



Andrew Lloyd Webber
Foundation

News from Youth Action Wiltshire November 22, 2014.

Wiltshire young carers receive funding to make more music

Youth Action Wiltshire has won funding to help young carers express themselves through music.

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation has awarded Youth Action Wiltshire the sum of £21,350 for a new music project which will involve Wiltshire Young Carers, schools and music groups around the county over two years. The money will be used to deliver workshops leading to performances and regular music groups for young carers who wish to continue their involvement with making music.

This follows on from a spectacular end-of-season performance from the young carers to mark their two years plus of collaboration with Bath Philharmonia orchestra and local music students. They took to the stage on Wednesday 29th October at the Wiltshire Music Centre, Bradford on Avon for an emotional and inspiring concert of their own original words and music as part of Listen 2 Us 2: the 2014 Finale.

The young carers have been working with the Bath Phil musicians and with music students from Bath Spa University and Wiltshire College as part of the Listen 2 Us project, which was funded for two years by a £75,580 award from the charity Youth Music. Bath Philharmonia Director of Music Jason Thornton led the project.

“We are thrilled that this work will be able to continue with other young carers, students, musicians and music groups in Wiltshire due to the funding from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and we look forward to other workshops and performances in future,” said Young Carers Support Worker Sharon Worby.

“The final performance of Listen 2 us 2 was fantastic and very moving. Over 42 young carers aged 7 to 18 years took part in the performance and there were 250 people in the audience – a brilliant turn out.

“There was a video shown as part of the performance which included interviews with young carers about their lives and their caring responsibilities, and this was very poignant.

“This was a fantastic project and a wonderful performance which enabled young carers to have some truly inspirational experiences in their collaboration with professional musicians. It has had a profound impact on their lives. We are grateful to Bath Philharmonia, Wiltshire Music Centre, Music in Action, Youth Music and all the supporters who made it possible.”

Over the course of the collaboration the young carers have performed at festivals and venues such as the Salisbury International Festival, The Pound Arts Centre in Corsham, Calne Festival, Wiltshire Music Centre, the Bath International Music Festival, Bath Abbey and The Greenbelt Festival in Cheltenham.

Madeleine Lloyd Webber, Trustee of the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, said: “We are delighted to support this inspirational project which provides high quality tuition in the arts and makes such an impact in the community. It’s great to see that by getting involved in this project, young people who are often from disadvantaged backgrounds can acquire life skills that will equip them for a better future. The Foundation remains committed to giving young artists a chance and we call on others to help us make arts make the difference.”

About young carers and Youth Action Wiltshire

Youth Action Wiltshire’s Young Carers service, part of Community First Wiltshire, provides respite activities, one-to-one support, training sessions and regular group meetings with young carers in different parts of Wiltshire to help them cope with their challenging role within the family.

Young carers can be aged from 5 years to 24 years and have significant responsibilities for caring for a seriously ill or disabled family member. They may have difficulties at school because of their caring responsibilities and can also experience bullying.

Youth Action Wiltshire is a service provided by Community First in Wiltshire. YAW is an award-winning service that has been supporting young people and volunteers in Wiltshire and Swindon for more than 60 years. It supports over 750 young carers, works with over 70 youth clubs and runs training and activities for hundreds of young people.

www.youthactionwiltshire.org

About the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation

Andrew Lloyd Webber set up this charitable foundation in 1992 to promote the arts, culture and heritage for the public benefit; since inception Andrew has been the principle provider of funding for all its charitable activities.

In 2010, the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation embarked on an active grant giving programme and has now awarded grants of over £9m to support high quality training and personal development as well as other projects that make a real difference to enrich the quality of life both for individuals and within local communities.



For further information see our website
www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com

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