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Musical Connections Newsletter

Helping people to lead happier, healthier lives through music



King's Square for a Busking Affair



At the end of May, around 30 of our members had a fantastic time joining together with our in-house MC band, Charlie's Angels, for an afternoon of busking in King's Square. Armed with flyers and lyric booklets, they sang for about 4 hours, including old songs, new songs and lots of MC favourites - with only one break for some much-needed ice cream! It was a wonderful opportunity for our groups to come together, including a fantastic scratch

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essence of the afternoon – a group of European students coming to join with the remaining few members, all singing Dancing Queen together – a very special moment where the music transcended all barriers! We are also delighted to announce that we managed to raise a huge **£283.02** in the process – an amazing effort from everyone involved! We hope to organise another busking event at the end of August, so stay tuned on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages to find out when that will be.



**'Sing it stronger, sing together,
knowing everyone will hear you'**

Gary Barlow

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After lots of practice during their weekly sessions, members from our singing groups were thrilled to be able to showcase their pieces during a joint concert with Scarcroft Primary School at the National Centre for Early Music. Featuring music from West End shows, Disney films, and even some traditional spirituals too, it was a wonderful afternoon for everyone involved, with many group members commenting on how special it was to be able to sing with children again after such a long time. The feeling was definitely mutual – afterwards, the Scarcroft teacher said, 'It was such an incredible experience for the children and they were raving on the way home about how much they'd enjoyed it. It was so lovely to be involved, and hopefully it has inspired them to know that they can continue to enjoy singing for all of their lives' – we definitely hope so!



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Honeysuckle and Acomb members raise the roof with their rendition of *All That Jazz* from Chicago - we do love a bit of glitz and glamour here at MC!



The Queen's Jubilee wasn't the only celebratory event in June, as one of our intergenerational partners, Westfield Primary School also had a very special anniversary – seven decades in education! To mark the occasion, they collaborated with a number of project partners across the city, including organising an afternoon of singing with our Monkgate and Tower Court groups. The members had a fantastic time, and particularly enjoyed the opportunity to sing Tim Minchin's 'When I Grow Up'

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with over 100 of Westfield's Year 2 and Year 6 children – a real celebration of intergenerational friendship! It wasn't just singing though, there were plenty of games

too, including a remarkable moment during Human Bingo, as one of our members had a conversation in Russian with a young Ukrainian refugee who hadn't yet spoken a word – truly magical. Here's to Westfield – and the next 70 years!

Three Cheers for the Volunteers!

June marked the celebration of National Volunteer's Week and served as an important reminder of the ongoing commitment and dedication of Musical Connections' volunteers. Together, they help to keep the charity running smoothly - weekly phone calls to members, helping during sessions, offering transport, there is always a job to be done! Volunteering tends to be coined as 'good for the heart', and whilst we know this is true, we're still very grateful to each and every one of them for being part of the Musical Connections family - it wouldn't be the same without you! We're always on the lookout for new people to join the team, particularly more university students for the new intergenerational Monkgate Wellness Choir, so if you are interested in volunteering with MC, then please get in touch with charlotte@musicalconnections.org.uk - we'd love to meet you!



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Pass The Flags - There's a Party To Go To!

From street parties to festivals, the Queen's Jubilee ended up being the country's biggest community event, and things were no different here at Musical Connections. Many of our groups celebrated in style, from themed music sessions in red, white, and blue to a special Jubilee singalong at Ashgrove, a local sheltered housing scheme. The Ashgrove residents thoroughly enjoyed meeting members of our Tower Court and Glen Lodge groups, and we're so grateful to the staff for the wonderful spread of cakes, strawberries, teas, and coffees – it definitely helped to fuel the singing! The Queen highlighted a sense of togetherness in her 'thank you' message to the country, and we couldn't agree more – our Jubilee celebrations have provided the perfect opportunity for group members and non-members alike to come together, sing, and share in that all-important community spirit, whilst waving a few flags too!

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