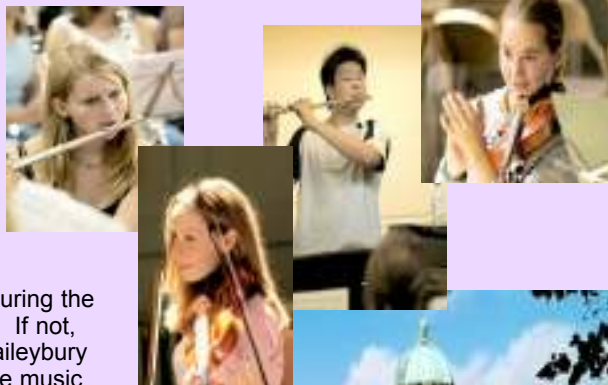




# Newsletter July 2009



## European Youth Summer Music



Are you away on holiday during the week beginning 25th July? If not, let me invite you to visit Haileybury in Hertfordshire to enjoy the music performed at EYSM.

This year over one hundred and fifty musicians will converge on the school from differing parts of the world, to learn, rehearse and perform some outstanding works. I guarantee that you will be amazed at what they achieve. Do come along and support them. This year we also have Junior EYSM, a new venture, which I will report on at Conference.

Thank you to all the Festivals who have provided Bursaries for our young people to attend. Do invite them to speak at your Festival AGM or perhaps the Regional Forum, so they can share their experience with others.

*Margaret*

Margaret J Venables, Chairman



## Andrew & Hazel Cockle

recently received Certificates and Badges for long service to the Inverclyde Musical Festival Association.

Andrew's Certificate and Badge was for 50 years' service and Hazel's for 40 years. What a wonderful record! What a cause for celebration!! Well done Andrew and Hazel - and THANK YOU! You've set an amazing target . . . .



## Congratulations

to Helen Watkins-Snart of the Croydon Music Festival, who many will know from Conference over the years, most particularly from her inspiring talks on how to hold a successful festival incorporating Asian Music.

Helen was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for Services to Music.



### MBE for Croydon music chief who resurrected 'dead' festival

Helen Watkins-Snart, a singing teacher from Purley, responsible for rescuing a festival which had been running since 1912 but in its death throes with barely 100 performers, has been honoured in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. During her 15 years as chairwoman, Helen increased participants to over 2,000 from as far afield as Ireland and China. She expanded the scope of the festival to incorporate speech & drama, western dance, asian dance and music and jazz, rock and pop.

Helen said -

*"I would never have been able to do it without all the wonderful volunteers who help out with the festival. Festivals are there to motivate, encourage and educate performers and give them the opportunity to experience an audience as well as get constructive feedback*

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## whole new world?



**AMC**  
Asian Music Circuit

Following the workshop on 2 December the British Federation of Festivals and the Asian Music Circuit have been busy organising content of the festivals' workshops.

The Asian Music Circuit have a list of practitioners nation wide that will enable visits to selected festivals across the country in 2010. Workshops will be delivered by AMC practitioners and last between 45 & 60 minutes. They are designed to engage and include both musical and non-musical western audiences through information of Asian music's history. The exciting workshops will highlight Asian music's influence, its similarities and differences to 'western'



music and will include a short performance. An handout will be available at the end of the workshop containing definitions of all terminology used, an overview of the workshop and also stylistic rhythmic and melodic exercises to try at home!

So, have you been in touch with your local Asian Music Circuit representatives?



Have you considered holding an Asian music workshop at your festival?

If so, then you could be a pilot for one of the new workshops. The plan is to assure they are attended by local school teachers, music services, community multi-cultural interest groups, local councils and more.

Again, it can only add to the dynamic of your festival, opening the festival movement to an additional cultural experience and, importantly, to new performers and audiences.

**Contact: Damien Ramsurn**

[damien@federationoffestivals.org.uk](mailto:damien@federationoffestivals.org.uk)

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE - DURHAM 2009

### 'Delivering Choice Responding to Feedback'

The Conference Planning Sub-committee has been delighted with the high level of bookings for, and expressions of interest in, our annual conference in October. Clearly, we must have done something right!

