

newsletter

Supported by the Standards Fund

Issue 10: OCTOBER 2003

Fantastic Festival!

Another fantastic success for Hackney school children.

From the Music Service team, thank you all for your support and hard work in making the 2003 Festival so successful. An astonishing 61 schools were represented at the Round Chapel in one event or more this year, with an estimated number of at least 4,300 pupils taking part in the various performances. Here's some of the things you said to us about the festival.

Ian Rathbone, councillor for the Leabridge Ward said: *"Well done Hackney Music Service and HMDT for once again pulling off that great feat of showcasing the music making in our schools."*

Here's what some parents had to say:

"We felt proud to be Hackney parents! Thank you so much we really enjoyed it".

"We have never been to the Dance festival before - but we will certainly take part again".

And finally, this is what some schools had to say about the Singing Days:

"The rehearsal CD was excellent. Thank you for producing such an excellent resource which we have used throughout the Infant School and in Assemblies."

"The action songs on the website most entertaining!"

"The entire afternoon was arranged in a superb and professional manner. We thoroughly enjoyed our day. We were welcomed warmly and all the children sounded beautiful. Looking forward to next year." *"Thanks for the fantastic bagpiper—he was magnificent."* Now as we print a few pictures to remind us of some of the July events, we are already beginning to look towards next year. **We do hope you'll join us in making 2004 as special as this one!**

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CD Reviews from Hackney Schools

CD Review – Kerching (St Paul's with St Michaels Year 6, taught by Al Nalder)

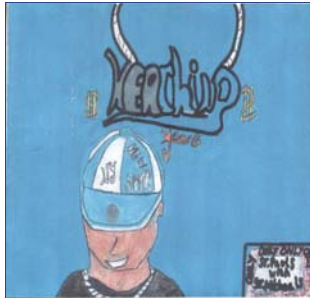
This CD (cover pictured below), was the culmination of a whole years work, and the results show that the hard work by everyone involved has been truly worthwhile. The quality is extraordinarily high, and we will be highlighting some of it on the internet radio station (see elsewhere in this newsletter.) There are some wonderful moments, and here are some comments by those involved:

“For the past 4 years now I have been using ‘**Magix music maker**’ as a fun and creative way to teach large chunks of both Music and ICT curricula, as well as important appraisal and group social skills, to a wide cross-section of pupils from year 4 to 11.

This year we finally had the opportunity to do a year-long project with a class, which resulted in them producing their own CD – Kerching. It was fascinating to watch them develop in maturity and confidence over the year, learning to resolve problems like musical differences and changing personal friendships, voting democratically on cover art and having a hand in the making up of inlay cards and the burning of the CDs - thanks to Hackney Music Service’s loan of a multi-CD burner.

In the process, because the programs use the standard Windows operating system, they got proficient almost without realising it with the basic functionality of all mainstream computer applications. There was something for all abilities and temperaments: the confident and able wrote, sang and performed vocal and instrumental parts, less creative or traditionally ‘able’ overdubbed existing vocals, or arranged, edited and ‘produced’ the tracks. *But what was most exciting was to find that great musical talent and maturity lay in people who went completely unnoticed in class music.”* **Al Nalder.**

‘Thank you so much for this CD ...it’s such a brilliant way to remember St P w St M, ...especially as [my son] has been at school with many of his class-mates since nursery’ (letter from Yr.6 parent & school governor, July 2003). N.B. Al is running training courses in Music technology in Hackney and Tower Hamlets – for details please contact him at al.n@boltblue.com



Super Duper Music Looper – St Scholastica’s School CD project – Year 3 (pictured below).

For those schools who have requested this project this year, here is an account of the pilot I ran last summer, at the request of Dympna Brotherton, deputy head at St. Scholastica's school.

All in all, I visited the school 4 times. The first session was on the school INSET day, to meet the teachers involved (class teacher Louise Reasbeck, ably assisted by Rebekah Millikan) to show them the software and discuss the project in general. As this was the first day at St Scholastica’s for both of them, it must have been a rather strange experience, which they handled extremely well!

