Meet our Council

Tim Parker (Chair)

Tim Parker became Chair of the National Trust on 8 November 2014. He has enjoyed a long business as CEO of several well-known companies. After a spell in the Treasury as an economist, he studied at the London Business School, and soon after was appointed as general manager of a subsidiary of Thorn EMI based in Chicago. In 1989 he led the management buy-out of Kenwood, the kitchen appliances company. Subsequently Tim has been CEO of Clarks, the shoe company, Kwik-Fit, the AA, and until recently, Samsonite, where he remains Chairman. Tim has been Chairman of Channel Nine TV in Australia and the Autobar Group, Europe’s largest vending company. He has also served as a non-executive director on the Boards of Legal & General, Alliance Boots and Compass Group. He is also a director and owner of the British Pathé film archive.

Orna NiChionna (Deputy Chair)

Orna was appointed to the Council in 2013 by the Soil Association, and appointed to the Board of Trustees in the same year. She was appointed Deputy Chair in 2014. Orna takes whatever opportunities she can to alert people to the importance and fragility of the complex ecosystems that sustain us, and to the need to stop taking them for granted. She was Chair of the Soil Association from 2007 to 2013 and is still a member of its Council. She studied Electronic Engineering in Dublin and Cork, holds an MBA from Harvard Business School, and became the first female Partner in McKinsey’s London office in 1990. Her focus at McKinsey, where she spent a total of 18 years, was on consumers and retailers. She hopes and believes that her skills and experience in strategy, finance and governance, as well as her passion for protecting the environment, are helpful in her role on Council. She has been a member of the National Trust for many years and has been a Trustee of Sir John Soane’s Museum since 2012. She has served on various corporate boards since leaving McKinsey in 2001 and is currently a non-executive director of Royal Mail plc.

Steve Anderson

Steve was elected to the Council in November 2014. His professional career is in policing and more recently with Citizens Advice. He is a strong advocate of the need for the National Trust to improve its reach to younger audiences, people living with disability, those from metropolitan areas or with Black and Minority Ethnic heritage. He has been a ‘scrub-bashing’ conservation volunteer since 1992 and is a trustee for the Campaign to Protect Rural England. He is also a keen walker.
Peter Bate

Peter was appointed to the Council by the Tenants Association of the National Trust in 2013. He has worked in sales and marketing with a home improvement company in the South West of England for over 20 years. With his wife, Sally, he has lived in a Grade Two Listed National Trust cottage with roots back to the sixteenth century, on the edge of Exmoor, for nearly 25 years. They love their home, garden, coast and countryside and other shared passions include showing horses and dressage. Peter is a great football fan and was Director of Football at the 100 plus year old Minehead Town Football Club for four seasons up to the millennium year. All of these on a voluntary basis as is his work in the field of tenant/landlord relationships and dispute resolution.

Graham Bathe

Graham was appointed to the Council by the Open Spaces Society in 2018. He retired in 2011 after 40 years’ experience in access and countryside, working for government agencies, local authorities and charities in Britain and overseas. He led English Nature’s access work on the Countryside and Rights of Way Act from passage in Parliament to implementation, reconciling access and biodiversity on 500,000ha of our best wildlife habitat. From 2005-2011 he was the principal project manager leading Natural England’s work on the Commons Act. Graham has worked on nationally and internationally scarce wildlife, countryside visitor surveys, and environmental conflict resolution. He chaired the Wildlife and Access Advisory Group, has served on the National Countryside Access Forum, Defra’s Commons Act Project Board, and New Forest and Hampstead Heath committees. He is a former director of the Foundation for Common Land, and chairman of the Open Spaces Society. He has published over a dozen papers, books and book chapters.

Austin Brady

Austin was appointed to the Council by the Woodland Trust in 2018. He has more than 35 years’ experience through his work in conservation, recreation, forestry and land management in England, Scotland and Australia. He spent many years working in the public sector (with the Forestry Commission and Regional Government), but has also worked in the private sector, and has significant recent experience (approx. 6 years) at senior executive level in a large and successful UK-wide conservation charity (The Woodland Trust). This includes high level relationship management with a range of organisations, extensive media engagement, as well as policy development and political influencing at senior official and ministerial level. He has recently retired from full-time paid employment and is now pursuing ideas and opportunities, based on his experience and knowledge, to help promote the public benefits that flow from the positive interactions between nature, society and the environment.
Ian Brown

