



Hands on @ Llangollen Eisteddfod

e-newsletter

Edition 8

June 2017

Eisteddfod week is nearly upon us once again and as we count down the final, busy days to what undoubtedly will be a very memorable 70th Anniversary festival, this slightly shorter edition of the newsletter aims to provide you with some key dates, last minute information and points of interest for the next couple of weeks.

Many thanks to all those who have contributed to this newsletter throughout the year. It was started with the objective of engaging with our existing volunteer community by keeping them informed about news and activities from across the organisation. We've had some interesting and varied input over the past 12 months, so I hope you've enjoyed reading it and that you feel it is achieving its goal.

The next edition will be published early October so if you have any input either as a committee or an individual, please send it to louisa.jones@llangollen.net by mid-September.

Here's to a fantastic Eisteddfod week!

Louisa Jones
Volunteer Team

Key Dates for Your Diary:

- **Saturday 1st July**
Hospitality Committee Social Event – 7.30pm in the Competitor Reception Centre.
- **Sunday 2nd July**
Volunteer Lunchtime Gathering – 12pm – 2pm in the Chairman's Room.
- **Saturday 8th July**
Volunteer post-concert drinks – from 10pm in the main bar, located in the Amphitheatre.
- **Wednesday 12th July**
Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) – 7pm in the Pavilion

Volunteer Social Events

As we are now entering the crazy busy time of year for staff and volunteers we thought it would be a good idea to create the opportunity for a little bit of socialising, to give people a chance to catch up or for new volunteers to meet other people. Below are details of a couple of events that we have planned. Hope to see many of you there!

Lunchtime Get Together – Sunday 2nd July

There will be a get together on Sunday 2nd July between 12 – 2pm in the conference room (Chairman’s room) in the pavilion (take the left hand staircase when you enter the building via the main doors). All are welcome and it would be wonderful if people would be willing to bring with them a plate of food to share or something to drink.

If you are able to attend, please confirm to Sian Eagar sian.eagar@llangollen.net and advise what you will be bringing so we can make sure there is enough to go round!

Post-concert drinks – Saturday 8th July

Following the popularity of last year’s post-concert social gathering for volunteers in the main bar, we have decided to do it again this year!

If you fancy a drink following the Choir of the World concert on the evening of Saturday 8th July, please come on down to the main bar, located in the Amphitheatre. We will be gathering there from around 10pm for a couple of hours before either heading home or for the more adventurous folks, on into town for a customary late drink.

You don’t need to confirm your attendance at this but in case of any questions, please contact Louisa Jones louisa.jones@llangollen.net.

Hands On @ Llangollen Eisteddfod has a Facebook page!



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

Committee News

Hospitality

Social Event - Saturday 1st July

The Hospitality Committee will be holding their usual social evening immediately following their committee meeting on the evening of Saturday 1st July, starting at 7pm.

The event will be held in the Competitor Reception Centre (aka the Hospitality building). Tickets are £5.00 per person and this includes food. There will be wine and other drinks available to purchase.

This is a great opportunity for committee members and volunteers from other areas of the organisation to catch up and enjoy a drink together before embarking on a busy week so if you would like to attend, please see a member of the committee or just come along on the night.

New faces in the Competitor Liaison team

Following some changes made last year to the structure of the Hospitality committee, we welcomed a number of new and existing faces into roles on the newly formed Competitor Liaison Team.

The idea of this team was to break down the existing UK and Overseas Competitor Liaison Officer roles into more manageable remits and to engage new volunteers with relevant experience and skills.

This year, the role of UK CLO, previously held by committee Chairman, Sarah Jones, has been undertaken by Karen Price, who has been a committee stalwart for a number of years. New volunteer Sharon Thomas, previously a Director at ECTARC in Llangollen, joined as CLO support working together with another newcomer, Sheila Hughes, assisting Merle Hunt with her duties as overseas CLO. Further David Roberts, also a new addition to the Eisteddfod family, joined as Transport Officer. Below are a couple of pen portraits from Karen and David.

Karen Price – UKCLO

My name is Karen Price and I am the new UKCLO. So far I am really enjoying my new role! I have been involved with the Eisteddfod one way or another since the age of three. In the last 48 years (you can do the maths) I had not realised what goes on behind the scenes here, it's been a real eye opener! There has been a lot of help and advice from other members of Hospitality, which along with a trust A4 notepad, has been invaluable.



David Roberts – Transport Officer

My name is David Roberts (aka Daveaa) as I am known to all my friends and associates. My family history goes back many years in the town and I was born and bred here attending infants, junior and Dinas Bran schools. After leaving Llangollen in 1978 I worked all over the Middle East and Spain and returned in 2000. I have been involved with different jobs with the Eisteddfod from selling papers, programs and stewarding over the years.

In 2002 I started Airport Express operating all over the country covering all major airports, this work also included all kinds of transport for the Eisteddfod, from Competitors, Adjudicators and high profile acts who were performing at the festival. Over the years the Eisteddfod has always been a part of my past and now I have retired I am happy to join a professional Volunteer team and put something back.



The team will have a new base this year on the ground floor of the Competitor Reception Centre, so do pop in and say hello if you are passing!

Grounds

Radio Communications Operators

We are still looking for volunteers to act as radio communications operators during Eisteddfod week. Ideally volunteers for this role would have experience in this area and be comfortable with using a two way radio system and base stations. They would be responsible for operating the radio control, receiving and recording messages and passing them on to the relevant people.

