

Musical Connections

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February 2016

Samba at Gale Farm

Court Members of our group at Gale Farm Court had a fabulous afternoon with students from the University of York, who ran a samba workshop with them on 4th February.

Participants were keen to have a go on the instruments borrowed from the university, and everyone enjoyed creating some complex and challenging rhythmical pieces. We are very grateful to the students for making this happen, and look forward to our next joint venture with them



Ukulele Magic

Fortunately for us, St Aelred's school has a ukulele club AND some spare ukuleles, and so the children kindly brought them over to Woolnough House for residents to try out over the course of three separate sessions. We had great fun, singing and playing these lovely instruments - residents were especially delighted to be able to have a go at playing alongside the children, who were keen to share what they knew about them with their older friends. As the ukulele is an important instrument in the music of Tahiti, we all learned a Tahitian greeting song together – perfect for celebrating Woolnough House residents' special relationship with the children of St Aelred's school.



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Communities brought together through music

In addition to their ukulele project, St Aelred's school invited residents of Woolnough House to join them for tea, cake and songs at a community event held at the school in January. The children were absolutely delighted to welcome their neighbours and friends, and the residents were equally thrilled to meet up with the children, and to be able to spend some time with them in their daily environment.

Students from York College, on the other hand, had never met the residents of Morrell House when they made two visits there earlier this term. Nevertheless, within a very short space of time, it was as if they had known each other for years, and everyone had a fabulous time making music together, singing, dancing, and enjoying some absolutely fantastic performances from the students. We look forward to welcoming this same group of talented and sociable musicians to Willow House after half-term, and are very grateful to York College for their ongoing support for our work.

Micklegate councillor, Julie Gunnell, visits Barstow House music group

Our group at Barstow was delighted to welcome local councillor, Julie Gunnell, to one of their Monday morning sessions. Julie joined in for the whole session, in which we demonstrated some of our members' favourite activities, including simple part-singing, partner songs, rhythm work and chair-dancing. It was great to have Julie with us, and we hope that Micklegate ward, as well as all the other wards in which our groups take place, will look kindly upon us in their spending plans for the next financial year!

FIONA CHAPMAN: FEBRUARY 2016

