



MEET OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES



LIZ WOODS, CHAIR

Liz was elected as a Trustee in May 2019, and appointed as Chair in 2022. She first became involved in The Arts Society in 2013 when she became the inaugural Chair of West Cornwall Arts Society. She served as the Head of Training at the Arts Society from 2016 to 2019 and during that time she met over 150 new Arts Society Chairs when they attended the two-day induction course that she devised and facilitated. Liz initially trained as a solicitor but soon moved to an academic role. She ran a BA Business Studies course for a number of years and eventually became Head of Academic Standards at Bradford College. She then moved to the voluntary sector and became a Programme Director for Common Purpose where she ran an educational programme for senior managers from the public, private and voluntary sectors. After her retirement to Cornwall, Liz was the Chair of the management committee of the Morrab Library in Penzance, a charitable trust that runs an independent library and photographic archive. She is a keen gardener and reader and enjoys all the arts, particularly music and painting.



ALISON WATSON, VICE CHAIR

Alison was elected to the Trustee Board in 2021. She lives in West London and is the Inaugural Chair of The Arts Society Chiswick as well as a Study Course Organiser for The Greater London Area. Training as a paediatric nurse she rose to be a Clinical Director at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, before setting up and leading a successful child health consultancy for over 20 years, working with the NHS and charities both in the UK and overseas.

For over 20 years she has volunteered as a magistrate, now specialising in family work.

Her lifelong love of the arts has been indulged and enriched by membership of The Arts Society. She is keen to share her enthusiasm and to make sure that the organisation, through its Areas and Societies, is inclusive, flexible, and ready to meet new challenges. Her background makes her personable, a strong networker and advocate; skills she hopes to bring to the Board. Her personal interests include: all the arts, with a special love of opera and travel.



TONY STRACHAN, TREASURER

Tony was co-opted to the Board as Treasurer in March 2021. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Governance Institute and spent his career with the Bank of England, working in various roles in London before becoming the Bank's Agent in the North West (1995-2003) and subsequently in Scotland (2003-10). He holds an MBA from the Open University and an honorary doctorate from Heriot-Watt University. Tony has served on the Courts of three Universities, mostly recently as a Deputy Chair; on the Aberdeen Harbour Board (2013-18); as well as on the Board of the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester, (1997-2003), amongst many other boards and committees, both public sector and charitable. He has been a member of three Arts Societies during his travels and has been both a Society Treasurer and Area Treasurer for Scotland and Northern Ireland. In his role as Treasurer, he chairs the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and the two subsidiary trading companies, as well as sitting on the Nominations and Remuneration Committee. Tony lives in Scotland and enjoys the local countryside, reading and the arts, especially music (he plays the oboe).



CAROLINE COLEMAN

Caroline was elected as a Trustee in 2021. She has held numerous roles within the organisation including Society Chair of The Arts Society Guildford Evening and Chair of the Area Support team for West Surrey. Caroline resides in Guildford and works as a freelance gardener. In her role as Trustee, she draws on her previous experiences with several local community organisations and schools. Caroline believes in the importance of questioning generally held beliefs and understands the value in differing opinions. She is passionate about The Arts Society and the need to have close connections between the Societies and the Board. Caroline is delighted to be a part of the Board as the organisation adapts to the future and all its challenges and rewards.



JENNIFER HARDING-EDGAR

Jennifer was first elected as a Trustee in 2018, and is currently serving her second term having been re-elected in 2021. She has been a member of the Society in Edinburgh for over 20 years. Before she retired she worked as a dentist in London, Australia and Edinburgh, combining work in NHS and Private practices, hospitals, and community clinics. She was closely involved with initiatives focusing on teaching and mentoring young dentists and also served on the committee of The Royal Odonto-Chirurgical Society of Scotland, the oldest dental society in the world. Her roles in The Arts Society have included Society Chairman, member of the Committee for the Scottish AGM, and ACE Scotland & N Ireland. Jennifer hopes her love of networking and enthusiasm for bringing the Arts to a wider audience, together with leadership skills developed during her career, and determination to make things happen, will result in a meaningful contribution to the Trustee Board as it takes The Arts Society forward at this exciting time.



