

# Guitar Aid



# NEWSLETTER

## SPRING 2009

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Hi There!

Usually we tend to keep our activities in Guitar Aid reasonably low profile, but from time to time something comes along worth shouting about. Our 1<sup>st</sup> year as a charity and celebrating the 2000<sup>th</sup> guitar, is something we just can't keep quiet about. We have invited Bryn Haworth to help with a celebration concert. Details on page 2.

## RECENT FEATURE IN GEAR MAGAZINE

# GUITAR AID CELEBRATES 2000TH GUITAR

Since setting up Guitar Aid in 1991, Dave Sumner's mission to provide much-welcomed musical and spiritual relief to some of the most poverty-stricken regions in the world has been hailed as a major success, not least by the recipients of the instruments...

Dave, a toolmaker by profession and church band leader in his local Riverside Christian Centre, originally set up 'Guitar Aid' – reported on in Gear magazine back in 2002 – by buying second grade (marked/damaged, etc.) acoustic guitars which he would then repair and make good. When he had enough to make up a shipment, he would transport them himself in a Land Rover and trailer to specific destinations, such as the post war-ravaged Balkans of the early 90's.

'Rather than someone thinking, 'I've got this old coat that I don't need any more, I'll send it to Romania', my original idea was to give something of real quality that could be used and appreciated," was Dave's original Guitar Aid concept. "Something to provide a diversion amidst the despair of these awful situations where ordinary people through no fault of their own find themselves with nothing."

### SPONSORSHIP

As the success of Guitar Aid grew and sponsorship became more established, Dave approached music distributor John Hornby Skewes & Co. Ltd. about manufacturing small production runs of 'Guitar Aid'-branded Vintage®



acoustic guitars, when funds could be made available. In 2002, the first run of 100 Guitar Aid guitars was duly delivered for Dave's project.

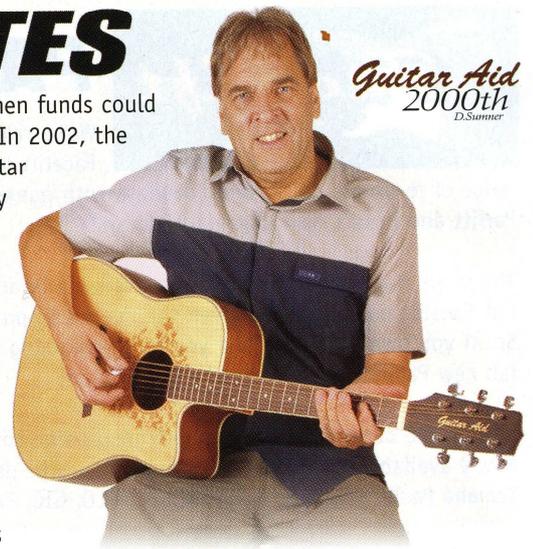
Since then, Guitar Aid has expanded into general band instruments, including bass guitars, electric guitars and electro-acoustics as well as acoustics, all provided to help get people playing together and to unite communities through music. Dave has now taken GA instruments as far afield as Africa, Cuba and recently, India.

### 2000TH 'GUITAR AID' GUITAR

Recently Dave took possession of the 2000th Guitar Aid guitar, presented by JHS MD, Dennis Drumm. The Guitar Aid acoustic is an all-solid wood guitar with a solid spruce top and mahogany body with a '2000th' laser cut inlay, alongside Dave's signature and attractive 'Tree Of Life' rosette work.

"I'm delighted with the guitar," smiles Dave. "We've had two made, one I'll keep as a memento, one we'll give away. Apart from the number, this guitar represents 18 years of hard work, and symbolises the recent transition of Guitar Aid to full individual charity status, with Inland Revenue-sanctioned 'Gift Aid' tax relief allowing us to include more accessories and so on. Obviously a project like this relies on a lot of help from a lot of people, and so it's a big thanks to everyone from us."

[www.guitar-aid.com](http://www.guitar-aid.com)



Guitar Aid  
2000th  
D.Sumner

## GUITAR AID CELEBRATION



On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm we are holding a celebration at Riverside Christian Centre Exeter. This will take the form of a free concert with Bryn Haworth, followed by a buffet.

We would love as many of our supporters as possible to come to this event. It's quite a few years since we had a Guitar Aid celebration evening, so we plan to make this one really special!

Tell your friends and Church members and plan to attend!

## RECENT MISSIONS

Since our last newsletter we have been on a couple of missions including Romania, Hungary, Moldova and Croatia. It always gives us pleasure to see young people encouraged and starting worship bands. This is not only an encouragement to the individuals, but also a great



asset and blessing to the local churches. It was a privilege to travel to Moldova. After the 1500 mile drive to Romania, we then took the overnight train to Moldova. By the time we had reached our final destination in the villages, we had traveled nearly 2500 miles overland. It seemed a long way from home!



## THE GIVING MACHINE

For those of you who are internet shoppers, you will be interested to know that Guitar Aid is now registered with "The Giving Machine" which can be found at this address, <http://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/>.

By registering with "The Giving Machine", every time you internet shop via this site, the company you are buying from will donate money to your chosen charity (ie Guitar Aid or any other charity)

You may think this is extra hassle, but once set up and with "The Giving Machine" bookmarked in your favourites, it only takes two or three extra clicks of the mouse for Guitar Aid to benefit and it doesn't cost you a penny!

Can't be bad eh? Now start clicking!

Remember, for £39, you can sponsor a guitar. It will make a real difference to individuals and communities around the world. Your gift is very much appreciated!

Thanks once again,



Dave Sumner