The project was taught as part of the Year 3 ICT curriculum, on the laptops in the ICT suite. The children were shown how to use the software and shown how musical sounds can be structured and layered on the interactive whiteboard by Louise, and they responded very well, breaking into groups of 2 or 3 afterwards to write their own pieces and get used to using the software. I attended the sessions every other week, to allow Louise and Rebekah time with the children, to develop their ideas, before going on to the next phase of the project. On the last day, after the pupils had mixed down their individual songs, I gathered them all for the final CD, every pupil receiving a copy, with which they seemed extremely chuffed! Here are some of the pupils comments: *“I enjoyed making my own music. It was quite fun listening to others make their own music. I would like to work with Ollie again very soon.”* (Iman, aged 8)

“I liked doing Super Duper Music Looper because we got to make our own music. I loved the CD Ollie gave us with the classes music.” (Massimo, aged 8)

“I would like to work with Ollie again because of all the fun things we learned from him. I mostly liked the CD and I keep playing it at home when I am bored.” (Anna-Marie, aged 9).

And don’t forget, you can purchase Super Duper Music Looper with your e-Learning credits! At £22 + VAT per copy, it represents a very cost-effective and versatile musical tool, with the shallowest possible learning curve! **Ollie Crooke**



Primary INSET: “Music Express”

TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER: 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Are you a school looking for a Music Scheme of Work that is accessible to class teachers? Have you recently purchased the A & C Black “Music Express” Scheme of Work for your school? As part of a professional development programme this year, HMS is offering a free INSET for Primary Music Co-ordinators that will be run by Jane Sebba on behalf of A & C Black. “Music Express” comprises of a book with photocopiable music lessons, CD-ROM & CD pack. Also available for purchase, will be copies of other A & C Black songbooks publications. This INSET takes place at the Hackney Professional Development Centre (address above), and is open to both post holders and classroom teachers. If you are a Music Co-ordinator and have not yet received full details about the INSET programme and registration, please contact **Lisa Davies** at the HMS office.

Infant / Junior Festival 2004

Send us your songs!

If you any ideas for songs for next year’s Singing Festival, do please forward them to us. If you also have words, a CD, tape or music, it would be really useful to include them. We will copy any material and return them to you. We are hoping to have a range of songs on which to draw our next programmes by the end of November and make decisions before the end of term.

Junior Festival materials should be sent to **Annie Cartwright** and **Infant Festival** materials to **Chris Taylor** at the Hackney Music Service office. We look forward to hearing from you.

Penny Whistle Workshop

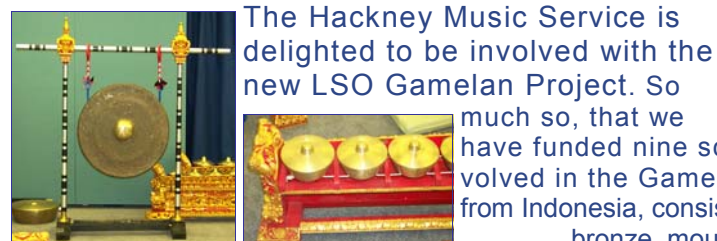
London Fields School hosted a Dave Woodhead penny whistle workshop recently. It was an enormous success with the recorder group who caught on to the new techniques swiftly. Dave has 20 penny whistles and holds workshops with a guitarist around the South African style "Kwela". The Band he plays with, "Positively Testcard" also performed at the school on the same day and the penny whistlers played along with the band! It was a great afternoon! More info on his website: www.positivelytestcard.co.uk. **Lorraine Bowen**, Music Specialist at London Fields School.



Secondary Music Teachers Forum

There was a good turnout at the meeting on 13th October. The majority of Secondary schools were represented as well as Stormont House and Crusoe Special schools. The success of the Music Festival and the Jack Petchey Awards was discussed. It was agreed that these events are important to the development of music in Hackney Schools, and as a link between the music students in different schools. Next years musical agenda is already being planned; the Hackney Schools Music Festival starts on June 28th 2004. Other items discussed included potential sources of funding for music in schools, the music technology course for G.C.S.E. students currently being run by Rising Tide at Ocean (proving a success), a potential year 10 showcase to be held at Stoke Newington school (for students from all Secondary schools to share their work), and the G.C.S.E. syllabus. The meeting also acts as an occasion for Hackney's music teachers to share their experiences and ideas. **David Morris**, Clapton G.T.C

LSO Gamelan



The Hackney Music Service is delighted to be involved with the new LSO Gamelan Project. So much so, that we

have funded nine schools (as part of the 2003/4 Bid process), to be involved in the Gamelan Project. A Gamelan is a set of percussion instruments from Indonesia, consisting of metallaphones (xylophones) and gongs made of bronze, mounted on wooden frames which are beautifully carved and painted.



