

# Musical Connections

[www.musicalconnections.org.uk](http://www.musicalconnections.org.uk)



October 2016

**Dates for your Diary:** On 29<sup>th</sup> November 1.30-2.30pm, a short film, 'Magical Connections', featuring the residents of Morrell House and their involvement in our project, will be shown at Clements Hall, Nunthorpe Road, York. The event will incorporate live music, including performances from Musical Connections participants. Following this, we will be holding a fundraiser at St Crux Parish Hall, Pavement, York on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, between 10am and 4pm. Musical Connections' Community Choir from Tang Hall will start the proceedings in the morning, and in the afternoon, we will be joined by singers from Rufforth Primary School, who will lead some community carols.

## Musical Connections Singers Light Up Age UK York's AGM

On 6<sup>th</sup> October, Age UK York's AGM was transformed by a fabulous performance from Musical Connections group members. Although initially a little nervous about their first public performance, the singers soon relaxed into some of their favourite songs, ably accompanied by Dot Austin from Honeysuckle House on her trusty organ. As you will have seen in our previous newsletter, Dot played at a Musical Connections fundraiser earlier this year, and is now becoming a seasoned performer even though, as she said herself: *'I made my stage debut at gone 80!'*. George Dodds also travelled in on his scooter from Glen Lodge to deliver a solo performance of We'll Meet Again, and was hugely encouraged by the warm reception. Afterwards, he said *'It was wonderful – I got my own round of applause!'*.

All the performers thoroughly enjoyed the event – a strong team spirit helped to overcome the nerves, and their efforts were justly rewarded with resounding applause. Everyone agreed they had been made very welcome and the free lunch was excellent!





## Schools open their doors to us once again

Although the children have only been back at school a few weeks, some lovely intergenerational events have already taken place. Several participants from Haxby Hall carehome and Gale Farm Court sheltered housing scheme travelled over to Rufforth school to take part in an afternoon project on the second world war. The children were agog to hear about the experiences of their older visitors who, in turn, were delighted to be invited into school to have their stories heard. The event was underpinned by songs from the era and, afterwards, Rufforth's headteacher said *'It really was an amazing event – well done and thank you!'*.

Another school visit was made by residents of Woolnough House, who joined a class of Year 2s at St Aelreds for a singing and samba session. Beryl was utterly absorbed by the session and joined in all the different songs and rhythms with great accuracy and concentration – it turned out she had had music lessons when younger, and was loving the opportunity to take part in another one – it was difficult to drag her away!

The half term was rounded off by a delightful session with Burton Green school's reception class, who visited Morrell House to share some of their favourite songs with the residents. Both adults and children were excited to sing together, and, despite their tiny size, some of the children were confident enough to chat with the residents, who were absolutely captivated by their little visitors.

## Sparkling Autumn Art



Local artist, Katherine Semple, is currently running some brilliant 'Autumn Art'



sessions across our different venues. Autumnal colours and themes, musical interludes and copious amounts of glitter have made for some very atmospheric sessions. For more photos, take a look at our Facebook page (search on muconnections).