



The five mums that make up The Mothers.

Mums find a musical voice

feature

Five busy mums, desperate for some time to call their own, formed a rock band, The Mothers. In three years they have built a reputation locally, and are starting to make inroads into the world of international music. Nathalie Hollingworth caught them during a break from their busy lives to talk about everything from breastfeeding to rocking New York City.

What began when five working mums found a way to cope with the tensions of the day by making music looks like moving into the realms of international fame.

Three years ago, the Derby group The Mothers – Claire Armstrong, Henry Hinds, Nicci Wilson, Izzy Drury and Beth de Lange – found a way to grab a bit of ‘me’ time, composing songs and singing together about their different experiences of being a mum.

Life, from a mother’s point of view, is not the most common subject in song writing, but in the past year The Mothers have appeared live at The Attic, Leicester; Junction 7, Nottingham; Ripley Market Place; Wirksworth Festival; The Moustache Festival; The Mist and The Vic, Derby and – wait for it – New York.

In fact, last year The Mothers performed twice in New York City as part of Mamapalooza, a festival that celebrates mothers as artists, musicians, comedians and poets. They have also featured on two American CDs: Rockinmoms and Momaid to raise funds for Unicef.

Lead guitarist and singer Beth de Lange, probably the most musically ambitious of the group, is keen to see the band expand outside of Derby and maybe make some money!

“In America there were lots of publicity opportunities. The News of the World and the BBC wanted to hear about our band but we didn’t feel ready to make what felt like a giant step, at the time,” she explained.