

Musical Connections

www.musicalconnections.org.uk

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LOTTERY FUNDED

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**ARTS COUNCIL
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*'If there were less guns in the world and more gongs,
the world would be a better place!'*

These words of wisdom came from Henry, one of our music group regulars at Haxby Hall, who, along with other residents from the care-home, took part in a gamelan workshop led by community music students from the University of York. The gamelan is an ensemble of tuned percussion instruments from Indonesia and, for an afternoon, Haxby Hall's dining room became a whole new world in which both residents and students were able to absorb themselves in the beauty and resonance of these amazing instruments, creating and enjoying some distinctive and absorbing music. We are extremely grateful to the students for all the efforts they put into planning and delivering the session, and to the university for covering the cost of transporting the instruments to the care-home. Visit our Facebook page to see and hear more of what happened during this very special event.



MAGICAL CONNECTIONS: Local film-maker, Simona Manni, has made a fantastic film, 'Magical Connections', about the lives and music of the residents of Morrell House. Simona came to Morrell for more than a year to capture the experiences of its residents, and her film showcases the enormously positive impact music can have on the wellbeing of people living with dementia - to watch it, follow the link <https://youtu.be/C1gnB938gHY> or visit Youtube and search for Magical Connections. Some of the filming was done on iPads, and, thanks to funding from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, several iPads incorporating dementia-friendly apps are now being donated to Morrell. The photo shows delighted staff and residents on their way home from the film's first screening.

Big Sing Puts a Spring in Our Step!

Musical Connections has a longstanding connection with York St John University, and we were delighted that students from the university turned out in force for our Spring Big Sing on 17th March, St Patrick's Day. Special thanks to Abigail Hall for her magnificent efforts in pulling things together, with the able assistance of fellow student, Conor Woodcock.



Both Abby and Conor worked on placement with Musical Connections last year, and it was fantastic to see how their experience enabled them to inspire and encourage other students to engage with attendees from many of our care and community settings. Huge thanks to the Country Music Band, Yorkulele, the African Drummers and House Band, whose performances inspired the audience to dance and cheer with abandon, as well as to deliver some loudly applauded performances themselves.



Bringing Communities Together



A cornerstone of our work is enabling people and communities to find ways of connecting and enjoying each other's company through music. This is never more evident than in our intergenerational work, and the residents of Morrell House have thoroughly enjoyed spending time with this year's placement students from York St John. As you can see from the photo, the feeling is most definitely mutual!

We are unceasingly grateful to the many primary schools which work with us on a regular basis. Over the past few weeks, residents of Woolnough House have enjoyed an imaginary trip to the Wild West with children from St Aelred's school, while children from Rufforth primary joined participants at Gale Farm Court sheltered housing scheme for an afternoon of music, quiz questions and lots of Easter eggs! We are looking forward to more projects next term with local schools Burton Green, Fishergate and Ralph Butterfield.



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