

# DEVIZES EISTEDDFOD

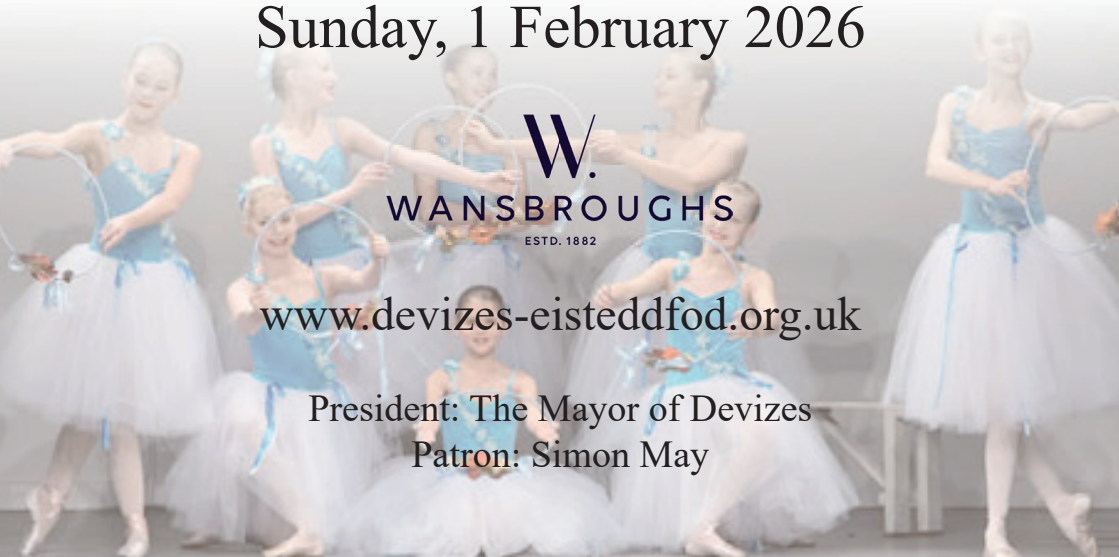
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## 2026 EISTEDDFOD DANCE FESTIVAL SYLLABUS

Lavington School Market Lavington Devizes SN10 4EB

Saturday, 31 January  
Sunday, 1 February 2026



**W.**  
**WANSBROUGHS**  
ESTD. 1882

[www.devizes-eisteddfod.org.uk](http://www.devizes-eisteddfod.org.uk)

President: The Mayor of Devizes  
Patron: Simon May

## Welcome!

A warm welcome to our 2026 Eisteddfod Dance Festival. This will be the ninth dance festival since the Eisteddfod introduced dance in 2016 and we are delighted to say that each occasion the response from performers has been really positive which has added to the excitement of each occasion.

For 2026 we welcome the distinguished adjudicator, Alison Seddon.

This will be Kathy Goodspeed's last year as Dance Manager and she is delighted to leave the event in the capable hands of Sarah Challice.

Please remember there is no closing date for entries. You are advised to get your applications in as soon as possible.

Booking opens on **Saturday, 1 November at 7am.**

Please read the rules section of this syllabus carefully to ensure that both days run smoothly.

The Eisteddfod is very grateful to Lavington School for hosting us again with its excellent facilities, including plenty of parking space and easy access.

Val's Catering will again be on hand for refreshments throughout both days in the school dining hall.

Admission for adults is £5 (£2 students) per session/ £10 per day.

Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded after each class. (please see page 6)

Lanyards and medals for qualifying groups will be on sale.

We hope that you will want to come and join us for a memorable weekend of dancing.

