

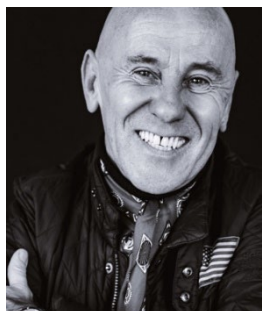
## Election of Trustees | EGM | 09 August 2023

### Personal Statements



**Katrina Boydon** (nee Broadhurst) was born and raised in Llangollen. She first attended the Eisteddfod in a pram pushed by her grandmother. As a pupil of Dinas Bran School, she became involved with the Eisteddfod selling programmes and later as a steward. On one occasion she was thrilled to find a treasure trove of flowering foxgloves next to the River Dee, which she reported to the floral committee. They harvested the flowers and used them in the stage decorations.

Katrina left Llangollen for university in 1981 and lived in London and abroad for many years pursuing a career in online media and marketing. She returned to the United Kingdom in 2014 and set up a successful wedding venue (Barnutopia) in Llansilin, near Oswestry. In 2020, she jumped at the chance to give back to the Eisteddfod as a volunteer board trustee. Now that COVID and its aftermath are behind us, she looks forward to helping this primarily volunteer-led organization thrive. She appreciates the hundreds of people who willingly dedicate days, months and years to the successful execution of the eisteddfod. Without these amazing volunteers, this important cultural event would not exist.



**Grant Calton:** I moved to Llangollen in 2021 with my wife Tanya who is from Ruthin and it has been a wonderful experience getting involved in such a unique community.

Music has been my lifelong passion - both as a musician and for some 40 years in business where I have worked extensively in the music and media industries and have relished the many challenges of establishing and building business and organisations in the UK and Australia, where I spent 15 years.

In recent years I have become a Princes Trust business mentor, working with young entrepreneurs in the music and entertainment sector and also advise a number of young businesses on development and strategy.

It has been a privilege to have been a Trustee and Board Member of such a unique organisation as the Eisteddfod for the past 20 months and I believe we have a well-aligned board and a uniquely committed team of volunteers representing the skills, passion and vision essential to take the Eisteddfod forward in a way that will maintain its' ethos and purpose whilst dealing with the undoubted challenges we have ahead.

I look forward to working with you. Diolch i chi am eich ystyriaeth.



**Iwan Llewelyn-Jones** has firmly established himself as one of the finest pianists of his generation. He has performed at many of the world's prestigious concert halls including the Wigmore Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Sydney Opera House, and St David's Hall. Iwan's commercial recordings span a wide range of classical genres, including solo French piano works entitled 'French Portraits', piano works by Franz Liszt, and a recording of contemporary Welsh piano music ('Welsh Portraits'). Recent releases include his own transcriptions of Welsh songs ('Songs without words'), and the world

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premiere of his own arrangement of Frédéric Chopin's First Piano Concerto for solo piano. Iwan appears regularly on television and radio (BBC and S4C). He has been the recipient of several awards and honours, including the Sir Geraint Evans Award in recognition of his significant contribution to Welsh music. He holds a doctorate in performance and musicology from Cardiff University and is Director of Music Performance at Bangor University.

Adnabyddir **Iwan Llewelyn-Jones** fel un o banyddion blaenllaw ei genhedlaeth. Mae wedi perfformio yn rhai o neuaddau enwocaf y byd gan gynnwys Neuadd Wigmore, Neuadd y Frenhines Elizabeth, y Leipzig Gewandhaus, Tŷ Opera Sydney, a Neuadd Dewi Sant. Mae recordiadau masnachol Iwan yn cwmpasu ystod eang o arddulliau clasurol gan gynnwys gweithiau piano Ffrengig unawdol ('French Portraits'), datganiad o weithiau Franz Liszt, a recordiad o gerddoriaeth piano gyfoes Gymraeg ('Portreadau Cymreig'). Yn ddiweddar, cyhoeddodd recordiadau o'i drawsgrifiadau o ganeuon Cymraeg ('Caneuon heb eiriau'), a'i drefniant o Concerto Piano Cyntaf Frédéric Chopin ar gyfer piano unigol. Mae Iwan yn ymddangos yn rheolaidd ar deledu a radio (BBC a S4C). Mae wedi derbyn sawl anrhydedd, gan gynnwys Gwobr Syr Geraint Evans er clod am ei gyfraniad sylweddol i gerddoriaeth Gymraeg. Mae ganddo ddoethuriaeth mewn perfformio a cherddoreg o Brifysgol Caerdydd ac mae'n Gyfarwyddwr Perfformio Cerdd ym Mhrifysgol Bangor.

I am **Eluned Ashwood** (aka Lemmy). I'm a freelance sound engineer working in the live music industry. I have been attending/working the Eisteddfod my whole life as it's part of me and is what inspired me to do the job I do today. When not working I can be found hanging out with my dog in the countryside. We are a pet therapy team with Cariad Pet Therapy and regularly visit Heddfan mental health unit as well as other places in the area. I love live music of all types and am lucky to say it's also my job. As I type this, I'm sat in a yurt in a festival field after setting up the audio for main stage and excited for what this opportunity could be for myself and the Eisteddfod.