But it's difficult to fail with a wide choice of sessions at a first rate hotel in a world class city. If your interest lies in dance, either as a festival organiser or adjudicator, you will find sessions of direct concern to you. The same applies to music and speech.

Most sessions are geared to stimulating and lively discussion and debate, rather than being speaker-led, so there will be many opportunities to make your voice heard.

Away from the formalities, there is time built in to socialise, network and meet fellow organisers and adjudicators from all over the country - you can even continue your conversations in the swimming pool or sauna!

As I write (13 July) return flights from the south-west to Newcastle are still available at under £60 including taxes. The same may well be true in your part of the country. So this is a conference you really can't afford to miss, in more ways than one!

**Linda Lear  
Carolyn McCabe  
Steven Roberts**  
Conference Planning Sub-committee



## Conference 2009

*Have you bookmarked it ?*

**Forms available from  
Festivals House**



## NEWS FROM THE SOUTH WEST



**Margaret Bailey** was a huge supporter of the Torbay Festival. She visited every year and, when she died, the festival decided to give the 'Margaret Bailey Memorial Cup' as an adjudicator's own choice award for senior verse speaking. Sally Noble awarded the cup to Sinead Davies and the presentation was made by Janet Tookey, Margaret's sister.

**L to R: Adjudicator, Sally Noble:  
Winner - Sinead Davies, Janet Tookey (sister)**

### Committed Kathy does it again!

As many people know, the All England Dance Competition gives no cups or trophies. The exception is in the SW where a shield is given to someone who has made a significant contribution to dance in the region. This year it was awarded to Kathy Goodspeed of Mid-Somerset Festival at Bath.



Many people run dance festivals but few get the chance to start a new dance festival, which, of course, needs added work and dedication. In Kathy's case, she has started 2 dance festivals in 5 years! Bugle Festival added a highly successful dance section to its existing music and speech classes 5 years ago and, soon afterwards, Kathy upped sticks and moved from Cornwall to Somerset.

She has done it again and this October will see the first dance festival for Mid-Somerset, which will take place in Frome. Well done, Kathy!

**L to R: Rebecca Laight, whose family donated the shield; Kathy Goodspeed, Linda Lear, SW Regional Director, All England Dance**

## From the Adjudicators' Council

*This will be a regular spot where Council representatives put points for discussion forward on topics raised by members and should be equally interesting to festival members:*

### Music 'Own Choice'

Music Adjudicators sometimes criticise a performer's choice of music in an 'Own Choice' class. This may of course mean that the piece was too challenging, which may of course be true for either technical or musical reasons, or, indeed, it could equally mean the opposite, that it was too easy and therefore not stretching the performer enough. But is it the Adjudicator's job to criticise the actual choice of a piece of music?

The argument may of course arise more often where the classes are structured by age rather than by grade but I always find it rather sad when I hear someone describe what may be a rather beautiful piece of music as, 'but its only Grade 3' or 'only Grade 5' when the great classics never composed a piece of music for any Examination Board!!

We debated this 'Own Choice' issue at the last AC meeting and the opinion was firmly stated that we must not allow our own personal preferences, (and I am sure that most of us do have a favourite era, style or genre) to affect our professional judgement and, ultimately, the mark or category that we award for any piece that we hear performed at a festival. After all, it could be interpreted as a direct criticism of the teacher which may then in turn upset pupils and irritate parents.

Obviously pieces must fit the criteria and specifications of the class entered and we must continue to offer helpful and constructive criticism in a positive manner. It is also fine to offer other suggestions in order for a specific style to be understood - but surely we must never be heard to **completely** disagree publically with anyone's choice of music or composer?

*Liz Childs, Chair, Adjudicators' Council*

### Music Choice for Dance

It is not a Dance Adjudicators' job to criticise choice of music as a rule. However there are occasions in Character Sections when the period and mood of the chosen music is inappropriate and this is an important part of a performance. A tactful way of giving advice is necessary!

