



Amateur Festivals Everywhere

The British and International Federation of Festivals
for Music, Dance and Speech

Newsletter Issue 16 July 2015



Word from Terry Luddington, CEO

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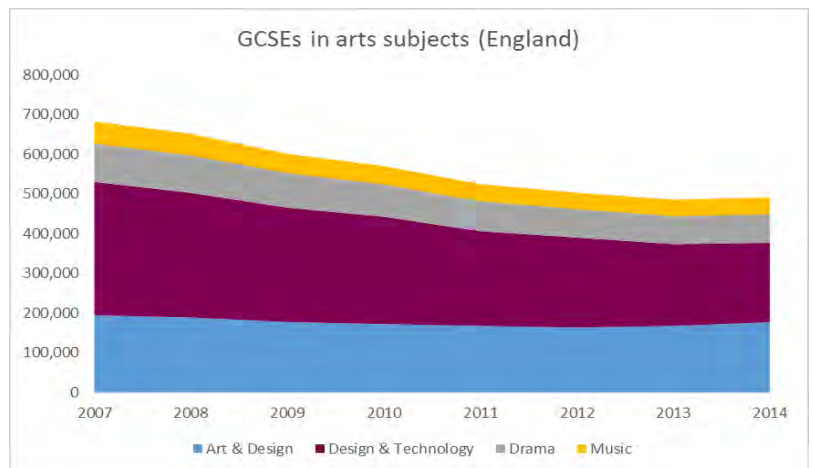


I make no apologies for devoting the front page of our newsletter to this very important campaign and would ask you, your colleagues, family and friends to sign the petition at website www.baccforthefuture.com now.

This could be our last chance to help save creativity in schools in England which is why the Federation has decided to be at the forefront of the Baccforthefuture campaign this time round.

In 2013 this highly successful campaign forced a dramatic U-turn from the coalition government to ensure creative subjects were retained and valued on the school curriculum. We can do this again!

It appears the new Schools Minister, Nick Gibb MP, and the Secretary of State for Education, Nicky Morgan MP, are planning to make it **compulsory** for every secondary school pupil to take the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) subjects of Maths, English, Sciences, Languages and History or Geography. This is fine in principle but to **exclude creative subjects** from the EBacc options will significantly damage and devalue the place of creative subjects in schools.



As well as a drop in GCSEs in arts subjects (see graph above) there are also worrying trends towards a decrease in participation by children in most cultural activities, documented by the Taking Part data (from the Warwick Report): between the years 2008/9 and 2013/14, the proportion of 5-10 year olds who engaged in dance activities dropped from 43.1% to 30.4%; participation in music activities dropped from 55.3% to 37.2% and participation in theatre and drama activities dropped from 47.1% to 32.1%.

So please if you do nothing else today



**HELP SAVE CREATIVITY IN SCHOOLS:
SIGN THE PETITION NOW**

by visiting website www.baccforthefuture.com

In preparation for the Federation’s Centenary

Steven Roberts, Chair of the Board of Trustees, would be grateful for your assistance as the Federation starts to prepare for its Centenary.

“We will be celebrating our Centenary in 2021 and I know it may seem a long way ahead, but I would like to begin collecting information and receiving ideas and the sooner the better. I’m a big fan of forward planning.....so I need your help! There will be an opportunity to share more ideas at conference and we shall be setting up a Centenary sub-committee to lead on this. But for now, I would like to receive any information you have about which famous/celebrity alumni you have. Has someone who is successful in their chosen profession had a Festival background, are you in touch with them, do they support you, do you have details of when they took part and what, if anything, did they win?

