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The BRITISH and INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION of FESTIVALS
of which
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Festivals House, 198 Park Lane, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 6UD
Tel: 01625 428297



Foreword by the President

Welcome to the 100th Anniversary of the Oundle Festival of Music and Drama!

Nineteen years ago I was asked to be President and had great pleasure in accepting – I have thoroughly enjoyed every Festival ever since.

Things have changed a great deal over the years – most especially with the introduction of computers, e-mail and the internet enabling the Committee to plan the programme and run the whole event with far more ease than before.

The re-vamping of the Coffee Shop makes it now an integral part of the social scene of the Festival.

Sadly the number of entrants has declined over recent years. However the standards have improved immensely and in this 100th year we have every confidence that we will put on a really special and memorable three days for you all.

Above all, I hope you will enjoy yourselves, and I wish the Festival well for the future.



Carole Parrotte

**The Festival is held in Oundle School by kind permission of
the Governing Body of Oundle School and the Headmaster**

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The Lady Brassey

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Mrs Meg Bates, Mrs Molly Slater, Mrs Mary Titman

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We gratefully acknowledge the support of our Patrons. It is because of their generosity that the festival is still running. We would indeed welcome more. A patron gives a minimum of £7.50 per person, £12.50 for a couple. If you would like to become a patron, please contact:-

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Chairman's Remarks

It is my privilege to be Chairman of this special Festival as we celebrate 100 years since its inauguration. The name may have changed over the years but the main objective remains the same *'to advance the education of the public in the Arts, and in particular the Arts of Music, Speech and Drama'*.

Top class adjudicators offer entrants sympathetic and constructive criticism to help them improve their performance and to gain in confidence. They are all members of The British and International Federation of Festivals to which Oundle is affiliated.

In 2008 Oundle was awarded the Federation's Certificate of Good Practice Gold Award, only the second to be presented in the country. It is indeed a fitting testament to the Committee for all their planning and hard work and to the support of all our patrons, sponsors and loyal helpers that we have achieved this standard. We are proud to be amongst the first recipients.

It is hoped that we can maintain this high standard in the coming years: meanwhile in this centenary year we look forward to welcoming past and present performers.



Shirley Burchell & Andrew Spurrell

Making it Possible

The Festival is managed by a Committee of people dedicated to organising and running a structured, friendly and educational event. Many have given years of valuable service with hours and hours of work to further its aims, their only reward being a job well done!

Chairman & Patrons' Secretary: Andrew Spurrell
Vice-Chairman & Entries Secretary: Gwen Radcliffe
General Secretary & Organiser: Shirley Burchell
Treasurer & Music Secretary: Diana Awdry
Drama Secretary: Nicky Jakeways Trophy Secretary: Dorothy Tyler
Adjudicators: Julie Edkins Publicity: Mike Hoskin
Certificate Writers: Ruth Bould Music Advisers: Freda Denyer & Doreen Godson

The Festival cannot take place without an army of volunteers in addition to the Committee. At present we are relying on around 70 helpers. It is a sign of their allegiance when you see that by the end of this year 12 Federation 25 year+ Long Service Awards will have been made.



*Sheila Akroyd & Reg Sutton
still to be seen working at the
Festival*

These are as follows:

- 1998 Robin Miller: (deceased): Committee, Vice Chairman, Chairman
Mary Titman: Committee, Drama Committee Chairman
Leslie Titman (deceased): General Helper
Sheila Akroyd: Committee, Music Secretary, General Helper
Reg Sutton: Steward
- 1999 Meg Bates: Committee, Assistant Secretary, Secretary
Molly Slater: Committee, Assistant Secretary
- 2000 Shirley Burchell: Committee, Secretary
- 2002 Diana Hart: Committee, Certificate Writer and Organiser of Writers
- 2004 Tony Hounsome (deceased): Committee, Vice Chairman
and author of *Lady Lilford's Triumph*, a Festival History
- 2005 Gwen Radcliffe: Committee, Drama Committee Chairman,
Vice Chairman of General Committee
- 2009 Jean Andrews: Committee, Drama Committee & Drama Adviser

The Committee extends grateful thanks to all who, year by year, look forward to being a part of the Oundle scene. Indeed, it will not be long before more names are added to the Long Service Awards list.

2009 DRAMA ADJUDICATORS



PATRICIA HAMMOND LLAM, PGCA, Hon FLAM

Patricia Hammond has been a teacher of speech and drama for over 35 years, having established a theatre school with her late husband. She has now transferred ownership of the school in Kent to a well-qualified ex-student. Many of her students have worked professionally in theatre, television, film and radio appearing in numerous productions in Europe, London and the provinces including the London City Ballet, London Palladium pantomime, the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company. Fifteen ex-students have now opened their own schools of performing arts, both in the UK and overseas.

