

Musical Connections

(Music in Care Homes)



Ralph Butterfield children visit Haxby Hall once again

There can be little doubt that the intergenerational element of our work has an extremely beneficial impact on participants. The following comment was made by the son of a resident who participated in the recent workshop at Haxby Hall with over thirty 7 year olds from Ralph Butterfield school:

'I watched as Mum joined with them and was really pleased to be part of it. Ordinarily, Mum would not think to participate in activity without help – she was wonderful to see, and the children were delightful'

York Stories from Woolnough House and St Aelred's Primary

On 1st October, residents from Woolnough House were joined by children from St Aelred's in celebration of their joint contribution to the York Stories 2012 project. Residents' stories of York were recorded by the children, and some of this work may now be viewed on the York Stories 2012 website. The same residents and children had also worked together previously on a project about WWII. It was fitting that this event took place on UK Older People's Day, which sought to demonstrate ways in which older people make active and valuable contributions to their community. Participating residents received certificates in acknowledgement of their contribution.



City of York Council



'We are beautiful in every single way...'

Since sessions resumed after the summer break, residents have thrown themselves into the various themes and exercises. Christina Aguilera's song 'Beautiful' provided rich fodder for communication, mutual appreciation and fun. Participants were encouraged to read the lyrics to each other, and this generated lots of comment and positive feedback, while the use of amusing props and accessories provoked much laughter and interaction.

Residents have also learned and composed new songs, created accompaniments for their own singing, and have engaged with and discussed a wide range of musical genres from country and western to hard rock and heavy metal. It turns out that residents are quite partial to the latter, with requests for Guns N' Roses and Black Sabbath being made at Haxby Hall – another example of the way in which our residents contradict the stereotypes associated with older people.



'Didn't you know that I'm Picasso's sister?!' (Italian resident)

We are fortunate to be able to run another project with local artist, Emily Harvey, who is helping residents to create stained glass-style panels which will be hung in windows and other areas of light within the homes. Residents are being encouraged to come up with their own ideas and designs, which are proving both varied and thought-provoking. We look forward to seeing the finished result.

FIONA CHAPMAN: OCTOBER 2012