

Musical Connections

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Royal Northern College of Music Comes to Visit

We were delighted to welcome Kate Buchanan from the Royal Northern College of Music to a couple of our sessions this month. Kate attended a lively intergenerational session at Willow House (they have had a busy few weeks!) and, the following week, joined our group at Barstow House sheltered housing scheme. Group members were delighted to welcome Kate, who joined in with great enthusiasm, much to everyone's delight. It is great for us to know that institutions such as the RNCM value our work.

Sounds of the Gamelan ring

through Willow House For the fourth year running, MA students from the University of York arrived at Willow House in a large van carrying a very precious cargo of gamelan instruments, an Indonesian percussion ensemble. In no time at all, Willow's dining room was transformed into a performance space, in which residents explored and experimented with these large and ornate instruments. With the support of the students, the residents gradually became more confident with their instruments, creating some beautiful sounds and improvised pieces, which echoed right through the home. We are very grateful to the university for bearing the cost of transporting the gamelan to Willow, and to the students themselves for facilitating a very special, shared experience. More images of the session can be seen in our back page photo gallery.



City of York Council



African drumming, samba and ukuleles with students from the Universities of York and York St John

Over the last few weeks, we have enjoyed a host of workshops led by local students across our different groups. Sheltered housing tenants at Gale Farm Court and Glen Lodge enjoyed samba and ukulele workshops with York University, while Woolnough House residents have loved having York St John students with them on placement over the last few weeks. Abby and Conor have built up fantastic relationships with some of the regular participants, who, under the guidance of the students, have been enjoying African-themed workshops, including plenty of drumming!

Some of the student workshops are featured on our new Facebook page, along with images from our most recent intergenerational sessions with local school children. Thanks to Fishergate, Ralph Butterfield, Burton Green and Rufforth primary schools for their ongoing involvement in our work. The sessions with the children bring a huge amount of enjoyment into the lives of our residents.

Singing in the Rain with Honeysuckle Choir

Our newly established group at Honeysuckle House, supported by the Two Ridings Community Foundation's Arts for Change programme, is gradually starting to gain momentum, and we are beginning to see new members join in. Our hope for the group is that it will eventually become a sizeable choir, and we are seeking to encourage people to join us from the wider community. Sessions take place at 9.45 on Wednesday mornings and we ask for a donation of up to £3 to help cover costs. Please call Emma on 07778 560632, if you would like to get involved, or visit our website www.musicalconnections.org.uk or Facebook page.





More Photos of the Gamelan

