

16 November 2009

## **SINGING WEST MIDLANDS ACCOUNTANT SUPPORTS WOUNDED TROOPS WITH CHARITY SINGLE**

### Proceeds from *My Boy* go to military charity SSAFA Forces Help

Grant Thornton Birmingham accountant and singer/songwriter Chris Whiting has teamed up with The Charlatans' drummer Jon Brookes on a new charity single in aid of SSAFA Forces Help.

While performing his song *My Boy* at numerous gigs, Chris was often approached by current and ex-soldiers, families and friends of servicemen, all of whom had found it moving. It became clear that *My Boy* had a particular resonance within the Serving community and so Chris and Worcester-based independent label Black Sheep Records approached SSAFA Forces Help with a view to releasing the single.

Chris, 30, who comes from Walsall, was keen to support SSAFA Forces Help after hearing about the charity's 'homes from home' for injured service personnel and their families. SSAFA Norton House is near the main military treatment centre at Selly Oak Hospital and allows mums, dads, partners, wives, children and grandparents to stay close to wounded loved ones when they need them most.

He said: "Being a West Midlander myself I was aware of SSAFA Forces Help's work at Norton House. During what must be an extremely traumatic time for families, they can now remain close to their loved ones, in comfort and with the support of this charity's dedicated staff."

Birmingham-based Chris works in Grant Thornton's not-for-profit advisory team. When he told senior colleagues about *My Boy*, the firm offered to fund the professional recording session through its Corporate Responsibility (CR) programme, which encourages staff to participate in activities which can benefit the wider community.

Kathryn Godfree, partner and Grant Thornton's Birmingham office CR coordinator, said: "We are absolutely delighted to support Chris and his creative endeavours on behalf of SSAFA Forces Help and hope that his single raises lots of money for this very deserving cause.

"Corporate Responsibility reflects our values as a firm and our aim to be respected by the business and wider communities in which we operate. This is why we give our community and environmental performances equal importance to our financial and business ones."

*My Boy*, which features Jon Brookes of The Charlatans on drums, is being released through Black Sheep Records next month and will be available to pre-order from November 16<sup>th</sup> at [www.dittomusic.com](http://www.dittomusic.com).

Chris will be performing an acoustic version of *My Boy* at The Jam House in Birmingham on Tuesday 24 November, along with tracks from his forthcoming EP *Our Rocks - The Basement Sessions*. He will also be playing with his band at the Q Bar in Walsall Wood on Saturday 12 December, which will include a guest appearance by the Charlatans' Jon Brookes.

Jon said: "More and more of our soldiers aren't coming home and when their families need help SSAFA Forces Help is there for them. I hope this beautiful song gives people something to reflect on."

The single is sponsored by leading business financial adviser Grant Thornton and Loft Mastering House, and RAC have pledged their support.

*My Boy* will be available to download from itunes, Amazon, Napster, Dittomusic and all other major sites from December 14<sup>th</sup>, and a CD will be available through [www.ssafa.org.uk](http://www.ssafa.org.uk) or [www.chriswhitingmusic.co.uk](http://www.chriswhitingmusic.co.uk).

## Ends

For further information please contact Jill Priest on 01886 822077

### Notes to Editors:

**A choice of photograph accompanies this story as appropriate - \*\* please note different line ups.**

### Captions:

Pic 1 (upright shape):  
left to right:

Helen Gibson, Deputy Manager, SSAFA Norton House  
Kathryn Godfree, partner, Grant Thornton  
Chris Whiting, Grant Thornton

Pic 02 (wide shape):  
left to right:

Kathryn Godfree, partner, Grant Thornton  
Helen Gibson, Deputy Manager, SSAFA Norton House  
Chris Whiting, Grant Thornton

1. To hear a clip of *My Boy*, please visit:  
<http://www.chriswhitingmusic.co.uk/media.php> and press play

## 2. **SSAFA Forces Help**

The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) - Forces Help is the leading national charity committed to helping and supporting those who serve in our Armed Forces, those who used to serve, and the families of both. We provide a reliable, caring and trusted service to more than 50,000 people each year.

Our professionally trained staff and network of 7,000 volunteers provide practical and financial assistance, emotional support and a wide range of

services to ensure that SSAFA Forces Help makes a real difference whenever anybody turns to us for help.

**3. Grant Thornton UK LLP** is a leading business and financial adviser with offices in 29 locations nationwide. We are a member firm within Grant Thornton International Ltd, one of the world's leading international organisations of independently owned and managed accounting and consulting firms. Clients of member and correspondent firms can access the knowledge and experience of more than 2400 partners in over 100 countries and consistently receive a distinctive, high quality and personalised service wherever they choose to do business. [www.grant-thornton.co.uk](http://www.grant-thornton.co.uk)

#### **4. Chris Whiting**

Chris has been writing and gigging for over 10 years. Chris was with Mound for a number of years before concentrating on solo work. Recently he has been signed to Black Sheep Records with a view to releasing his debut album. Demos of some of Chris's tracks are available at [www.chriswhitingmusic.co.uk](http://www.chriswhitingmusic.co.uk).

As well as the single, Chris's debut EP *Our Rocks, the Basement Sessions* will be available through download sites from December 7th. The track *Please Forgive Me* which appears on this EP was described in a recent review as “the swaggering *Please Forgive Me*, a stripped down rousing toe-tapper of a tune that'll have you hollering along in glee”.

Chris Whiting - songwriter, guitar, vocals; Jonny Brookes – drums; Mark Brownridge – guitar; Dave Addis – guitar; Adrian Gallagher - bouzouki, keyboards, guitar; Al Mills – bass; Emma Whiting - backing vocals

Issued on behalf of Grant Thornton by Professional Communications.