If you can help or are aware of someone who might be interested, please would you contact Delwyn Roberts as soon as possible d.roberts460@btinternet.com

Site beautification

On Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd July, there will be a small team undertaking site “beautification” activities. Tasks include putting up all the pictorial fencing covers, picture boards, bunting and other decorations to make the site look colourful and attractive.

It is reasonably physical and will go ahead whatever the weather so bring a waterproof! If you can give a couple of hours it would be much appreciated. Please contact louisa.jones@llangollen.net if you can help.

Litter picking

Litter picking following the take down will be on the weekend of 15th and 16th July. This isn't the most glamorous job but it is a necessary one to ensure that the site is clean and tidy before we hand it back to DCC. If you can spare an hour or two, please do come along and help. Bags and picksticks will be provided but a pair of gloves would be handy.

Music & Staging

Celebration Chorus Update

In the last edition, we reported about the Celebration Chorus, which has been formed from choristers from within the Eisteddfod's volunteer base and local community and will perform Christopher Tin's work, *Calling All Dawns*, at the Wednesday night concert this year.

Rehearsals have been progressing well over the past few months and we are finally getting to grips with the unfamiliar sounds and mouth shapes necessitated by some of the twelve international languages included in this incredible piece. The language has probably been the most challenging aspect for many of us involved and even as someone who has studied languages at university, getting my tongue around Sanskrit and Swahili whilst singing the right notes at the right time has been no easy feat!

In May, we had a surprise visit to one of our rehearsals from our Musical Director, Eilir Owen Griffiths, who put us through our paces and gave us some very helpful feedback and pointers to focus on. As we now approach our final rehearsals, we look forward to our first meeting with Christopher Tin himself on Sunday 2nd July and to being joined by several other international choirs and soloists who will perform on stage with us on the evening of Wednesday 5th July.

Below are a few comments from some of those involved, which are testament to the wonderful experience this has been.

"A fantastic opportunity for me to get together with competent singers. They are all so friendly, helpful and welcoming. The music is challenging but really enjoyable" – **Philip Main, Chorister**

"Really enjoyable and looking forward to performing Calling all Dawns during Eisteddfod week. It will be an amazing spectacle for the eyes as well as the ears!!!" – **Eleanor Diack, Chorister**

"Being involved with the preparations for Calling All Dawns has been an exciting and enjoyable experience. I have been the accompanist during the rehearsals since we started on the work in January. Many enthusiastic participants from local choirs, and further afield, have volunteered their time and energy. Nia Wyn has guided everyone through the choral rehearsals with much skill, charisma, patience and encouragement. The final performance promises to be an evening of thrilling choral and orchestral celebration!" – **Christopher Enston, Rehearsal Accompanist**

Tickets for the Calling All Nations concert are still available and can be purchased on line at www.llangollen.net or from the office on 01978 862001. It promises to be a very special evening so if you are able, please come along and support your fellow volunteers in their performance.

Louisa Jones
Member of the Celebration Chorus

Competitor's Club

Continuing the theme of our last issue, we are pleased once more to include some input from one of the competitor groups who will visit us this July. This time, we have a contribution from the director of the Loughgiel Folk Dancers from Northern Ireland, who are a very familiar and popular group in Llangollen! Many thanks to Ann Ankers for arranging this input.

On 2nd July 2017 our group will embark on a journey back to the International Eisteddfod in Llangollen, Wales. The dancers are extremely excited about this prospect as the group were performing in Spain last year and subsequently missed the Eisteddfod in 2016.

We have been rehearsing intensely for this year's festival and can't wait to dance on that famous 'Pavilion' stage where they have performed so many times before. No matter where we dance our pupils always maintain that the warmth of the audience in Llangollen exceeds all others. We have so many wonderful memories of our time there and have made life-long friendships with the locals and officials alike. We are renowned for our love of fun and are always keen to participate at all the outreach events, including the local bars etc where we love to bring joy and entertainment to all those who cross our paths.

Now that the Eisteddfod organisers have introduced new classes where you can showcase your choreography skills we are very excited about many of the pieces that we intend to perform for our Welsh audience and hope that they will enjoy the results!!

Since our very first visit, as a group, to Llangollen in 1993 we now have the children of those first dancers performing with us, keeping the tradition very much alive!!!

The school have been fortunate enough to win the overall 'Dance Champions' award in 2014 & 2015. These were presented alongside the prestigious 'Choir of the World' award and were indeed memorable moments in each of their dance careers.

The school continues to go from strength to strength and the teachers and pupils alike are extremely proud of their fantastic achievements to date. We look forward to seeing everyone in July 2017!



Photos of Loughgiel courtesy of Barrie Potter.

Fundraising

Give as you Live

Those of you who follow the Eisteddfod on social media will have seen posts publicising “Give as you Live” as a means of raising funds towards the Bursary Fund.

Give as you Live is a shopping and price comparison website with a heart. You can shop for products from thousands of leading online retailers; use their price comparison tool to ensure you get the best price and even save money by using the exclusive offers and deals available through their website. A percentage of every purchase you make will be donated to the Bursary Fund.

Sign up to the scheme is free and easy to use and you can shop at over 4,000 leading online stores including Amazon, eBay, Tesco, John Lewis, Sainsbury's, Just Eat and Booking.com, to name but a few!

Please help support us in this fundraising initiative which is an easy way to raise funds. For further details of to sign up please go to - <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/llangollen-eist>



Give as you Live®

Extraordinary General Meeting

A reminder to all company members that the EGM will take place on Wednesday 12th July in the Pavilion, starting at 7pm.