The Eisteddfod Committee

## Our Adjudicator

Alison Seddon

Alison is a Fellow and triple genre examiner for the ISTD in Modern, Tap and Classical Greek Dance and an approved teacher training tutor. She is a dance adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals, a member of the BIFF adjudicators council and on the panel of All England Dance and Miss Dance adjudicators. Alison began her dance training at her mother's school, the Janet Ashton School of Dance, in Lincoln and then at Tozer Studios under Alison Willett. She undertook her vocational training at Leeds Dance College, under the tutelage of Cynthia Carr from whom she gained her passion for Classical Greek Dance. Alison danced and choreographed professionally for five years, particularly for E&B Productions, alongside teaching work before turning to teaching full time as vice principal of the school in Lincoln and various schools and colleges in Lincoln, Yorkshire and the East Midlands. During this time she was also co-founder of the Theatre Royal Youth Theatre in Lincoln. Alison has over thirty-five years' experience as a teacher and choreographer of children and vocational students. She has been a teacher and adjudicator at the Classical Greek Dance Ruby Ginner Awards over many years and has twice been invited to deliver the "Gladys Thorpe Memorial Lecture" in Classical Greek Dance for the IDTA. She has also choreographed work for the ISTD Classical Greek Vocational level syllabi, is a serving member of the Classical Greek Dance committee and is on the approved teaching team for the ISTD Classical Greek Dance faculty. Former students have gone on to successful careers in the West End, national and international tours and television, while others have gone on to successful teaching careers in the UK and abroad.

## Marking System

**65-69-DEVELOPING** A performance demonstrating an awareness of technical skills, requiring more consistency and artistry.

**70-74-PROGRESSING** A performance showing development of technique and/or communication and commitment.

**75-79-MERIT** A competent performance, showing some artistic awareness and/or technical ability.

**80-84-COMMENDED** A convincing performance technically & artistically, with increasing stylistic and communication skills.

**85-89- HONOURS** An excellent performance, demonstrating fluent technical and artistic skills with emerging individuality.

**90-94 OUTSTANDING** An impressive performance technically and artistically, displaying spontaneity and clear individuality.

**95+ EXCEPTIONAL** A superlative performance, displaying exceptional artistic individuality.

## Dance Rules

### STATUS

Entrants must be bona-fide amateurs and not be in full time vocational students. For the purpose of the Eisteddfod an amateur is defined as someone who does not derive his/her livelihood from this branch of performance. The Dance Manager reserves the right to accept/refuse an entry.

### ENTRIES

Entries must be made online on this website. Entries are filed on a first come, first served basis until the classes have reached capacity. In the event of the Eisteddfod being oversubscribed the Committee reserves the right to return any entry that cannot be accommodated. Solo entries are non-transferable and fees will be forfeited when entries definitely registered are cancelled. Any entries received after full capacity is reached will have their fees returned. The committee may combine sections or classes where entries are small and divide a class where entries are large. Manual entries for duets, trios or quartets to be on one form with one cheque or BACS payment. Group entries cannot be accepted without the name of the group being clearly stated.

### CLASSES

Any performer withdrawing from the event should notify the Dance Manager before the commencement of the class.

### PERFORMANCE ORDER

Performers must dance in the order given in the programme. Any competitors missing at this time are called at the end of the class. Any performer who has insufficient time to change their costume will also be called at the end of the class. No performer may enter the same class more than once in their own age group for each solo section and twice for each technique in a duet or trio section. A minimum of five dancers constitutes a group. Solo dancers may not be substituted but in the unavoidable absence of a partner, one substitute will be allowed in a duet, two in a trio/quartet and three in a group.

### PERFORMANCE TIMES

Performers and their supporters must be aware that timings are approximate and dancers must be ready to dance 30 minutes prior to their advertised class time. It is the responsibility of the dancer to advise their supporters of this rule. Any performer arriving late (excluding costume change) may run the risk of disqualification. **Re-starts, apart from equipment malfunction, will only be allowed for performers aged 9 years or under.**

## COMMUNICATION

Performers, teachers or parents are not permitted to communicate with the Adjudicator at any time. Any necessary communication should be made via the Adjudicator's Scribe or to a steward at the reception desk.

