



Newsletter

July 2008

Safety Audit/Child Protection — Festivals in England and Wales

By October 2008 all Federation festivals in England and Wales will have:

- Attended a Fed update workshop
- Completed their safety audit as a committee
- Filed their audit with the Federation
- Undertaken CRB disclosures for the roles where they are required by law (paid/unpaid)

Festivals will receive an Audit Form in October and will complete and return this when they complete Year Book forms to renew their membership.

So, if your festival has not yet asked for the “**electronic 6-pack**” or completed its safety audit - please find time to attend to this NOW, so that it's not an issue for you at renewal time.

If anyone who is an officer of a festival is reading this and doesn't know what a **6-pack** is, then there is a chance that your festival is not safe. It is not enough for your festival to have attended an update workshop - **it is the audit that the committee undertakes AFTER the workshop that is the most vital part of the process.** If your festival has not done this - or is unsure how to do it - please contact Festivals House. If someone came to a workshop for your festival but hasn't passed on the information, or has left your committee, please contact us now.

Don't leave it so that it's an issue when it's too late! We can't do individual catch-ups for festivals, we just don't have the staff - hence the workshops of the last 4 years.

Regretfully, there can be no exceptions to the requirements agreed by your elected Councils and Trustees that all Federation festivals in England and Wales should confirm their safety audit at October 2008.



That said - we must congratulate the 90% of Federation festivals who have done, or almost completed, this work already. There has been some splendid auditing and care and all the people in the festival movement are safer because of it.

Well done festivals!!!

2 FINAL WORKSHOPS

**29 July, Hertfordshire
7 October, Macclesfield**

DCMS questionnaire we sent festivals in February

The DCMS, Arts Council England and Voluntary Arts England's major national conference on local arts participation and voluntary and amateur groups took place on 2 July 2008 at the Barbican, London. It launched landmark new research which looks in detail, for the first time, at the size, make-up and impact of the voluntary arts sector and its potential for growth - **you will remember the questionnaire we sent to festivals in February with heartfelt pleas for you to complete it!!**

Speaking at the event Alan Davey, Chief Exec of Arts Council England, said:

'The cultural health of the nation is reliant as much on those who do not get paid for their artistic contribution as those that do. The research shows the voluntary and amateur sector is thriving but it also highlights some of the challenges that the sector faces. Over the next 3 years we are committed to driving up levels of attendance and participation in quality arts activities. We will not succeed in this without tapping into the creative talent of the voluntary and amateur sector. The sector is not an appendix or footnote to the arts in England today - voluntary and amateur activity plays a leading role in the core script. I look forward to working closely with the sector to discuss how this can be done best.'

You will be pleased to know that the Federation provided performances for this conference and was the only organisation to flyer seats in the arena. But, to be honest, it isn't enough - *if only more festivals had managed to find time to send back the questionnaire, then Federation festivals would have been more high profile in this report - and they should be!*

It is impossible to overemphasise how important the follow-up to this conference could be if we all have the heart and impetus to take it forward. Please read “Our Creative Talent” -

<http://www.vaengland.org.uk/uploaded/map7402.pdf>

For speeches, including Robin Simpson, Chief Exec of VAN (ex-Federation) go to

<http://www.vaengland.org.uk/cgi-bin/website.cgi?tier1=england&tier2=VAE%20events&tier3=previous%20events>

Message from the Chairman

By the time we meet at Conference the Regions will have discussed “The Way Forward”, the next stage in the development of our Federation. We sincerely hope that you will have all contributed through the questionnaire you were given, or have been sent. We need to hear your views and ideas, so that we can plan our future with your help and guidance. Thank you to Representatives who have been willing to travel to other Regions to assist in this presentation, and thank you to the Regions for making them welcome.

In April I was delighted to present a Silver Award certificate to the Chairman of Cleethorpes Festival of Music and Words. At the East Midlands meeting in July a Silver Certificate was presented to the Chairman of Gainsborough Stage Dance Festival, together with a Gold Certificate to the Chairman of Oundle Festival of Music and Drama.



Congratulations to these three Festivals. Our Certificate of Good Practice is available for every Federation Festival. Details can be obtained through your Regional Representative.

I was in telephone contact with Donald Maxwell Timmins on the occasion of his birthday in late June. He sends his good wishes to all who remember him (as if we could forget) and was looking forward to going out that evening with Margaret, his wife, for a celebration meal.