CAROLYN (ROLY) TREVOR-JONES

Roly was elected to the board of Trustees in June 2020 having just completed three years as West Midlands Area Chairman. She is currently serving her second term having been re-elected in 2023.

Her interest in the Arts Society began almost 20 years ago when she joined Shrewsbury NADFAS. She soon found herself on the Committee and was surprised just how much she enjoyed being involved. From Programme Secretary to Vice Chair and then Chairman, it was a natural progression and one in which she felt well supported throughout. She enjoys bringing people together with a common purpose and hopes this thorough Arts Society background will hold her in good stead as a Trustee.

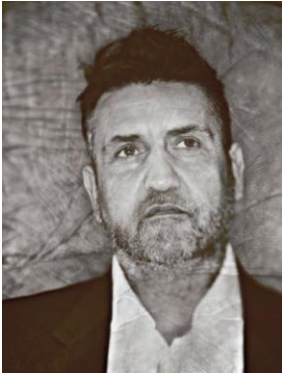
After university Roly completed a Fine Arts diploma at Sotheby's and so began her lifelong interest in the Decorative Arts. She has a background in Public Relations, both in the auction world and the museum sector, and has always believed that communication is key. She is keen that all voluntary roles should be both rewarding and realistic, and this will be a focus for her during her time as a Trustee.

Roly lives in Shropshire with her husband, Hugh, and they have four adult children.



DAVID TAYLOR

David was elected as a Trustee in 2021. Having lived most of his working life in London, David now lives in Cornwall. Originally an academic, teaching and researching at The University of Newcastle upon Tyne, David changed to become a Chartered Psychologist working as a consultant, developing and coaching people and teams within public sector, government and global businesses. Latterly he worked for Visa in their Business School, implementing strategic change programmes in multi-cultural environments, but which always put people at the heart of change. Since joining The Arts Society, and as Chair of The Arts Society Truro, David has seen the power it has to inspire, delight and enrich the lives of members, and he is increasingly interested in the role of learning about the arts, as well as volunteering and promoting the arts in society, in supporting our wellbeing and making us happier, healthier, people. He believes his skills and learned experience from the academic and business worlds can support The Arts Society in achieving diversity and sustainable growth for all elements of The Arts Society, and to ensure we are strategically prepared for current and future challenges.



CHRIS WARD

Chris joined the Trustee Board as a co-opted Trustee in 2022. An accomplished marketer, Chris has spent over thirty-five years in the advertising, service innovation, data driven personal communications industry in the UK and USA. He has worked in global network companies, start-ups, scale-ups and has set up and built three companies: an integrated agency, a product and design innovation company and a creative agency. Over his career Chris has moved from Business director to Board director to founder and CEO/owner of companies that have been at the forefront of marketing, technology and data innovation. He has been responsible for business planning, proposition planning, customer acquisition, CRM and retention, the architecture and launch of new divisions and companies, the recruitment and management of staff, marketing, PR, company reputation management and of course the delivery of a strong P&L. Chris very much enjoys working with an organisation with passion and a desire to change, as change is the lifeblood of success and he thrives on being part of a dynamic and progressive team. He is a member of The Arts Society Greenwich.



JO WARD

Jo was elected as a Trustee in May 2023, having previously been Chair of the Area Support Team for Mainland Europe Area for five years and prior to that Programme Secretary and Chair of The Arts Society de la Frontera in Southern Spain.

Born and brought up in London, then moving to Surrey to raise her family, Jo moved to Spain with her husband in 2000 where she undertook an Open University course in Humanities with Art History and Creative Writing, being awarded a BA (Honours) on completion. This led to Jo becoming involved with local Arts Societies and to a career as a journalist and writer, working for magazines along the Costa del Sol and in Gibraltar.

Jo also has a background in PR and as a social media co-ordinator and content creator, working for clients by setting content strategy and driving engagement on their social platforms. Jo enjoys painting and crafting, belongs to two book clubs and a wine and tapas group and enjoys travelling, especially back to the UK where her three daughters and seven grandchildren live. She is also an aspiring novelist and hopes to find the time to finish one of her 'works in progress' in the future.