

Hands on @ Llangollen Eisteddfod e-newsletter

Edition 6

January 2017

A note from our Chairman

A very Happy New Year and best wishes to you all for the forthcoming year!

There have been several exciting developments for Llangollen 2017, not least the launch of Manic Street Preachers. Sunday promises to be a tremendous day for us all and the rest of the concert stream will be launched soon. We have an Anniversary Concert, an Opera Gala, a modern Classical Concert, an International Llangollen Concert, a Jazz singer and of course, Choir of the World.

Also an exciting development has been the engagement of new volunteers who we hope will enjoy their time with us and bring extra support. Thanks Louisa for arranging the Volunteers' party at the Chainbridge, it was a very successful evening.

2017 is a very special year in that it is our 70th anniversary. 70 years of volunteering is well worth celebrating!

Dr Rhys Davies
Chairman

Dates for Your Diary

- **Wednesday 18th January**
Eisteddfod PR presentation training.
7pm in the Boardroom of the pavilion.
- **Saturday 28th January**
First rehearsal of Celebration Chorus at St John's Church, Abbey Road, Llangollen from 10am to 1pm.

Committee News

Music & Staging

Calling all Choristers!

The Music & Staging Committee is seeking choristers to take part in an exciting new initiative that will play a prominent role in this year's festival. The specially formed *Celebration Chorus* will be performing a brand new work called "Calling All Dawns" by Christopher Tin during the evening concert in the main pavilion on Wednesday 5th July. Choristers from the Eisteddfod's volunteer community and local area are welcome to get involved.

If you are interested and would like to find out more, please come along to the first rehearsal, which will be held at St John's Church, Abbey Road, Llangollen on Saturday 28th January from 10am to 1pm. Rehearsals will be held twice a month thereafter and the exact dates will be confirmed at the first rehearsal. And if you can't make the first one, don't worry! Let us know and then join us at the second rehearsal on Saturday 18th February in the same location.

For more information, please e-mail info@international-eisteddfod.co.uk or call the Eisteddfod office on 01978 862000.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Marketing

Promotional Roadshow – Volunteer Training

The Marketing Committee has been busy putting together a roadshow to promote and market the Eisteddfod in 2017.

It is envisaged that there will be a short promotional DVD followed by a PowerPoint presentation, which will be presented by two volunteers at a time.

A rough draft of the PowerPoint will be sent out to all committees for review and suggestions for amendments. It is planned that the roadshows will visit a variety of organisations and many dates have already been organised!

There will be a training session on Wednesday 18th January at 7pm in the Boardroom of the pavilion for anyone who is interested in taking part in this initiative.

This is an exciting venture and it is hoped that many volunteers will be willing to take part.

To register your interest or if you require any further information, please e-mail info@international-eisteddfod.co.uk or call the Eisteddfod office on 01978 862000.

Hospitality

Sandra Roberts

Hospitality would like to pay tribute to Sandra Roberts who joined the Hospitality Committee as a district member in 1974. Sandra then became Vice Chairman for 12 years and has just finished in the Chair after serving 11 years as Chairman of Hospitality.

We thank Sandra for her services over the years and marked her retirement from the Chair at a small gathering at the end of the Eisteddfod week 2016.

We send Sandra our thanks and very best wishes for the future and are so pleased she is continuing to have an active role on the Hospitality Committee.

Alwena Hughes Hospitality Committee



(Photo courtesy of Alwena)

Volunteering Opportunities

Archive

Archive Research Assistant

The Archive team would like to enlist one or more volunteer assistants to help with the preparation of the display in the Archive Tent at the 2017 Eisteddfod and also to help find information to support the publication of a book to mark seventy years of the festival.

You would be working closely with Prof Chris Adams and other members of the Archive Committee. You could also be liaising with archives and museums throughout North Wales and beyond.

Here are some examples of what you might be asked to do:

- Track down information about episodes in the Eisteddfod's history, such as:
 - Competitor stories: Finding the winners of the 1948 Folk Dance Competition, who were from a Displaced Persons' camp in Anglesey: what was their story?
 - Prepare up-to-date biographies of personalities: adjudicators, day presidents, choirmasters, visitors etc
 - Identify photographs and relate to newspaper stories
 - Many more, all different.
- Identify who owns the copyright of pictures, videos, and documents to be used in the book and the display, and to make approaches about getting permission
- Convert documents, videos, and audio material to high quality digital files

The position would suit someone of historical bent, who is computer literate, keen on web-searching, and competent with digitising information.

If you would be interested in a new volunteering challenge, or know of someone who might be interested in getting involved, please get in touch on volunteers@international-eisteddfod.co.uk.

Hands On @ Llangollen Eisteddfod has a Facebook page!



Like our page to keep up to date with the latest news and information!

Volunteer News

Champion award for Selwyn Jones

Longstanding Hospitality and Finance Committee member, Selwyn Jones, was recently nominated for a prestigious award for his outstanding contribution as a volunteer at local National Trust property, Erddig.

The *Your Champions 2016 Gala Ceremony* took place during November and Selwyn was presented with his award for Wrexham Champion for 2016 by Olympic silver medal winning athlete, Roger Black.

Selwyn said, "it was a complete shock when I received my nomination as I had no idea that I had been nominated and by whom.

Trinity Mirror and Scottish Power Foundation organised a wonderful evening for over 150 people at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Chester and I was one of about 30 nominees who were awarded on the night out of about 180 nominations put forward initially.

The application for nominees is published annually in the Trinity Mirror/Scottish Power North West region around about June/July when anyone can nominate anyone for an award in the five categories named. This was the 29th event held by TM/SPF.