*Cynthia Carr, Adjudicators' Council*

### Timing for Dance

Festivals should use a timer for all dances, if possible. If a dance is overtime, it may not be awarded a 1st Place and 'OT' should be written onto the report.

*Cynthia Carr, Adjudicators' Council*

## Timings

Timing is organised by the Festivals but there can be occasions when the Adjudicator is left with the decision on what the criteria are for penalties when a performer is over the time limit.

This issue can be related to a 100 metres race when some entrants are allowed a ten metres start on the others. How unfair one says! Rightly so! In the Festivals the same thing applies if a performer is allowed to have extra time and therefore creates a better ending or content to their advantage -- over the others.

So what does the Adjudicator do?

1) In such cases a first place cannot be gained. (It usually follows that the performer is good and could have won!!)

2) A general explanation to the audience in the opening remarks is worthwhile and then, with the individual comments, direct remarks can be made. The performers then will be made aware that the responsibility for the timings is theirs and hopefully they will never let it happen again. The main point is, that with several such cases in one class, the timing of the class will be affected and the Festival organisers will be disappointed.

3) If the timing is over, then a penalty can be applied of a mark off for every 10 seconds over - and this would make a great difference to the result. (It would also add to the decision not to award a first place.)

4) It is wise to ask the Festival in advance for the ruling on timings, if this is not in the syllabus. Festival organisers are very busy on the day and have much to attend to and if the adjudicator can sort out these areas beforehand it all adds to the smooth running of the Festival.

Good Luck on the Circuit and remember to keep on time!!!

*Marie Dixon, Adjudicators' Council*

### Other important discussion points

Accepting engagements returning to the same area within the same year.

Adjudicators who seek to promote their personal school, teaching, publications, etc.

Adjudicators who offer information about future availability.

Adjudicators who accept engagements where they have entered their own pupils.

### Adjudicators and Festivals:

*If you have points to make on any of the above topics, please send your thoughts directly to the Adjudicators' Council Chairman, Liz Childs, [lizchilds60@hotmail.com](mailto:lizchilds60@hotmail.com) or send them to [liz@federationoffestivals.org.uk](mailto:liz@federationoffestivals.org.uk) if you would like your point of view published in the next Newsletter.*

## Public Benefit Test for Charities

Following the implementation of the Charities Act 2006, charities with annual income above £25,000 and below £500,000 have to include a short statement in their annual report on how they meet the public benefit requirement. This applies for the financial years starting on or after 1 April 2008 (ie, generally ending on or after 31 March 2009). The report should include a statement on the following two legal requirements:

*"a statement by the charity trustees as to whether they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission;*

*"a report of those activities undertaken by a charity to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit".*

**Linda Lear**, Chairman of the Torbay Festival, has been giving this a great deal of thought and has put together a useful statement which she is happy to share with other festivals. It is available from Festivals House on request.

**Thank you, Linda**, for doing this important and necessary job. Although many festivals end up with very little profit, they do take in some considerable sums over the period of a year and this is another job that comes up as a result. It's great to have this splendid guide.

**So, Treasurers, over to you!!**

## FIRE RISK

Many festivals have attended Risk Assessment workshops at their Regional meetings over the last couple of years and these have touched on many areas of risk, from financial and governance to loss of entries; from hazards in hired venues to, of course, fire. The

website below is particularly useful and you can download both these charts, plus other important information.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/fire/fire-safety/firesafetylaw/aboutguides/>



## RunMyFestival

a web based software application  
for managing festivals

**Seamus Singh** from the Bristol Festival has been working hard to create a computer system for his own festival, the type of online system many festivals have been asking about. In this article he tells festivals about it and you can get in touch with him via [liz@federationoffestivals.org.uk](mailto:liz@federationoffestivals.org.uk)

### Seamus writes -

This article tells a brief story of how **RunMyFestival**, a web based software application for managing festivals and similar competitions, came into existence.

Approximately 5 years ago I offered to help my singing teacher, who was the Secretary of Bristol Festival's Vocal section at the time, with one of the many tasks that took up so much of her time every year. As is the way with many volunteers, my involvement with the Bristol festival has grown steadily each year. Five years ago I started printing mark sheets and this year I realised that I am starting my third year on the Management Committee!

