

Musical Connections Newsletter

Helping people to lead happier, healthier lives through music



'New Year, New Me'



It's been a wonderful return to sessions after the Christmas holidays, and as Covid restrictions have more or less lifted, our members are now looking forward to all of the 'new' things in our MC calendar. We've scheduled our first MC steering group meeting, planned an intergenerational 'Little Sing' with St

Aelred's schoolchildren and organised a community outreach session with members of local youth centre, Door84 – a busy couple of months ahead for the Musical Connections family! We've also recently started some new fortnightly sessions at [Marjorie Waite](#) independent living community. Similar to our other ILC groups, we're hoping it will give Marjorie Waite tenants the perfect opportunity to meet, and share and make music together with residents of the wider York community. We're so excited to watch it develop over the coming year, and if you or anyone you know would like to join the group, it will be running fortnightly on **Tuesday afternoons between 1.30-2.45pm.**



Our Rolling Tones community choir is our largest music group, with over 40 regular members from across York. Thanks to generous funding received from the [Postcode Neighbourhood Trust](#), they've all relished a return to Tuesday rehearsals, and now have their sights firmly set on their next performance – a community choir festival held at the Joseph Rowntree Theatre on Saturday 5th March. With an eclectic programme of music ranging from Tina Turner to Tudor folk songs, it's definitely not one to be missed - you can buy tickets now via the [Joseph Rowntree website](#).

'Awards for All' Answer Our Tablet Call



The last 18 months have highlighted the huge benefits of technology in maintaining connection with our MC family, propelling us into a world of digital recordings, online singing sessions, and regular music videos. It's been great to see our members engaging with music in new and exciting ways, but it has also emphasised the huge digital divide between those with and without online access. Quite a few of our members do not own a computer or tablet, have never 'Googled' something before and certainly haven't watched a YouTube video – we wanted to do something to change that! Based on a small pilot project conducted during lockdown and with funding very gratefully received from the [National Lottery Community Fund's](#) Awards For All, we've recently been able to provide tablets to two of our groups. We're currently in the very early stages of the project but are excited to watch our members learn the basics of digital technology, enjoy our online musical activities, and begin to access a world which has been previously off-limits to them. A big 'thank you' again to the [#NationalLottery](#) – we couldn't do it without your generous support!

In a cultural start to the New Year, some of our members thoroughly enjoyed attending a Winter concert at St Olave's Church with local chamber orchestra, '[The Academy of St Olave's](#)'. It was a wonderful evening of music, and we're very grateful to Acomb Singers volunteer, Anne, who connected us with the orchestra. A big 'thank you' also to Tower Court members, Stan, and Eileen, for their enthusiastic holding of MC collection buckets, which we're delighted to announce, paired with a very generous donation from the orchestra, raised an incredible £600!

YO1 Success for MC's Newest Band



YO1 Radio have been incredibly supportive of MC in recent months, and we were delighted to be invited into the studio again in January to record a Community Action advert. Charlotte chatted to radio presenter, Joni, about all things MC, before performing a very special version of The Foundations' Build Me Up Buttercup with MC members, Stan and David playing harmonica and guitar, and Danny, one of our volunteers also on guitar. This little quartet formed during lockdown and have delighted in practising a variety of songs in Stan's

back garden over the last 18 months. Their hard work in rehearsals has clearly paid off though, with Build Me Up Buttercup being so well received that Wayne Chadwick (YO1 Radio's Lunchtime Takeout presenter) played it on his show later on in the week and invited them in for another chat on the Lunchtime Takeout. Catch a snippet of Build Me Up Buttercup [here](#), and tune into the [interview](#) via YO1's website - we feature at 01:23:00 during the episode.

[Find Out More](#)



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