Ian was appointed to The Council by The Wildlife Trusts (TWT) in 2019. Following a 40-year career within the International Petroleum and Energy industry, he has pursued a portfolio of voluntary positions in nature conservation, education and Sport. He has been a member and Trustee of Suffolk Wildlife Trust since 1999, and more recently Chair. He was appointed a Trustee of TWT Council in 2015. He has been Chair of Governors at a senior Essex state school and more recently at a senior Suffolk state school. Sport has played a major part in Ian’s life and he established the South Suffolk Leisure Trust to manage all local government owned leisure facilities. He has been Chairman of Suffolk Hockey Association and continues to be an active VP in most local sports clubs. Living in the historic Suffolk Brett Valley with its collection of medieval woollen towns and villages, Ian has had a life-long interest in local history and its impact and influence on the community. He has been Chair of his local village meeting, a village often described as the prettiest in Suffolk and nationally noted for its annual Open Gardens Day.

Professor Valerie Brown

Val was appointed to the Council by the RSPB in 2013. Her career has been in academia, specialising in ecology and conservation, particularly in the agri-environment. She was formerly Professor of Agro-Ecology and Director of the Centre for Agri-Environmental Research (CAER) at the University of Reading. Most of Val’s early career was spent at Imperial College, the University of London, from where she moved to become Director of the CABI International Institute of Entomology in London, an inter-governmental organisation. Val has served as scientific advisor to Defra and Natural England’s agri-environment research programme for over 10 years. She has been a member of NERC Council, Defra’s Research Priorities Group and Science Advisory Group and English Nature’s Natural Sciences Advisory Group and held positions in various international organisations. She has served as Vice President of the British Ecological and the Royal Entomological Societies and was a member of the ‘Making Space for Nature’ panel. Val lives in rural Somerset and is actively involved in the work of both Somerset and Devon Wildlife Trusts.

Anne Casement

Anne was elected to the Council in 2011. Her undergraduate degree in Botany led to a long and varied career with the National Trust in Northern Ireland, firstly as a property warden and subsequently compiling management plans for all its properties. This then broadened to include the preparation of interpretative material and compilation of landscape and garden surveys. Anne’s current career as a freelance historian resulted from the opportunity to develop discoveries at Mount Stewart, County Down, into a doctoral thesis on the management of landed estates in Ulster in the mid-nineteenth century, and to become to some degree skilled as an architectural historian. Her findings have appeared in several academic journals and her 2010 book An Admiral’s Eye View. She takes an active interest in the planning-related matters at both a national and local level, particularly the success and well-being of her local Conservation Areas. She served for six years on the Historic Buildings Council (NI), and presently fulfils governance positions with the Northern Ireland Environment Link and Irish Architectural Archive. With her husband, Anne cares for a Listed Victorian house and farm in County Antrim, and treasures walking in wild places, listening to music and promoting and enjoying local produce.
Christopher Catling

Christopher was elected to the Council in 2017 and is a member of the Trust’s Advisory Group for Wales. He is Secretary (Chief Executive) of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, the body that carries out research into all aspects of Welsh heritage and that curates the National Monuments Record for Wales. He is co-chair of the Historic Wales Partnership, which brings together the leading cultural institutions in Wales to work together on collaborative projects, and chair of the Welsh Historic Places of Worship Forum. Christopher is well-known as a heritage advocate, journalist and commentator, and as the author of a number of best-selling travel guides, including the *Eyewitness Guides to Florence and Tuscany* and *Venice and the Veneto*, as well as *A Practical Handbook of Archaeology*. He is also the Director of the Marc Fitch Fund, the charity that gives grants to support academic research and publishing in the fields of history, archaeology and art and architectural history.

Robert Caudwell

Robert was appointed to the Council by the National Farmers Union in 2015. He is a delegate on the National Farmers Union council on behalf of Holland Lincolnshire county branch and chairs the HQ audit and remuneration committee. Robert has 40 years of experience of farming in South Lincolnshire on the family farm growing a range of arable and field scale horticultural crops. Robert has been involved in the construction and maintenance of private sea defences in partnership with other landowners. He has been a member of the local Internal Drainage Board and Chaired the Anglian Northern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, working with DEFRA and the Environment Agency from 1/7/2005-30/6/2015. Robert continues to campaign for improved flood defences and currently advises the National Farmers Union on flooding issues. He is a member of Witham Sailing Club and Boston Rugby Club.