When I am not singing, I develop software for my living. I began to think about what a lot of manual effort is required in putting together all the sections of a festival and that I should put my skills to good use. I decided to do just what I do in my day job, but, this time, my company, rather than a customer, would be paying for the development.

I decided to develop the barest minimum functionality required to perform each of the major tasks during a year. I would make it available for use as and when it would be required. After many long nights and weekends, **RunMyFestival** went live in July 2008. The festival used it to prepare the Syllabus so that it could be sent to a commercial printer by the end of August.

The application allows a user to create a section, such as Piano or Speech & Drama. For each section, users create the classes that are available for entry and can restrict entry to the classes by age, grade or some other means. All this information, and much more, is used by the system in three ways. The first creates a document at a click of a button for each section that will form part of the Syllabus. The second processes entries via the online entry system. The last produces the Programme and Schedule.

After we produced our Syllabus, the 'Online Entry' system was made available on 1 January 2009. Online entry allows members of the public to enter and allows the secretaries of each section to input other entries arriving by post. For both types of entrant, the system produces a document which contains details of their entry. During the time entries are being received totals are accumulated and displayed to the users showing the

number of entries, the amount of fees due and paid.

The final block in the initial phase was delivered at the beginning of February this year. It allows sections to schedule their competition by creating sessions. Sessions are essentially a set of classes in a given venue at a given time and adjudicated by one or more adjudicators. Again users are able to click a button to create a document that will collate all the information from entries and sessions to produce a programme for the section which can be sent to a commercial printer. The system also produces a timetable for each competitor that can be emailed to the person who submitted the entry, whether this is a teacher, parent or the competitor. A number of the teachers who entered our festival this year found this to be a particularly useful document to receive and it required little effort on our part to produce.

We have just used **RunMyFestival** for an entire festival year and as we start our second year using it, development of the application continues. Additional functionality has just been provided which allows a user to create a new festival using the details of last year's. Additional functionality allows for bulk update of the entry fees.

There are many other tasks that members of the festival perform that would benefit from being included in the application. The list of items waiting to be developed includes; an Income and Expenditure module to assist in the production of the accounts and budgets; recording of winners; recording details of trophies such as name, age, value, and condition, including photos; a module for maintaining volunteers jobs and processes for adding volunteers and assigning them to jobs, some of which may require a reminder to the General Secretary to perform a CRB check; accepting online payments for entries; generation of reports in various styles (tables and charts); marketing activities such as sending out the new syllabus by email; enhancements to the online entry system; enhancements to scheduling . . . the list goes on.

Apart from my own vision for the application, the users of the system have a significant input into the contents of the wish list.

During the early stages of this development, focus has to be on core functionality. The emphasis will gradually shift to developing the 'nice to have' features that will make our lives easier administering our festivals. It was always my intention to make the **RunMyFestival** available to organisations who feel they could benefit from what it has to offer now and in the future. **RunMyFestival** is not available for outright purchase but is offered as a pay as you use service.

**If you would like to know more about the application and what it may be able to do for your festival - contact Festivals House.**

## The BIFFShares 200 Club

The Federation Lottery, BIFFShares 200 Club, has been running since 2006. Aprille Bonner, late Vice-Chairman created the Lottery as a fun way for members to support the work financially whilst, and at the same time, with a little luck, winning some money for themselves. Her vision was to provide a sustained source of grants for special opportunities, like attendance at European Youth Summer Music (EYSM) or, from 2009, at Junior EYSM.

Aprille's target was 200 members, but, almost 3 years later, we have still not met that target.. **We need you!!** And, in joining, you're not just making sure that talented young musicians don't miss out when they can't afford to take part in a great course; the more members there are, the bigger the prizes!!