Patricia has been examining and adjudicating for very many years and has travelled frequently for the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. Her work has taken her to all parts of the British Isles, Kenya, California, Singapore, Ireland, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong. She is an adjudicator member of the British and International Federation of Festivals.

Patricia has provided demonstration classes and Master Classes in verse speaking and devised performance at the LAMDA MacOwan Theatre and has co-written, with Alison Muir, a book entitled 'Mime and Improvisation'.

She is actively involved in community arts and serves on a number of consultative panels relating to conservation, arts projects and animal welfare. She has also served as Drama Officer for Bromley Arts Council. She is very much looking forward to her first visit to Oundle Festival.

CAROL SCHRODER LLAM(Speech), LLAM(Acting), PGCA

From an early age Carol trained in drama, dance and singing. She worked in the professional theatre, television and in cabaret where she produced her own one-woman show. During this time she gained her teaching qualifications in speech and drama, subsequently teaching at drama schools and colleges, including The Guildford School of Acting, Grandison College and, for twenty-two years, at the Italia Conti Academy of Performing Arts. She recently retired from Croham Hurst School, Croydon having relocated to Harrogate to be nearer her family.

As an examiner for LAMDA, Carol travels extensively in the British Isles, Ireland and overseas, including Europe, Africa, United Arab Emirates, Singapore and the USA. Carol is the author of "The Discussion" vol 1 and 2 for LAMDA and has been actively involved in the syllabus for the new Musical Theatre Examinations and contributed to "Musical Theatre - Exploring the World Through Song". She is also a long standing member of the British Federation of Festivals adjudicating throughout the British Isles and in Ireland, Hong Kong and Sri Lanka.



2009 MUSIC ADJUDICATORS



ROGER CROCKER MA, GRSM, ARAM, LRAM, ARCM, PGCE

Roger Crocker began his musical career in Birmingham, studied at the Birmingham Conservatoire with Marjorie Haslehurst, was a Manton Faulkner and Yardley Education Foundation Scholar, and played with the CBSO, Midland Youth Orchestra and on BBC Radio as soloist while still at school.

He is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music, where he studied with Guy Jonson and Wilfred Parry and, later, with Erich Vietheer and Geoffrey Parsons focussing on piano accompaniment and vocal music.

He studied for a PGCE at Reading University, an MA at the London University Institute of Education and holds an ARAM for services to music education.

Roger has taught in four London Boroughs in primary and secondary phases, and is a music advisory teacher. He is currently General Adviser (Music) and Head of the Music Support Service for West Sussex County Council 'Children and Young People's Services: Learning' which provides around 12,000 music opportunities for children and young people every week. He occasionally works as an examiner for the ABRSM, a Team Leader for EdExcel at GCSE, a team inspector for Ofsted, and an adjudicator for the British Federation of Festivals.

He has been Chair of the National Association of Music Educators, and is now a member of the Music Education Council Executive. He is also an accompanist, organist and choir director on a regular basis.

SHEILA KENT M.Sc, GNSM, LTCL, Cert. Ed.

Sheila Kent graduated from the Northern School of Music in Manchester before training as a teacher at Manchester University. She headed music departments in schools for over twenty years, teaching all ages, and now gives in-service training to other teachers, as well as being an associate tutor for Leicester University. Many of her former pupils are now professional musicians.

The Festival movement has been part of Sheila's life since she was a regular school-age competitor. She spent over 10 years on a Festival Committee, and still regularly enters her pupils for a wide range of classes.

Sheila plays chamber music and in orchestras on a freelance basis, conducts a long established choir and has been musical director for amateur performances of many of the most popular musicals. She teaches vocal technique and a number of different instruments and is an examiner for both Music and Music Theatre for Trinity College, London. As an adjudicator she has worked at Music Festivals across the UK, and as far afield as Hong Kong and Zimbabwe.



OFFICIAL ACCOMPANISTS

JENNY FIRTH GRSM, LRAM studied piano at the Royal Academy of Music in London, where she subsequently pursued her career as a piano accompanist, performing in chamber music ensembles and song recitals on radio and at most of the major concert venues.

Moving north, she joined the music staff at Oundle School with particular responsibility for piano studies. Now as a freelance musician she is enjoying a varied diet of accompaniment, choir training, adjudicating and some composition. Much of her musical activity is centred on Oundle Parish Church, where she is organist.

