# CROWN LANE STUDIO

JOURNEY TOWARDS UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY

### ABOUT US

Hello! We're Crown Lane, an Award Winning recording studio in South West London.

Over the past 18 years, we've built a unique, community focussed space that's home to over 3,000 studio recordings and 17,000 rehearsal bookings.

We have three core values: Accessibility, Sustainability and Community

We haven't always had our eye on the ball with regard to Accessibility, but since being inspired by the work of Merton Centre for Independent Living, and working with the musician and activist John Kelly, we've come a long way - with still a continuous journey of listening, and acting on our discoveries ahead. Join us on the journey.

Trusted by:



2003

ARA ARCHITECTS
(RNIB) DESIGN ROOM I
AND CONTROL ROOM

2007



MORDEN
UNDERGROUND
(2 MINS AWAY)
NOW A STEP-FREE
STATION

2010

STUDIO EXTENSION ADDITION OF ROOM 2
AND KNOCK
THROUGH TO HIGH
STREET

ACCESSIBLE TOILET
BUILT

2020

CROWD-FUNDED
TRACK CEILING
HOIST IN TOILET +
REFURB - THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL
ACCESSIBLE TOILET

2022

REGULAR TEAM
TRAINING ON
DISABILITIES BEGINS
& BSL TRAINING

2023



BLUE BADGE AWARDS
RUNNER UP TO
LEGOLAND

#### Facilities at Crown Lane

All areas are accessible (ground floor)

An Access Rider can be submitted prior to any visit (see website)

Quiet spaces/times of day if required

Ceiling track hoist in Accessible Toilet

Team are learning British Sign Language - BSL (be patient!)

Hearing Loop in Metronome

Braille labelled tactile lego model of entire building

Visual Impaired Friendly Signage

Raised Floor in Room 3 - to allow sight-lines of wheelchair users to

be similar to standing or seated musicians



## Raising £3,000 for toilet hoist

By Amy Clarke

A RECORDING studio in Morden is fundraising for the installation of a toilet hoist to try become the "most accessible studio".

John Merriman, founder of Crown Lane Studio, decided to start the fundraiser after speaking to one of his studio regulars who uses a wheelchair.

The disabled studio-user told John that when he doesn't carry around his mobile hoist, he just doesn't have anything to drink.

John then looked into purchasing a hoist but found that there were no grants available - so decided to set up a fundraiser to try to reach £3,000 by Easter.

He has raised nearly £2,000 so

John, 43, told the Wimbledon Times: "I asked one of our regular studio users, who uses a wheelchair, why he brings his mobile hoist with him some days and on other days he doesn't.

"He just said on the days he doesn't, he just doesn't have anything to drink.

"That got me to the core.

"The more barriers we can remove, the better the studio is.

"The most basic things like making sure someone can go to the



toilet, which most of us take for granted.

"It's clear that everyone should have that right.

"I've been asked why specifically a hoist.

"People don't tend to ask for things that are personal.

"For those clients, I would never even know whether they would have checked on the website about whether it was accessible for them in this way."

The appeal is titled Spend A Penny - which refers to the former use of coin-operated locks on public toilets

John is thrilled that they are halfway to their target, and said it shows how much the wider community cares about those who are often "forgotten".

The current toilets are shared by Metronome, a coffee house that is also the entrance to the studio.

John said that he doesn't know of any hoists available in Morden town centre and he hopes that this addition will make the area as a whole more accessible.

The studio has been looking to consciously improve its accessibility since it first opened and has taken steps such as installing hearing loops, visual alarms, level and ramped floors throughout, clearer signage, braille welcome guides and team training.

It is currently in the process of building a scale model of the studio out of Lego to assist blind clients with planning.

John added: "The changes have been gradual.

"It started as me thinking about if I was in a wheelchair one day, would I be able to access my own business?

"But disabilities are a much broader concept than most people would understand and there are also a lot of hidden disabilities.

"As a non-disabled man, it is not something that I was aware of because I just get on with my life.

"It's taken a lot of first-person books from people living with disabilities to make me realise that gosh we have such a long way to go.

"Getting the hoist is just one part of the iigsaw."

John promises that everyone who donates will be personally invited to a party at the venue once the hoist is installed.



#### Who have we had at the studio?

We continue to work with a range of artists with different disabilities. Notable friends and clients include:



LIZ CARR



**MAURILLIA SIMPSON** 



**BBC RADIO** 



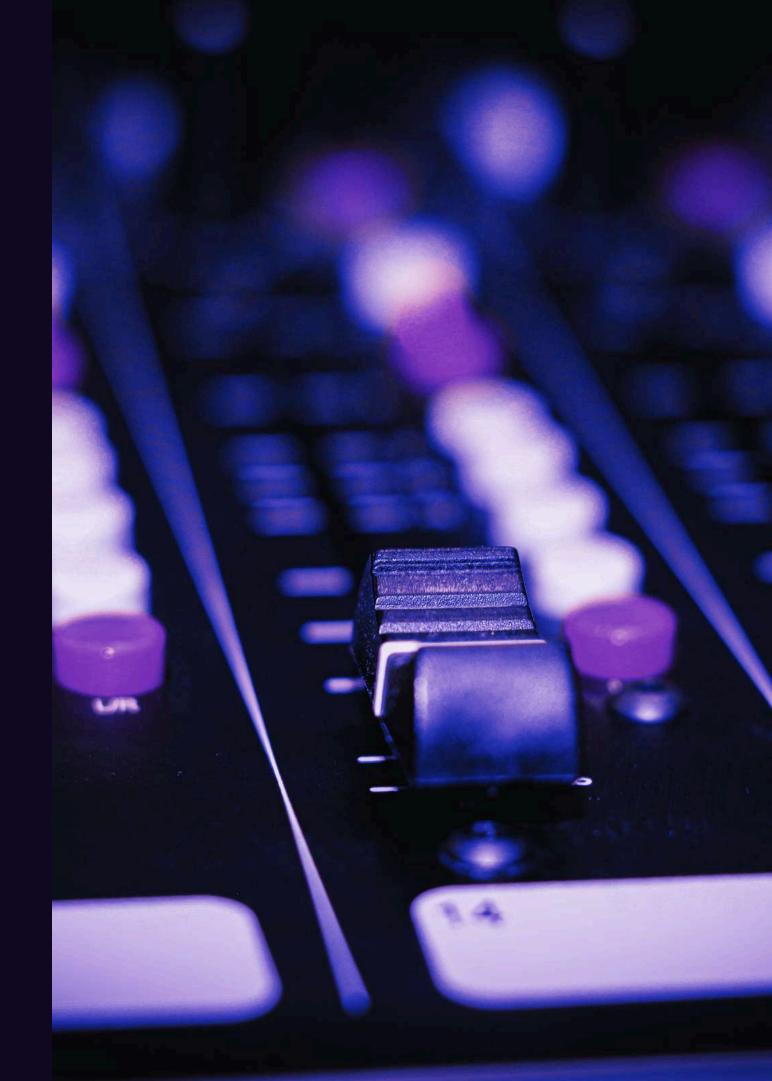
**MISS JACQUI** 



**JOHN KELLY** 



**ISAAC HARVEY MBE** 



### © CROWN LANE

GET IN TOUCH

info@crownlanestudio.co.uk 020 8540 5643

Or pop in for a coffee and a chat 8b, Crown Lane, Morden, SM4 5BL