

Ickford News

I enjoyed reading an article in the newspaper this morning about Dame Vivien Duffield a woman who has donated in excess of £500 million to museums, art galleries, opera houses, music and supporting children's education in the Arts. She is truly a remarkable woman and her interview was fascinating.

It also highlighted the disappointing fact that, so much of our wealth of artistic and creative history and indeed future has to rely on donations and it made me feel very grateful to those amongst you (and there were very many) who supported the Summer Concert on Friday evening.

Ickford is not Covent Garden (Royal Opera House not fruit and veg) but there is nowhere I would have rather been than here on Friday watching our KS2 children perform. If you have had several children at the school, or if you now have one in Year 6, you may have a 'seen it all before' feeling but, I even doubt that. Surely, there is a not a parent among you who isn't proud watching their child play a musical instrument and singing with their friends in front of an audience.

This year's concert was, as always, superb and, as always, I am indebted to the wondrously talented and annoyingly humble, Mrs Shackleton. Carlsberg don't make music teachers but if they did...

I know she has a great husband helping her and a dear friend in Miss Grant (piano teacher and song writer extraordinaire) but, Mrs Shackleton inspires and motivates every child to engage in music and is an exceptional role model to us all. It is worth noting, that one of the comments in the recent parent survey, bemoaned a lack of focus on creativity and suggested we should have a school choir, well, Friday highlighted why we don't. Every child sings! Some sing a little more sweetly perhaps as Emily-Jay Friday showed when she performed I Could Have Danced All Night, but they can all belt out a tune and seem to love doing it.

As I said on Friday, nothing about the concert is easy, whether taking part or organising it. Reading music and playing the violin are particularly challenging and to produce such high standards with children who only have one-hour music lesson per week is a phenomenal achievement. The concert is now firmly established in our calendar and even the lighting company get involved to the full. There were so many people to thank, including Renee and his family at the Rising Sun who provided delicious canapes, past pupils who came along and acted as waitresses, all of the numerous Ickford teaching staff who worked behind the scenes, Miriam Smith who took photographs (these will be made available) the parents that came to watch and cheered so loudly, (gentlemen, I am sorry but you were completely outshone by the ladies who all looked beautiful) and of course the sponsors and everyone who donated on the night to the tune of £355 towards new violins .

You are our very own Dame Vivien Duffields and without you, we couldn't have put this on.

Thank you all

Mr Ronane

Awards this Week

French Award

James Harris, Vika Hardy, Jude Barnes, William Harris, Stanley Johnson, Pippa Hunting

Latin Award

Orla Kerry

German Award

Eliza Gapper, Emily-Jay Friday

Music Award

Jack Beckett, Teddy Barber, Ella Aben, Elin Roberts, Faye Kitchen

PE Award

Freddie Williams, Edward Every,

Head Teacher's Award

Arthur Saunders, Freddy Dedman, Sienna Jones, Matilda Ousley, Emily Aspden

Key Dates

Tuesday 25 th June	Reception Transition Morning (11am)
Wednesday 26 th June	Open Evening and Art Exhibition (6pm)
Friday 28 th June	Celebration Assembly
Friday 28 th June	Summer BBQ (4:30pm)
Friday 5 th July	Celebration Assembly
Monday 8 th July	District Athletics
Friday 12 th July	Celebration Assembly
Tuesday 16 th July	KS1 Recorder Assembly
Thursday 18 th July	Sports Day
Friday 19 th July	Final Celebration Assembly
Monday 22 nd July	Afternoon Class 4/5 play (2pm)
Monday 22 nd July	Evening Class 4/5 play (7pm)
Tuesday 23 rd July	Leavers Assembly (11am)
Tuesday 23 rd July	Last Day of Term

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