## SPECIAL NEEDS

The Eisteddfod welcomes entries from performers who have special needs, but notification of the nature of any condition must be made to the Dance Manager when entries are submitted. A full explanation of the condition would be appreciated together with documentary evidence, if appropriate. It is necessary for parents and teachers to be aware of their responsibilities in entering any performers with limited physical capabilities or special needs, bearing in mind the limitations imposed by the stage and surrounding environment and changing areas.

There are only two changing rooms, one for male performers and one for female. At no time can both sexes share a changing room. It is the responsibility of the parent or teacher to ensure that there are adults of the same sex as the performer to assist with changing.

## AGE LIMITS

Age Limits for classes relate to the performer's age on 31st January 2026.

## ARRIVAL

Access to the changing areas will be allowed up to 60 minutes before the beginning of classes

## ACCOMPANIMENT MUSIC

We will not take music on CDs this year. We will require you to upload music files in advance of the festival. Details of how to do this will be emailed to all entrants along with their performance times.

## STAGE

The stage and stage wings are out of bounds to all except authorised personnel and those about to perform. Authorised persons are Eisteddfod personnel and one parent/teacher/carer if the child is 6 years or under or with special needs. Parents who refuse to obey this rule run the risk of their child being disqualified. Any props should be small enough for the performer to put them on stage (7 years and over). No live props are allowed. In the interests of Health and Safety, no props will be accepted side stage until prior to the class for which they are needed and must be removed immediately the class finishes.

## ADJUDICATION

All performers will receive an adjudication sheet and a certificate showing the class category of their performance. Where there are three or fewer in a class only a winner's medal (gold) will be awarded. In classes of four then a 2nd place medal (silver) may be awarded. In classes of five or more a 3rd place medal (bronze) may be awarded. In order to receive any medal the mark must be at least 80. Medals for those dancers who are winners in group classes may, if the appropriate mark is achieved, be purchased at the reception desk for £2.

## SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Please be aware of the Eisteddfod Safeguarding Policy as detailed on pages 9 & 10 of the syllabus. Signature on the entry form confirms that this policy has been read. When an entry is made by a young person under 18 the entry form must be countersigned by a parent/guardian/responsible adult.

## GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

To comply with new legislation which came into force in May 2018, before an entry can be accepted it is essential the Eisteddfod has permission to hold the data collected. If you are agreeable please tick and sign the appropriate box on the entry form.

## COPYRIGHT

The Eisteddfod is bound by copyright law and cannot allow flash photography, tape or video recording during any performance or adjudication. The Eisteddfod does not accept any liability for the infringement of copyright, recording or performing rights. Teachers and choreographers using music files created from recordings are advised that they themselves are responsible for seeking permission to re-record.

## **ENTRY FEES 2026**

Solo £6.50 Duets £8.00 & Trio/Quartet £9.00

All Groups £16.00

Dance Manager: (to whom all Dance queries should be addressed)

**Sarah Challice**

sarahchallice@tiscali.co.uk

Tel: 07971 620229

### **AWARDS**

Junior Dance – Most Promising

Senior Dance – Most Promising

Most Inspirational

Most Realistic Character

Tanya Allen Award for Endeavour

### **PLAQUES**

Cabaret Group 9-11 years

Cabaret Group 12-14 years

Cabaret Group 15 years and over

Classical Group 9-11 years

Classical Group 12-14 years

Classical Group 15 years and over

## **Dance Classes**

### **BALLET**

|    |                 |           |
|----|-----------------|-----------|
| D1 | 5 years & under | 1.5 mins. |
| D2 | 6 - 7 years     | 1.5 mins. |
| D3 | 8 - 9 years     | 1.5 mins. |
| D4 | 10 -11 years    | 1.5 mins. |
| D5 | 12 - 13 years   | 2.0 mins. |
| D6 | 14 - 15 years   | 2.0 mins. |
| D7 | Over 15 years   | 2.0 mins. |