My first involvement with the Eisteddfod was in 1973 when we hosted our first overseas competitors from Holland and we are still in contact with them. We have hosted overseas visitors for over 40 years. I have been a member of the Hospitality committee for about 25 years and the Finance committee for 21 years and been Budget Head for overseas competitors for 11 years.

I've been a volunteer gardener at Erddig for 19 years and also helped at the League of Friends at the Maelor Hospital Wrexham for 15 years. I am a Trustee, Trainer and volunteer for the Vale of Llangollen Canal Boat Trust and have been involved with them for 16 years.

When Barbara and I retired 20 years ago this month we had no idea that we would be so busy. We never decided to volunteer to receive awards but we hoped our volunteering would make a difference".

Many congratulations indeed to Selwyn for this truly deserved award!



Photograph of Selwyn and his wife, Barbara, with Roy Jones of the Scottish Power Foundation.

(Photo courtesy of the Scottish Power Foundation).

More publishing success for Adrian

What do LIME volunteers do to fill the quiet months between one Eisteddfod and the next? Lots of us have jobs or other normal lives that keep us busy so that when the momentum starts to build towards July each year we are taken by surprise and have to organise ourselves to make space for the additional work.

Adrian Farrel has been part of the Grounds Committee for over 25 years and currently helps Gareth with the site. His day job is with telecommunications companies, standardising how the Internet works. This work takes him around the world speaking at conferences, meeting customers, and organising or chairing technical workshops.

A year ago he published a collection of 18 original fairy tales called *Tales from the Wood*. They were stories that he written on long-haul flights and in the bars of distant hotels.

Now Adrian has discovered that he just can't stop writing. New tales keep popping into his head and he just has to scribble them down. His latest collection, "More Tales from the Wood", was published this autumn and contains another 18 original tales. "Just as in my first collection, these are fairy tales with the same smell and sound of the ones with which we grew up, but they all have a twist or a satisfying ending," he says.

In this collection you can meet the Fisherman who stubbornly refuses to be in debt to the wizard, you can enter the Chocolate Shop that is only sometimes there, and you can see inside the world of The Shapeshifter. You can also learn the difference between a gnome and pixie, and why you should never confuse either of them for a faerie.

Some stories, like The Little Mermaid and The Emperor's New Clothes, give a new slant on familiar tales, but most of the stories just seem to be familiar because the essence of a good fairy tale is so deeply ingrained in all of us. "These stories are like those by the Grimm brothers or Hans Christian Andersen, but a whole lot more fun," he says. "We don't need sanctimonious or pious tales in today's world. What we need are stories that reflect how life is or how it should be. That is what I have tried to achieve, although sometimes you may have to sit back and let the subliminal message sink in."

Someone once said, "To write one book of fairy tales may be regarded as a misfortune. To write two books of fairy tales looks like carelessness". But Adrian thinks this may be an understatement. "I seem to be at my most creative when I am travelling for work. On a recent trip to Korea I managed to complete three new tales, so it looks like I am well on the way to book three!"

"Tales from the Wood" and "More Tales from the Wood" are available in Llangollen from the Courtyard Bookshop and from Zingiber. They can also be bought online from Amazon or direct from the publisher at <http://www.feedaread.com/>

Staff News

An introduction to Phil Johnson, Production Manager

In January, we welcomed Phil Johnson to the Eisteddfod in the newly created role of Production Manager. Here, Phil gives us a little insight into his background and what the new position will involve.

Hello, may I take this opportunity to introduce myself. I have worked professionally in the Event and Entertainment industry since 1979 and in that time have helped run events all over the world.

I Live by Delamere Forest near Chester with my Partner Ian, our Cockerpoo, Jasper, and Green Wing Macaw, Moby.

My role as Production Manager at the Eisteddfod primarily involves working alongside Eilir, Musical Director, to deliver the concerts by liaison with technical suppliers to the Eisteddfod, together with

artists and their management and representatives, as well as heading up the team of stage managers and stage crew.

I am very much aware that an event like the Eisteddfod cannot run without the hard work and many hours of time put in by the “army” of volunteers and I am really looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible either before or during the event, so do come and say hello.

Best regards,
Phil Johnson



(Photo courtesy of Phil Johnson)

Special Delivery!

Congratulations to Mikala Bennion and her fiancé Julian Nash on the recent birth of their daughter.

Avêry-Clarke Nash was born at 19:32pm on November 5th weighing in at 6lbs 14ounces.

Mother and baby are doing well and Mikala has already brought Avêry in to meet us in the office, introducing her to the Eisteddfod at an early age!

(Photo courtesy of Mikala)



Volunteer Fiesta

On Friday 18th November, around 65 volunteers, along with partners and friends, attended the *Volunteer Fiesta* at the Chainbridge Hotel in Llangollen. The party had been organised as a thank you to the volunteer community and was partly funded by the Eisteddfod as a small token of appreciation for the invaluable contribution that volunteers make to the running of the festival.

The evening included a tasty meal on an international theme prepared by the hotel staff, who were extremely helpful and attentive throughout the evening. There was also a table quiz on Eisteddfod trivia, skilfully won by “The Vicarage” team, and musical entertainment from a local musical duo, one half of whom was our own Outside Stages technician, James Barber.

The evening was very enjoyable and there was much laughter and even some dancing! Many thanks to all those who supported the event. There has been some great feedback so let’s hope this is something we can build on for the future.

Louisa Jones
Volunteer team



(Photos courtesy of Louisa)