

My Story.

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My beginning

Before I joined the Brigade I had many problems. I had just moved from my old house to my recent location in Barwell. I had no friends, I had nothing to do, all I had was my family. I never got out much until I met up with my cousins. When visiting my cousins they asked me to join them at the Brigade. Through the week I thought about it and decided that I would join because I knew it would give me something to do. At the first meeting I was nervous, I didn't know what it would be like I didn't know what people would be like but I went and I sat there thinking what instrument would interest me and what I would enjoy playing I began to make new friends. I have a good friend I can always rely on not knowing that he had almost become a family member, through my cousin I had got to know this person well and we began talking and playing together, then I thought I would like to try to play Side Drum. I tried playing them but just couldn't play them well but I never gave up

Eventually I decided that I would play the Mayfield Bells and see how I got on with them. Having my cousin beside me had pushed me further and further and I was proud I had learnt and got the hang of it. I had learnt a variety of songs and playing them for the very first time all together was nerve racking but I faced that fear. I thought I would never be able to play in front of an audience but I did I was really chuffed. Time had begun to fly by and I was beginning to enjoy playing in the Brigade Band more and more often in some cases I had struggled and made mistakes but I put those aside and continued what I was enjoying.

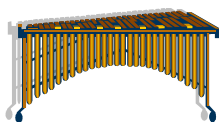
I had been playing in the band for about two months, then we came into the carnival season and we had our first carnival. I felt nervous, I didn't play my instrument because I didn't feel ready so I walked the parade, giving out water to the players. I did this for about four carnivals then I decided that I was ready to play my instrument, I was nervous, I made a few mistakes during the parade but I fought the pressure on me and persevered on with the Carnival procession, I mean who could blame me.

I progressed through the band rather quickly, I had learnt many new songs and got on with it, I started teaching other new comers to play Bells who struggled and this helped me and them gain confidence, this made me feel proud of myself getting this far and helping others.

In a short space of time I had learnt to play a new instrument, made many new friends, tackled my fears and took on new roles which gave me a better understanding about myself.

Then it comes to now, I have played a whole season of carnivals, visited places I had never been before and went camping. After a few months I have decided that concentrating on your mistakes can take you anywhere, I had a positive path lying ahead of me and I was proud, I wish to stay in the Brigade for the foreseeable future. Never let a mistake slow you down always follow your heart, you never know where it will lead you, look where I am.

James. Evens



More than just music