

(i) Applicant: Abingdon Jazz Club

The Abingdon Jazz Club was set up four months ago and is seeking funding to subsidise monthly jazz events held in the King's Head and Bell public house function room which is smoke-free. The events feature a regular trio plus guest soloist.

The aims of the club are to promote live jazz in Abingdon in a smoke-free environment and to give local musicians more employment opportunities.

The Club endeavours to feature musicians who live within an approximate 20 mile radius of Abingdon. The events are advertised countywide but especially in Abingdon, so attract audiences from a similar radius. It is estimated that there are around 20 residents from the Vale of White Horse area who are involved. The Club is publicised on Radio Oxford and Fox FM, Abingdon library and local shops in Abingdon as well as by a mailing using the Oxfordshire Jazz Federation's mailing list.

The Club has no membership fee, instead there is a charge on the door of £5 (£3 for concessions).

There used to be weekly live jazz events in Abingdon which attracted 15-20 people. These stopped in the Spring of 2005 and the same audience now come to The Abingdon Jazz Club. The Grapes pub runs a monthly jazz event with no entrance charge but this is a smoky environment and features musicians from other parts of the country so it does not particularly support local musicians. Nonetheless, the Abingdon Jazz Club is considering collaborating with them on publicity.

This application supports the following strands of the Vale Community Strategy: Recreation, Culture and Leisure, Safe and Supportive Communities, Town and Village Vitality, Education and Life long Learning.

Financial Information:

Total Project Cost	£1,000 p.a. excluding VAT (VAT cannot be reclaimed)
Balances	Deficit of £64.61 at 31.12.05
Running Costs	Estimated at £1,000 p.a.
Own Contribution	None as they aim to break even
Grant Sought	£500
Previous Awards (Vale)	None
Parish Council Support	Abingdon Town Council £100 for publicity
Parish Precept	£706,402 £57.87 Band 'D'
Other Support	Has enquired about grants from the following without success: Oxfordshire Jazz Federation – no funds this year Musicians' Union – not eligible because Club doesn't pay minimum wage & isn't a member Performing Rights Society – only give grants for playing new compositions The Arts Council – only fund new art

Officer comment: Abigail Brown (Arts Development Officer)

The Abingdon Jazz Club provides an important activity for Abingdon's social calendar. Not only does this activity support local professional musicians, but attracts audiences into the centre of Abingdon. A grant would make a difference to the activity and the group and would have great benefits to Abingdon.

The group is struggling to break even during this period where they establish themselves and it is only reasonable that a small public subsidy is given initially, however it is really important to spend some of this money on publicity as well as musicians' fees.

This activity assists the delivery of the following Arts Development aims;

- Encourage a diverse range of arts activities in rural Areas
- Support the Voluntary arts community
- Encouraging partnerships between the arts and non-arts related areas
- Use the arts to improve the physical environment

(ii) Applicant: Abingdon Decorative and Fine Arts Society

The Society includes amongst its aims the promotion of the Arts of all types within the local area. As part of Abingdon's Charter Celebrations, the Society is planning to sponsor a children's art exhibition. The exhibitors will be local primary and secondary school children, aged between 5-14 yrs. Their work will be exhibited in the Long Gallery, Abingdon, for one week in June 2006. Entrance to the exhibition will be free.

The Society will provide sponsorship of £75 towards materials to each of the ten primary schools in Abingdon. Students from John Mason have offered to help set up the exhibition.

It is believed that the exhibition will strengthen bonds between local primary and secondary schools through the media of art.

This application supports the following strands of the Vale Community Strategy: Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Town & Village Vitality, Education & Lifelong Learning, Safe & Supportive Communities

Financial Information:

Total Project Cost	£1,625 (no VAT payable)
Balances	£7,370 at 31.12.04
Running Costs	£27,133.60 for calendar year 2004
Own Contribution	£825
Grant Sought	£500
Previous Awards (Vale)	None
Parish Council Support	Abingdon Town Council £300
Parish Precept	£706,402 £57.87 Band 'D'

Officer comment: Abigail Brown (Arts Development Officer)

Abingdon Decorative and Fine Arts Society (ADFAS) have proposed an excellent project that includes the wider community in the exciting opportunities of creating art and celebrating the local heritage and a significant historical celebration of the town. This project is an inspired way to celebrate Abingdon's Charter anniversary year.

It encourages schools and local children to look at the local identity and create art with artists as well as profiling work to the larger public.

- ADFAS is a well run and managed voluntary group who I have every confidence in running a project of this scale. The project will receive considerable in kind support from the local schools and arts infrastructure. The Town Council has already agreed to support the project and therefore a grant from the Vale will be very well spent and a great boost to the project.