IBBY MALLETT GRSM (Hons) is the daughter of a Hampshire farmer. She started to play the piano at the age of 5, working through the grades, as well as doing solo, duet and trio classes at festivals. She went on to the Royal Academy of Music where she studied piano, singing and accompaniment. She has sung with lutenist Robert Spencer, early music specialists Peter Holman and Andrew Parrot, and has performed with the the group Gothic voices. Her piano work has included recording sessions with Vladimir Ashkenazy and Itzhak Perlman.

Having performed and taught music in Surrey for 10 years she now lives in Northamptonshire with her husband Dick, dogs, horses and sheep.



History of the Festival

The first Festival was held on April 21st 1909 and 2009 is therefore our centenary year, although only its 91st Festival, due to its suspension during the war years.

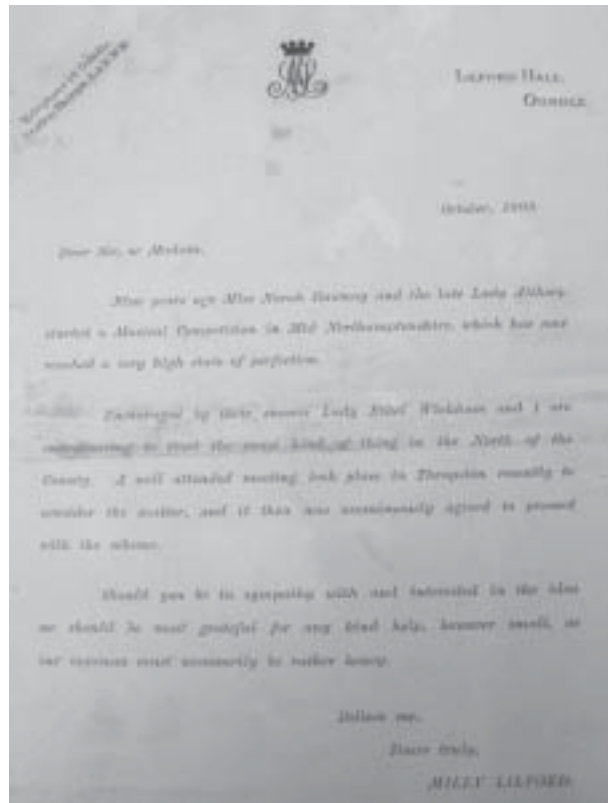
As was the case with many of the competitive festivals, it was promoted by two local titled ladies, Lady Millicent Lilford of Lilford Hall and Lady Ethel Wickham of Barnwell Manor, who called together interested parties, including most of the local clergy, to a meeting in July 1908. The meeting proclaimed a unanimous response to the proposed musical competition and the name was then discussed. It was resolved that it should be The North Northamptonshire Musical Competition.

The first event was a one-day festival in the new large hall at Oundle School, now known as The Great Hall, by kind permission of the Headmaster, Mr F W Sanderson. Junior classes ran from 9am to 12.15pm and seniors from 1.30pm to 5.30pm. This was followed by a Concert at 8pm with a prior rehearsal for the choral items at 6.30pm. Lunches and teas were served in the Queen Victoria Hall. The emphasis was on choral and solo singing with one piano solo class.

A list of subscribers was drawn up contributing from half-a-crown (12½p) to £10! Well known soloists were booked to appear at the final concert, a practice which continued to 1979.

By the next year it was extended to two days, with more classes for piano playing, string quartets and psalm singing. The Juniors competed for certificates and money prizes and the Seniors for certificates and medals.

Press coverage was generous - *"Great praise is due to Lady Lilford, Lady Ethel Wickham and to the Rev. H. C. Holmes (Rector of Achurch) for their assiduous striving to make the competitions successful"*



Oundle C of E School won 1st in choir classes 1909,1910,1911 and were then awarded the Challenge Banner



Dora Robinson competed in the first Festivals with Barnwell School and was a special guest at our 75th Festival

Then classes for sight-singing were introduced at Lady Lilford's instigation; she thought that every member of a choir should enter these and in 1912 pupils from Lilford school won all the prizes.

By 1915 and 1916 the War was taking its toll and the Festival was confined to junior classes only. In 1917 it had to be cancelled completely, though a concert was held to raise money for those disabled in the War. It was 1920 before the next full Festival was held.

In 1923, Folk Dancing became a part of the Festival, held in the Queen Victoria Hall, but the next year it took on a life and venue of its own (Lilford Hall) and after 1927 seems to have disappeared.