**It's a WIN WIN situation!**

### BIFFShares Payment Calendar

Joining Month	No of BIFFShares		
	1	2	3
DEC	£22	£44	£66
JAN	£20	£40	£60
FEB	£18	£36	£54
MAR	£16	£32	£48
APR	£14	£28	£42
MAY	£12	£24	£36
JUN	£10	£20	£30
JUL	£8	£16	£32
AUG	£6	£12	£18
SEP	£4	£8	£12
OCT	£2	£4	£6

BIFFShares cost just £24 per year, per share, that's **just £2 per month**, with various payment options available. The Lottery year runs from November to October, but shares can be purchased at any time in year - see above.

### THE BIFFSHARES 200 CLUB

#### OFFERS YOU

the opportunity to be a

**WINNER!**

Draws each month

**1st Prize - £50**

**2nd Prize - £25**

**3rd Prize - £12.50**

and a special annual draw at Conference

**£300**

BIFFShares 200 Club funds  
support places on  
Federation summer courses



## Celebrating Music 2009/10

On 9 July, Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, wrote to all Headteachers about "Celebrating Music 2009/10". A copy of that letter is available from Festivals House, just email or ask for a copy in the post.



Diana Johnson, Minister for Schools, said "I'm also thrilled about the upcoming Year of Music . . . which will be a national celebration of music-making that promises to bring even more opportunities to young people during the academic year 09/10. We in government are committed to making sure that music can be a part of every child's life, regardless of circumstances".

## BT Community Website Builder

The BT Community Website Builder allows registered UK charities, non-profit making organisations and volunteer led groups to build and maintain their own website free of charge.

For more information, visit - [www.communitykit.co.uk](http://www.communitykit.co.uk).

## Big Lottery Strategic Framework published

There are 3 themes underpinning the strategic framework:

- Community learning and creating opportunity
- Promoting community cohesion and safety
- Promoting well-being

The new funding portfolio will be launched in 2010, with Reaching Communities and Awards for All continuing in the meantime, plus some smaller programmes to be launched during the year.

[www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)

## TRICKY things these MICE

As some of you will know, I have been sending out emails with my signature on the base. Steve Pirson, Treasurer of Woking Dance suggested I should not append my actual signature electronically to emails - and he's absolutely right!



By using a right mouse click and copy facility, Steve said he was able to copy my signature so that, if he had been "of felonious intent", he could have purported to be me.

I've stopped doing it right away and suggest all members do the same!

*And just a little light relief . . . . .*



Getting Ready



Getting Steady



Let's go!

Delegates at the Scottish National Forum in May

## Fabulous Festivals

A new feature will start in the September Newsletter - "Fabulous Festivals". This special feature will offer up to a page for photos and publicity from Federation festivals. September will start with a bang, with the Newsletter featuring the Feis Maitiu, Corcaigh, the Middlesbrough Music Festival and the Newcastle-under-Lyme Festival for Music, Speech & Drama.

Could your festival feature? Let me know.

We want to celebrate what you do in print and send it far and wide!

It's good to see press coverage in print and, if those of you who aren't getting the attention you deserve from your local press ask them to take a look at what others do, it might make that all-important difference.

So, thanks to all who read the Newsletter article earlier this year and have already contributed. I'm looking forward to hearing from more

[liz@federationoffestivals.org.uk](mailto:liz@federationoffestivals.org.uk)

## Year Book Update no 3 for 2009

Please mark these additions and amendments up in your Year Book

### REGIONAL LIST:

#### North West Region:

**Chairman:** Mary Powney

**Treasurer:** Neill Oldham-Campbell

**Secretary:** Ellen Christian, 88 Shellfield Road, Southport PR9 9UP 01704 229354  
ellen.christian1@btinternet.com

**Regional Rep:** Jackie Martindale  
33 Millfield Close, Bebington, Wirral  
CH63 2QN 0151 608 4313  
martindalejackie@yahoo.co.uk

**Deputy Reps:** Peter Jelley, Neill Oldham-Campbell, Celia Dunk

### FESTIVALS:- Details

#### **Arbroath and District Musical (Competitive) Festival:**

Muriel Steven, 12 Brothock Bridge  
Arbroath, Angus DD11 1NG 01241 870501  
murielsteven@btinternet.com

