

# ***Hands on @ Llangollen Eisteddfod e-newsletter***

Edition 7

April 2017

## ***A note from our Chairman***

We are looking forward to what promises to be a splendid Eisteddfod this July, our 70th anniversary. We have been going strong since 1947 following WW2 when there was a need to bring nations together through the medium of music. There is just as much reason in 2017 to bring nations together and long may it continue.

This year has something for everyone from male voice choirs, brass bands, classical opera, modern video music, jazz and rock, not forgetting our international concerts, Choir of the World and our daytime competitions.

I am glad to see that volunteer engagement is proving to be a success and I would like to welcome all new volunteers. However, we must not rest on our laurels but continue to promote our cause and engage with all potential volunteers.

I want to congratulate our Musical Director, Eilir, who has been awarded the "Arweinydd Gorau'r Cymru" the best Welsh conductor prize at Cŵr Cymru 2017 in Aberystwyth. It was broadcast live on S4C on April 9th. Llongyfarchiadau Eilir!

Thank you very much everyone for all your support. I look forward to working with you all in July.

**Dr Rhys Davies**  
Chairman

### **Dates for Your Diary**

- **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April**  
FLIME Coffee Morning –  
9.30am to 12:00pm in  
the Memorial Hall,  
Llangollen.
- **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April**  
Hospitality Committee  
fundraising and social  
event. 7:30pm in St  
Collen's Community  
Hall, Llangollen.

# Committee News

## Music & Staging

### Celebration Chorus update

Well, we are just about at the half way mark with our rehearsals for this wonderful work. A wealth of some 70 choristers turn up every second Saturday and spend a most enjoyable 3 hours being put through our paces by Nia Wyn Jones, who has a fantastic way of getting the most out of the choir.

There is such a lovely feel about the choir and it feels like we've known each other forever! I am delighted with the progress they are making and will be very proud to be among them when we perform this magical work under the Baton of the composer Christopher Tin himself.



(Left hand rehearsal photo courtesy of Elen M. Roberts. Right hand photo of Elen and Nia Wyn Jones meeting Christopher Tin courtesy of Llangollen Eisteddfod).

**Elen M Roberts**  
Chairman, Music & Staging Committee

# Marketing

## Volunteer Polo Shirts and Hoodies

Following the popularity of personalised clothing last year, Becky Ferneyhough from the Marketing Committee is going to be coordinating orders for polo shirts and zip up hoodies ("Zoodies") for volunteers and staff in the run up to this year's festival.

Becky has put together an order form for both garments and these can be obtained from the office, together with further information about sizes and some samples. Please see Chloe Ashley for forms and details.

The deadline for placing orders is May 31<sup>st</sup> and items will be available for collection a couple of weeks before the start of the Eisteddfod.

Please note volunteer specific clothing will not be available to purchase from the shop during Eisteddfod week, however there will be generic LIME items of clothing available.

Hopefully the information in the office will be self-explanatory but in case of any questions, please contact Becky on [becky@ferneyhough.net](mailto:becky@ferneyhough.net).

## Promotional Roadshow update

Volunteers from Marketing and other Committees have been busy reaching out to organisations in the area to spread the word about our festival and its aims in an effort to develop community relations and encourage more people to get involved.

Pairs of volunteers have been to a number of local groups, made a short presentation and shown a promotional video about the Eisteddfod and talked to the audience about favourite moments and their own experiences of volunteering.

Steward's sub-committee members Tony Jones and Chris Bright visited a local WI group recently and received the very appreciative feedback below:

***"Thank you both very much for a most interesting and enjoyable evening at Lyneal on April 6th. The members appreciated the relaxed manner in which you gave your talk and the balance between historical information and amusing and very interesting anecdotes. The video that you played after your presentation gave a wonderful idea of the joyful and colourful week".***

If you would be interested in participating in training to give a talk or if you are involved in an organisation, which you think would benefit from receiving a talk, please get in touch with the talk coordinator, Judith Dodd at [judithde@btinternet.com](mailto:judithde@btinternet.com).

## Llangollen 2017 Leaflets

Leaflets for Llangollen 2017 are now available in the office for distribution.

The more leaflets we can get out there, the better, so if you would be willing to distribute some in your local area, please pop into the office and see Meg McNutt. Cardboard holders are also available.

If everyone could take just a few it would be an enormous help!

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**Hands On @ Llangollen Eisteddfod has a Facebook page!**



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

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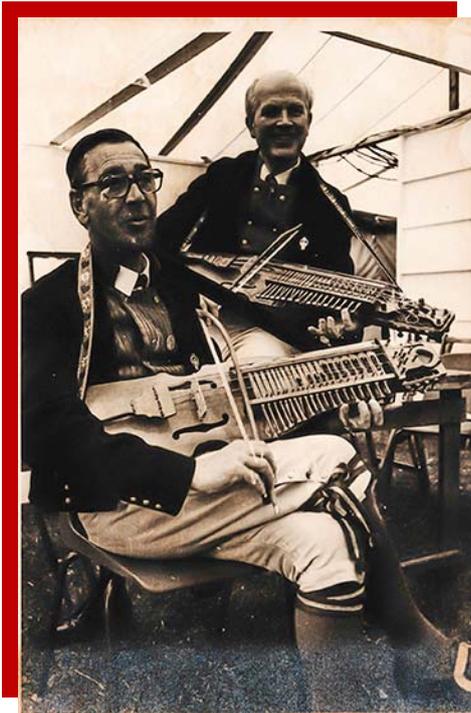
## Archive

2016 was a momentous year for the Archive Committee. For the first time, we had our own tent in which we mounted an exhibition based around different themes relating to the Eisteddfod, including Peace & Harmony, Internationalism, and A Tale of Two German Choirs. This year, being the 70th anniversary of the first Eisteddfod, we are planning to look at how the festival has developed and changed over the 7 decades of its existence.