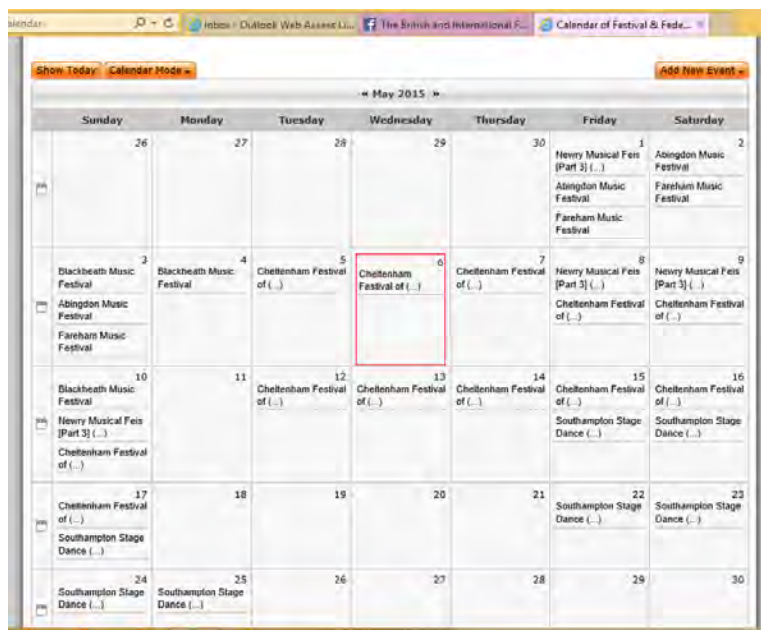
We frequently boast about giving aspiring professionals their first opportunities to perform, but I would like us to have better knowledge of this! So, if you have any information of anyone who has or is forging a career in any of our performing arts disciplines, let us know.

Alternatively, if you know of anyone who simply had a positive experience at your Festival and that experience has in some way helped to shape their lives, it would be good to have their story or even a testimonial!

Please send whatever information you can through to Sarah at Festivals House and we will start to put the picture together. Thank you so much in advance! “

Festival events Calendar 2015-2016

The recent addition of the Festival Events Calendar to our website is proving popular with members of the public who can now see at a glance the dates for forthcoming festivals in their area. If you have not yet had a chance to add your Festival Dates and Events to the Calendar then please click on the Calendar image on our website at www.federationoffestivals.org.uk and choose the “Add New Event” option to register. If you get stuck please contact Festivals House for assistance.



Fellows of the Federation

Fellows of the Federation are appointed from the Adjudicator members of the Federation. It is the highest honour that the Federation can award its Adjudicators and was the brainchild of the immediate past Chair of the Federation and now its President – Margaret Venables.

Nominations for Fellows can be made by:

Existing Fellows, the Board of Trustees, Festivals House, Festivals Council, Adjudicators Council and individual members.

If you are interested in making a nomination or in discussing a prospective nomination then you should contact the Chair of the Fellows – Marilynne Davies - who will be able to give you the criteria for such an appointment. Her contact details are in the current Yearbook.

Nominees are voted on by the current Fellows and need a two thirds majority to be appointed.

Do think seriously about this important award and contact me if you have any questions.

Marilynne Davies
Chair of the Fellows

New Members

New Accompanist



Mr Iain Jackson

B.Mus, PGCE, PGCert

If you are a member of the Federation and require contact details please email Festivals House

New Festival Member



Kings Summer Festival of Dance

Mrs. Tracey Wilkinson

If you are a member of the Federation and require contact details please email Festivals House

www.kingsfestival.co.uk

BC,M,CO,T,S+D,MT,N,G

June and July annually

Sri Lanka Festival of Music, Dance and Speech

The **Sri Lanka Festival of Music, Dance and Speech** was conducted over fifty-one days having two Adjudicators for Speech and Drama, namely Patricia Irvine and Timothy McCarthy who were joined by the Dance Adjudicator, Laura Symonds, for three weeks and the Music Adjudicator, Benjamin Costello, for five weeks.

This is a national festival having centres from North Jaffna to the Southern most Tangalle, in the East, Batticaloa and to the West, Colombo, together with the centres throughout the rest of Sri Lanka which number thirty four in total across all three disciplines.

The festival is internationally recognised and were delighted that two groups comprising of thirteen children from a school in Doha, Qatar participated in the dance festival.



Laura Symonds and dancers at the Sri Lanka Festival of Music, Dance and Speech

Laura Symonds commented “It was a real coup for Joy Ferdinando to have the dancers from Doha attending her Festival, and she gave all the participants great encouragement.”

Celebrations at Kingston Upon Hull

The Kingston upon Hull Musical Festival was founded in 1906 and until 2008 was a four week event plus a whole week of Dance. For a variety of reasons the festival became a one day instrumental event and Verse and Drama, Choral and Recorder sections stopped. However the last two years have seen a huge revival and with the support of the Hull Music Services this year the festival attracted four hundred entries and we hastily had to find two more adjudicators! The Dance Section has continued to flourish with thirteen hundred entries in 2015.