Heather Clarke

Heather was appointed to the Council by the Canal and River Trust in 2018. Heather is currently Strategy, Engagement & Impact Director at the Canal & River Trust. She has executive accountability for: developing, driving & communicating the Trust’s overall strategic direction; building the Trust’s strategic plans, campaigns and evidence base; growing the supporter base and statutory and voluntary income; engaging with key policy and decision makers, partners and stakeholders at different spatial levels; as well as influencing outcome generation and placemaking through planning and design. She oversees: strategy; marketing and supporter development; policy and public affairs; insight and evidence; strategic performance and reporting; spatial and statutory planning functions; and planning and urban design consultancy functions within the Trust. Heather joined British Waterways (the predecessor to the Trust) in 1997, after working for an urban development corporation which was charged with delivering large scale area-based urban regeneration in the Black Country. A chartered town and regional planner, with a MSC in Historic Conservation and postgraduate diploma qualification in urban design, she has gained extensive experience in strategic and statutory planning, property-based urban regeneration, place-making and partnership working with the Trust. Heather is an appointed
Jane Dean

Jane was elected to the Council in 2018. She was a Commercial Panel member for the Trust and remains as a Specialist Commercial Advisor. A career in the hospitality industry with international companies Compass and Sodexo in Executive roles led her to setting up her own consultancy in 2008. Jane has several non-executive director and trustee positions, including with The National Museum for the Royal Navy and The Auckland Project. The latter is transforming Auckland Castle into a faith and heritage destination of international significance and to reinvigorating Bishop Auckland and the wider area through social and economic generation. Jane is Trustee Director of P&O Member Funds and Investment, and member of their Audit Committee. She is Non-Executive Director Trustee of Above & Beyond (Charity for six Bristol Hospitals) and Chair of their Audit Committee. Jane is married with two children and lives in Bristol. With a keen interest of the countryside, walking, triathlons and running and charity fund raising for Bristol local hospitals.

Jim Gardiner

Jim was appointed to the Council by the Royal Horticultural Society in 2018. He worked for the Royal Horticultural Society from 1988 to 2016. He was Executive Vice President, and previously Director of Horticulture and the Curator of RHS Garden Wisley. Prior to this, Jim was Curator of both the Sir Harold Hillier Garden & Arboretum in Hampshire and the City of Liverpool Botanic Gardens. He also worked and trained at The Savill Garden, Windsor Great Park, The University of Cambridge Botanic Gardens, and The Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. He is a Director of Borde Hill Garden, a Trustee of the Tree Register of the British Isles (TROBI) and serves on the IDS Scientific & Education Committee as well as a number of RHS Committees. He is a past President of Magnolia Society International, has written books including “Magnolias, A Gardener’s Guide” and the Timber Press “Encyclopaedia of Flowering Shrubs” as well as lecturing extensively on plant-related topics.

Cristina George

Cristina was elected to the Council in 2012. She was the tenant-custodian of Philipps House from 1997 to 2015 when she and her husband bought a 40-year lease on the property. They spent the first 10 years restoring the house and gardens and making the property more or less self-funding by developing a wedding business and three flats. As the first ever National Trust tenant to be elected to Council, Cristina is interested in issues surrounding the Trust’s Let Estate and has also served on a sub-committee guiding and developing the Trust’s vision for volunteering. Her early career was in fund-raising, first for The Forces Help Society; then the Royal Academy of Arts where she helped establish the Corporate Membership Scheme; and lastly The Royal College of Music where she ran the charitable appeals, business sponsorship and commercial activities as Director of Development. She went on with her husband to develop a business manufacturing reproduction oil paintings and ran a retail operation on the Fulham Road, London. An English Graduate of the University of London and mother of three, she returned to university in 2004 to qualify as a Secondary Teacher of English. She currently works at Warminster.
School (a mixed independent school), where she teaches a full range of pupils aged 11-18 and is also involved in marketing.

Sarah Green

Sarah was elected to the Council in October 2017. She has over 20 years’ experience working with business as an international lawyer with Clifford Chance and as Director of Regions for the CBI. Sarah is particularly passionate about the north of England and creating local supply chains for small businesses in rural communities. Sarah is a board member at Ryder Architecture, Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums, on the Court at Newcastle University and is Chair of the Federation of Small Business Rural Affairs Panel. Sarah is currently completing a PHD in the social impact of small businesses within communities at Durham University and spends her free time floating in the North Sea as an active member of the Craster Coastal Rowing Club.

