



## **PRESS RELEASE**

February 2009

# **Henley Festival toasts 2009**

**Henley Festival held a lunch for its supporters at the Madejski Stadium in Reading on Wednesday (11<sup>th</sup> Feb). This is the first time a Festival Preview event of this size has been held in the region and the concept has been voted a great success.**

Says Stewart Collins, the Festival's Artistic Director, "Henley Festival belongs to the region and to the people who live here. This was a wonderful way of underlining that. Sir John Madejski is a great patron of the Festival and when he offered us space at the Royal Berkshire Conference Centre to give a lunch, we jumped at the chance. This way we are able to give sponsors and Friends a taste of the 2009 Festival programme, all in a place not far from where the Festival itself will take place!"

The full Programme of Events will be available from the Henley Tourist Information Centre, the library and various shops and bars in the town, from the week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> Feb. Already known, however, is that Katherine Jenkins will be giving a stunning performance on the Floating Stage on the Festival's opening night, 8<sup>th</sup> July and the Festival will round off with a fabulous party night headlined by the Bootleg Beatles on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July. In between the Festival will play host to the likes of Sir Michael Parkinson, John Suchet, local girl Rebecca Poole and Fascinating Aida, to name but a few.

**14 Friday Street, Henley-on-Thames  
Oxfordshire RG9 1AH**

Henley Festival 2009 runs from 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> July. For more information visit [www.henley-festival.co.uk](http://www.henley-festival.co.uk). Online, email, postal and fax ticket sales start on 9<sup>th</sup> March and telephone and personal bookings on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Many tickets have been held at 2008 prices.

Generous sponsors of this year's Festival include: Invesco Perpetual, Westcoast, Laurent-Perrier champagne, Lavazza, Hotel du Vin, and Southern Electric.



ENDS

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**Note to Editors: Henley Festival Trust**

As in previous years, all net proceeds from The Henley Festival 2009 will go direct to parent charity The Henley Festival Trust, to finance Henley Festival's charitable and community activities. Examples of this valuable, and much appreciated work include providing: visual arts workshops at the Chiltern Centre for Disabled Children, music therapy for brain-injured attendees at Headway day centre in Henley-on-Thames, music and arts workshops in local schools, and instruments for promising young musicians.

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