The holiday period approaches and so does EYSM at Haileybury College, Hertford. This is the Federation's annual European Youth Summer Music residential course and I would like to invite you to join us at the concerts, yes, in the plural, on Saturday 2nd August or during the week, when you can witness personally the total dedication of these young people, led gently, but firmly to a standard of excellence by the devoted, experienced tutors each one an expert in their own field. This is not “hype”. I can personally assure you, from many years experience of an exciting, growing event, that you will be certain to make your visit an annual “must” in your diary.

Meet you there!

Margaret

Focus on Music

Proposed changes to Copyright Exemptions in Music Licensing



Launch date: 1 July 2008
Closing date: 31 October 2008

The Government is launching a new consultation in respect of certain copyright exemptions which apply to playing recorded music in public. Aware that some exemptions in the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 may not be working well in maintaining the correct balance between the interests of music rights holders and users, the sections to be reviewed are sections 67 and 72(1B)(a) and paragraphs 15 and 18(1A)(a) of Schedule 2 to the Act. The Government also proposes to repeal sections 128A and 128B which relate to the operation of section 72. The exemptions principally allow not-for-profit and charitable organisations, in certain specific circumstances, to play copyright sound recordings in public without a licence fee being required.

The Federation office will of course be responding to this and monitoring the situation, but festivals may like to review what is happening for themselves and may also wish to respond.

<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/consult-musiclicencing.doc>

If you are interested, but not familiar with copyright law there is a short form of the document highlighting the main points.

<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/consult-musiclicencing-summary.doc>

Comment by post, e-mail or fax to:

Music Licensing Review
Copyright and Intellectual Property
Enforcement Directorate
UK Intellectual Property Office
Concept House
Cardiff Road
Newport NP10 8QQ



CONFERENCE 2008
26-28 September
the Beardmore Hotel, Clydebank

Have you booked yet?
Limited places, book by 1 September



"I launched Childline to protect the most vulnerable" says Esther Rantzen "..... (now) winning is against the rules for many children these days; even competing has become a sin"

Read the rest of this article which is timely as adjudicators look at CRB and ISA in new update sessions.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-1033483/I-launched-Childline-protect-vulnerable--unleashed-politically-correct-monster.html>

Calling the North East!

Newcastle College, the largest Further Education in the country, runs many successful internal volunteer projects and has links with many external volunteer organisations too. More students than ever before are volunteering in a wide variety of roles and the College would like to offer students the chance to volunteer and would be interested in hearing from any voluntary/community organisations that would benefit from working with a group of keen student volunteers. □

A recent survey conducted at Newcastle College showed that students were most interested in volunteering in the following areas:

- Animals
- Children
- Art and Culture
- Environment

If you would be interested in supporting student volunteers to benefit your organisation, please contact Emily Moran at emily.moran@ncl-coll.ac.uk or phone 0191 2004526.

North East festivals – please let us have feedback on this scheme, so that, if it works, we can alert others colleges to copy this initiative.

ADJUDICATORS

You have recently received details of half-day updates on CRB and ISA disclosures.

Please do not think that if you have a CRB disclosure you don't need to come - that has nothing to do with it.

The new law will affect you - most particularly if you undertake freelance work. This is something you need to know about as a matter of urgency.

Focus on Speech

School pupil speech testing

All children should be assessed for speech problems at the start of primary and secondary school, says the government-commissioned Bercow Review of speech and language services.

Conservative MP John Bercow's review of services for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs suggests about 40,000 children, or 7%, are starting primary school in England each year with significant difficulties with speech and or language. He said communication skills that were essential to life were not being prioritised in schools, especially in the early years.

"This is severely hampering children's ability to develop the necessary life skills to participate in and contribute to society when they get older," he added.

Ministers accepted that more surveillance and monitoring of children's language skills were needed, but suggested extra training of early years staff would enable them to better pick up language problems. A £40m package for the training of early years' staff was announced and a further £12m will be spent on implementation. A plan will be published in the autumn.

Children's Secretary Ed Balls said it was clear that local services needed to improve and that he was convinced improvements could now be made, adding, *"I want to ensure that all children are supported to communicate whether they are severely impaired or because they simply need help to expand their vocabulary"*.

QIPSss is coming!

The Federation's speech summer school will be launched at conference in September.

From 1 October look out for latest news on the website.

Edutainment!

This book is a collection of inspiring and informative case studies from a range of adult learners and tutors, highlighting the many benefits associated with participating in the arts and crafts through adult and community learning and includes input from your Vice-Chairman!

Free to download from the Voluntary Arts England website, or you can order a copy

<http://www.vaengland.org.uk/uploaded/map7391.pdf>

Calling all Amateur Pianists - an Autumn opportunity!

