



MEET OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES



JULIE GOLDSMITH, CHAIR

Julie became a Trustee in 2017 and was elected Chair of The Arts Society in May 2018. During a successful career in Publishing, Julie was Senior Vice President of Egmont, and CEO of its UK publishing companies. In 2003 she was appointed M.D of the publishing division of the Royal Horticultural Society. Towards the end of her career she took on interim posts notably as Marketing and Membership Director of the RHS, Director of Knowledge Management at the IET and finally as CEO of law firm Roythornes. Since retirement, Julie has served as a Non-Executive Director of Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust and has been a Lay Member of the Lord Chancellors Advisory Committee on JPs for Cambridgeshire. She believes that her experience in media, membership organisations, governance and strategy will be of value to the Board. Julie lives in Harrogate. She loves good wine, good food, good company and exploring the varied world of the Arts.



ROGER DUCKWORTH, VICE CHAIR

Roger joined the Board in May 2017 and was appointed as Vice Chair on 6th February 2019. He was born and lives in Lancashire, and has been extensively involved in the activities of The Arts Society for many years. He qualified as an accountant and has spent most of his working life in general management within industry. He was Chief Executive of Tensar International Ltd and led the buyout of a company which became the world leader in its field. Roger has also been a Trustee of Opera North and the Manchester Jazz Festival. He was on the board of a 7000 employee NHS Trust, and is currently Chairman of the Brian Mercer Charitable Trust. With his background Roger brings an analytical mind and a wide knowledge of change management in several different sectors to his new role within The Arts Society. He has a great passion for the arts, and relaxes by walking and trekking worldwide.



JOHN PARKINSON, TREASURER

John was co-opted to the Board as the Treasurer in 2018. John is a qualified Chartered Accountant and spent most of his career working in Financial Services advising private clients and charities on the investment of their portfolios. He was a main board member of Fairmount group which was taken over by Brown Shipley in 2001. He retired in 2003. He and his wife moved to Lytham St Annes in 2009 and joined the new formed Arts Society Fylde becoming Treasurer in 2010, before becoming the Area Treasurer in 2014. He is the Chairman and a Trustee of two grant making charities namely Dowager Countess Eleanor Peel Trust and The Church of England Clergy Stipend Trust. In his role as Treasurer he chairs The Audit committee, The Investment Committee, The Boards of the two trading subsidiaries and is a member of the Remuneration Committee. John enjoys holidays, cycling, golf and playing social bridge.



JULIA CHARLTON-WEEDY

Julia Charlton-Weedy lives in Sheriff Hutton, near York, and was elected a Trustee in 2016. She spent 24 years following her husband's Army career – moving house 14 times. Once finally settled back in Yorkshire she enrolled as a mature student at York University, completing a BA Hons followed by an MA in History of Art. She has been a member of The Arts Society, York (where her mother was a Founder Member) for about 30 years. She joined the Committee, and then served as Chairman of the Society from 2012-15. Her academic background underlines her knowledge and broad interest in the field of the Arts. Previously, as vice-chairman of a substantial charity, she assisted in a complete overhaul of the governance, giving her invaluable experience as a Trustee. She has very broad life experience, and is passionate about seeing that the Charity is well run for the widest possible audience.



ALISON GALVIN-WRIGHT

Alison was elected as a Trustee in May 2014 and is in her second phase of trusteeship. She was a successful, professional fundraiser for twenty five years and worked with clients and volunteers producing programmes of fundraising events and Lottery bids, and was a Member of the Institute of Charity Fundraising Managers. Alison has been a past Society Chairman, Area Chairman of Wessex and a Member of the Societies Support Team. She currently chairs the Grants Committee and is a member of several working groups. Alison has a wealth of governance experience and brings strong strategic planning skills to the Board. She has excellent organisational capabilities and likes meeting and listening to people. Alison passionately believes in the ideals of The Arts Society and is keen to encourage others to discover and expand their knowledge of the arts. She enjoys the theatre, choral singing, bridge and reading.



JENNIFER HARDING-EDGAR

Jennifer became a Trustee in 2018, having been a member of the Society in Edinburgh for 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.



PAUL HEWITT

Paul was co-opted to the Board of Trustees in February 2019 to advise on marketing and membership matters. He spent the first half of his corporate career working in the luxury brands sector in Asia. For the last 18 years he was part of the senior management team transforming Christie's with a particular focus on new client acquisition and improving engagement with clients. He lives in the High Weald of Kent and enjoys all aspects of the Arts, spending time with family & friends and travelling.



CAROLINE HOULDEN

An experienced digital manager holding an MSC in computer science. Caroline has a strong background in marketing, IT development and digital projects in both commercial and charitable sectors gained over 20 years.

Currently the Digital Marketing Manager of Fordway (an IT consultancy and cloud service provider), having previously spent several years working at the Royal Horticultural Society).



PETER KIRRAGE

Peter Kirrage was born in Thailand, educated in the United Kingdom and spent his working life as an International Banker for 37 years in Europe, The Middle East and Far East. During that time he sat on the Committees and Boards (some of which he chaired) of a wide range of charities and public service organisations. He retired to Southern Spain in 2004 and soon joined his local Arts Society. He quickly joined the Committee and shortly after became its Chairman. During his four year tenure of the Chair, he became very involved in assisting with the establishment of new Arts Societies in nearby Gibraltar and Benahavís. He was then elected to be the Arts Society's Area Chairman for a three year term before putting himself forward for election to the Trustee Board in May 2018. Peter is keen to bring his extensive managerial, financial and international experience to assist The Arts Society as it seeks to grow in new directions and especially in its plans to expand internationally.



BEN MOORHEAD

A solicitor with 35 years continuous private practice experience within the City of London, as a commercial lawyer with speciality in sports law, charity law and business enterprises. Currently a partner at Hewitson Moorhead and holder of several non-executive positions. Ben was appointed Deputy Lieutenant for Kent in 2015.



JACQUI VARLEY

Jacqui was appointed a Trustee in May 2017, having been part of the Arts Society national training team and a Member of the East Anglia Area Committee. Her career as a Head of Adult Learning was predominantly in the Arts Sector and across government. As a member of the Sector Skills Forum she helped to develop skills for the cultural sector. Jacqui's charity work with disadvantaged and disabled young people, actively encouraging their participation in art and drama, has given her practical knowledge of how this involvement enriches lives. Jacqui is passionate about creating an environment where people, of all ages and from all backgrounds have the opportunity to enjoy and experience the arts, be it painting, music or drama. She hopes to use her skills and experience to help The Arts Society develop strategies to increase both awareness and active participation in the Arts across all ages and communities.



LIZ WOODS

Liz was elected as a Trustee in May 2019. 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.