In June 1929 Lady Lilford retired as Secretary, but continued as President until her death in 1940. For 30 years she had worked tirelessly for the competitions and she was held in great admiration, setting a firm foundation on which she hoped the work would be built.



Mrs. Brudenell



Prizewinners from Lilford School 1912

The story was interrupted for a second time due to war, but resumed with promptness in 1946. Lady Ethel Wickham became the next president, and Hon. Mrs George Brudenell had taken over the secretarial duties in 1930. The latter remains the longest serving secretary with 42 years service, although in 1954 she was assisted by Mrs Marjorie McAdam and in 1970 by Mrs Meg Bates. (Both later becoming secretaries in their own right.) Mrs Brudenell was passionately fond of 'her festival' and devoted time and money to further its aims.

After the 1946 Festival a letter was received from Mr K.D.Evans, headmaster of Oundle Secondary School quoting a resolution passed by the local NUT

"This Association resolves that its members shall not take part in any competitive musical festivals organised in its area.

If non-competitive festivals of music should be arranged the Association would give its fullest support".

Following lengthy discussion the Junior Choir and Chamber Music classes became non-competitive. Whether this was to blame for the lack of entries in 1947 remains debatable as other factors, such as the bad weather, lack of fuel, etc, made difficulties for the organisers. The schools then organised their own non-competitive festival, making the junior day redundant. However other competitive Eisteddfodau throughout the country were well attended, so in 1956 commonsense prevailed and the Festival reverted to its original competitive format. The entry numbers spoke for themselves, total 1955 - 170, 1956 - 513!!



Cotterstock Ladies Choir with Lady Ethel Wickham

In 1961 the other stalwart of the Festival, Lady Ethel Wickham died at her home Cotterstock Hall aged 97. She had previously lived at Barnwell Manor, conducting her choir at Barnwell before moving to Cotterstock and forming the Cotterstock Ladies Choir.

From 1961 a number of titled ladies have been presidents of the Festival; Lady Margaret Hawkins, The Hon. Mrs Capron, Yvonne Lady Proby, HRH Duchess of Gloucester and currently The Lady Brassey. To all of these we are indebted for their interest, presence and for the presentations of trophies and prizes.



*HRH Duchess of Gloucester in conversation with Robin Miller at the 1990 Festival
reproduced by permission of Northamptonshire Newspapers*

By 1963 the name had changed to The Oundle Music Festival. In 1968 perhaps the biggest change of all took place when an extra day was devoted to Speech and Drama Competitions. Entries in these classes gradually increased and the name was changed to reflect this in 1984, when it became known as the Oundle Festival of Music and Drama. In the 1990's the Speech and Drama classes were run alongside the Music classes, providing a varied timetable and consolidating the two branches of the arts. Today the number of entries are around 50/50 Speech & Drama and Music.



*Oundle "Young Wives" Choral Speaking Group
Warwick Cup winners 1979, 1980, 1981*



*Barnwell School join in celebrating the 75th Festival,
reproduced by permission of Northamptonshire Newspapers*

From the 1990's the Festival has run smoothly, relying as it does on so many volunteer workers, with little innovations here and there along the way, new classes, workshops, Young Musician and Young Performer Awards. What were once vice-presidents are now patrons and these have increased in number over the years. The same old problems recur from time to time, but we are capable of solving these. Nowadays with computers to aid us we have progressed so much and so quickly so that in 2008 chairman of the Federation Margaret Venables presented Oundle with a Gold Certificate of Good Practice, the second one to be presented in the country. Lady Lilford and those after her can be well pleased with these achievements. Long may it continue to flourish.

To end, I share a footnote with you. As we battle to get in copies of music for the accompanists I read with interest Lady Lilford's comment in an early syllabus "you must inform the accompanist half-an-hour before if you require his services". (Still, they were all set pieces!) Her scrapbook can be seen at the County Record Office and provides fascinating reading. It is a pity that no more was done after 1923 until I began again in 1985. After this year, these too will be deposited with the Record Office.



Shirley Burchell

Sources: County Archives
Lady Lilford's Triumph, Tony Hounsome

Oundle School Connections

In 1556 Sir William Laxton, Lord Mayor of London and Master of the Grocers' Company, endowed and re-founded the original grammar school of which he had been a pupil. Today, Oundle School is still maintained by the Worshipful Company of Grocers of the City of London.