2015 has raised the spirits of the small but hard working committee and a special highlight this year was a visit from the Federation President, Margaret Venables, who was accompanied by her husband Aubrey, to present Long Service Awards.

Serena Myers, who unfortunately was unable to attend, and Billie Lee received their 50 year service awards, whilst Gill Barker who is Honorary Secretary, Jennifer Heelas who is Chair and Diane Keech received their awards for 40 years. A grand total of 220 years!!!

It was a special day and an exciting festival and we look forward to continued growth in 2016.



L-R — Diane Keech, Jennifer Heelas, Billie Lee, Gill Barker, Margaret Venables and Andrew Penny MBE, President.

In Memory

Harrogate Competitive Festival for Music, Speech and Drama would like to remember **Harry Harrop** who sadly passed away in December 2014.

Harry was one of the festivals longest serving volunteers and this photograph was taken in November 2014 when several festival members visited him to present him with a certificate in recognition of his service. Harry was quite a character - he played the violin and accordion and performed amusing monologues as he enjoyed making people laugh.

He was a passionate supporter of the work the festival does and this is reflected in the generous legacy of £10,000 he left to the festival to enable it to continue its work.



Festival President Richard Thomas along with Mavis Gibson, Linda Wilson and Richard Brooks present Harry Harrop with his award

Pas de Deux class at Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts

Patricia Mace has worked with Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts to introduce a Pas de Deux class and writes:

“In 2008 I wanted to honour my husband's memory, graphic designer Raymond (Ray) Wood. He loved ballet and we saw all the greats dance.



Winners of the 2015 Award

I was visiting my brother in Evesham after Ray's death, and saw in the local Journal, the CFPA was still going strong, so I popped into the Town Hall to observe. Noticing there was no Pas de Deux class, only duets, I thought it would be a fitting memorial to Ray to resurrect a Pas de Deux class. I approached the Festival and it was agreed that I would sponsor the class and provide a trophy.

I thought Ray deserved a special trophy, so I modelled a clay and had it cast in bronze and put atop a marble base. Each winner gets to take it home for a year, and have their names etched on it. Since there are so few boys dancing I added a small symbolic prize to encourage them to find a girl dancer and enter the Pas de Deux class.

My criteria is for a boy and girl, not two girls or two boys, of any age within the festival guidelines, to dance at a level for their age, classical or an accepted style with the same amount of difficulty in technique.

I knew it would be an uphill battle - so few boys, but every ballet has a legendary Pas de Deux, and I find I'm quite persistent! My mission is to have boys and girls dancing together - which is just not encouraged in our society. We've only ever had a couple of entries for each of the first five years, BUT three of those dancers have gone on to ballet school!! Then there was a very sad two years with no entries, and now this year, 2015, young Blake Smith is off to the Royal Ballet School to board in September. I believe he was noticed last year and given a week at the school then.”

Godalming Music Festival

Since 1947, the **Godalming Music Festival** has been enticing musicians, dancers and actors to take part in their competitive festival each March. This year, they have expanded the festival to welcome a new set of musicians by setting up a Contemporary Music Section. This was an exploratory venture, supported by The Music Works, who took on the day-to-day running of the section.



As the work began on the new section, the first question was 'What is Contemporary Music?' Contemporary Music is defined as anything post-1945 so this gave them a broad range of musical styles to encompass and the syllabus reflected this! They had classes for bands, drums, guitar, singing, choirs and keyboards and received 49 entries across all of the instruments.

Across the two days of the Contemporary Section, there were bags of brilliant performances with marks ranging from 78 – 95. The competitive festival scenario was a new experience for most of the performers and lots of positive feedback was received from those taking part and their teachers.

The Finale Concert gave a fabulous overview of the section. During the concert the Festival Director, Joy Poulter, presented our Best Bands and Best Performance Trophies.

The festival are delighted with how their first Contemporary Music Section went and look forward to building on its success in 2016!

Congratulations

The Federation would like to congratulate **Hilary Needham**, ARCM, LRAM, LGSM, who was presented with a Community Service Award 'in recognition of her outstanding service to the community' by the High Sheriff of West Sussex and the Mayor of Mid Sussex District Council at a Garden Party.

Hilary took part in many Festivals in the North and Midlands in her earlier years and was a Founder Member of East Grinstead Music and Arts Festival in 1967, she was Piano Secretary at the festival for 30 years and is now Honorary Vice-President.



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