### **CHARACTER**

**(Title of character to be announced either by performer or if under 8 years by the announcer).**

|     |                 |           |
|-----|-----------------|-----------|
| D8  | 5 years & under | 1.5 mins. |
| D9  | 6 - 7 years     | 1.5 mins. |
| D10 | 8 - 9 years     | 1.5 mins. |
| D11 | 10 - 11 years   | 1.5 mins. |
| D12 | 12 - 13 years   | 2.0 mins. |
| D13 | 14 - 15 years   | 2.0 mins. |
| D14 | Over 15 years   | 2.0 mins. |

### **TAP**

|      |                 |           |
|------|-----------------|-----------|
| D15  | 5 years & under | 1.5 mins. |
| D16  | 6– 7 years      | 1.5 mins. |
| D17. | 8 - 9 years     | 1.5 mins. |
| D18  | 10 - 11 years   | 1.5 mins. |
| D19. | 12 - 13 years   | 2.0 mins. |
| D20. | 14 - 15 years   | 2.0 mins. |
| D21. | Over 15 years   | 2.0 mins. |

### **MODERN**

|     |                 |           |
|-----|-----------------|-----------|
| D22 | 5 years & under | 1.5 mins. |
| D23 | 6 - 7 years     | 1.5 mins. |
| D24 | 8 - 9 years     | 1.5 mins. |
| D25 | 10 - 11 years   | 1.5 mins. |
| D26 | 12 - 13 years   | 2.0 mins. |
| D27 | 14 – 15 years   | 2.0 mins. |
| D28 | Over 15 years   | 2.0 mins. |

## LYRICAL

|     |               |           |
|-----|---------------|-----------|
| D29 | 8 - 9 years   | 1.5 mins. |
| D30 | 10 - 11 years | 1.5 mins. |
| D31 | 12 - 13 years | 2.0 mins. |
| D32 | 14 – 15 years | 2.0 mins. |
| D33 | Over 15 years | 2.0 mins. |

## SONG & DANCE

|     |                 |           |
|-----|-----------------|-----------|
| D34 | 5 years & under | 2.0 mins. |
| D35 | 6 - 7 years     | 2.0 mins. |
| D36 | 8 – 9 years     | 2.0 mins. |
| D37 | 10 - 11 years   | 2.0 mins. |
| D38 | 12 - 13 years   | 2.5 mins. |
| D39 | 14 - 15 years   | 2.5 mins. |
| D40 | Over 15 years   | 2.5 mins. |

**(Dancers may enter 2 duets and 2 trio/quartets only, with a different partner or genre, also 2 Groups both in classical and cabaret).**

## CABARET DUET

|     |                 |           |
|-----|-----------------|-----------|
| D41 | 7 years & under | 2.5 mins. |
| D42 | 8 - 9 years     | 2.5 mins. |
| D43 | 10 - 11 years   | 2.5 mins. |
| D44 | 12 - 13 years   | 2.5 mins. |
| D45 | 14 - 15 years   | 2.5 mins. |
| D46 | Over 15 years   | 2.5 mins. |

## CLASSICAL DUET

|     |                 |           |
|-----|-----------------|-----------|
| D47 | 7 years & under | 2.5 mins. |
| D48 | 8 -9 years      | 2.5 mins. |
| D49 | 10 - 11 years   | 2.5 mins. |
| D50 | 12 - 13 years   | 2.5 mins. |
| D51 | 14 – 15 years   | 2.5 mins. |
| D52 | Over 15 years   | 2.5 mins. |

## CLASICAL TRIO/QUARTET

|      |                 |           |
|------|-----------------|-----------|
| D53  | 7 years & under | 2.5 mins. |
| D54  | 8 - 9 years     | 2.5 mins. |
| D55. | 10 - 11 years   | 2.5 mins. |
| D56. | 12 - 13 years   | 2.5 mins. |
| D57. | 14 - 15 years   | 2.5 mins. |
| D58. | Over 15 years   | 2.5 mins. |

