



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

www.musicalconnections.org.uk

December 2019

We've Been Making Bucks at St Crux!

A fantastic variety of musical performances, cups of tea galore and resounding Christmas cheer... three of the essential ingredients to ensure that our annual Christmas fundraiser was a complete success! An **ENORMOUS** thank you to Musical Connections' trustee, Chris Bartram and his band *White Sail*, Mrs Debbie Feehan and the magnificent St Aelred's Primary School Choir and the ever-fantastic Rolling Tones for their irresistible musical extravaganza... the shoppers couldn't stay away! As a small charity, we are reliant on the money raised from these events to continue delivering our sessions each year and it was wonderful to see so many of our beneficiaries and supporters gather together to raise a magnificent £750. A special mention goes to Gabriel and Roger for their brilliant fundraising ideas... a Lucky Dip and the Rolling Tones' debut CD! Lastly, a **BIG** thank you for donations of bric-a-brac and to all of our wonderful volunteers for manning the stalls and providing such lovely cakes... we couldn't have done it without you... or the cakes!



'I don't sing because I'm happy, I'm happy because I sing...'

A beautiful quote from the psychologist, William James, that will definitely resonate with our two fantastic groups developed in collaboration with York Medical Group. A **HUGE** thank you for the generous funding from *Ways to Wellbeing* which has enabled patients of Acomb and Tower Court surgeries to find their singing voices. An intergenerational event with Burton Green Primary School, carol-singing at Ebor Court Care Home and Christmas concerts... it's all part of their repertoire now!

‘The best way to spread **Christmas cheer** is singing loud for all to hear...’



The sentiments of Buddy the Elf certainly rang true at our annual Christmas Big Sing, as over 60 of our beneficiaries joined with the talented students from Millthorpe School for festive music, carol-singing and copious amounts of mince pies! It was wonderful to hear the students perform and to see so many members of our groups share the

fruition of their hard work over the last term; Gale Farm Court demonstrated their exceptional hand-bell skills and Acomb Surgery Group treated us to a fantastic rendition of ‘Carol of the Bells’ in gorgeous harmony with Millthorpe School Choir. Despite being unplanned, it was a particularly special moment, proving once again, that making music brings people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities together! Adorned with festive headgear and never one to miss a performance opportunity, our very own George Dodd enthusiastically sang a couple of Christmas classics accompanied by Millthorpe School Band and even managed to encourage everyone to participate in a rousing version of ‘He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands’... an absolute natural on the stage! A **BIG** thank you to all of the staff and students at Millthorpe School for being so welcoming and a special mention to Mr Burton for his guest appearance as Father Christmas... it obviously must have been a quiet day in Lapland... or the office!



Before the Christmas season began, we thoroughly enjoyed joining with the children at Rufforth Primary School for an afternoon of 80’s floor-fillers... but can you guess the theme?! With enthusiastic **ROCKING** and rolling to the classic hits, ‘We Will **ROCK** You’ and ‘**MAMMOTH** Mia’, we’ve no doubt that Queen and ABBA would have been very proud to be the backing to our Stone-Age related fun.... definitely their highest accolade yet!

‘If you look for it, I’ve got a sneaky feeling you’ll find that **LOVE** actually is all around...’



Whilst we’re not sure the National Centre for Early Music was necessarily on Hugh Grant’s list, his famous words, from the classic *Love Actually*, seem a particularly apt description for the wonderful concert presented by the Rolling Tones and Hands and Voices singing and signing choir in November. The friends and families of both choirs thoroughly enjoyed an afternoon filled with love, laughter and **LOTS** of singing... the perfect combination... and a fantastic beginning to the Rolling Tones’ hectic Christmas schedule which included a festive Sponsored Sing, their annual Christmas Concert and carol-singing at York Hospital!

A couple more of those magical **Musical Connections**’ moments...



An **ENORMOUS** thank you to **YOU!**

Whether you’re a friend, family, volunteer or funder of our brilliant charity, we would be unable to continue successfully delivering our sessions without your constant support and dedication. Wishing you all a very magical and musical Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thank you for reading! December 2019