Dr Ruth Hall

Ruth was appointed to the Council by Natural Resources Wales in 2015. Before joining NRW’s Board as a non-executive, she was a member of the Environment Agency’s Board, with community involvement and public benefit as particular aspects to champion in each of these appointments. With a professional background in health services and public health, and as a previous Chief Medical Officer for Wales, she has held long-standing interest in environmental and cultural influences on health and wellbeing. Working in this context in various settings outside as well as within the health sector, she has experience of practice and policy development and has acted as an adviser to NICE and to OFWAT. Ruth is a member of the Canal and River Trust’s All Wales Partnership, which includes involvement in heritage aspects of waterways, and a Governor of Wales’s Public Policy Institute. She chairs Wales’ National Access Forum, a land access discussion forum for relevant organisations including the National Trust, and has an honorary chair at the University of the West of England. Ruth and her family have lived in south Cheshire, on the Welsh border, for many years.

Elizabeth Hamilton

Elizabeth was appointed to the Council in 2016 by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE). With degrees in geography and ecology, she has worked and volunteered in countryside and wildlife conservation since 1977. She spent three years in Devon researching woodland history and ecology, followed by over eight years working for the Woodland Trust, initially as its first woodland management specialist and subsequently as Deputy Director. Later, as a self-employed consultant, she undertook a variety of assignments for public, private, corporate and voluntary sector clients. Following a short career break she returned to live in her native county of Hertfordshire 20 years ago and since then has worked in the family's investment property company. Elizabeth is a member of CPRE's National Trustee Board (until 2017) and was chair of the Hertfordshire branch of CPRE from 2009-14. She was on the Steering Committee of the Chilterns Special Trees and Woodlands Project and is a member of the Chilterns Local Action Group, which distributes EU grants under the LEADER programme. She writes regularly on countryside
issues for Hertfordshire Life magazine and is especially interested in promoting access to countryside close to urban areas. She has walked extensively in Hertfordshire, in the Chilterns where she lives and throughout Great Britain.

Dr Marion Harney

Marion was appointed to the Council by the Garden Historical Society in 2015. Marion is the Director of Studies, Conservation of Historic Gardens and Cultural Landscapes at the University of Bath, a Trustee of the Garden History Society and has recently been elected as Chair of their Joint Conservation committee. Marion supports a number of conservation initiatives including a joint Bath & North East Somerset and Cotswold AONB workshop to explore the possibility of Landscape Partnership’s funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the green setting of the Bath World Heritage site. In recent past she has been an invited speaker for the European Conservation Summer School, University of Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Programme and the University of Plymouth. Marion acted as advisor and researcher for an exhibition of research work held at the Refectoire des Cordeliers at the Sorbonne, Paris (2009). Marion's main interests are the history and theory of historic, designed and cultural landscapes and their conservation. She has a particular interest in eighteenth century landscape and literature and in the digital reconstruction of lost landscapes.

David Heath

David was appointed to the Council by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings in 2015. He is a conservation architect with wide-ranging experience of building repairs and maintenance and of the adaptive reuse of historic buildings. He has taught and lectured on conservation topics. He trained at Cambridge University School of Architecture, and has been a registered architect since 1975. Until May 2007, he was Chief Conservation Architect at English Heritage, where he was formerly Historic Buildings Architect for the West Midlands, and Head of the Cathedrals Team. He has had a long involvement with the AA Post-Graduate Course in The Conservation of Historic Buildings, where from 2007 until 2013 he was thesis tutor. From 2010 until September 2015 he was Chair of The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB). The Society, founded in 1877 by William Morris, is the largest, oldest and most technically expert national amenity society in the UK. The SPAB has a clear set of principles concerning the conservation and repair of historic buildings, and the accumulated practical knowledge to show how these can be put into effect. The Society also seeks to encourage excellence in new design to enrich and complement the historic environment.