This project will support the following aims of the Arts Development Strategy and programme;

- of arts activities in rural Areas Encourage a diverse range
- community Support the Voluntary arts

- between the arts and non-arts related areas
- physical environment

Encouraging partnerships

Use the arts to improve the

(iii) Applicant: Abbey Brass

Abbey Brass has been running for twenty-two years. The band purchased its "hut" (five portacabins joined together) second-hand about fifteen years ago and uses it for weekly rehearsals and storing instruments and music. Other musical groups hire the hut for rehearsing. The premises are estimated to be about thirty to forty years old. The terms of the lease require the band to keep the premises in good repair.

At present, the outside 'skin' is rotten in many places and needs immediate attention to prevent further deterioration. Recently a hole was kicked in the door.

Abbey Brass is seeking a grant towards the cost of re-skinning the premises with painted external plywood sheets to prevent water ingress and discourage further acts of vandalism and prolong the life of the premises. The band intends to raise sufficient funds to build a new band room but estimates that this could take 5-7 years.

The band currently has around 65 members and attracts musicians from Abingdon and surrounding villages. A membership fee of £40 p.a. is charged. Learners from any part of the community are welcome as long as they have a desire to learn to play, and where membership fees pose a barrier these are waived.

The band's reserves are used to buy instruments to re-equip the band; general maintenance of the premises is covered in the band's running costs but this does not include sufficient funds for such a large repair.

The band has investigated other sources of funding but has not been able to locate one that will provide grants for repairs to this type of building.

This application supports the following strands of the Vale Community Strategy: Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Town & Village Vitality, Education & Lifelong Learning and Safe & Supportive Communities

Financial Information:

Total Project Cost	£1,695 including VAT, £1,400 excluding VAT VAT cannot be reclaimed
Balances	£8,942.94 at 05.04.05
Running Costs	£6,456.22 for year ending 05.04.05
Own Contribution	£695 plus labour
Grant Sought	£500
Previous Awards (Vale)	£500 towards repairing the roof 2004/05
Parish Council Support	Applied to Abingdon Town Council for a grant of £500
Parish Precept	£706,402 £57.87 Band 'D'

Officer comment: Abigail Brown (Arts Development Officer)

As a significant part of the musical infrastructure in Abingdon, repairs to this venue are important. There are very few grants elsewhere that can be applied for, for repairs to buildings. Although the building is old and will be replaced in due course this grant will fund emergency relief for short term repairs to be carried out. This grant will assist the group to prolong the life of this building in order to make time to fundraise for a new building.

It is significant that Abbey Brass sometimes waiver membership fees in order to make sure that disadvantaged residents can enjoy musical activity.

This project assists the delivery of the following Arts Development aims:

- Support the Voluntary arts community

It is recommended that any grant awarded is subject to the band seeking advice and guidance from the Vale's Arts Development Officer on publicity and the sustainability of the group.

(iv) Applicant: Abingdon Music Festival Association

The Abingdon Music Festival Association runs an annual weekend workshop with professional adjudicators and classes for all ages and standards from beginners upwards. Last year they tried out a new venture which was outside the weekend workshop, which involved collaboration with the Abingdon Symphony Orchestra. Following the success of the venture and the eagerness and enthusiasm generated, the Abingdon Music Festival Association is keen to repeat the venture in 2006 and is seeking a grant towards the organising costs. Last year most of the costs were covered by a grant from Awards for All.

The venture was the provision of a concerto class which required candidates to perform a concerto movement of their own choosing accompanied by a professional pianist. Two runners up were given the chance to perform with the Abingdon Symphony Orchestra in a workshop. The winner was invited to give a full concert performance of a concerto to an audience of 200 – 300 people later in the year.

Although several local festivals offer a concerto class, only Abingdon is working in collaboration with the town's symphony orchestra, thus enabling successful candidates to proceed to a full performance. There are very few opportunities for young musicians to gain experience by playing as a soloist with a full symphony orchestra and the Abingdon Music Festival Association is filling this gap.

It is estimated there would be around ten participants each paying a £20 entry fee.

This application supports the following strands of the Vale Community Strategy: Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Town & Village Vitality, Education & Lifelong Learning, Safe & Supportive Communities.

Financial Information:

Total Project Cost	£1,520 including VAT; £1,457 excluding VAT
Balances	£3,425.81 at 30.04.05 primarily for the annual weekend festival
Running Costs	£3,639.50 for year ending 30.04.05
Own Contribution	£320, plus £128 printing costs and Committee members' time provided in-kind
Grant Sought	£ 400
Previous Awards (Vale)	2003/04 £492; 2004/05 £375.00 towards a Composer's Workshop
Parish Council Support	Abingdon Town Council £250
Parish Precept	£706,402 £57.87 Band 'D'
Other Support	Have applied to 4 different funders plus a few local businesses, without either success or a reply.