**BBC
RADIO**



90 – 93FM

“Tired of sitting alone in your room? Do you feel it’s unfair that amateur orchestral players can perform regularly in public and amateur pianists rarely have the opportunity? Come and play that piece you have been working on for a Federation festival and then enter the BBC Radio 3 Pianathon!”

As part of their *'Play to the Nation'* season this Autumn, celebrating amateur music-making in the UK, BBC Radio 3 is inviting amateur pianists to attend events across the country and play their pieces in an informal and fun concert environment. Soloists, duettists, family and friends are all invited. Registration will be up and running in August via the Radio 3 website at bbc.co.uk/radio3 and, where it asks if you have performed to an audience, you can mention your festival performance as an example.

This is a new and important initiative for pianists all over the UK from Radio 3. We hope that our August and September festivals will send out this information to all their piano entrants, emphasising how great it will be that they can be heard again in public in a non-competitive environment.

It’s also a great chance for pianists to listen to each other! A great opportunity all round! Who knows where this might lead?

September Festivals - please let all your piano entrants know about this when they come to your festival!

Alert!!

Alert over fake HMRC emails

HM Revenue and Customs has just issued an alert on scam emails with a fake HMRC heading, asking for banking details so that a repayment can be issued.

HMRC Charities will never contact your charity by email for this type of information.

www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/scam.htm

Focus on Dance

Laura Knight at the Theatre

A major new exhibition of paintings and drawings of the ballet and the stage by the leading British Impressionist Dame Laura Knight includes approximately 80 works drawn from public and private UK collections. It displays a large number of backstage scenes depicting Serge Diaghilev’s *Ballets Russes*, many of which have not been seen publicly until now. The exhibition reflects the life of Dame Laura Knight (1877-1970) on and off the stage and provides an opportunity to see a number of works which have rarely, if ever been exhibited before.

Admission to the **Lowry, Salford** is free. See thelowry.com for more information.

The exhibition can also be seen at **Nottingham Castle Museum and Art Gallery** from July 19-September 28, admission free.

Richard Alston 40/60

Thu 2 & Fri 3 October 7.30pm

Special performances at Sadler’s Wells mark both 40 years of Richard Alston’s choreography and his 60 years on earth. *The Men In My Life* is a celebration of the remarkable work that Alston has made for male dancers, ranging from an early solo *Strider* through choreography made for such outstanding dancers as Michael Clark, Darshan Singh Bhuller and Martin Lawrance, right up to the latest works for Jonathan Goddard, nominated for the Laurence Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dance. Also in the programme, the world premiere of *Blow Over* - set to the racing pace of Philip Glass’ *Songs from Liquid Days* - and *Shuffle It Right*, inspired by the idiosyncratic and jazzy songs of Hoagy Carmichael.

Diet on the Dancefloor

A new reality TV show focuses on helping the public to lose weight by dancing. It features “Strictly Come Dancing” stars Karen Hardy and Matthew Cutler and top sports physician Dr Catherine Spencer-Smith. 10 contestants, paired with professional dancers, hope to lose weight each week and marks will be based on fitness, technical style and panache. “Dancing is a passionate, energetic way for people to keep fit,” says Matthew Cutler. “It will be fascinating to see how the participants step up the pace as they shed weight and their energy increases.”

Online inspiration

When looking for a little inspiration a new website dancemedia.com – is a YouTube-style site dedicated exclusively to dance videos.

Fundraising Toolkit

A Foundation for Community Dance & Youth Dance England handbook



Photo: ©George Clerk

By Susanne Burns

Written by Susanne Burns, an experienced arts fundraiser, this new handbook has been created with community and youth dance projects in mind. The Toolkit is packed with signposts to vital information about sources of funding, practical exercises and useful examples to help you access the resources you need.

Whether new to fundraising or not, the Toolkit is an essential resource for anyone who has to raise funds for community and youth dance.

Priced £10.00 + £1.50 UK p&p

Any enquiries, email emma@communitydance.org.uk

CLASS BOARDS

The Macclesfield Festival ceased to function a few years ago and the past organisers have class number boards stored which they want to donate to a busy, working festival. They are high quality wooden easels and numbers.

Contact Festivals House!

Drawing on Life

The national launch of The Big Draw 2008 at the Wellcome Collection, Euston Road, London will be from 26 to 28 September 2008.

So, if you are unable to come to the Federation conference, you could join top scientists and leading artists to delve deep into understanding of the human mind and body in a series of free creative events, workshops and talks suitable for all ages.

www.thebigdraw.org.uk

New initiatives and fundraising opportunities

vcashpoint is giving away £1 million to 16-25 year olds in England who want to set up their own volunteering project in their community. This is what is being said to young people

... and you could get your hands on up to £2,500. If you've got a great idea, vcashpoint's got the money. Read the vcashnotes and apply online (or on paper) for up to £2,500 to help you turn your ideas into reality. It's easy!

vcashpoint funds new projects that are led by young people and really make a difference to the community. Your project should create at least three new opportunities for young people to volunteer – so there's every opportunity to get your mates on board.

