

Surrey Hills Society Annual General Meeting October 2013

Members Standing for Appointment as Trustees

Kenneth (Ken) 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.

Paul Bettinson

I have spent my whole career to date within the financial services industry, specialising in governance, risk management and finance. I am currently Executive Director at a Japanese investment bank based in the City.

Previous roles have included Chief Operating Officer of Equities at a Swiss investment bank, and Chief Financial Officer at a brokerage firm. I qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Price Waterhouse and am a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

I have lived within the Surrey Hills since moving to the area 18 years ago, and particularly enjoy taking in the breath-taking views whilst running on (and up!) Reigate Hill and Box Hill. My wife and I also enjoy exploring the Surrey Hills with our young daughter.

Stella Cantor

I was born in Dorking and have lived here in the Surrey Hills for most of my life. So I was keen to join the organisation set up to help protect and promote this beautiful area. I had recently 'retired' early and so had some spare time to offer.

I first joined the events committee and took on organising one or two events. I was then invited to attend the management committee and was present when the membership secretary announced his wish to stand down. The last job of my working life was as an IT teacher and so I had some pertinent skills which meant that before I knew what had happened, I had taken over the membership administration of the Society.

My other voluntary job is with Girlguiding and I am active as a commissioner and leader. I consider myself fortunate to be able to offer time to two organisations in whose work I truly believe and to join with other committed volunteers in doing so.

Sarah Jane Chimbwandira

After completing a first degree in Zoology at Royal Holloway College I decided to fulfil an ambition I had long had and became a VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) when I was posted as a secondary school science teacher in Malawi.

On my return to the UK I completed a Masters degree in Environmental Management and began volunteering with Surrey County Council in the Countryside Service, working at both Newlands Corner Visitor Centre and the Semaphore Tower at Ockham. In time SCC offered me a full time role within the Countryside Service and following the ground-breaking transfer of the SCC Countryside Service to Surrey Wildlife Trust in May 2002 I transferred to SWT.

Ten years later I manage the Biodiversity, Evidence & Policy department for the Trust where I oversee the planning advisory service, ecological consultancy, local record centre and Living Landscapes team as well as

being involved in the development of Surrey Nature Partnership. I am a Member of the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (I currently serve on the Advisory Forum) as well as a Chartered Environmentalist.

Alessandra (Aly) Holly

I have worked for the National Trust for almost ten years and in that time have been lucky to work at some of the region's most beautiful places such as Claremont Landscape Garden, Polesden Lacey and Sissinghurst Castle. As Visitor Experience Manager for the Surrey Hills Estate, I help to look after and promote several places including Box Hill, Leith Hill and Hindhead Commons and the Devil's Punch Bowl.

I was very pleased to be asked to work with the Surrey Hills Society in 2012 as I have a great interest in this beautiful part of the country, having lived in it for most of my life.

Christine (Chris) Howard

I have been a serving Parish Councillor for Wondersh 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.

I have served as a member of the Management Committee since the inception of the Society and am now the Society's Chairman.

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 have a commercial background, two grown up daughters and a passion for gardening, walking and environmental issues.

Joanne (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.

Robert (Rob) Tong

Having graduated from the University of Exeter with a degree in Engineering I worked for 10 years for a software consultancy. I was involved in a number of projects across various domains including aviation, financial services and criminal justice. In 2008 I set up my own web and app design company, recently building an iPhone app for Go Surrey which served as a guide for the Olympic road cycling around Surrey.

I have always lived in Surrey and have explored many of the hills (and pubs) on my mountain bike. The Surrey Hills AONB is wonderful countryside so I became involved in the Society in 2011 to help people make the most of the area and protect the landscape for future generations.