

Musical Connections

(Music in Care Homes)

July 2014

Fundraising

The Musical Connections team is working hard to generate continued funding for the programme, and we would very much appreciate your support for our work. An easy way of doing so for FREE is when shopping online. Please visit the following to help:

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/musicalconnections>.

If you would like more information on the overall programme to help you make a decision about supporting us, please visit our website

www.musicalconnections.org.uk



'If you look around the room, there's a smile on every single person's face'

These were the words of a participant in a recent Musical Connections session at Woolnough House. The programme has been running for well over 5 years now, and all the evidence suggests that the need for it to continue has never been stronger. Residents talk of the sessions as something to look forward to, a time in the week when they can share in music and enjoy new challenges and activities with others from within the home or the wider community. The content and format of the programme has evolved over the years, so that it now encompasses a huge range of musical and other creative activities and opportunities for care home residents, and everyone involved is ambitious for its continued growth and development.



City of York Council



University of York stages another gamelan workshop at Willow House

For the second year running, a group of MA students from the University of York ran a hugely successful gamelan workshop at Willow House. This exercise required a great deal of planning and organisation to enable some very large, heavy and ornate instruments to be transported from the university, and we are extremely grateful to both the students and the university for giving our residents this opportunity. The session began with a performance on the gamelan by the students, following which residents were invited to play the instruments themselves. Students then supported participants in creating some lovely ensemble pieces. A short video extract from the session may be found on our website www.musicalconnections.org.uk.

World Cup fever at Morrell House

Bryan Thorpe, Support Assistant at Morrell House, has helped residents celebrate the World Cup by serving up an amazing array of food dishes from across the globe. Bryan is not only a talented cook, but is also a keen poet, and we were fortunate to be able to call upon his skills to help us put together a poem representing residents' views on football. The poem has been displayed at Morrell throughout the World Cup, and we hope to be able to use what we have learnt in these sessions to run more music and poetry sessions with residents.





‘My mum says that, because I like it here so much, I can come back to visit Pat and the other residents’

(Ralph Butterfield Pupil)

Numerous intergenerational projects have taken place this term, and we extend our grateful thanks to Poppleton Road, St Aelreds, Ralph Butterfield, Burton Green, Rufforth and Acomb primary schools and All Saints secondary school for their many and varied contributions. Collaborations have featured one-off workshops, extended music and arts projects, and performances at our summer Big Sing, all of which have been much-enjoyed by everyone across the age range. Perhaps our most challenging project has been the creation of music videos with children from Ralph Butterfield and residents from Haxby Hall. This was a really fun and novel experience for everyone involved – hopefully that comes through in the videos, which may be seen on You Tube (search on Musical Connections York).

Art Projects bring in additional participants

All the evidence suggests that including art projects in our programme is very beneficial. They provide a platform for people who are not music enthusiasts to engage in other creative activities, they offer additional ways for children and residents to work together and, in the dementia homes, they are a quieter activity for those who are disturbed by loud noise.





Summer Big Sing

With limited funds to spend on a Summer Big Sing, we are grateful to Acomb Methodist Church, who helped us save money on a venue by opening their doors to us for a knock-down price. Residents and staff from all seven CYC care homes descended on the church in great numbers for a thoroughly enjoyable social and musical afternoon. We were joined by Rufforth School's gospel choir and some of its most talented instrumentalists, the Funky Frogs, all of whom performed with great energy and enthusiasm. York St John University ensemble, Corduroy Brooks, having played for us at Easter to great acclaim, also turned up to treat us to a second fantastic performance.

Not to be outdone, residents and staff from across the homes made several of their own contributions. Sue Holness from Morrell House gave a rousing solo performance of Lily of Laguna, Sylvia Parker from Woolnough House and several Windsor House residents joined manager, Andy Hart, to support him in singing his favourite classics, 'You'll Never Walk Alone' and 'My Way', Janet Ross, care assistant from Willow House resumed her regular guest slot to sing 'Running Bear' and 'Arrivederci Roma', while Ann Ferguson, Group Manager, performed some lovely flute duets with Emma Tatnall, our regular musician at Grove House and Oakhaven. We were also treated to a theatrical interlude from Flo Mortimer of Oakhaven, who built on her earlier fame as Musical Connections pantomime star, by joining care leader, Claire Jones, to give a hilarious rendition of Pam Ayres' poem 'Call Out the Mountain Rescue'. Last but not least, all CYC staff joined together to form a scratch choir and, with much hilarity and some serious dance moves, performed 'I Will Survive' and 'Any Dream will Do', much to the amusement and enjoyment of their residents! See overleaf for more photos of this and other events which have taken place over the last few weeks.

FIONA CHAPMAN: JULY 2014



Photo Gallery

