

SALTASH MUSIC, SPEECH & DRAMA FESTIVAL 2026 FESTIVAL REPORT

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to thank the Town Council for their support towards the staging of the above Festival.

Our 2026 Festival was considered a big success in bringing together many hundreds of people to perform & support the local shops and hostelrys. We had over 500 entries spanning 6 days which was a slight increase in numbers from 2025. The Festival was in three sections i.e. 9 x 3 hour sessions of Speech, 3 x 3 hour sessions of Vocal & 5 x 3 hour sessions of Instrumental all adjudicated by three very experienced Adjudicators provided by the British & International Federation of Festivals, culminating in the very well supported & enjoyable Gala Concert at the end.

Despite several incidents regarding traffic accidents, etc. on the bridge & surrounding areas causing much delay & upset, the Adjudicators & our committee dealt with the situations with grace and understanding.

Throughout the whole Festival reference was made to the Town Council supporting the event on the screen at Saltash Wesley and on the syllabus & programme, seen on the attached sheets. The Festival was also advertised on several face book pages. Many people thought & said that it was brilliant to see the Town Mayor opening the Festival & the Deputy Mayor at the Drama night & Gala Concert. Thank you.

Very positive feedback has been received from both the Adjudicators and teachers/parents such as : “Thank you so much for another lovely Festival, parents were all saying how well run the Festival is run and how convenient it is that the age groups perform everything on the same day” and “It was nice to catch up at the Festival, we all thoroughly enjoyed it & being part of it” just to mention a few. It was also fantastic to note that we were considered an excellent Festival for neurodivergent children, who all felt safe & secure & proved to be amazing communicators. Thankfully there were no safeguarding issues to report.

Please also find attached finance sheets as at March this year together with a selection of invoices showing some of the major expenses that we have incurred. As usual you can see a very high percentage of our outgoings are on the Adjudicators fees which are set by the Federation of Festivals together with their accommodation, hire of Wesley Church, etc. culminating in costing the Festival approximately £6K to run. As can be seen the grant given by the Town Council to the Festival is of vital importance to continue our existence.

Finally, I hope that this is what is required by the Town Council & to once again thank them most sincerely for your continued support.

Phil Taylor

Chairman – Saltash Music, Speech & Drama Festival