



Our Local Hero

By Emily and Mabel



How would you feel if a well-known musician came to town? Excited? Curious? We have recently discovered our West Sussex ‘Local Hero’, Guy Fletcher. Guy is a Professional multi-instrumentalist from West Sussex. He is a member of the renowned band, Dire Straits and has played with many leading artists such as Sting and Mick Jagger. Guy’s main inspiration for his musical career was Stevie Wonder and this has led him to become our ‘Local Hero’.

We were lucky enough to interview Guy Fletcher for the BBC School News Report. Being interested in music and enjoying playing it we were inspired to know more about a professional musician. We have been listening to Dire

Straits music with our parents since early childhood and were curious to know more too.

Guy told us that his favourite instrument to play is the bass guitar because that is where it all started for him. He found it very difficult to learn it to a high standard but likes the fact it teaches you about musical architecture.

According to Guy, to make a concert successful very hard work is required! He comments on the daily routine and we were interested to know that the days are fairly structured. We are pleased to announce that the atmosphere in the band remains positive and excited- none of the naughty boy squabbles!

Now, onto modern day music! Does Guy feel that YouTube and XFactor are beneficial? He tells us that YouTube is an excellent way for young songwriters and artists because it gets you out there. Sort of your first step to fame, isn't it? XFactor, in his opinion, should be steered clear of by all artists because he believes you shouldn't become a musician because you get to be on television. However, he tells us if you like it then that's fine because it's all good telly! Likewise, we asked Guy about streaming music, using things like Spotify and Amazon Music. We were told that it's a good way for showcasing work and for marketing it. You would want your work to be popular, right?

Getting into the music business was something that puzzled us. Guy however had some suggestions. He told us to use modern ways on the internet to make ourselves known. If you keep posting and writing your songs, you'll be a more publicised writer. The more writing and practice you get the better you will become.

Finally, our curiosity wrapped up with music projects and if Guy could tell us anything he was working on. Not surprisingly, his main project with Mark Knopfler is very secretive but he did say that they will be starting a new album in the next few weeks and he may start one himself!

Well, all the family will soon be listening to any new music produced- so why don't you too? Remember even two girls in Year eight will! If this inspiring talk we had with Guy isn't enough for your curious minds, please visit his websites: <http://guyfletcher.co.uk/the-diaries-2/> or <http://guyfletcher.co.uk> for more information.