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Summer Sessions Lead to Busking Triumph



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Whilst our weekly music groups might have stopped for summer, that didn't stop the MC family singing as members from across the project joined together for a Tuesday morning singalong at Tang Hall Community Centre. With people from both our community groups and sheltered housing scheme groups, it was a delight to see everyone unite in the enjoyment of an MC session: new songs, dancing warmups, MC classics, and a definite feel-good atmosphere! After just 5 weeks of practice, and armed with mic stands, flyers and lyric booklets, the Tuesday sessions culminated in a fantastic busking event in St Helen's Square – member, musician, or passer-by, the joy on everyone's faces was evident throughout the afternoon and we received so many positive comments. A particularly special shout out to the members for their unwavering enthusiasm and energy - it was all worth it as we managed to raise an incredible £316.25!

We Hereby Crown You 'Retired'!



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history as Fiona, Project Director, and founder of the charity, stepped down after 13 years. As many of you know, Fiona originally set up Musical Connections in 2009, seeking to improve the lives of residents in City of York Council's care homes, and since then has developed and expanded the charity, now running 10 music groups across York. To celebrate the handover of responsibility to Abigail and Charlotte, we hosted a Bring and Sing afternoon at Marjorie Waite Court including members from across all of our groups. It was such a special chance for everyone to share in Fiona's achievements over the years, sing some of our favourite songs, and for her to be crowned 'officially retired' – tiara and sash included! Fiona's husband and daughter also made a very special guest appearance especially for the occasion – we couldn't let her go without a fuss! Although, having said that, she won't ever be too far away – Fiona will continue to mentor Abigail and Charlotte, has joined the Board of Trustees, and is already a stalwart member of the Rolling Tones – of course!



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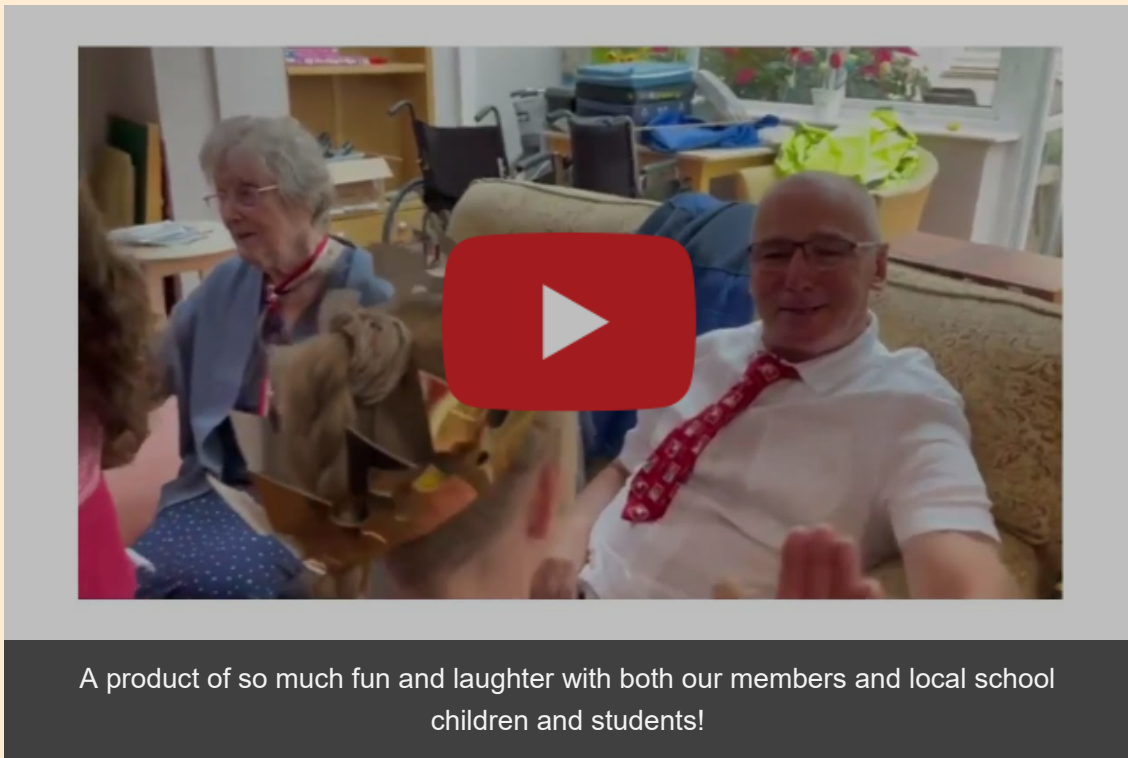
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Intergenerational Video Spreads Joy For All

Our experience of working under lockdown highlighted how much our members enjoyed taking part in collaborative video recordings with students and members of other MC groups and most recently, amidst the Jubilee celebrations, we joined together to record a version of Waterloo. Including children from Clifton Prep, the Vale of York Academy, Scarcroft School, and residents living at Ebor Court care home, it was a special intergenerational project that really captured the essence of the MC family – there's no denying that music, fun and laughter transcend any potential generational barriers!



A product of so much fun and laughter with both our members and local school children and students!

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'fun' in fundraising!

In July, MC members thoroughly enjoyed an afternoon of singing, dancing, and fundraising at the York Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge. Organised by the Rotary Club of York, this event is a fantastic opportunity for charities across York to come together along the bank of the River Ouse to raise funds and spread awareness of their work. Whilst we weren't competing in the race itself, we certainly won the best stall competition – group karaoke, a game of 'balance the 20 pence on the lemon', tambourines and flyers – we even made it into the [York Press](#)! With lots of people stopping to sing and dance with us, it was gorgeous to be able to share the MC joy with so many people and we're so grateful to everyone that donated – your money makes such a difference to the longevity of the charity. Now, to get training for next year's race – a Musical Connections boat is coming up!

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