

23 March 2010

Local Young People Form Junk Percussion Group

This February, a group of 17 young people from communities in East Leeds were thrilled to receive backstage access to theatrical sensation *Stomp!* at the Lyceum Theatre in Sheffield. This memorable event marked the launch of their own "junk percussion" group, which has seen group members designing and performing their own home-made instruments. The group has plans to perform at local fêtes and festivals in the summer, promising a dazzling display of talent and creativity.

With musical direction from Chango Music and jointly funded by Connect Housing Association, Seacroft Manston Extended Services and Find Your Talent, the project aims to inspire young people into making music as a form of positive expression.

The idea for the project came from Alan Metcalfe, Youth Officer for Connect Housing, whose imagination was captured by a *Stomp!* performance several years ago.

"Starting a project like this has been a dream of mine ever since watching *Stomp!* for the first time, and I am really excited that we have finally got this opportunity."

Alan has teamed up with Adam Amer from Chango Music, a small social enterprise providing drumming and percussion workshops throughout the UK.

Commenting on the project, Adam said, "Junk percussion is growing in popularity. With a little imagination, you can turn the most unassuming household items into a full-blown percussion ensemble!"

The project has already been received with enthusiasm by the local community. Parklands Primary school in Seacroft have provided the venue for the weekly rehearsals and the David Young Community Academy has offered additional rehearsal space during school holidays. Local music retailer Andy Wilson from

Knock on Wood has allowed free access to his library of instrument-making resources.

For further information please contact Alan Metcalfe at Connect Housing Association, 205 Roundhay Road, Leeds LS8 4HS.

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This photograph of club members with the cast of *Stomp!* available on request from Alan Metcalfe.

Notes for the Editor

- Connect Housing is a not-for-profit housing association with approximately 3,000 homes across West Yorkshire.
- Connect staff run a variety of activities for children of different ages, including an Arts Club and a Warhammer Games Club.
- Connect Housing was born in February 2006 following the merger of West Yorkshire Housing Association and The Ridings Housing Association.
- Find Your Talent is a government initiative to bring cultural and creative opportunities to young people.