Officer comment: Abigail Brown (Arts Development Officer)

This application enhances and supports much of the work of the Arts Development programme. This is a wonderful project that takes advantage of the creativity of other local groups and culminates in a programme of work that encourages young people to take part in music making and public performing with professional tuition and high profile performances. Opportunities created by this group would not happen without public funding. This particular project creates a unique partnership between the Abingdon Music Festival and the Abingdon Symphony Orchestra, creating music on a scale not normally performed in Abingdon.

This project assists the delivery of the following Arts Development aims:

- Encourage a diverse range of arts activities in rural Areas
- Support the Voluntary arts community
- Encouraging partnerships between the arts and non-arts related areas
- Use the arts to improve the physical environment

(v) Applicant: Abingdon Concert Band

Abingdon Concert Band is a concert wind band composed of approximately 30 regular volunteers who rehearse on a weekly basis and give concerts in the local community. The Band is seeking funding towards the cost of buying a pair of timpanis and the organisation of a Play Day in February 2006.

The Band has stopped using the Abbey Brass hut for rehearsals since some members had noticed that their asthma was aggravated by the musty conditions there. The Band used to hire the timpanis for a small fee from Abbey Brass but as they have moved their rehearsal venue this is no longer practical.

The timpanis are an integral part of the band and will be used on an ongoing basis. At the moment, without the timpanis, one of the band's percussionists is "redundant" and the band's music repertoire is limited. The new timpanis will be kept at the new rehearsal venue and locked away securely when not in use. They will be covered on the Band's insurance.

The chair of the Band is new to fundraising. He has applied to Abingdon Town Council for £2,200 for the timpanis and had applied to the Vale for the same amount; he is in the process of applying to Awards For All for the same amount on the basis that if one application is unsuccessful they still have at least one other chance. The chair is aware that if they are successful in more than one of their applications they will not be able to claim more than £2,200 in total. After discussion, the chair of the Band has agreed that the Band could contribute a maximum of £500 towards the timpanis, which reduces his application to the Vale to £1,700 as shown. He understands that if his Awards for All application is successful he will not need a grant from the Vale (or Abingdon Town Council) towards the cost of the timpanis.

The Band is also seeking funding towards the cost of organising a Play Day to improve the musicianship of the existing members and to encourage new members to join the band. Whilst the costs are known, the income from the event is not. The intention is to keep the participation cost as low as possible, possibly £5 per person, to be as inclusive as possible.

This application supports the following strands of the Vale Community Strategy: Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Town & Village Vitality and Education & Lifelong Learning, Safe & Supportive Communities.

Financial Information:

Total Project Cost	£2,200 including VAT, £1,900 excluding VAT for pair of timpanis; £200 (no VAT) Play Day Workshop
Balances	£2,386.05 at 31.08.05
Running Costs	£2,852 approx p.a.
Own Contribution	Maximum £500 towards timpani purchase
Grant Sought	£1,700 towards purchase of timpanis plus Contribution towards shortfall of £75 - £100 on Play Day
Previous Awards (Vale)	£381 2003/04 for musical accessories; £500 2004/05 for instrument maintenance
Parish Council Support	Has applied to Abingdon Town Council for £2,200 (outcome awaited); in the process of applying to Awards for All for £2,200.
Parish Precept	£706,402 £57.87 Band 'D'

Officer comment: Abigail Brown (Arts Development Officer):

This request for further equipment, if granted, will assist and encourage new participants to join in with the activities of the group. Music equipment is very expensive and sometimes prohibits new participants.

This project assists the delivery of the following Arts Development aims:

- Support the Voluntary arts community

It is recommended that any grant awarded is subject to the band seeking advice and guidance from the Vale's Arts Development Officer on publicity and the sustainability of the group.

(vi) Applicant: owner of 7 Dorchester Crescent, Abingdon

Outline of work

The owner of 7 Dorchester Crescent is seeking a grant towards a 20% crown reduction of a weeping willow tree in her front garden.

Details of former Tree Preservation Grant Scheme

Trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) are generally large, significant trees of public amenity value which are located on private land. A TPO does not mean that the owner is not allowed to carry out any work on the tree, on the contrary, some people think the name should be changed to a Tree Management Order, so that the trees are well-maintained.

Some years ago the District Council agreed to help towards the maintenance of these important trees by giving grant aid to approved works to trees which were the subject of a TPO. This has been an excellent incentive to have the trees maintained and for the work to be carried out to the proper British Standards.

When an application is received it is evaluated by the Council's Arboricultural Officer to establish its suitability. In the past grants of up to 40% of eligible works were recommended on approved tree surgery work that was carried out to BS 3998. The completed work was inspected by the Arboricultural Officer to ensure it met the standard before a grant request was submitted to the Area Committee.

Financial Information:

Total cost of work: £111.63 incl VAT

Officer Comment: (George Reade, Arboriculture Officer)

The tree is easily visible to the public. The works are reasonable to help maintain the tree in good health.