

## Board Candidate Biographies

November 2021

### **Chris Adams – Applicant for Director & Role of Vice-Chair**

*Nomination Committee preferred candidate based on role requirements*

Chris has been involved with the Eisteddfod since 1964. He acted as Steward for six festivals, and since the early 2000's has held positions in three committees: Friends (Treasurer and editor of Limelight), Finance Committee (Vice-Chair) and Publicity Committee. Chris created much of the material used in the Friends' Advocacy Programme between 2003 and 2007, including the House of Commons display, and his main contribution has been within the transformation of the work of the Eisteddfod Archive and in constructing a factually accurate record of the festival's history.

In addition to his voluntary work in Llangollen, Chris has held charitable trustee director positions with the Royal Society of Chemistry and Ruthin School. He has worked at Unilever as head of major international research departments, and formulated policy for iAc and Impact Faraday Partnership. Chris has held policy, strategy and advocacy specific roles with a number of companies across the UK and Europe, and is experienced in fundraising.

### **Lucy Morris – Applicant for Director & Role of Treasurer**

*Nomination Committee preferred candidate based on role requirements*

Lucy is an experienced finance manager and accountant, and spent most of her career in senior roles in the public sector. Lucy has recently retired and would like to use her increased availability to support the Eisteddfod in its governance.

Lucy's most recent roles include Finance Manager for Flintshire County Council, where she was responsible for the strategic and operational financial management for schools and the Education Portfolio (£112m), as well as managing of a team of 10 providing management accounting support to Flintshire schools. Before this she was Denbighshire County Councillor, and the elected member for Llangollen. As part of this role Lucy was Vice-chair of the Corporate Governance (Audit) Committee, member of the Planning Committee and member of Performance Scrutiny, as well as Chair of the Llangollen Partnership and member of the Llangollen Community Safety Committee. Lucy was also an LEA Governor Ysgol Dinas Bran.

### **John Gambles – Re-election for Director**

*As John was appointed to the Board in 2018, under the existing Articles he has served his first term and we therefore recommend him for re-election for his second term*

*NB this biography is taken from John's 2018 application:*

I did not realise when appointed Deputy Head at Dinas Brân in 1987 that working with the Eisteddfod would be an important element of the role – I was very happy to join Music & Staging. Anxious to continue my involvement when I left Dinas Brân, and after 20 years supporting the links between the school and LIME, I was delighted to become Town & Outreach Coordinator, a role that I continue to enjoy immensely. Our team look after the @ One concerts in Llangollen each day, rehearsals, performances in our local care homes, events in neighbouring towns and cities, and the big one, the Parade. We might miss out on the excitement of being on the field all day, but we gain immense satisfaction from taking the Eisteddfod out to people. On retirement in 2017, I was determined to give

more time to the Eisteddfod and was pleased to join the new Planning Group looking to assure the future of the Eisteddfod.

If elected to the Board I will bring a commitment to making the Eisteddfod experience a positive and lasting one for participants, volunteers and staff. I hope that this, together with the financial and management skills I have been able to develop professionally and as a charity trustee over many years, will be an asset to the Board.

**Nico Decourt – Applicant for Director (1 sought)**

*Nomination Committee preferred candidate based on role requirements*

Nico lives in Llangollen, and has been actively involved in community activities ever since moving here in 2001. His wife and her family are from Llangollen and their three children grew up here. Nico was involved in Llangollen Youth Football club as a coach and club chairman for 10 years between 2004 and 2015. He was a school governor at Ysgol Bryn Collen and an active member of the Llangollen Pantomime group for 13 years as actor, director, and committee member.

Nico has visited Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod and enjoyed many years of competitions and shows since moving to the UK in 1994. He was also a volunteer for 7 years helping with the Town events/Outreach team, the Stage crew and managing outside stages. Nico understands the positive impact the Eisteddfod has on the town economically and for its reputation worldwide. As such he would like to be involved in supporting such a fantastic event and play an active part in the organisation.

**John Wilcox – Applicant for Director (1 sought)**

Dr John Denis Wilcock MA(Oxon), BSc, CEng, FIET, FBCS, CITP has been a Steward at Llangollen for around 20 years and until 1997 worked at Staffordshire University as Senior Lecturer in Computing. John had a special focus on computer applications in Archaeology, and also worked on a number of projects on Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST). John has volunteered for the Scouts and served as President of the Stafford and Mid-Staffs Archaeological Society.

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**Grant Calton – External Candidate for Director – Appointed by Board**

*Under current Articles, External Director applicants are not put forward to company members for voting at the EGM. As Grant meets the role specifications, the Board have appointed him as Director. For member information his biography is included here:*

Grant has recently moved to Llangollen, and is a Partner at Ironbridge Capital, on a part-time basis. He has acquired progressive experience spanning all facets of investment and business growth and within the media and technology arena, necessitating exceptional leadership skills, underpinned by an innate ability to identify and scrutinise opportunities.

Throughout Grant's career, he has enjoyed success in a variety of areas having created his first business (a music talent agency) aged just 21. He also built an Australian music distribution business to successful sale in six years and launched and ran The Box Music TV Network in New Zealand. In his current role, Grant sources and invests in early stage opportunities in tech and media sectors for a regulated corporate advisory boutique and investment syndicate. More recently, he has co-founded Epic Impact and currently serves as Chairman there. Grant is keen to become involved in the local community, and feels that joining our Board would be an ideal opportunity to utilise his skills and make a useful contribution to a highly worthwhile organisation.