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Issue 70

# MUSICAL CONNECTIONS



Helping people to live happier, healthier lives  
through musical participation.

**“The only thing better than singing is more singing!”**

**- Ella Fitzgerald**

They might be words originally spoken by Ella Fitzgerald, but when Rolling Tones' member Steven shared this quote with us a couple of months ago, we knew we'd have to include it in our next newsletter - and what a perfect description of our current 'on the road' fun! In a tightly packed programme, we are in the process of meeting over 40 of our members for some doorstep singing, garden Singstream sessions and much-needed catch-ups. It's so great to see everyone, and we're having a fantastic time working on our latest recording project - a group version of the Make Music Day anthem 'Stand By Me'.



The name Make Music Day originally comes from the French *Fête de la musique* and is based on the philosophy that music should be accessible for all and enjoyed by everyone - something we definitely agree on! Having started on 21<sup>st</sup> June 1982, it's now an annual international celebration of music-making held in over 1,000 cities across the world - the French have even made it a national holiday. We're really excited to be part of such a global showcase of music and are looking forward to sharing our group recording with you on 21<sup>st</sup> June. For those of you reading this online, you can find out more about Make Music Day 2021 here: <https://makemusicday.co.uk/about/>



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## Give Three Cheers – We’ve Reached 12 Years!



The old saying goes that ‘time flies when you’re having fun’ and that couldn’t be more apt as we joined together to celebrate 12 years of Musical Connections with a wonderful virtual spring concert. Keen to include many of the people that have contributed to the success of the charity over the years, we collaborated with children from St Aelred’s School, Fulford School and students from the University of York, to

produce an intergenerational concert including songs from the shows, pop hits and classic favourites. Enlisting help from far and wide, it also featured one of Abby’s students, Evie, a short cameo from Charlotte’s parents, some of our MC volunteers and of course, our fantastic group members - a true family effort! Whilst we’d have much preferred to be celebrating our anniversary in person, we’re so proud of bringing everyone together for this one - it was a fitting way to honour the countless sessions, events, songs, smiles and laughter that we’ve enjoyed over the past 12 years. You can watch the finale of the virtual concert online here: <https://youtu.be/FAmG87bNReE>

## Five Tomatoes, Six Tomatoes, Seven Tomatoes, More!

You may remember the excitement in October’s newsletter as we reported on Acomb Singers’ Jim Dales’ amazing tomato plants. According to research, only a third of people that began growing their own fruit and vegetables during lockdown have continued to do so but starting with just a single Sainsbury’s Taste the Difference cherry tomato, Jim’s plants have continued to flourish, and have yielded numerous tomatoes in the last year -



we definitely know where to go if there’s ever a supermarket shortage! He’s also been busy tending to his variety of bedding plants - a true master of growing and gardening!



## Musical to Quizzical – the MC Spring Quiz!



We might be nearing the end of lockdown, but there's always time for a Zoom quiz! Connecting with friends and family from afar, people have enjoyed all sorts of online trivia events over the last 12 months, however none quite compare to the wonders of the MC Spring Quiz. We left the planning in the capable hands of Rolling Tones' member, Adrian, and were treated to five rounds of questions that put our general knowledge

skills to the test - how many of York's bars still have a portcullis and who knows the combined age of the MC musicians?! Everyone got involved with the fun and some even dressed up for the occasion - we had sunflowers, Easter bunnies and bonnets galore - if only there were extra points awarded for the best outfit! It was great to be able to offer something a little different, and big congratulations go to Jean, our champion, also of the Rolling Tones. An enormous 'thank you' to Adrian for organising!



**“May your coffee be strong, and your Mondays be short!”**

The coffee is always strong, but we wouldn't mind the Mondays being that little bit longer when we've got our Zoom coffee mornings to enjoy! Initially started because there wasn't enough time during Friday afternoon Zoom rehearsals for all the chit-chat, we've absolutely loved hearing everyone's news and it's even given members from different Musical Connections groups the chance to forge new friendships. As life begins to return to normal, we're really hoping that we'll be able to have these conversations face-to-face once more - with that in mind, we will be hosting our final coffee morning at 10:15am on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May. If you haven't joined us yet but would like to - it's never too late! **Click here to join:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83422216363?>

## Left or Right at the Junction?

Given Boris's roadmap, we're currently making plans for a gradual resumption of our 'in person' sessions and have devised a little roadmap of our own - much less complicated than the prime minister's and with only one destination in mind - singing together again! Starting with our Spring 'On the Road' project and live 'Singstream' sessions, we're hoping to expand to outside venues in Acomb, Clifton and Tang Hall following the easing of restrictions in May, before reuniting with our sheltered housing groups soon after that. Everything is somewhat provisional at the moment, and if there are any backward steps then we'll quickly revert to our online programme of activities, but we're feeling excited and optimistic about the coming months - and really hope you are too!



**On Zoom or 'on the road', there's always singing and smiles!**



**Thank you for reading – we look forward to seeing some of you soon!**