## **CABARET TRIO/QUARTET**

|      |                 |           |
|------|-----------------|-----------|
| D59. | 7 years & under | 2.5 mins. |
| D60. | 8 - 9 years     | 2.5 mins. |
| D61. | 10 - 11 years   | 2.5 mins. |
| D62. | 12 - 13 years   | 2.5 mins. |
| D63. | 14 - 15 years   | 2.5 mins  |
| D64. | Over 15 years   | 2.5 mins  |

## **CLASSICAL GROUP**

|      |                 |           |
|------|-----------------|-----------|
| D65. | 8 years & under | 4.0 mins. |
| D66. | 9 - 11 years    | 4.0 mins. |
| D67. | 12 - 14 years   | 4.0 mins. |
| D68. | 15 years & over | 4.0 mins. |

## **CABARET GROUP**

|      |                 |           |
|------|-----------------|-----------|
| D69. | 8 years & under | 4.0 mins. |
| D70. | 9 - 11 years    | 4.0 mins. |
| D71. | 12 - 14 years   | 4.0 mins. |
| D72. | 15 years & over | 4.0 mins  |

## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

The Devizes Eisteddfod seeks to provide performance opportunities for children and young people each year.

We are committed to ensuring safe environments for children and young people and believe that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind.

We recognise our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to recommend best practice which protects them.

This policy applies to our Committee Members, Volunteers and paid Adjudicators.

### **We recognise that:**

- the welfare of the child/young person is paramount
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

**The purpose of the policy:**

- to provide protection for the children and young people who participate in our event.
- to provide volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm.

**We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:**

- valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and safe working practice for staff and volunteers
- recruiting volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- sharing information about child protection and safe working practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately

**The Devizes Eisteddfod uses the following procedures to create a safer Eisteddfod for everyone:**

1. One designated Eisteddfod Safeguarding Officer (ESO) Name: Pam Jolley
2. Best practice advice in the form of Eisteddfod Child Protection leaflets, with support for all Eisteddfod volunteers. Including clear reporting procedures for anyone with a concern about a child.
3. Appropriate recruitment and induction procedures for all new Eisteddfod volunteers responsible for providing safe environments for everyone attending / performing at the Eisteddfod.
4. All Eisteddfod personnel wear an official badge. All teachers/parents/guardians / carers are asked to report all incidents of any nature to anyone wearing a badge.
5. For the duration of the Eisteddfod all teachers/parents/guardians/carers are responsible for the continuous care and supervision of their own children/pupils. If they are unable to attend personally, they must delegate their responsibilities to an identified adult and ensure that their children/pupils are aware of the identity and name of the person responsible for their care. This includes supervision throughout all Eisteddfod venues, practice and changing areas that may be provided. Single sex changing facilities will be provided where necessary. The Eisteddfod cannot take responsibility for any property left unattended.
6. No unauthorised photography, audio or video recording of children and young people is allowed at the Eisteddfod. Where parents/guardians/carers do not wish photos to be taken at all, then the responsible adult attending should ensure that their child is not included in official photos.
7. Some children and vulnerable adults may have specific needs in order to take part. If this is the case we ask the responsible teachers/parents/guardians/carers to contact the Entry Secretary at the time of entry. The Eisteddfod actively seeks wherever possible to meet these needs but must know beforehand in order to prepare support – or to advise that help cannot be provided on this occasion.
8. The Eisteddfod's Child Protection Policy is published explicitly in our Syllabus, Programme and Website. By completing and signing the entry form all parents / guardians / carers and teachers of entrants under 18 confirm that they give (or have obtained) the necessary consents for the entrants to take part in the Eisteddfod. Without consent the entry to the Eisteddfod cannot be accepted.

Further information and guidance can be obtained by emailing the Director [jemmab@devizes-eisteddfod.org.uk](mailto:jemmab@devizes-eisteddfod.org.uk) or calling 07970 638532 during working hours.

