Blades on 01642-606525 or e mail maria@teesmusicalliance.org.uk

STOCKTON DIGITAL VILLAGE!!



Even Villages are going digital these days! It's enough to make the peasants revolt! However TMA have bagged top bass guitar slinger and hit songwriter **Steve Thompson** who has now shunned the hit parade to bring the skills of Community and digital media to the people, through his current post at Teesside University via Destinations Community Media Beacon.

(Picture shows Steve Thompson in his younger days playing bass guitar in a metal band!)

A Digital Village is an on-line community where you can definitely 'Dream on' and not be ridiculed. It's a space where you can express your ideas through words, audio, video and photography; promote your events; chart a local history and much more. It gives blog space to both groups and individuals and puts you at the helm in terms of promoting your events and ideas locally and internationally and significantly transforms your neighbourhood to world wide status – (but be careful who you gossip about – they may stumble on it!).

Steve is there to induce you to try the benefits of modern technology, pass on his skills so you can enhance your project and in turn - pass on those

skills to those you work with. He's in the Green Dragon Studio every Friday -10am til 12. Why not come along - A good sense of humour helps and will help you retain some humanity!! Yes it's fun!

THE HISTORY OF TEES MUSIC ALLIANCE

Photo – Chapman Family – Stockton Band with a new single out.



One idea for the Stockton Digital Village is to create a website charting the history of TMA from it's early days as two music collectives – showing it's development from a Community Arts based project and musicians collective through the creation of Studio 64 – a community recording facility in Middlesbrough to an umbrella arts organisation managing a diverse amount of events and facilities in the Cultural Quarter of Stockton. A related project might be to also chart the musical history of

Teesside – the bands – the artists – the venues – the folk and Jazz clubs –the festivals. You'd be getting into research, publicity, interviews and creating a website that will put Tees Music on the World Wide Map at last. Don't sit in the pub telling your mates how great the music scene has been here – come and help show the world how Teessiders have cut-it!

The Stockton Digital Villain

HEY YOU! Don't just read this – Help to do it!!

Have I got news for you!

This pilot edition of *News From the Cultural Quarter* (NCQ) needs volunteers to write, illustrate, take photos, layout and design, create copy, report, interview etc.

If you've dreamed of running a fanzine, being a journalist or having your photos or graphics in a magazine – now is the time. The NCQ needs your skills and ideas to help put the TMA and its diverse events into gear and keep everyone informed.

TMA Volunteer organisers Paula and Maria have dragged former Outlet editor and TMA volunteer – Trev Teasdel - screaming and kicking (I tell you!) into the editing suite (sounds grand doesn't it!) to put together a crack team of creative volunteers to create and run *News From the Cultural Quarter*. Don't be 'do-be dumb dumb dumb' – be like Human League – Do and Dare! Contact Maria Blades to express interest in getting involved.

THE MARTIANS LAND IN THE GREEN DRAGON YARD!

TMA Volunteer – Anthony Garrett has embraced the spirit of TMA volunteering by fetching out of the wallet of his imagination a brilliant and fun idea and initiative. Not one to sit in his – *er* – Garrett and dream - Andrew is being pro-active and has astonished the Martians in the Green Dragon Yard by putting forward the following creative proposition –

Anthony says “What I think might be good is to get together a selection of writers and artists; mix and match them and put together an anthology comic book, with different comics about anything / everything maybe tied to some loose theme. If we could get people together and come up with ideas and meet up every week for like about 7 weeks to see how we're all getting on and then put the comics together and do a small print run and at the end have an event to launch it with readings and an exhibition of the original art (the art could move into the gallery at the studio).

The sort of comics I am thinking of are like *Harvey Pekar, Debbie Dreschler, R. Crumb...*” Below is an example of Pekar’s work –