Musiko Musika: "I Want To Sing"

We can recommend to readers the work of local musicians, Rachel Pantin and Mauricio Venegas-Astorga (Musiko Musika) who have recently produced a songbook and CD of original contemporary songs. These have been tried and tested on lots of children over the past few years during their work in schools, many of these in Hackney. The songs are suitable for use with children from Nursery to Year 6 and are fully supported with sheet music, instrumental accompaniments and other teaching ideas. For further information or to order packs please call **Musiko MusiKa on: 020 7690 9128**.



Classic FM/Yamaha Road Show

At 5am on the morning of Thursday October 16th, the sound, lighting and instrumental equipment needed for the 'Yamaha Road Show' arrive in two large vans at Our Lady's Convent. This proved to be a wonderful event, where pupils from 14 of our Hackney primary and secondary schools arrived throughout the day for three really exciting and professional stage shows by 'Vision' – a group of students from Guildhall School of Music and Drama. After each of the three shows, pupils went to three 'breakout' areas, where they could try out all the Yamaha instruments. An exciting time was had by all, with several of the pupils showing a real aptitude on one or other of the instruments.



Thank you Margaret Dixon (head teacher at Our Lady's Convent) for organising the day with us. It really was a superb event.

The Music Service went along to see children take part in a in a Gamelan session at LSO St Luke's (see picture left). It was immensely exciting and we look forward to working with the LSO on this project. Our thanks to the LSO and to **Rotherfield Junior School** for allowing us to observe their session.

For further information about LSO Gamelan project, or to talk about arranging workshops, contact **Jo Shaw, Gamelan Programme Co-ordinator**, St Luke's Day Centre, 90 Central Street, London EC1V 8AQ. Tel: 020 7490 4675 Fax: 020 7251 9401 Email: jshaw@lso.co.uk

Taster Scheme:

Following the success of the first 30-week taster scheme programme in which over 150 children from five different primary schools had the opportunity to try out 5 instruments, many of them are now poised to begin learning an instrument for the first time. At the end of the programme, the children took part in an evaluation session where they were able to let us know what they felt about the scheme and their experiences on the various instruments. This, together with recommendations from the tutors and the schools, who also evaluated the programme, enabled us to help those children that wanted to learn an instrument make an informed choice. As a result, around 50 children will begin learning an instrument in the spring term, with more starting later on in the year. The instruments included violin, cello, bassoon, mixed brass, and saxophone. The scheme is set to continue for a further 30 weeks. In addition to this we are exploring the possibility of offering a series of mini-tasters to new schools during this academic year. The scheme is currently being subsidised by the Service, with schools making a 50% contribution towards the programme. If your school is interested in a mini-taster, please register your interest with **James Thomas**.



Tutors in schools:

The provision of tutors in schools continues to grow. We are following up on all the bids for this year and are pleased to say that by the end of the autumn term the Service will have tutors in some 35 schools in the borough; that's practically 50% coverage. In addition there are now 5 after school ensemble activities for Hackney primary children, as well as continued support for schools wishing to establish their own ensemble or group music making provision, and continued subsidies for both secondary and primary schools to help maintain current instrumental provision. We hope to be able to build on this success throughout the year with other opportunities including instrumental project work such as the Rhythm workshops and a Composer in Residence project which will afford more schools the opportunity to access increased musical activities.

Holiday Course:

This year's holiday music course, which will run during the October half term, has received a large number of applications. Over 80 children will take part in the course which will engage them in a range of musical activities including, singing, composing, rhythm and performance, in addition to their chosen instrumental pathway; strings, brass, woodwind, samba, and steel pans. The Early Years Creative Music Making course has also proved very popular with over 40 applicants, some of whom are on a waiting list for a potential space to become available. We are all very much looking forward to an exciting and enjoyable week of music making, which will end with a performance on the last day. Tutors on the course include Tom Hewins, Mika Karhunen, Emilia Crawford, Giles Liddiard, Elissa Hobby, Petra Ronkko, Kyron Akal and Michael Thomas. Keep your eyes and ears open for the next one and apply early so as not to be disappointed. If you wish to be added to our courses mailing list please contact Lisa Davies. For more information on course opportunities contact **James Thomas**, Head of Instrumental Services.