Robert Hunter

Robert was appointed to the Council in 2017 by Historic Houses (formerly the Historic Houses Association). He qualified as a solicitor in Scotland and for the last 20 years has worked as private client investment manager, currently employed by Brown Shipley in Edinburgh. In the early 2000s he was a Trustee of the Wentworth Castle Trust and was part of the team that put together over £20m of funding for the restoration of South Yorkshire’s only Grade 1 landscape garden. More recently he has managed the restoration of Plumpton Rocks, a 18th Century landscape garden in North Yorkshire where Turner had his first commission in oils. He is currently chairman of the Friends of the Union Chain Bridge, a
community group formed to promote the restoration of the world’s oldest vehicular suspension bridge that crosses the Tweed near Berwick, which has recently received Heritage Lottery Fund support.

Caroline Kay (Trustee)

Caroline was appointed to the Board of Trustees in September 2018 and has been an elected member of the Council since 2017, and a member of the South West Regional Advisory Board since 2013. A National Trust member since her 20s, she is currently Chief Executive of Bath Preservation Trust, an amenity charity and membership organisation promoting the conservation and sustainable development of the World Heritage City of Bath and running 4 accredited museums in the city. Before joining Bath Preservation Trust as CEO in 2007, Caroline’s career has been largely within the public or non-profit sector, with 20 years working with cultural organisations. She started her career as a Clerk in the House of Lords, was Deputy Director of Arts and Business, and spent 12 years as a senior arts consultant including as an expert advisor assessing lottery applications for the Heritage Lottery Fund. She has a 1st Class MA from Oxford University in Psychology and Physiology and an MSc from Bristol University in Organisational Psychology. Previous non-executive roles have included Chair of the Wiltshire Music Centre, Board Member of English Touring Theatre, Aldeburgh Productions and Winchester College, and a non-executive member of the Avon, Gloucester and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority.

John Lyon

John Lyon was elected to the Council in 2013. He has spent most of his professional life in the public sector working in central government departments on legislation and policy. He was the senior official responsible for relations with the police and after that with judges and the legal profession. He was a member of the executive and Ministerial boards of two government departments. From 2008 to 2012 he was the House of Commons’ independent Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. He is currently Director of Strategy and Implementation at the Woolf Institute in Cambridge and a lay panel member in the Bar Tribunals and Adjudication Service. John has been a Trust member for coming up to 30 years. He particularly enjoys walking the hills and coastline of the West Country, following in the footsteps of Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Perhaps not so surprising since he is also a volunteer in the tea room at the Trust’s award winning Coleridge Cottage in Somerset.

Duncan Mackay

Duncan was elected to the Council in 2018. He was born into the Yorkshire mining community of Conisborough and enthused with geology by his coalminer grandfather. His father taught him to read maps, examine vernacular buildings, identify birds and, on holidays, enjoy wild landscapes chasing choughs or picking bilberries at Brimham Rocks to make pies. After studying geology and geography at Newcastle University, where he met his wife, he worked in conservation in the voluntary, public (state and local authority) and private sectors. He currently works as urban environments adviser to Natural England. The Trust’s founders have inspired him throughout his 40 year career and he loves the accessible open space freedom Trust land offers his children and wider family. Duncan
is curious about everything. He sees beauty in small things and the potentiality for any place to be better. He is the author of six books: ‘The Secret Thames’; ‘Apples, Berkshire, Cider’; ‘Eat Wild’; ‘Bizarre Berkshire’; ‘Reading, the place of the people of the Red One’; and ‘Whispers of Better Things’ (about Octavia Hill’s family). In 1996 he won the Henry Ford European Conservation Award for Heritage and in 2004 an Unlimited Award to explore the longest straight line in Britain (from Culver Point to Cape Wrath) on a folding bicycle. He is on the Canal and River Trust’s Environmental Advisory Group and a past Commodore of Henley Sailing Club. Duncan also owns a collection of lucky pebbles, a coracle and a cider-press.

**Bob Mark**

Bob was elected to the Council in 2016. He has been a member of the South West Regional Advisory Board since 2010. Bob is a Senior Executive Advisor and former Partner with Strategy&, a network company of PWC. Strategy& are global Strategy Consultants. Bob has led major strategy, transformation and organisational change projects with Strategy& in Europe and the Middle East. He was formerly a Rear Admiral in the Royal Navy, spending 17 years as a Royal Navy Hydrographic Surveyor, managing ocean and coastal survey projects in many parts of the world. He has commanded three Royal Navy survey ships and has been responsible for various aspects of UK national hydrographic and oceanographic policy. After completing a fellowship in management science, he switched focus and spent 3 years as the first Director Corporate Strategy for Defence Logistics. His final MOD post was as the Senior Naval Director at the Royal College of Defence Studies in London, which focuses on strategies and policies to promote international security, stability and prosperity. He has been Master of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators. He is a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Navigation and a Fellow and Chartered Director with the Institute of Directors. Bob and his wife have lived in the South West for over 30 years, during which time they have especially enjoyed walking its coasts. His interests include conservation, the arts and architecture.

