



Surrey Hills Society Annual General Meeting November 2014

To appoint and reappoint Trustees of the Society (no fewer than 5 nor more than 12):

The following are willing to continue as Trustees: Ken Bare, Paul Bettinson, Stella Cantor, Sarah Jane Chimbwandira, Alessandra Holly, Christine Howard (Chairman) and Rob Tong

Kenneth (Ken) Bare

I joined the Surrey Hills Society in November 2008 shortly after retiring in my mid-fifties. I was invited to join the Management Team and have developed the public facing activities of the Society by giving presentations to external groups and as the person responsible for our trailer and gazebo presence at many public events throughout the year.

As the lead charity for the Surrey Hills Wood Fair, I was co-opted onto its organising team in their first year. This connection has grown with over time and has led to my appointment to the board of Surrey Hills Enterprises (SHE) Community Interest Company. SHE is now responsible for the Wood Fair and I am the chair of the organising team.

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 nearly 20 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 am the current serving Chairman for the Surrey Hills Society, having served on the Management Committee since its inception. I have been a Parish Councillor for 19 years and am Vice President of the Surrey Association of Local Councils. I served as a Borough Councillor for Waverley Borough Council for four years where I was delegated to represent the Borough at the Surrey Hills Partnership Board. This is where I first learnt about this special protected landscape, met Neil Maltby, our President, and became a lifelong supporter and protector of this area. The creation of the Surrey Hills Society was a new way for me and many other residents of the area to become more involved with the environment in which we all live.

I have also become a Director of the newly formed Surrey Hills Enterprise CIC- a social enterprise company designed to engage and support the businesses and farmers of the area. I am also Strategic Director for Visit Surrey CIC, the social enterprise company engaged in supporting and promoting Tourism for the County of Surrey.

Until recently, I was the Business and Tourism Manager for Guildford Borough Council but two years ago took the decision to work part time as a consultant to allow me to have more time to focus on the Surrey Hills. Originally, I had a commercial background in the computer industry, but after the birth of my two daughters became involved in local government. This was originally as a volunteer, then a councillor and finally as an Officer working for Waverley Borough Council. In my free time I enjoy gardening, walking, environmental issues and performing in Gilbert and Sullivan Operettas.

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.