



The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association – Forces Help
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Singer supports wounded troops with debut single

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

Singer / songwriter Chris Whiting has teamed up with Charlatans' drummer Jon Brookes for a new charity single in aid of SSAFA Forces Help.

The song *My Boy* is written from the perspective of a father whose son is leaving to go to war and all proceeds will be used to help troops and their families through the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association – Forces Help.

Having performed the song at numerous gigs and events 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 Black Sheep Records, approached SSAFA Forces Help with a view to releasing the single.

Chris 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.

Chris said: "Every time we switch on our televisions or open up our newspapers we are reminded of the dangers our servicemen and women face

and also of their families. They're the ones who remain at home, going about their daily lives, hoping and praying that their loved ones return safely to them.

“Being a Midlander myself I was very aware of the excellent work of SSAFA Forces Help in developing SSAFA Norton House near Selly Oak Hospital. 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 SSAFA Forces Help’s dedicated staff.”

My Boy, which features Jon Brookes of The Charlatans on drums, is being released through Black Sheep Records next month and is available to pre-order at www.dittomusic.com. A CD can be pre-ordered from www.chriswhitingmusic.co.uk

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 Grant Thornton and Loft Mastering and has also been supported by RAC. *My Boy* will be available to download from itunes, Amazon, Napster, Dittomusic and all other major sites from December 14th, and a CD will be available through www.ssafa.org.uk or www.chriswhitingmusic.co.uk.

“This song is for those brave men and women serving our country, and it is every bit as much for their families, whose hearts are carried by those soldiers every single moment of every single day,” said Chris.

For media enquiries and interview requests please contact: Lucy Walters at SSAFA Forces Help on 020 7463 9258 or lucy.w@ssafa.org.uk or John Taylor at Black Sheep Records on 07969 585591 or 01905 787 024 or info@blacksheepentertainment.co.uk

Notes to Editors

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.

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.

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

Ends