



## Musical Connections newsletter

Helping people to live happier and healthier lives



## Celebrating Spring with a good, old 'Big Sing'!



With over 100 people coming together for our biggest event yet, Musical Connections group members thoroughly enjoyed joining with children and parents from Burton Green Primary School for a Spring Big Sing at Marjorie

Waite sheltered housing scheme. It was a gorgeous afternoon with singalong songs, performances from MC groups and their members, and a particularly special rendition of 'Little Peter Rabbit' from the children at Burton Green – so good that we asked them to sing it twice! Alongside the wonderful singing, we also enjoyed all the Easter necessities, including an Easter egg hunt, Easter-themed bingo, and an Easter Bonnet competition judged by special guest Laura Castle – MC ambassador and York Mix radio presenter. A huge thank you to Laura for joining us, to Tower Court group member, Stan, for his award-winning bonnet, and to everyone else for their incredible efforts – the BG children coined it a 'fun, yummy, magical' afternoon, and we couldn't agree more!



A very proud Stan, and his award-winning Easter bonnet in action!

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## MC Members Make 'Moo'sic and Money





With only a few months to go before the York Rotary Dragon Boat Race Challenge, Musical Connections group members kickstarted our fundraising with an afternoon of Easter busking in St Helen's Square. For once, the sun was shining and after only a couple of hours of enthusiastic singing, dancing, and handing out MC stickers and leaflets, we were thrilled to have raised £300! A huge thank you to everyone that joined us – particularly Mrs Feehan and the few children from St Aelred's school choir – your extra voices made all the difference! Although our efforts have provided us with a great starting point, we've still got a long way to go to reach the £1,500 goal, and would 'udderly' appreciate any additional support you can give via our ['Moo'sical Connections fundraising page'](#). Finally, if you'd like to join us on the riverside, the event itself will be taking place on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July – we look forward to seeing you there!

**Donate to 'Moo'sical Connections**



In March, our Tower Court group were delighted to receive a generous grant from [The National Academy of Social Prescribing, in partnership with The Utley Foundation](#). Designed to support music groups providing musical moments of joy, we now intend to use the funding towards an intergenerational Coronation-themed concert including both Tower Court and other Musical Connections group members and local school children and students from Burton Green School and the Vale of York Academy. We hope this will provide the perfect opportunity for younger and older generations to celebrate not only this historic occasion together, but also the power of music, and the friendships, joy, and laughter that it brings!

## 'Egg'stra special Easter events for Tower Court and Monkgate

Not content with just one Easter event, we've definitely enjoyed a few, but this one was particularly special as Tower Court and Monkgate Wellness Choir group members returned to Fothergill Homes – an independent living scheme in York – for the first time since the lockdowns began. Both residents and MC group members alike were 'egg-cited' to join together after so long, and with Easter favourites and lots of laughter, it was clear that everyone had a fantastic afternoon. A particular mention goes to Linda whose wonderful Easter bonnet



creations meant that TC were definitely dressed for the occasion – just look at those hats! Tower Court group members also enjoyed an ‘egg-cellent’ Easter-themed afternoon with some of the children at Clifton Day Nursery. From fantastic teamwork on the chime bars to teaching each other the Easter Hokey Cokey, it was clear that whether younger or older, there’s two things that everyone has in common – a love of both Easter egg hunts and chocolate!









Including feel-good footage from weekly sessions, the Easter Big Sing, and our recent St Helen's Square busking event, we're delighted to introduce our Spring digital recording – Build Me Up Buttercup. Featuring Musical Connections group members and a whole host of daffodils, we hope it summarise the joy and happiness that being part of the MC family brings – a huge thank you to everyone for being involved!

**With thanks to ACE - the art sessions have been great!**







During March, and with the generous support of Arts Council England, our sheltered housing scheme groups thoroughly enjoyed taking part in Spring-themed textile workshops with Musical Connections member and local textile artist, Pam. Barstow and Gale Farm group members put their hand to fabric painting, whilst Glen Lodge members celebrated the Easter season with needle felting on polystyrene eggs. The sessions were hugely successful and group members' efforts will now be on display in their respective communal lounges – an Easter egg tree brightening up Glen Lodge and two tapestries, kindly made by Pam, collating Barstow and Gale Farm's wonderful fabric paintings!

**As you can see - it's been a Spring term filled with smiles!**







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