

Patron: The Hon Mrs Mary Bayliss, JP, CVO



The local voice of learning disability

Ms Lizzie Heaver  
RRCP  
21 Warwick Road  
Reading  
RG2 7AX

16th August 2017

Dear Ms Heaver



### Re: Reading Rotary Awards

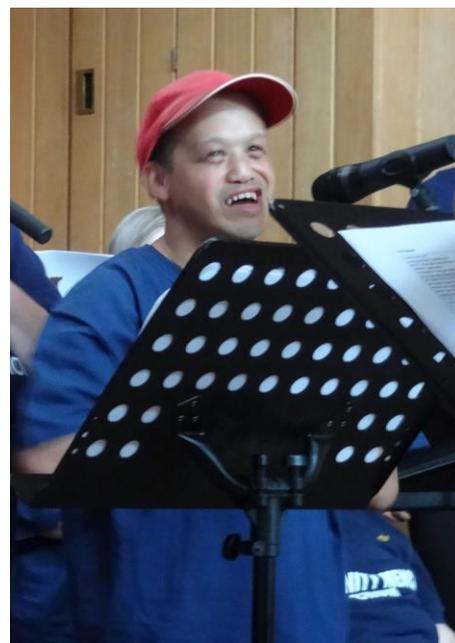
The Rotary Club of Reading kindly gave Reading Mencap a grant of £750 earlier this year towards the running of our Community Choir. We also had a donation from another local trust to enable us to go ahead. I'm now pleased to provide you with an update on how we got on.

We had 24 choir members, whose ages ranged from 17 to 70+, so it was great to bring different generations together to make music, as well as having people with learning disabilities, autism and physical and mental health issues. However, disabilities were forgotten once the rehearsals were in progress as the members focussed on ability and what they could each achieve individually and as a group.

By the time of the public performance in June at Park United Reform Church, all of the choir members were radiating confidence and were excited to perform despite the very hot conditions inside the church. They sang 12 popular songs, including 'My Girl', 'Rocking All Over the World', 'Beautiful' and 'Walking on Sunshine', accompanied by the 5-piece live band. Each song had a different soloist, duet or group of soloists to give everyone their chance in the limelight.

We had over 30 people in the audience enjoying the performance and encouraging the choir. There was a feeling of elation at the end of the evening as everyone praised the choir for a job well done!

Please see our Facebook page for a short clip of 'My Girl':  
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/readingmencap/videos/>



The choir members are so grateful for your support and would like to tell you that taking part is a massive boost to their confidence, which lasts months afterwards. They are already asking when it will be run again, so it definitely is the highlight of the year!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Marie-Claire Dillon

Fundraising Manager

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