

# the muse

## Friends join with Headway and Nordoff-Robbins to bring music therapy to the head-injured

There was a time when the Henley Festival staff regarded certain times of the year as being relatively peaceful - the calm before the very considerable storm of the Festival.\* 'How's the diary looking in September?' 'Very relaxed, thank you' - that sort of thing. But no longer. Since the inception of SHOUT! and the many other projects masterminded and put into action by the Friends, all hands have been priming the pumps for pretty much the whole year.

Well the 'break' between the 2003 and 2004 Festivals has been one of the busiest and most inspiring ever with unbelievably successful outreach work taking place in schools across the area leading up to a terrific series of performances just before Easter. Over 600 children took part over three evenings.

Then there has been the Festival's new partnership with the Nordoff-Robbins and Headway charities to bring a whole new dimension to the work of the Friends in Henley. Weekly music therapy sessions with the head-injured - a quite wonderful use of the Friends' funds.

But now yet more is being planned to add to an already groaning plate. Henley Festival *In Town!* - a series of events in and around the town leading up to a grand firework finale on 6th November. There's more about *In Town!* on the back page - please put the dates in your diaries. Literature will be available at the Festival in July.

Besides being a great event, the Henley Festival is increasingly being seen on a national level as a real beacon for the arts and culture and we hope the readers of *The Muse* take pride in the individual part they - you - are playing.

See you in July!  
**Stewart Collins**

*\* apologies for using images that even hint at the possibility of damp in July. It will, as ever, be brilliantly warm and sunny.*

## Music Therapy at Headway House

Music therapist Stuart Wood began work in January to establish a new service for head injured attendees at Headway Thames Valley's centre in Henley's Townlands Hospital. Stuart trained with Nordoff-Robbins and now has considerable expertise in the field. Sessions are run one to one and in small groups and are available to around 26 people each week. Funds from the Friends of Henley Festival have also paid for a pool of musical instruments and a piano has been generously donated. The scheme is proving highly successful and a choir has been established over the lunchtime period which is hugely popular.

Research suggests that in the right setting, music therapy has positive effects both for clients, their families and carers. Head injuries come about through a wide range of causes, including car accidents, accidents at work, violent assaults, sports injuries or accidents in the home. They can significantly alter and restrict the lives of those affected and their families. Music therapy can help people improve the quality of life by aiding communication through the power of music.

Henley Festival is delighted to be involved with this new partnership. Sam Gordon Clark, Chief Executive of Henley Festival says "this is a really exciting project for the Festival to be helping to create. We do a lot of work with young people, but this is aimed more at 16 to 65 year olds. Nordoff-Robbins is so much a leader in the music therapy field and the wonderful charity Headway do a fantastic job, locally and nationally. This is likely to prove a particularly powerful three way partnership"



Pictured l-r at Henley Festival launch at the Royal Albert Hall, Stewart Collins; Rachel Verney of Nordoff-Robbins; Boris Johnson MP; Stuart Wood of Nordoff-Robbins; Liz Gibson of Headway Thames Valley; Theresa May MP.



Headway attendees enjoying the weekly choir session with music therapist Stuart Wood



# Support for the arts in the community

Henley Festival, is one of the very few arts organisations in the UK that generates sufficient funds for the scale of charitable work that takes place in the community throughout the year. The Friends of Henley Festival Society currently works with around 1,000 young people across the year through its various education programmes. The charity is pleased to support amateur arts organisations in the Henley area and of course to establish the new music therapy service at Headway in conjunction with Nordoff-Robbins.

The main focus for the Summer Term is the new work by Barry Russell commissioned for this year's Henley Festival.

## Algon & the Star Children

is a dance-song symphony for voices based on a story from the Chippewa Indians of North America and texts from North American Indian songs collected by Natalie Curtis, intrepid explorer of the early 1900s.

Thanks to funding from

Arts Council England and the Performing Rights Society Foundation, composer Barry Russell with sound engineer Tony Harris has written this new work for massed youth choir and acapella band, The Magnets who have been central to this year's SHOUT! project. It will receive its World Premiere at the Family Fiesta! on Sunday 11th July.



Vocal percussionist Andy Frost from The Magnets has everyone spellbound



## Schools in Henley OUTreach

programmes of music were brought together over three evenings by our resident animateurs, David Lawrence, Sue Shore and Jo McNally.