*How about: running activities for children – transforming a community space – supporting victims of bullying – running workshops for young people – setting up a campaign – clearing up a beach – running music, art or sports events for disadvantaged people – **organising a festival to bring different cultures or communities together...** or something totally different... be creative!*

vcashpoint will fund new projects or ideas which aim to expand or develop projects which have been carried out once in the past, involving new young volunteers. All projects must create at least three NEW volunteering opportunities for 16-25 year olds, be youth-led, take place in England and benefit a chosen community.

Bring your ideas to life and transform your community. Use your skills to do something inspirational. Your project must finish within 6 months after the project start date and your project MUST start 26 September – 26 December 2008
www.vinspired.com/vbuzz/campaigns/171/

vcashpoint must be the only source of funding for the project.

Well, festivals – do you know young people who could take the hard work out of creating a project for your festival that includes different cultures and communities?

Is this something you've been trying to find the time or the funding to do for ages?

Have you been trying to interest and include young people in volunteering for your festival for ages?

If so, then now's the time to link up with these young people and their school or their college and deliver!!

**Fundraising ideas
Fundraising know-how
Share what you know
Events Calendar
Directory of Suppliers
Charities/Employers/Suppliers
How2guide**

are the headings on this free on-line resource for the UK's 16 million volunteer fundraisers. Share what you know and get inspired by others.

<http://www.how2fundraise.org>

<http://www.workology.com>

is a selected online community of creative professionals who work non-9-5 and are always looking for worthwhile activities to fill their time. Whether you need a web designer, accountant, photographer, or just a helpful pair of hands, you can find what you need on your terms – freelance, flexible, project-based, voluntary ... anything non-9-5.

You can also showcase your organisation for free by building your own Workology MiniSite in five easy simple steps, with unlimited storage space to upload pictures, your own URL, and your MiniSite is optimised on Google and other search engines. To see what people are saying about Workology, see -

http://blogs.guardian.co.uk/digitalcontent/2008/04/elevator_pitch_workologys_new.html

www.ernestcooktrust.org.uk

The Ernest Cook Trust makes grants from £500 to £15,000 for educational purposes to charitable or not-for-profit organisations. The trustees have chosen to concentrate their assistance on the educational aspects of the arts, crafts through education of young people and research devoted to these areas of work.

Deadline: 31st August

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/calls-for-proposals/call98_en.htm

The European Commission has announced the latest call for proposals under its Culture programme 2007-2013.

It aims to support projects that enhance the cultural area shared by Europeans and encourage the emergence of European citizenship. There are a number of projects and deadlines and, if your city or town is applying to be part of them, then your festival might want to make links too.

The level of funding depends on which strands applications are for and range from €2,000 to €500,000 for projects lasting between 1 and 5 years.

Yapp Charitable Trust

is an independent grant making trust that aims to make grants totalling £300,000 to about 100 small charities each year.

Grants of up to £3,000 per year for up to three years are available to sustain the work of charities that work with a range of people, including young people aged 5 to 25. Grants are also available to promote lifelong learning and festivals should seek to promote their contribution to that – if you're not sure how, then read the VAN "Our Creative Talent" publication (see p1 Newsletter).

The next application deadline for funding is the 30 September 2008.

www.yappcharitabletrust.org.uk

Other news

Schools minister Andrew Adonis has announced five successful music partnership bids to be awarded one-year funding from government.



In his speech at the Federation of Music Services annual conference in Leeds, Adonis named the five lead organisations who will each receive a share of £1 million. They are: Bristol Colston Hall, Devon Education Services, The Hallé and North West Music Partnership, The London Symphony Orchestra with the Barbican, Staffordshire County Council

The emphasis of the successful partnership bids was to improve music education through collaborative working, making their music offer more than the sum of its parts.

The NCVO "OnBoard" Trustee Conference

is the largest and most important annual event for Board members, trustees, chief executives and those who support the development of Boards.

This year the conference looks at a variety of approaches to improving Board effectiveness. It will provide delegates with a broad overview of the key issues facing boards, and look at fresh strategies and insights on governance, as well as updating on recent developments and trends.

A diverse team of speakers promise to provide an exciting, inspiring and thought-provoking day, as well as an opportunity to exchange ideas and network with other delegates facing similar challenges.

For more information and to book a place
www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/trusteeconf08