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Helping people to live happier, healthier lives
through musical participation.

“Music is the strongest form of magic”

- Marilyn Manson

Marilyn Manson is right - and magical was very much the feeling across Acomb, Clifton and Tang Hall as we reunited with some of our groups for the first time since March last year. Armed with all of the necessities for a music session in the post Covid-19 world - PPE equipment, sun cream, umbrellas - we've thoroughly enjoyed singing some old MC favourites, practising our social dis-dancing and even doing some



recording! Not surprisingly, the weather has been typically British, but we're very pleased to report that our members have soldiered on, and we've not had to resort to cancelling any sessions... although watching the Rolling Tones singing

Lovely Day in the pouring rain was a particularly amusing moment - especially as

Fiona hid under the wooden marquee - some excuse about the keyboard getting wet apparently! Boris's latest announcement means that we've still got a few more weeks of braving the elements, but we know that our members will continue with smiling faces and happy enthusiasm until we can finally meet inside once more - the true MC family spirit shining through!



Oh, What a Year for our Brill' Volunteers!



The beginning of June marked the celebration of National Volunteers Week and a perfect opportunity for us to recognise the incredible support that we've received from our volunteers throughout the last year. They may be small in number, but under the strangest of circumstances, our wonderful team have successfully kept our MC family connected - whether it's been with phone calls, music

lessons, online Zoom sessions, social media support or 'on the road' fun - they really have done it all! A particularly special mention to Caroline, one of our student volunteers, who has recently received the University of York's Student Volunteering Award for the second year running. She has been an invaluable support to our Tower Court group members (pictured here) since she joined us two years ago and we know how much she'll be missed when they return to sessions now that she's graduating. So, a huge 'thank you' to Caroline, and to all of our fantastic volunteer team, for their unflinching support, hard work and determination - we honestly couldn't do it without you!

It's a 'Lovely Day' For An Intergenerational Project!

Whilst this last year has brought some huge challenges, it has also given us the time to master all sorts of video software and create some incredibly special recordings with our members. They've been really successful, and as we return to outside sessions, we're keen to continue making them - but this time in person! The first of these projects is in collaboration with



Fulford School - a recording of Bill Withers' *Lovely Day* including the children, our Acomb, Clifton and Tang Hall groups, and some extra member contributions too. We've all had a wonderful time rehearsing together and we're very excited to share the finished product with you - a perfect celebration of optimism as we head into summer!

Thank you for reading – keep singing and smiling!