

**Applicant: Abingdon Performance Arts Group (APAGE)**

**Years in existence:** 9 years

**Type of organisation:** Umbrella organisation for arts and crafts groups in Abingdon and surrounding area; it organises the Abingdon Arts Festival by co-ordinating and publicising the individual events, sponsoring specific events such as the opening and closing events, and introducing new, speculative events.

**Project or service details:** The Abingdon Performance Arts Group is seeking funding towards the production and distribution of the Abingdon Arts Festival 2007 programme of events. The festival will take place from 17-31 March 2007. The brochure is delivered to every household in Abingdon and the surrounding villages; it is also available to other parts of the Vale and Oxford City from central distribution points such as libraries, information centres and council offices.

The 2006 Festival comprised over 40 events ranging from the visual arts (art, photographic and sketchbook exhibitions), film, literature (story times and poetry sharing), music (brass band, jazz, classical, choral, popular), theatre and textiles (quilt exhibition).

The purpose of the brochure is to attract participants and audiences who would otherwise not be aware that the festival is for them. The continued wish of organisations to take part in the Festival and the success of events in attracting audiences shows that the Festival is meeting its aim of enhancing the cultural life of Abingdon and surrounding villages. The festival continues to grow and promotes a positive image of the district. The organisers are guided by the Vale Arts Development Officer to ensure that the festival reflects the cultural ambition of the Vale.

The 2007 festival will focus more on young people. The organisers are exploring how they can work in partnership with schools.

**Supports following Vale Community Strategy strands:** Recreation, Culture & Leisure, Education and Lifelong Learning, Town & Village Vitality

**Area of the Vale covered:** Abingdon and surrounding villages

**Estimate of number of people the project/service/event will benefit:** Open to everyone

**Charge to public for using the project/service/event?:** Most events have an entry fee which varies from event to event; a small number are free

**Total estimated project cost:** £9,175 excl VAT (VAT not payable), of which  
£5,000 for production and distribution of brochure

**Balances:** £2,390 at 1/5/06

**Running Costs:** £9,210.70 for 2006 Festival

**Own Contribution:** Time and expertise given without charge; also carry a small balance to cover any deficit and award small sums to selected event organisers to cover losses.

**Grant Sought:** **£4,000**

**Previous Awards (Vale):** £3,500 2002/03  
£4,000 2003/04  
£4,000 2004/05 + £2,400 guarantee against loss for musical evening (not needed)  
£4,000 2005/06

**Town Council Support:** Applied to Abingdon Town Council for £500, outcome awaited

**Town Precept:** £835,400 (Band 'D': £66.91)

**Other Support:** Estimated donations of £775  
Applied to Co-op for £500 (outcome awaited)  
Estimated income from fees and charges £1,400 (participating groups pay entry fee of £25 per group to APAGE)  
Applying to Awards for All but cannot include brochure costs in application

**Officer Comment (Abigail Brown, Arts Development Officer):**

Abingdon Arts Festival delivers a valuable service to the arts and cultural groups in Abingdon by coordinating an annual programme of events and publicising it to nearly every resident in the town and surrounding area. This festival complements the arts programme with work that the Council doesn't have the capacity to deliver itself and fits in well with the Council's main aims and priorities of Town Centre and Village Vitality as well as the Social and Economic Agenda. The Arts Development aims of encouraging the voluntary arts community and encouraging access to a diverse range of arts activities.

They have an excellent track record of organising the festival for the past 7 years. It is run by volunteers who have proved to be more than capable of organising events, managing budgets and publicising the festival.