**'I didn't know he could sing, that's fantastic! They are really loving it!'**

The essence of SHOUT! is to give the experience of working with arts professionals to every child in the class. These were not concerts given by school choirs, and proves that every child can learn to sing. Children from Bishopswood School for Special Needs were heavily involved this year and taught the other school groups one of the songs in sign language which everyone then performed.

Henley rocked on 31st March in the last of three concerts given that week by students involved in SHOUT! this year. The lively programme including extracts from the musicals 'Shrek', 'Grease' and 'Babe', was directed by lead animateur David Lawrence and backed by a live rock band. Over 200 different children took part each night to a full house at Christ Church in Henley. Three quite different

**Parent at 'Henley Rocks'**

Most of the work though over the past two terms has gone on in classrooms and school halls.



Around 800 young people from 15 schools have taken part in workshops led by some of the country's top professional vocal coaches and conductors in a range of vocal styles and techniques

including gospel singing, musical theatre, opera, boy's singing and even Voice & Electronics.



Sue Shore directing one of the three SHOUT! concerts on March 30th



David Lawrence with students at Gillotts School (above)

Opening bars of Barry Russell's 'Algon and the Star Children' (below)



(Above) Microphone technique and having a go at being a sound engineer with voice and electronics specialist Frances Lynch. Frances will be creating a new piece with students from The Henley College this term for performance at the Family Fiesta on Sunday 11th July.

## Henley Symphony Orchestra

This high level amateur orchestra, conducted by pianist Ian Brown, is supported by the Friends of Henley Festival. H.S.O. is pictured here performing at a recent concert at the Hexagon in Reading. The programme included Brahms's Violin Concerto with soloist Isabelle Van Keulen and Elgar's 'Enigma Variations'.



## Visual Arts for the Olympics

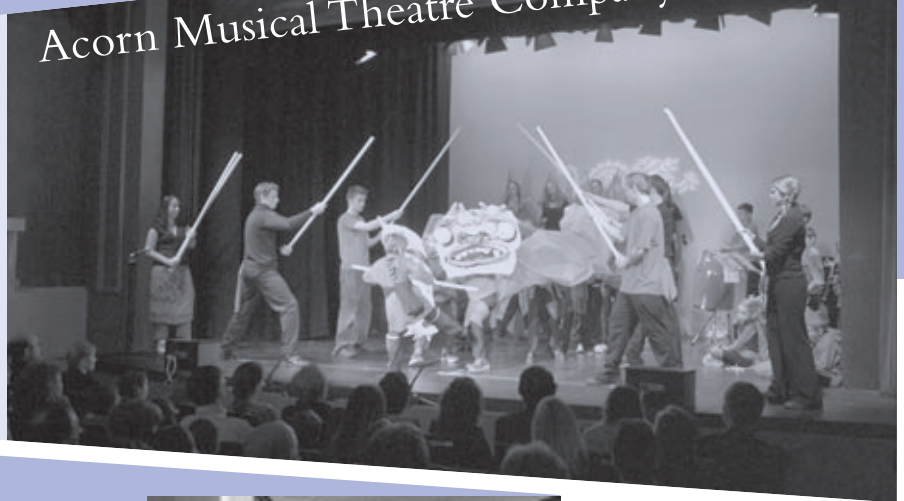
Funds paid for artists from HEDFAS Young Art to run workshops in 13 primary schools in March on the theme of sport, movement and the Olympic Games. Children studied the work of artists such as Matisse and Boccioni and then created their own pieces expressing movement through a variety of media. HEDFAS Young Art is the educational arm of Henley Decorative & Fine Arts Society which runs an annual programme of workshops and lectures in schools.



## Friends support

Acorn's new production 'Dragon' uses stilt walkers, Peking Opera stick 'fighting', live drumming and singing. Funds helped pay for professional theatre and music tutors to teach new skills to the 60 members of the cast. Acorn works with young people aged 6 - 18 to create original music-theatre and live dynamic street theatre. They have performed at Henley Festival.