**Emma Mee**

Emma was elected to the Council in 2017. She runs an accelerator and incubator programme supporting impact entrepreneurs and start-ups in Cambridge looking to make a positive impact on the world. She is passionate about encouraging and helping to create solutions to some of the world’s biggest challenges through innovation and entrepreneurship. She has experience of working with large corporate clients solving sustainability challenges and after 12 years at the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability, a sound understanding of climate change and renewable technologies. Emma is married, living in Cambridge with her two young children, Harvey and Ashley, and spends many weekends around the local National Trust properties playing with sticks.
**Philip Monk**

Philip was elected to the Council in 2016. As a Mountain Leader, experienced Geography teacher and Chartered Geographer he is interested in helping the public to better understand and value the intrinsic qualities of the places protected by the National Trust. In particular, he believes that better communicating the challenges and conflicts managed by the Trust – the dichotomy of protecting working landscapes – is essential to the work of the Trust, and that there are many opportunities provided by both technology and people to create the dialogues that will be needed to find solutions and protect what we value. Philip volunteers with the Trust locally and is also a keen walker, climber and cyclist. He can be found on LinkedIn and Twitter.

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**Phillip Mulligan**

Phil was appointed to the Council by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) in 2015. He has been a member of the TCV Board since 2010. Phil has also served as the Vice Chair of Defra's Civil Society Advisor Board, as a member of the Department of Transport's Motorists Forum, the Executive Committee of the World Federation of United Nations Associations and was the Vice Chair of One World Action. Phil is currently the CEO of the Landscape Institute (the professional body for landscape architects) and is a member of the Steering Group for the Professional Associations Research Network. Previously Phil has been the Executive Director of the United Nations Association UK, the CEO of Environmental Protection UK (formerly the National Society for Clean Air) and the Country Director for VSO Indonesia. Phil also led projects for Raleigh International and served on the Rainbow Warrior for Greenpeace. For many years Phil was a voluntary leader of National Trust Acorn Camps (working holidays). Phil completed PhD and Masters studies in International Development at Sussex University and undergraduate studies in Social and Political Science at Cambridge University. Now Phil spends his spare time trying to grow fruit, veg and flowers at his home on the south coast and running on the South Downs. He is married with two sons.

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**Tom Platt**

Tom was appointed to the Council by the Ramblers in 2018. He studied geography and urban design and has a particular interest in how people interact with the built environment and natural world. He has spent most of his professional life in the voluntary sector in various policy and campaign roles. He is now Director of Advocacy and Engagement for the Ramblers, leading on policy, campaigns, public affairs and communications for the charity. Tom is married with two young children and spends many weekends exploring National Trust properties and making dens. He's a keen walker and cyclist, whether it's getting around his home city of Cambridge, or out in the countryside when visiting family in the Peak District, where he grew up.
Oliver Reichardt

Oliver was elected to the Council in 2016. He is the Director of Fellowship at the RSA and Executive Lead for its work on the Economy, Enterprise and Manufacturing. Before this he was Director of Delivery and Performance at the New Forest National Park Authority, leading the authority’s work on community and visitor services, communications, special projects and operations. He previously held a variety of roles across civil society including at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations and Overseas Development Institute. He holds an MBA from Cranfield School of Management and a Masters in Global Politics. He lives in Hampshire and his hobbies include introducing his young sons to the beautiful countryside and growing a small orchard.

Miles Roberts

Miles was appointed to the Council by the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (now The Arts Society) in 2017. He was an elected member of the Board of NADFAS for the maximum permitted six years and is a member of his local society’s Church Recording team. He is a Chartered Accountant and a former partner in KPMG in London. Since retiring he has been inter alia a non-executive director of Ecclesiastical Insurance and CCLA Investment Management, the Treasurer of Guildford Cathedral and chairman of various audit committees, including that of The Church Commissioners. He was Treasurer of The Silver Society for about 15 years and is on the Board of a local medical charity. He was also part of a small village team that built five courtyard gardens at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Paul Roberts

Paul was elected to the Council in November 2015. He has enjoyed a wide-ranging commercial career in the technology and retail sectors, including strategic and operational leadership roles spanning channel and product management, technology, business development and marketing. He has also spent time mentoring and advising start-ups. A keen hill walker and climber, Paul is passionate about conserving and spreading the enjoyment of our wild spaces. He matches this with an academic background in history and archaeology through a degree in Classics from Oxford University. He is a non-executive director of Limalimo Enterprises Ltd, which runs an eco-lodge in the Simien Mountains national park in Ethiopia.

