

NEWS

Music sessions hit the high note for supported housing service

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Tunes have been filling the air at a Worcester supported housing service as residents took part in socially distanced music sessions.

Residents at Sanctuary Supported Living's Hazel Court, which provides accommodation, care and support for adults with a range of learning disabilities, enjoyed singing and playing musical instruments outside in the garden, led by local volunteer Steven Wattison.

As well as playing in two bands, Steven works as a music co-ordinator for Worcester Snoezelen, a multi-sensory centre for people with disabilities, where residents from Hazel Court often attended music and dance

sessions before the Covid-19 pandemic began. As the centre was closed during lockdown, Steven found he had time to spare and wanted to volunteer, so that he could continue sharing his love of music.

At Hazel Court, residents are supported to build the life skills and confidence they need, so that they can live as independently as possible. During the pandemic, it has been difficult for residents to maintain their usual routine and take part in their normal group activities, including visiting Worcester Snoezelen, as many have health conditions which means they are more at-risk. So, when Steven got in touch to volunteer his time, it didn't take long for them to say yes!

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Sara Brown, Local Service Manager, said:
“The feedback from the music sessions has been really positive, residents each requested a song, and everyone was singing along whilst playing instruments. It really helped to lift their spirits and it was lovely to see them enjoying something different and having fun.”

Steven Wattison commented: “I love my job and wanted to help by volunteering and giving something back. Through my work I have seen how music can benefit people in so many ways. The residents really enjoyed the music sessions, it was great to see the smiles on their faces.”