Also in the planning, are proposals for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to develop a project to facilitate the rationalization of existing archive material, its proper conservation and improved accessibility for research and educational purposes. At the moment, there is a wealth of material about the Eisteddfod, which is spread across a number of repositories, both public and private, in this country, and indeed, around the world. The idea is to bring this together in time for the 75th anniversary Eisteddfod, in a form that is readily accessible to a wider audience than at present.

We have a small, dedicated team working on these issues, and we would welcome input and help from anyone who is interested. If you have, or know anybody who has, stories about the Eisteddfod, then we would like to hear from you; we would be particularly interested to hear stories about Hospitality.

Hopefully some of you will be able to visit us on the field in July. In the meantime here are a couple of photos from our collection including a rare Health & Safety demonstration from Floral.



(Photos courtesy of Llangollen Eisteddfod Archive)

**Barrie Potter**  
Chairman, Archive Committee

## *Hospitality*

### **Social and Fundraising Event, Thursday 27th April**

The Hospitality Committee will be holding a social evening at St Collen's Community Hall in Llangollen on Thursday 27th April to raise funds to support their festival week activities.

Tickets are £5.00 per person and this includes a glass of wine. The evening will feature cheese and wine, a quiz and a silent auction!

If you would like to join what promises to be a fun evening in good company, please see a member of the committee or contact the Eisteddfod Office on 01978 862000.

Please support this event if you can and the very valuable work done by the committee to provide much appreciated hospitality to our competitors and visiting groups during Eisteddfod week.

## Fundraising

Earlier this year, a small group of existing and new volunteers came together to kick off a new initiative focussed on fundraising. The purpose of the group is to develop and execute ideas for large scale fundraising as part of the festival's income generation strategy going forward.

The main idea currently in development is a Sportsman's dinner, incorporating international themes, which we envisage would be held in early 2018. Organisation of this is being mentored by new volunteer, Tony Miles, who chaired a similar event at the Pavilion a few years ago, raising a significant amount for good causes.

Other activities we are looking at include a grand prize draw, which we hope would have a prize linked to one of our high profile artists this July.

The group will be chaired by Daniel Bowman (Secretary of Finance) and will be a sub-group of the Finance Committee. We are currently small in number but would be keen to hear from anyone with relevant experience and a willingness to get stuck in and help with practical arrangements. If you would be interested in getting involved, please contact Dan Bowman [dan\\_bowman@me.com](mailto:dan_bowman@me.com).

# Volunteering Opportunities

## Telecommunications Engineer

The Grounds Committee is urgently seeking the assistance of a Telecommunications Engineer to support the set up and maintenance of the site phone system for Eisteddfod week.

Ideally the person should be an experienced telecoms engineer who is willing to give time in the run up to the festival to set up the temporary phone system between the main offices and various points on the field and be on hand to provide support in case of issues during the week.

They would be working closely with another experienced volunteer who would be able to give guidance on what is needed. They would need to supply their own specialist tools.

If you know of anyone who has the necessary skills and might be interested in getting involved, please get in touch with Colin Roberts, Secretary of Grounds, as soon as possible on [colin.roberts@llangollen.net](mailto:colin.roberts@llangollen.net).

FRIENDS OF LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD

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# COFFEE MORNING

## TUESDAY, APRIL 25th

9.30a.m. to 12 noon

MEMORIAL HALL, LLANGOLLEN

TEA/COFFEE AND BISCUITS

ADMISSION £1

TOMBOLA    CAKE STALL    BRIC A BRAC

Items for the stalls or tombola will be  
gratefully received on the morning

ALL WELCOME

In aid of the Bursary Fund to enable competitors from  
poorer countries and regions to come to the Eisteddfod

# Competitors' Club

**In this issue and the next, we will be including input from a couple of the competitor groups who will visit us this July to give volunteers a little insight into some of our overseas visitors and so that you can look out for them during festival week!**

**This time, we have a contribution from William Silk, conductor of the Midlands Choir from South Africa. Many thanks to Ann Ankers for arranging this input.**

William Silk the conductor of the Midlands Choir can't wait to get home again back to Wales as he grew up in Wrexham and frequented the eisteddfod as a young school boy at St Mary's and St Joseph's! His parents moved to South Africa in 1976 and he was born in the Northern Transvaal where he lived for 10 years before his family moved to Wrexham. He became a pupil at St Joseph's School and he remembers with fondness music teacher, the late Mr Lee, who guided him through all types of music and was instrumental in William singing in numerous venues from Cathedrals to school halls. The family eventually moved back to South Africa but he remembers his time in Wrexham with great affection. The choir will be giving a concert at St Josephs on Saturday 7th July.

He has twice brought the NKZN choir from South Africa to Llangollen in the past (2006 and 2008 and is now bringing his new choir for his 3rd competing time but this choirs first!

He explains, "As a tour like this cost a lot, we have been doing fund raising concerts and we were also lucky enough to get a flat screen TV donated to sell raffle tickets for as well as a weekend away in the beautiful Drakensberg mountains! We put together a video package of snips of the choir and posted it on YouTube asking for any donations that people might be able to help with, as well as sending it to businesses in South Africa. We have also been honoured by an invite to sing at Westminster Hall when we arrive in London for HR Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee concert, so we are very excited! I'm very excited at returning to Llangollen as I always feel at home. My Welsh is very shaky having not used it since I was 14. Mae'r wlad fy cyndadau, cyfoethog gyda cherddoriaeth, wastad deimlad yw cartref."



(Photo courtesy of Ann Ankers)