## Acorn Musical Theatre Company



## Plans for 2004/5

As of September, the SHOUT! project enters its fourth year, this time led by the Festival's new Orchestra-in-Association, the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. Players from an orchestra that has regularly been highly popular with Festival audiences will be in residence throughout 2004/5 working with Henley school children of all ages and students from The Henley College. They will gain an in-depth insight into the music of the BSO, working with musicians to create new pieces for performance, and then coming together in a grand finale for the 2005 festival. For this event, the work of four years in Henley schools will be pulled together with the creation of a mini-opera using the acting, dancing, singing and practical music-making skills learned over these first four years.



Leading the whole project will be one of the most inspirational of the country's musicians-in-education, Andy Baker. Formerly a full time member of the Bournemouth Sinfonietta, Andy has been leading projects throughout the south of England, literally thousands of school children attesting to his skills both as a player and a leader. We are delighted to welcome a musician of his calibre to Henley together with his colleagues from the BSO.

Schools & organisations supported  
Nov 2003 – May 2004

**HEDFAS Young Arts**

Grant towards artists' fees for primary school workshops in March.

**The Acorn Music Theatre Company**

Grant to fund music and theatre professionals to develop new productions.

**Henley Youth Festival**

Grant towards the hire of the Kenton Theatre and grand piano for performing arts events in March.

**POWER**

Grant towards the cost of collage materials for craft workshops.

**Remenham Thespians**

Grant to upgrade the lighting at Remenham Village Hall for productions.

**The Christ Church Centre**

Grant towards new lighting in the United Reformed Church.

**Henley Symphony Orchestra**

Grant towards a concert on Sunday 4th July at Shiplake College.

**Langtree Sinfonia**

Grant towards a concert on Sunday 23rd May at Dorchester Abbey

**Kenton Theatre**

Grant towards new lighting.

**The Henley College, Performing Arts Dept**

Grant towards new lighting rig at Rotherfield Hall

**Henley Round Table**

Grant to provide a sound system for the band stand at Henley May Fair.

**Trinity College of Music, London**

The 'Henley Festival Scholarships', presented annually to two students on the jazz course, one for an undergraduate, one for a postgraduate. This year's awardees are Eivind Lodemel, drums and Patrick Davey, piano.

With grateful thanks for the support of our new 'Gold Friends'

Mr W J Alexander

Mr P N Gray

Mrs V Van Zwanenberg



**'Let's make a musical'**

West End actors, dancers and choreographers run an intensive week of theatre workshops to create a musical. Free entry for family and friends to the final day performance on Friday at 3.30pm. (This was over-subscribed last time, so please pick up the phone to register straight away.)

**Monday 26 – Friday 30 July**  
9.30am – 4pm at Henley College

Just £35 for the week, heavily subsidised by the Friends of Henley Festival Society

Ages 10-12 years & 13-16 years.  
Places limited to first come first served.

For more information and registration contact Mandy Beard,  
Friends of Henley Festival on  
**01491 843406.**

**Summer Holiday theatre workshop week**



**ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA TICKETS**

Take advantage of a special discount scheme for Friends of Henley Festival at the newly refurbished London Coliseum. Here is the chance to enjoy up to five performances this Autumn.

Don Giovanni	W A Mozart
Falstaff	Giuseppe Verdi
Siegfried	Richard Wagner
Semele	G F Handel
Pirates of Penzance	Gilbert & Sullivan

All seats offered are best stalls and will be allocated as applications are received. See the enclosed booking form for dates and details.



**The Friends of Henley Festival Society**

14 Friday Street  
Henley-on-Thames  
Oxon RG9 1AH  
Tel: 01491 843400

Trustees:

W J Alexander R S Goddard  
K H Jeffery J E Lawson P G Nicoll  
A J Salmon J R S Voss

Registered Charity No. 296965

Grant Giving Group:

M Beard S Gordon Clark S Collins  
A J Salmon J R S Voss

Box Office: 01491 843404

new event • new event • new event • new event • new event • new event

**Dates for your diary... 1st – 7th November 2004**

**Watch out for details of the Festival's new November event**

– a brand new, week long series of events presenting great music, comedy and the unique mix of all round entertainment provided every summer by Henley Festival.



Events will include a firework event in the centre of town together with a spectacular first for Henley (to be announced...), with other performances taking place at the Kenton Theatre, St Mary's Church and the River and Rowing Museum.

Details and booking available in July at the Festival or on our website [www.henley-festival.co.uk](http://www.henley-festival.co.uk)