**Reverend (Squadron Leader) Rebekah Cannon** RAF, MA, BTh (Cantab) BA(Hons), PGCE FE, PGDip

- Lived in Llangollen since 2020
- Volunteer Copyright Supervisor for the Eisteddfod
- Existing trustee of the RAF Church of England Fund (charitable fund of circa £1 million)

Having undergone classical theatre training, I worked as a professional director for ten years on multi-disciplinary, large-scale performance and events. Much of my theatre work was within international environments such as Thailand, Bali and Russia requiring communication within multi-lingual, multi-national societies. Knowledge drawn from these experiences enable a deep appreciation of the history and objectives of the Eisteddfod and the challenges such events face to be successful. My present role as an RAF Chaplain (since 2014) requires me to live and work elsewhere during the week. My work in the RAF continues to develop skills of working in the community across all spectrums of society (age, gender, religions, nationalities) both in the UK and abroad within international, coalition environments.

The qualities I believe I bring are: energy for the Arts and a passion to work collaboratively to ensure the survival and future thriving of the Eisteddfod; knowledge of large scale event management including financial, business and creative challenges; military leadership and management training (leading change implementation, innovating and optimising resourcing and performance, evaluating change impact) and an appreciation of Welsh culture and sensitivity to the needs of the community in the place I now call home.

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I am **Allison Davies** (Alli) and I have been a volunteer at the Eisteddfod since childhood. I am a member of the Marketing Committee and primarily volunteer at the Visitors' Centre offering information and support to our valued customers and friends. Whilst I was teaching at Ysgol Dinas Bran from 1979 to 2007 I was a member of the Grounds Committee with responsibility for co-ordinating our many pupil volunteers and was also Assistant Secretary.

I was delighted to be elected to the Standing Board in 2004 and during the eleven years I served I had various responsibilities as Minutes Secretary, Child Protection Officer and supported in the Chairman's Room looking after our many guests and sponsors. I was also part of a delegation who exhibited the Eisteddfod at the Smithsonian Festival in Washington DC.

As we are all sadly aware the Eisteddfod is facing very challenging times and as we move towards its 80<sup>th</sup> birthday it is important that we look forward and embrace change. I believe we should be building on the success of our history and incorporate our community strengths and tradition in future strategic planning. I would be proud to be part of the task that lies ahead of the Trustees to keep this unique and iconic festival the jewel in the Welsh and international crown.

**Shea Ferron:** I first became involved with the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod when I was 14 and from then it has become a part of me- somebody said to me that the Eisteddfod and the atmosphere that it brings to the local area runs through your veins, and 6 years on, I fully understand that feeling. Being a part of this amazing festival, it allows us all to form friendships both at a National and International level.

This year my responsibilities as a volunteer at the Eisteddfod grew, I was given the task of holding the pre-festival briefings to the many volunteers and thoroughly enjoyed meeting the diverse mix of people. Throughout the week I acted as the Stage Presenter for the Globe Stage, an experience I thoroughly enjoyed.

Alongside my involvement with the Eisteddfod, I am an active member of the Llangollen Community, being involved in many charity events with my links to the Youth and Adult Musical Societies and also becoming the youngest Town Councillor at the age of 19. I would like to think that I bring the voice of the younger people into the forum and believe that given the opportunity to become a Trustee, I would do the same here and hope to help ensure that the Eisteddfod is enjoyed by generations to come



**David Hennigan:** I am delighted to put forward my name for the Eisteddfod board. As I have done for over 30 years, I was heavily involved in this year's festival as a volunteer and performed at the festival for the first time since 1989. I am a member of the Marketing Committee and did a significant amount of work in communications.

I work in press and communications in Local Government. Until May, I was also the Cabinet Member for Corporate Communications and Governance at a Council in the East Midlands. I have now moved to Llangollen full-time.

I want to use my expertise in communications, governance and finance to assist the Eisteddfod board.

I have created and delivered successful internal and external communications plans for major councils and arts organisations for over 20 years. I would relish the chance to do more for the Eisteddfod including strengthening the links between volunteers and the staff.

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I am learning Welsh from my wife Sian and my mother-in-law Valerie Roberts with my objective being a fluent Welsh Speaker. I believe that I have the skills, experience and abilities to fulfil this vital role in the future of the Eisteddfod. Diolch am ystyried fy nghais.



**Selana Kong:** I am a British Chinese with qualifications in music education, cultural leadership, executive coaching, commercial mediation, and corporate governance. My husband, Bill Kong, and I have been volunteering in the Eisteddfod as field hosts for the past 10 years. We relocated from Hong Kong to Llangollen in 2021 and I became the joint Vice-Chair of the Competitor Committee.

Over the years, I have had many conversations with competitors from Asia and other countries about what goes on the stage and behind the scenes so competitors have had a deeper understanding about the way the Eisteddfod helps them make sense of the increasingly polarised world. We understand the competitors' journey and help them stay connected with the Eisteddfod family. In 2019, we brought the Hong Kong Welsh Male Voice Choir to the Eisteddfod to celebrate its 40th Anniversary.

As a Clore Fellow, I will help the Eisteddfod form new partnerships in the UK and beyond. As a professional coach, mediator, and consultant, I will support the Eisteddfod board resolve conflict, improve governance and negotiate deals involving multiple stakeholders. In particular, I want to help the Eisteddfod come up with strategies that leverage the unique advantage that Wales has with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015).

**Karen Price:** I have been involved with the Eisteddfod for over fifty years in one shape or another. From gathering flowers and delivering them to the floral committee with my mum, to looking after luggage and latterly being chair of competitors committee and UK competitor's liaison officer. I have a few things to bring to this amazing event - a love for what it stands for, the willingness for it to carry on for as long as possible and the hope that it will do so. The joy of seeing groups of people, not only competitors but volunteers as well, start out as strangers and end up as friends gives me a buzz like nothing else can.