The First Festival, the North Northamptonshire Musical Competition, was held on 21st April 1909 in the recently completed Large Hall of The School, Oundle. It was used by kind permission of the Headmaster, Mr. F. W. Sanderson, who was perhaps the most famous Head of this public school. In the early years, only the Hall was needed for the Competitions, but as more classes were added it became necessary to expand, first to the adjoining rooms and more recently to the Laxton House and the Gascoigne block (originally the Rectory).

As the Festival reaches its centenary year we thank Oundle School for allowing us the privilege to enjoy such surroundings and facilities.



Great Hall Organ dismantled c.1977

British & International Federation of Festivals

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Festival entrants who would like to know more should contact:

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www.federationoffestivals.org.uk - click EYSM

A number of years before the North Northamptonshire Festival was begun by Lady Lilford and Lady Ethel Wickham, other festivals were being created by titled and influential people. As early as 1872 there are records of amateur festivals; the Workington Festival in Cumbria in 1869 being the first recorded and still running today. Mary Wakefield was responsible for influencing the development of the festival in Cumbria. She, together with Lady Mary Trefusis, held a successful meeting in 1904 to form an 'Association of Competition Festivals' and by 1907 there were over 70 affiliated festivals. Festivals were being created all over the country, notably by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Sir Edward Elgar, Sir Adrian Boult, Gustav Holst and others.

North Northamptonshire became part of this scene in 1909. In 1921 this Association became known as The British Federation of Festivals and, in 2002, The British & International Federation of Festivals. Today there are over 300 affiliated festivals in the UK and Ireland, with others worldwide.

The Federation supports and encourages Festivals in all aspects of organisation and management, holding information forums and workshops of which we in Oundle are pleased to be a part.

*To the Chairman, Committee and friends of
Oundle Festival of Music and Drama
Congratulations on your "100th"
Best wishes from Magaret Venables
Chairman, BIFF*

Best wishes

Her Royal Highness was honoured to have been asked to the Celebration Concert and remembers her time as President with great pleasure.

It is with great regret that Her Royal Highness is unable to accept your generous invitation, but sincerely hopes the Festival is a resounding success.

The Duchess of Gloucester has asked me to convey her best wishes to all involved in this year's Festival.

Alistair Wood

Private Secretary to TRH The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester



The prospect of the Festival Centenary is really exciting. It is a wonderful achievement to have kept up a head of steam for so long I have had a link with the Festival for more than half of its hundred years and it has a very warm corner in my heart.

Revd. Canon Michael McAdam



Nearly 80 years ago as a ten year old I entered the solo singing class from Aldwincle School. I competed in solo classes as a teenager, and later as a teacher I was able to bring school choirs and instrumental groups from Sudborough and Aldwincle Schools. Most recently, in 2005, my own choir the Cranford Songsters visited Oundle.

I became involved in the organising aspect of the Festival as assistant to Marjorie McAdam, and later took her place. During that time I was grateful for the assistance of Elizabeth Bloxham and Molly Slater, and for the support of all the other committee members.

On my retirement I was made a Vice-President, a wonderful honour. I have fully enjoyed this role and have been glad to continue my support of the Festival.

Meg Bates



I took part in the festival regularly between 1982 and 1992, with varying degrees of success and unvarying degrees of enthusiasm.

My very slight success in the poetry and prose speaking classes encouraged me to pursue drama, and I now make a living as an actor. My complete lack of success in the recorder classes deterred me from continuing to play at even an amateur level.

Many congratulations to the festival for reaching the 100 milestone, and all the very best for the future.

Katherine Jakeways (actress, writer and presenter)



**Oundle International Festival
in its 25th Anniversary year
offers many congratulations to the
Oundle Festival of Music and Drama
upon its Centenary, and sends best
wishes to all participants.**

**There will be another opportunity
to hear the 2008
Oundle Young Musician of the Year,
Katy Smith, who will be returning to
Oundle to give a concert during the
International Festival, 10 - 19 July.**

www.oundlefestival.org.uk

Since becoming Oundle Young Musician of the year 2008, many things have happened for me. At the time, I was studying at Yehudi Menuhin School; I have now left to continue my violin studies at the Royal College of Music in London.

I have recently been to Sydney, for master classes, concerts and lessons, which were all very inspiring.

Sadly I will not be able to take part in the closing concert this year as I won a concerto competition at college and will be performing it that weekend!

I wish the festival all the best for the next 100 years, and hope it will continue to inspire young musicians like myself.

Katy Smith



Best wishes to all 2009 participants and to those who are responsible for the next 'special edition'. Shirley Burchell and I have enjoyed compiling this programme.

Gwen Radcliffe

Vice Chairman

