

Musical Connections

www.musicalconnections.org.uk

July 2018



A Huge 'THANKYOU' to our Volunteers!

As we begin our summer break, it is a good time to acknowledge the support of our incredible team of volunteers, whose contributions make an enormous difference to our work in all kinds of ways. At this time of year, we are always sad to say goodbye to our student helpers, who have brought joy, musical expertise – and cakes! – into our sessions during the academic year, but we are fortunate to be able to rely on other volunteers whose ongoing support and contributions to our sessions and events are invaluable.

Fantastic Intergenerational Concert Fundraiser

The support of our volunteers was never more evident than on the night of a concert fundraiser in May, organised by one of our regular musicians, Emma Dickinson. Emma brought together the Musical Connections choirs with two local youth choirs to create a sensational evening of fantastic music and community spirit – and raised over £600 for Musical Connections in the process! Thank you also to the Co-Op for providing some amazing refreshments!



More shared musical experiences with younger generations.....

In June, we enjoyed a 3-week project with Musical Connections stalwarts, St Aelred's primary school, who joined our regular members in a singing and signing project led by our friends from Accessible Arts and Media. Everyone learnt to sign along to some great new songs, and it was fantastic for our musicians to learn some signing for future use with our regulars. There was a real sense of achievement in the room!



Another wonderful June event was a party hosted at York University by students from the Music Education Group (MEG). We enjoyed great performances from the students and some of Musical Connections' own performers, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed taking part in some whole-room singing – as well as tucking into refreshments kindly provided by Tesco.

Huge thanks yet again to Rufforth school, who do some amazing work on our project. On this occasion, members from our group at Gale Farm Court were invited to a dress rehearsal of their summer production. Residents from Haxby Hall were also delighted to take part in a workshop with children from neighbouring Ralph Butterfield primary school.



Musical Connections choirs out in force again!

On 10th July, the Musical Connections community choir gave their final performance of the academic year with a delightful informal concert at Tang Hall Community Centre. They picked some favourite pieces from their growing repertoire, which were much enjoyed by friends, family and tenants from nearby sheltered housing scheme, Glen Lodge.



'They were fabulous – you could hear people singing round the store! Brilliant'

Honeysuckle Singers may be small in number but they are large in impact, as was seen when they performed in the Tadcaster Road Tesco recently. In an attempt to encourage shoppers to vote for us with their blue token, they sang several lively numbers - we still don't know how we did in the voting, but we know that shoppers and staff thoroughly enjoyed the experience! To see their colourful rendition of Singing in the Rain, please visit our Facebook page at facebook.com/muconnections.



Vale of York Academy opens its doors to Musical Connections members for a joyous Summer Big Sing!

Students and staff from Vale of York welcomed us with open arms on 18th July for a fabulous afternoon of music and fun. Students performed a few numbers from their recent summer production, and Musical Connections members gave several enthusiastically-received performances themselves. There were some wonderful moments, a few of which are captured in the snaps below....



Thank you for reading! July 2018