Nick Stace (Trustee)

Nick was appointed to the Board of Trustees in September 2017 and has been an elected member of the Council since 2015. He is the UK CEO of The Prince’s Trust, as well as being a Board member of the Financial Conduct Authority and Chair of Governors at the Royal Agricultural University. Nick has spent many years leading consumer membership organisations in the UK at Which?, Australia at Choice, for European consumer umbrella body BEUC, and global lobbying and campaigning organisation Consumers’ International. Nick spends as much time as possible in the great outdoors with his young family and is passionate about young people reconnecting with nature. Nick has seen the National Trust as a member, visiting
Liz was elected to the Council in 2018 and has been a member of the National Trust for over 20 years. She has enjoyed a wide ranging career. Having worked for some years for a Trade Association within the transport sector she became a sole trader. This allowed her the flexibility to serve as a Magistrate, a Non-Executive of the newly formed East Staffs Primary Care Trust and as an elected Borough and later County Councillor. During her time as a Councillor she served in various Cabinet Positions, before standing down in 2015. Elizabeth was instrumental in Tutbury having the first Teen Zone Play Area in East Staffordshire and during her time as Chairman of the Tutbury in Bloom Team the town received two Silver and two Gold Awards. Since taking early retirement in 2016 she has been a volunteer at Sudbury Hall, in both the shop as well as helping with book conservation. Elizabeth is a member of a local Community Choir, is both a volunteer and Governor at a local Primary School and enjoys reading, gardening, tapestry, the occasional bike ride and most importantly spending time with her two granddaughters.

Professor David Stocker

David was appointed to the Council by the Council for British Archaeology in 2017. He has worked in the heritage sector since 1978. He has held posts with heritage charities, English Heritage (1986-2012) and the Heritage Lottery Fund where he currently sits on their East Midlands Committee. David has held many voluntary roles within British Archaeology including Director of the BAA, Chair of the IFA Buildings Group, Vice-President of the Society for Medieval Archaeology, Trustee of the CBA, Chair of the Society for Church Archaeology, Trustee of the Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology, and President of the Lincoln Record Society. David has also been an Honorary Fellow in Archaeology at University of York and is currently Honorary Visiting Professor of Medieval Studies at the University of Leeds. David's research interests lie mostly within medieval archaeology (buildings, settlement and landscape), on which he has published over 130 academic reports and papers and is the author/co-author of 16 books. David lives in a former farmhouse in Lincolnshire where he is active in a number of heritage charities whilst learning to play the recorder.

Nichola Tasker

Nichola was appointed to the Council by English Heritage in 2019. A conservation architect with dual qualifications in archaeology, she is currently Head of National Projects at EH. Nichola has advised on range of historic estates during her time in architectural practice including sites belonging to the National Trust, the Churches Conservation Trust, the Landmark Trust and private clients. She has worked as client for major capital investment and conservation programmes at both Historic Royal Palaces and English Heritage. Nichola is a Trustee of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, the Drake Trust (a conservation education charity) and the Bristol Urban Design Forum for Bristol City Council. She lives near Bristol with her husband and daughter.
Guy Trehane

Guy was elected to the Council in 2017. He has been Managing Director of Hampreston Manor Farm Ltd since 1978. This was a family business farming 600 acres in Dorset milking 280 dairy cows and growing arable crops. For six years between leaving College and returning to the family business Guy worked overseas in the oil industry in South East Asia and agriculture in Japan and Argentina. In 1989 Guy was awarded a Nuffield Scholarship from an overseas study on the implications of the Uruguay Round of GATT (World Trade Organisation) for European Agriculture. His final employment was lecturing in Animal Husbandry, Gwebi College, Zimbabwe. Guy has been a former Chairman of Maize Growers Association of United Kingdom and Ireland. Guy enjoys Music, visual art, international and domestic rural affairs, appreciating landscape and history through cycling, walking and gardening.

