

Surrey Hills Society Annual General Meeting October 2011 Members Standing for Appointment as Trustees

Kenneth Bare

I joined the Surrey Hills Society in November 2008 shortly after retiring in my mid-fifties. After a few months, I offered my services as a more active member and was invited to participate in the management team – initially as an observer and then as a full member following the AGM. During my time with the Society, I have developed a presentation which I take out to external organisations to promote the Surrey Hills and the Society. I have also taken an active role in increasing the visibility of the Society through my work on the PR and Promotion Sub-Committee, including the establishment of a high quality gazebo and display which we take to numerous public events within the county.

Prior to my retirement, I had two careers with blue chip companies – firstly as a scientist and latterly as a Health, Safety & Environment adviser/manager. My leisure hours included long walks in the Surrey Hills to clear the mind and enjoy the scenery. This pastime continues with the added benefit that the photographs which I take can now find a use in Society publications, presentations and other promotional items.

Graham Butler

I have been a member of the Management Committee setting up the Society and have chaired the Membership Sub-Committee. In addition I have been a member of the Events and Projects Sub-Committees. I am keen to see the Society develop an information role particularly to inform members and the general public of access opportunities in the Surrey Hills.

In other roles within Surrey I am a member of the Surrey Countryside Access Forum and a member of the Surrey Rural Partnership. Over the last 25 years I have held Area positions in the Ramblers Surrey Area including Area Secretary for 17 years which, included setting up several local groups.

Previously for 32 years I was working for two multi-national oil companies in various locations and a variety of roles, but mainly handling procurement contracts and running computer systems until taking early retirement to concentrate on voluntary work within the Ramblers and other similar organisations.

Diane Cooper

I first became involved at the Society's inaugural meeting at Denbies when many people offered support in various ways to help get the Society off the ground. I started to attend the PR Sub Committee; a role I still do and have now become Editor of the member newsletter three times a year.

My 'day job' is fairly well linked to the aims of the Society as I work for Surrey County Council's Countryside service as a PR & Promotions Officer. The Surrey Hills Partnership is part of this service.

My background before this was less connected to countryside matters but nevertheless in a PR role. I lived for many years in my younger days in the far east in Hong Kong and then Singapore and in that time worked in hotel PR. The years in between were the 'child rearing' years!

I've always had an interest in the environment and its conservation and one of my main hobbies is to get out there and enjoy our countryside and discover the delights of living in the Surrey Hills.

Nigel Davenport

I have served as a member of the Management Committee for the Surrey Hills Society since its inception. In parallel, I have held the appointment of CEO of Surrey Wildlife Trust since May 2006. I have a background of charity and NGO management in the Wildlife, Countryside and Animal Welfare sectors, backed by an experience of wide range of voluntary appointments in a variety of organisations.

Previously, I served as an Army Officer for over 20 years holding a variety of 'Operational' and MoD 'Staff' appointments in Germany, Gibraltar, Cyprus and Northern Ireland. Leaving the Army in 1993 as a Major, I was appointed as the Director of Equine Welfare at The Blue Cross Animal Welfare and Veterinary Charity.

I have a particular interest in protecting and promoting the environmental aspects of the Surrey Hills and its beauty and wildlife. I also sit as a member of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Board.

Terry Driscoll

After a spell in the Army I went to agricultural college and then worked on a farm for a number of years. The sale of the farm resulted in a career change when I entered the family business, retailing. With the advent of computers, my career path was to link the use of technology to department stores including Selfridges, House of Fraser and latterly, Bentalls.

Having retired, I served as a Councillor on Effingham Parish Council for a period of ten years, during which time I was also the Treasurer and Trustee for the local playing fields charity. One day a week I work as an estate volunteer at the National Trust Polesden Lacey.

Christine Howard

I have been a serving Parish Councillor for Wonersh for 18 years and in that time have had the pleasure of working with the Surrey Hills Board on numerous projects. I served for 4 years as a Borough Councillor for Waverley and served on the Surrey Hills Board during Neil Maltby's time as Chairman. I am passionate about the Surrey Hills AONB and was delighted to be able to find another way to volunteer to help it. I have served as a member of the Management Committee since its inception and am the Society's Vice Chairman; I am also Chairman of the PR and Promotion Sub-Committee.

I am currently the Chairman of the Surrey Association of Parish and Town Councils, a Trustee for Surrey Community Action and a member of the Surrey Rural Partnership. I am currently Business and Tourism Manager for Guildford Borough Council and love being able to combine my work with my passion for supporting the countryside and in particular the AONB. I have a commercial background, two grown up daughters and a passion for gardening, walking and environmental issues.

Richard Pitts

Four years ago at age 54 I took early retirement and became a volunteer for one day a week at the Surrey Hills Office at Warren Farm Barns, providing administrative support for the Surrey Hills Board. When the Society was formed I joined the Membership Sub-Committee, became Membership Secretary and set up the membership database and various aspects of membership administration. I spend 1-2 days a week on Society business mainly on membership matters. I am an existing Trustee and a member of the Management Committee.

I have lived with my wife in Ashted, just north of the Surrey Hills, for over 20 years and am also a volunteer on Ashted Common National Nature Reserve. I began my career as an analytical chemist in a Government laboratory eventually becoming a senior policy adviser on health and biotechnology issues at what was the Office of Science and Innovation. I enjoy walking and am a keen fruit and vegetable grower, having been self-sufficient in the latter for many years.

Jo Tollow

Having obtained a Degree in Modern Languages at Bristol University, I studied Accountancy, becoming an ACA - a fully qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales in 2000. I worked with Accountancy firms in London, Paris and Guildford, becoming a Director with responsibility for a portfolio of 40 clients, including companies operating in the service sector, oil and gas exploration, motor and technology industries as well as not-for-profit entities, including independent schools.

I enjoy time with my family, including my one-year-old daughter; also skiing, swimming, European cinema, foreign travel - and cycling and walking in the Surrey Hills.