Instrumental Day 2003:

I would like to thank all those schools who took part in the Instrumental Festival Day for their contribution to making this even better than last year; almost 400 children took part in this event. There is clearly a great deal of excellent music teaching taking place within our schools and this is a fantastic opportunity to shout about it! Thanks also go to all the teachers and headteachers for their continued enthusiasm for music and to the many parents who were able support the day by attending the performances and seeing their children perform. I would also like to thank my colleagues at the Music Service without whom it would not be possible to run the event as smoothly as it appeared to be. We are all looking forward to next year! **James Thomas**.

Coming Soon!

Samba Workshops: A Samba group called 'Rhythm' comprising of Oli Savill and Michael Thomas recently visited London Fields School to run a Samba master class. The class was very well received as was summed up by Lorraine Bowen, Music Co-ordinator at London Fields School: "*I can honestly say that the first samba masterclass was a TOTAL success and was probably one of the best hours in my whole life as a teacher. It's just a wonderful experience to have taught kids to a certain level and then let someone come in and take them up to another level and see them thrive! It was just brilliant. I think specialists in schools are just the best! Oli and Michael were GREAT!*" A glowing recommendation you'll agree. Fortunately, in response to school bids, we are able to offer Oli and Micheal's talents to 5 schools where they will be running workshops. If you are interested in running a samba workshop, contact **James Thomas**.

Visiting Performers for Schools.

During our visits to schools in the Spring term, many of you asked for visiting musicians to come and perform at your school assemblies. In response to these requests we are piloting a new project in ten Primary schools over the coming months and up to the end of March. We are currently commissioning some of our "in-house" teachers and tutors, who also work as performers, to come and entertain you! This offer is free, for this year only, to those schools who originally requested this but if it's successful we hope to offer something similar in the longer term. For more information about the HMS Performers in Schools Project, please contact **Chris Taylor** at the HMS office.

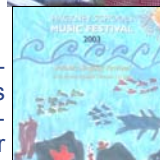


CD Artwork Competition

This year, we decided to hold a competition to design the covers of the Infant and Junior Festival CDs. We were delighted to receive hundreds of wonderful pictures from several schools, and would like to thank everybody who entered (and supervised the entries!) for their hard work. After sifting through all these pictures, we were finally able to choose 2 winners – for the Infant Festival, Saskia Krut-Powell from Betty Layward School, drew a wonderful picture (obviously inspired by the song “Deep Down Deep!”), which, in addition to being a lovely picture, lent itself perfectly to the titling of the CD. She won a keyboard, and 5 copies of the Infant CD.



The winning Junior entry, by Demi Opigo of St. Scholastica's School, was quite different, in that she more or less did the whole design for us, with beautiful titling and layout of all the tracks on the CD, so there was very little for us to add from a design point of view – she even designed the back cover! She won a guitar and 5 copies of the Junior CD.



Once again well done to the winners, and very many thanks to everyone who entered – the competition was a great success, and we will definitely repeat it for the next Festival. We will probably also be using some of the entries for our artwork during the forthcoming year, perhaps having an exhibition of the entries during the 2004 Festival.

Internet Radio Station

Another brave new venture in conjunction with our friends at the IT department is about to get underway. This is an idea which has been bubbling under the surface for a while now, and it seems that this is the right time to get the ball rolling. We will be creating a new page of the website, as an internet radio station, in order to highlight pupils musical compositions, so if there is anything you would like showcased in this way, please let us know, and we will take care of the logistics involved in putting your pupils music on the web. Of course we will also be looking for up and coming radio presenters, so please pass on the names of any suitable pupils you feel would benefit from this. Some of the first tunes on the website will be from St Paul's with St Michaels excellent “Kerching” CD (reviewed in this newsletter,) produced by the postholder Al Nalder, with Year 6 pupils last summer. Please contact **Ollie** if you are interested in this project.

Yamaha – Recorders in class

Following on from last years introduction to Yamaha's new teaching resource (intended for the non-specialist), we invited a couple of Hackney music postholders to review it for us. Pam Davies from Thomas Fairchild School, and Heather Harding from Orchard, give accounts of their experience in using the resource.