#### **Royal Berkshire Festival of Dance:**

Tracy Thomas, 71 Redhatch Drive  
Earley, Reading, Berks RG6 5QN  
07989 030329

#### **Colne Luther Greenwood Memorial Festival:**

Peter Jelley, Norden, 2 Tunstead Avenue  
Simonstone, Burnley BB12 7NR  
01282 774306  
peter.jelley@mypostoffice.co.uk

#### **Haydn Wood**

Maureen Stead mostead@btinternet.com

#### **Inverclyde Music Festival:**

Email: mcgregor545@btinternet.com

#### **Lichfield Competitive Music Festival:**

Email: ruth.godson@sky.com

#### **Royal Tunbridge Wells Dance Festival:**

Email: jane.spurgin@midkent.ac.uk

#### **In full membership**

Leigh-on-Sea Musical Festival  
Pontefract Music Festival

### ADJUDICATORS & ACCOMPANISTS:

#### **Beat, Duncan - Music**

Email: duncanbeat@googlemail.com

#### **Blackburn, Karen - Dance**

##### **AIDTA,RAD RTS**

15 Tilmore Gardens, Petersfield, Hants GU32 2JQ 01730 300439 / 07736 101029  
km.blackburn@ntlworld.com **KLM**

#### **Chandler, Daniel**

Now Gen

#### **Ives, Bill**

Pot Man's Health Cottage, Wittersham  
Tenterden, Kent TN30 7PU  
01797 280525

### NEW ADJUDICATORS & ACCOMPANISTS:

#### MUSIC:

##### **Costello, Benjamin**

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##### **Stafford, Elizabeth**

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6 Harden Manor Court, Chadbury Road  
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0121 602 3873 / 07956 925099 liz@eliz-  
abethstafford.com **ba**

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info@starquestpa.co.uk **KLM**

##### **Norris, Deborah**

**MA,BA,AISTD**

4 Tontine Road, Up-Holland, Lancashire  
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##### **Whittle, Angela**

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Ground Floor Flat, 48 Holmewood  
Gardens, Brixton, London SW2 3NB  
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07885 021926 hjohnhester@aol.com  
**ABDFECG**

##### **Swarbrick, Maryrose**

2 Chatsworth Close, Blackburn, Lancs  
BB1 8QH 01254 55685 / 07967 569872  
m.swarbrick@hotmail.com  
**ABDFECG**

## FESTIVAL ADJUDICATION SHEETS

As members know from recent correspondence, Federation Adjudication sheets, carrying the logo and including a reference to Her Majesty The Queen as the Patron, are for the use of Federation Festivals and Federation Adjudicators only.

**Sheets containing the Federation name, logo and reference to our Patron are copyright to the Federation.**

It is very important to ensure that completed and signed sheets do not go into the public domain if those signing are NOT Federation Adjudicators. Federation Adjudicator members undergo a strenuous induction process; pay a membership fee and are subject to review. Non-Federation Adjudicators contribute nothing to the Federation and are not eligible to put their views forward on behalf of the Federation.

Please ensure that sheets you provide to non-Federation Adjudicators do

**NOT MENTION:**

**THE FEDERATION NAME**

**ITS LOGO**

**HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AS PATRON**

Festivals who wish to buy Adjudication sheets, personalised to their festival, for use with **CURRENTLY LISTED FEDERATION ADJUDICATORS ONLY**, please contact

**Jacqui@federationoffestivals.org.uk**

## Could your festival hire a shop . . . perhaps just for a week?

### **UK-wide Empty Shops Network**

Dozens of groups across the UK are working to revive, restore and reinvent the high street by using empty shops. The national Empty Shops Network has been active since January, and is a single place to find artistic projects in empty shops across the country. The site is updated weekly.

An Empty Shops Workbook, packed full of top tips, case studies, practical advice and useful check lists, is currently being written, with the support of the Meanwhile Project. It will be available online in mid July.

To find out about the network and see current projects, check out

**[www.artistsandmakers.com/emptyshops](http://www.artistsandmakers.com/emptyshops).**

**Thanks to the Voluntary Arts Network for this article.**



