

Royal Albert Hall Debut! Monday 15th April

It's now less than a month to go until our Music Man Project group join all the other regional Music Man groups from across the UK to perform at the Royal Albert Hall. The musicians have been working really hard, learning not only the original 'core' MMP songs but all the new material written especially for this concert. We are the newest group that are taking part, and the smallest; if you're coming then look out for us in the green t-shirts! There will be over 200 people with learning disabilities performing, and will be joined by an orchestra and massed choirs. Music Man Project founder David Stanley will also be playing a solo piece on the famous Royal Albert Hall organ.

Tickets are still available from the Royal Albert Hall website priced between £12.50 and £33.

A huge thank you must go to our music leader Naomi and volunteer Holly who have put in so much time and effort to support our musicians to prepare for this event.



Dinner and Auction

We held our 3rd dinner and auction event at Saltford Golf Club on the 8th March. Over 100 people attended the event and enjoyed welcome drinks, a three course meal and after dinner dancing. Attendees were joined by guest speaker Jonathon Foyle and auctioneers Chris Bennet and Tim Mawditt, from local band The Uncles, did a great job of getting the crowd bidding. The event was part of our fundraising plan for our buildings appeal, our long term goal to purchase our own property from which to house our offices and run the majority of our clubs. We had already managed to raise £94k for the appeal and we're so pleased to announce that the dinner and auction raised over £6,000, taking us to our goal of £100,000! This is an incredible amount and we're well on our way to raising the funds needed.

Thank you to everyone that attended, bought raffle tickets, donated prizes or sponsored tables.



Bath Half 2019

Congratulations and thank you to all the runners who took part in the Bath Half on Sunday 17th March to raise money for the Society. Vince, Anf, Matt, Mark, Corrie, Daniel, Alex, Jo, Samantha, Alice, David, Thomas and Peter ran the 13.1 mile course around Bath in slightly windy conditions but at least it was dry and not too hot.

Alice is the mother of a Club25 member and she may be in her 70's but that didn't stop her achieving an incredible time of 2hrs 24, all with a huge smile on her face!

Vince and Anf ran the course dressed as Batman and Robin, because in their words 'we're running dressed as superheroes because we believe that's exactly what the young people are'.

The 13 runners were cheered on from the side lines by family, friends, supporters and music man musicians. So far it looks like the runners have collectively raised over £2,500. What an incredible amount! Thank you to each and every one of you; hope there weren't too many blisters or sore muscles the next day.

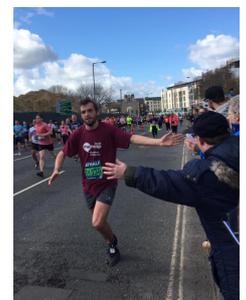
If you've been inspired by these amazing runners and want to join Team Mencap for 2020, the Bath Half registration is open now! Please contact Amanda in the office for more details.



Family Fun Day. Sat 15 June. 1 - 5pm.

Our next event is a family fun day at Keynsham Rugby ground on Saturday 15th June. Following the fantastic event we had there last year to celebrate our 40th, we've decided to run a similar day again this year as part of our fundraising programme. Tickets are available now, £5 adult, £1 child. There will be a bar, BBQ, raffle and cakes, plus live music from Hair of the Dog, DJ Barry and our very own Music Man Project. In addition, and included in the ticket price will be bouncy castle, face painting, and chuffy the train rides.

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Thank You!

Vale of Brislington Masonic Lodge for their donation towards MMP Royal Albert Hall trip.
Saltford Golf Club for their donation made at their annual charity coffee morning.

Saltford Marina and Nick Sladick who made a donation in lieu of boat mooring fees at the marina.

Charlotte Stenner who chose us to receive donations in lieu of birthday cards and gifts through a Facebook fundraising initiative.

Jemima's Parachute Jump

Volunteer Jemima took on a daring challenge this month when she parachuted out of an aeroplane to raise money for the Society. Jemima took part in the sponsored jump at Swindon airfield, travelling to heights of 10,000 feet before jumping. Jemima joined us 3 years ago to get some experience to help with her uni nursing course and she hasn't looked back since! Jemima has helped on many day trips and holidays and says she couldn't imagine life without the all the fun and friends that Mencap has given her. She has raised almost £400 - thank you very much Jemima!



Sponsored Bike Ride for Radstock Club



Volunteer Jason Preston is independently organising a 36 mile cycle ride starting at Radstock Museum at 8.30am on Sunday 19th May and finishing at the Old

Severn crossing and would welcome any keen cyclists that wish to take part. Please contact Jason on 07949128625 or email jasonpreston157@gmail.com if you would like to join him. The cost will be £20 per person. Water and light snacks will be provided, and there is transport available to bring riders and bikes back. Please note that this is not a Society organised event. It will not be marshalled and cyclists partake at their own risk.

Volunteer Birthdays! April

Happy birthday to...

Amelia Graham

Katie White

Mac McDowall

Dean Cole

Mel Beaven

Have a great day!

Julian Cole

April Siva

Niall Tomlins



Welcome!

Welcome to new volunteers Jordan at Club25, and Sam and Jasmine at Super Saturday Club. Welcome to the team!

Community Awards

I had the honour of recently attending the BANES Community Awards after being nominated for a volunteer leadership award by the trustees. Unfortunately I didn't win, but I am very grateful for the nomination. There were lots of inspiring stories of amazing things happening in our local community and it was very humbling to be a part of it.

- Laura



Good Afternoon Choir Concert Amendment!



Last month we announced that there was to be a concert to raise funds for the Super Saturday Club. The Keynsham and Wells Good Afternoon Choirs, and Grenville Jones, are actually raising money at this event for our **Music Man Project**. This concert will take place at St John's Church in Keynsham at 7pm on Saturday 11th May. The MMP musicians will be performing in the second half. Entry is free with a retiring collection.

Grenville is also fundraising for a day trip for the Super Saturday Club **as well**, and we will keep you updated on this as it progresses.



Contact Details

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