



5 minutes with...

John Merriman

A love of music led him out of the classroom and into the studio. John Merriman, the owner of Crown Lane recording studio in Morden, speaks to Brooke Baldwin about what makes Merton rock.

I understand you gave up teaching to establish Crown Lane studio?

I loved teaching but I found myself spending more and more time recording music in the evenings. You need to devote a lot of energy to your students so I decided to focus on one job, not two. Now, it's a privilege to work with people who have spent years learning to play a musical instrument.

It seems a small number of talent in Merton looking to be discovered?

The number of people who have walked through our doors since we opened in September 2007 has exceeded our expectations. We have recorded everyone from professional musicians to children's performers to football commentators.

Is your studio the place to find people on the road to fame and fortune?

The kind of talent in Merton is amazing but for me it's not about achieving fame. I would rather spend my time developing links with the community. I grew up in the borough and as a kid, attended the Merton Music Foundation. I have a lot of friends who are musicians and I think when you have a passion for the arts and what you do, it means you do more than just run a business.

Do you have a vision for the future?

I would really like to work with Merton Council to make air and music more vibrant in the borough. My ideal would be for Morden to be the centre of the South.

WIN! Win your own RECORDING SESSION in Crown Lane recording studio

Tired of singing in the shower? Crown Lane Studio is offering one lucky resident the chance to record in a professional studio.

To win the one and a half hour session, simply answer the following question:

Which town in Merton did Carol Dawn release a song about in 2007?