Phil Treleven

Phil was appointed to the Council by the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award in 2019. He began his career in HM Diplomatic Service, serving in Bangladesh, Australia and Namibia. He then entered the private sector, helping build Energis Communications, a start-up subsidiary of the National Grid. He went on to work in regional government, at the South East England Development Agency, managing social and economic inclusion projects in Portsmouth. He joined the Duke of Edinburgh in 2005 as the 50th Anniversary Project Manager and in 2007 took up the post of Director for the South West Region. He became Director of UK Services in June 2010. Phil sat as a Justice of the Peace on the Wiltshire bench from 2009 to 2011.

Elizabeth Whitehouse

Elizabeth was elected to the Council in 2016. She worked as a mathematics teacher and then as an employment, discrimination and human rights solicitor, at the Equal Opportunities Commission, the British Medical Association and as a freelance trainer. Alongside her legal practice Elizabeth held a number of appointments on the boards of educational establishments and a NHS Trust and was a member of a Medical Research Ethics Committee. Elizabeth is currently a charity trustee, a member of the Members Allowances Panel for a unitary Council and a National Trust volunteer. A Trust member since the 1970s, she has a lifelong love of the countryside and wild places.

Professor John Wibberley

John was appointed to the Council by the Royal Agricultural Society of England in 2014. He graduated from the University of Reading in agriculture in 1968, researched in soil microbiology, agronomy and agricultural extension, and is a Nuffield Farming Scholar having studied survival of family-worked dairy farms in Europe, USA and Israel. Previously Head of Agriculture at The Royal Agricultural College Cirencester (to 1989), John is an independent agriculture and resource management consultant, author and communicator, working in over 35 countries in all continents, especially Africa incorporating integral mission work. He was a Visiting Fellow in International Rural Development at the University of Reading (1994-2004) and Adjunct Professor in Rural Extension in the University of Guelph, Canada (1995-98), John has been
a Visiting Professor (Comparative Agriculture & Rural Extension) at The Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester since 1999. He was Chairman of the UK Farm Crisis Network (now the Farming Community Network) (1998-2003). He co-ordinates the Fellowship scheme of the UK Royal Agricultural Societies and has been a Fellow (FRAgS) since 1987. He serves as a Secretary of State Appointee on Exmoor National Park Board (2008-date), chairs the Exmoor Hill Farm Project (2009-date) and works widely with farmers’ groups in the UK and internationally. John has wide and on-going Board experience and is, with his wife, a longstanding and keen National Trust member.

Our external members

Our external members support the Council’s nominations committees in its various election and appointments. Each of them are experienced in making senior non-executive appointments and are themselves appointed for a maximum of five years.

James Bigwood

James was appointed as an External Member to the Trust’s Council in January 2018. James is Director of HR and Support Services at Sustrans, a Charity that specialises in the development walking and cycling infrastructure projects throughout the UK. He has 15 years’ experience in Change Management and Human Resources and holds Masters Degrees in both disciplines. He has previously worked for Marie Curie, Deloitte, and The House of Commons before joining Sustrans in 2015. He is a passionate advocate of best practice in recruitment and has significant experience of designing and managing Executive level appointments processes. In his spare time James likes to collect vinyl, paint and ride his bike. He loves working for Sustrans and believes strongly in the importance of the voluntary sector and the benefits it offers to society as a whole. He is excited to have the opportunity to offer his skills and experience to the National Trust.

Karen McArthur

Karen was appointed as an External member to the Trust in January 2018. Karen is an experienced NED with a broad portfolio of roles built around balancing commercial, social and ethical issues. She has undertaken a number of Board roles including Chair and Vice Chair, and Chair of Audit, Nominations & Remunerations Committees. She has worked with the Chartered Banker Professional Standard Board overseeing the monitoring of the wider professional standards activity, at Severn Trent leading on promoting the needs of vulnerable customers, at the Pension Quality Mark, developing standards, at HS2 focusing on challenging environmental, social and economic performance and at the social enterprise 3SC challenging the membership interests within a changing funding landscape. She has also spent 10 years within corporate responsibility in both a global and local remit, advocating for ethical and responsible positions to be taken to a range of commercial matters. Karen has been responsible for recruiting personnel for a range of roles including CEOs for social enterprises and charities, Board Members and Trustees as well as members of Nomination and Remuneration Committees.