Summary of Pam Davies' review

The book is linked to the National Curriculum 2000 and its intention is to stimulate musical enthusiasm by involving children in singing, movement, and percussion playing within recorder activities. The aim is cover a wide range of popular styles with particular emphasis on world music and historical material. The format is clearly laid out with six units of work; one for each half term. Each unit is consistent, clearly showing learning objectives, body percussion warm ups and extension activities; developing aural skills before reading, worked well with the mixed ability groups that I taught. However, I found I needed many more resources to consolidate the learning objects that those offered in the book. Also, there needs to be more examples using triple time (counting in 3's) in later units to add relevance to the earlier ones. The accompanying CD gives a number of good examples, although tracks 5 & 7 are not listed in the book. Some of the children found the backing tracks confusing to follow, especially in the early stages. If, as Yamaha suggest, the resource is aimed at generalist teachers then more information on styles, musical backgrounds and crib notes for the listening activities would be useful. ...it is a good resource, clearly set out with activities that the children enjoy, but I would use it in conjunction with repertoire from other sources to fully maximise its' potential.

Heather Harding writes.....

This is a book that is a very good resource for a schools music curriculum. It has a lot of good ideas and a range of different music that is well presented. All the instruction are step-by-step, but it needs a fair bit of dedication to practise before teaching if you have no previous music teaching experience. It would be well worth persevering. I found that I dipped into it, rather than followed it straight through but will use it with other recorder material that I am more familiar with. The CD has good music for body percussion, which the children enjoyed from Early Years through to years 4/5. I would prefer to have it presented in several smaller books, but it is certainly very good value for money.

Jack Petchey Awards

Over 800 people, including 400 students from Hackney attended a special ceremony at Ocean 1 in Mare Street on Wednesday 8th October to celebrate the second annual Jack Petchey Foundation Achievement and Leadership Awards, which bring in £64,000 to the Borough. This unique event brought together nine secondary schools, four special schools and the two colleges. Jack Petchey is one of the most successful businessmen in Britain today, despite being told he would 'never make a businessman'. "I am an East End boy myself and know how hard it can be for young people to develop their potential," said Jack Petchey who helped present the awards. The event was organised on behalf of the Foundation by Nicola Baboneau, Head of Schools Plus at The Learning Trust. It also featured a range of entertainment reflecting the diversity of the Borough. Highlights included a video clip of Bollywood Grooves from Haggerston Girls School, performances by British Cheerleading Champions Ascension Eagles, Cardinal Pole School Band, Skill Force Armed Forces Youth Initiative, Hackney Free & Parochial School Dance Group, Hackney Community College Basketball Academy and a gathering of 150 young people assembled for the Hackney Secondary Schools gospel choir, directed by Glen Smiley.

VIPs in attendance, who also presented awards, included Alan Wood Chief Executive of the Learning Trust, Mike Tomlinson, Chair of The Learning Trust, Chrissie Farley, Principal of Hackney Community College and Cllr Abdul Mulla, Speaker for the London Borough of Hackney. Guest speakers included Sharon Doughty, TV Presenter and Chief Executive of Dot Com. Also featured was Maxine Chantel-Igbiniedion, film producer of the ground-breaking film the DK Kid (Dyslexia Kid) addressing the issue of dyslexia and labelling. Two representatives of the Dalston Youth Project spoke openly about themselves and the benefits of participating in the Jack Petchey scheme.



"This was a great night and our young people really celebrated," said Cllr Abdul Mulla, Speaker for the London Borough of Hackney. "The Jack Petchey Awards are having a significant impact in the Borough and huge range of talent was on show tonight". The Foundation is inviting more youth organisations to get in touch. £1.3 million has been allocated to the scheme for 2003. For further details go to the website www.jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk (where you will see more photographs of the evening) or telephone 0208 252 8000.

Hackney Music Service Hackney Professional Development Centre, Queensbridge Building, Albion Drive, London E8 4ET.
 T: 020 7241 7408/7409 F: 020 7241 7437 EMAIL: adminmusic@learninglive.co.uk

Resource Ideas

Looking for a song or an activity that has been tried and tested by other teachers? Try logging on to www.teachingideas.co.uk/music
 Looking for an unusual piece for the Christmas season? This Rap was sent to us by Alison Blunt from our Support Team, who is currently teaching in Melbourne. Ideal for those of you who love to team up with your mates and sport Antlers over the festive season.....

“Reindeer Rap”

*We fly through the air like we know that we should
 To bring you presents and make Santa look good!
 We want you to know that we just don't get it!
 We do all the work while Santa gets the credit!*
 X X X X X / X X X
*Without us (pat knees) (pat chest) (clap)
 Santa's nothing!*
*There's Dasher and Dancer and Prancer
 and Vixen,
 Cornet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen,
 We even have a standby who everyone knows,
 (solo) My name is Rudolf, with the bright red nose!*
 (all)
 X X X X X / X X X
*Without us (pat knees) (pat chest) (clap)
 Santa's nothing!*

(There are two more verses so if you want the whole thing contact us at the office and we'll send it to you).

Artist Training Opportunity

If you are a musician or dancer working regularly in schools and you are interested in developing your professional skills, read on...

Once a term, **Sewa Education** will offer a fun and informative training session open to all musicians and dancers working in schools. The purpose of these sessions is to provide an opportunity for artist educators to develop professionally and discuss issues that affect their work. Session 1: Sunday 16th November 4 - 6 p.m. The Brix, St. Matthew's, Brixton SW2.

Working within the Foundation Stage and K.S.1

Aim: To offer ideas and practical activities for music and dance work with children aged 4
Tutor: Sue Nicholls: Sue is an Advanced Skills Teacher and author of several wonderful music books.
Cost: £10 (£7 concession)
 Places will be limited and must be booked in advance.
 Please call **020 7737 0196** or email office@sewa-education.org if you would like to reserve a place.



Teachers Choir

The Teachers Choir got off to a good start this term with the inimitable Gospel singer, Glen Smiley leading the first two sessions. Laka D. is now back working with the choir and we invite any adults working for schools and the Learning Trust to come along and join in the fun. No previous experience is required and the Choir is free to all teachers and Learning Trust employees. You will find us on the top floor of Amherst School in Sigdon Rd., on Tuesdays between 5.15pm and 6.45pm. For more information about the Teachers Choir, contact **Chris Taylor** at the HMS office.

FREE Money!!! E- Learning credits

Did you know that every school in Hackney has been given money to buy software? At the end of September the first tranche of Standards Fund (Grant 618) was distributed to schools. Each school receives a flat rate of £1000 per year plus £8.95 per pupil on the roll. This must be spent by August 2004. Similar grants are expected for the following 2 years, to be spent by August 2006. What this means, of course, is that schools no longer have the slightest excuse for not buying cost-effective music software!!!



There are a few catches, naturally, but they seem fairly simple to get around. The main one is that only government-approved suppliers may be used, and when ordering, they must be told that you are purchasing items with your e-Learning credits. Your headteacher and ICT managers will have received the details, but the important thing is that this is not money that has to be applied for – it is going into your schools accounts automatically, and is ring-fenced. If you need any help finding approved suppliers and products, I will be pleased to help. **Ollie Crooke**

Professional Bursaries:- If you are in your 4th or 5th year of teaching!

Did you know that if you are in your 4th or 5th year of teaching, you are now entitled to apply for a Professional Bursary, totalling £500 towards your professional development? Decisions on how to spend bursaries will be mainly up to individual teachers. So, if it applies to you, make enquiries now and don't miss out!

For more information phone the Professional Bursaries Administration Service on **0845 039 0208** or visit their website at www.teachernet.gov.uk/bursaries to seek guidance and download the forms. For any other professional development information visit the website www.teachernet.gov.uk/professional_development



Have you got news for us??? ... Send your news, notices or any music related articles to **Lisa Davies** either by email (adminmusic@learninglive.co.uk) or fax (020 7241 7437). The next HMS Newsletter will be published in February 2004.

THE HACKNEY MUSIC SERVICE TEAM:

Annie Cartwright: Consultant to the Standards Fund
Rita Cottridge, Chris Taylor: Music Organisers (Job share Primary/ Secondary)
James Thomas: Head of Instrumental Services
Ollie Crooke: ICT Consultant
Richard Beard: ICT Support
Lisa Davies: Administration

