

Trustees standing for election at the AGM

John Reeves – standing for re-election for a three-year term

I have been a member of DEI since 2011 and was elected as a Trustee in October 2017 when I became Honorary Treasurer. For the last four years I have been a DEI volunteer tour guide, supporting DEI's public access initiative and encouraging new memberships.

Since early 2005 I have worked each week as a volunteer room guide and tour guide for the National Trust. I hold a BA (Hons) in Economics from Reading University and a MA in Business Administration from the University of Bath. I am a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

For 10 years I was a Senior Principal in a regional manager role in the Civil Service in the South West, managing 200 people in nine locations. I have extensive leadership, recruitment and personnel management experience which I have brought to the trustee role and I have worked as a project and programme manager, having a PRINCE2 qualification.

I have a passion for nineteenth century architecture, design and its preservation. I am a big supporter of the DEI building and library improvement projects to help sustain and conserve the DEI going forward. I am a member of the Victorian Society and a Life Friend of RAMM.

My other interests include gardening, gardens, travelling, theatre and drawing.

Derek Knight – standing for re-election for a three-year term

I joined the DEI in 2015 and became a library volunteer for two years until 2017 when I was elected both as a trustee and the Hon. Secretary of the DEI. Until my retirement, I worked as a professional librarian, latterly as head of the public library service in Hertfordshire where I was responsible for the management of 60+ libraries and 750 staff through a long period of transformational change. I have had experience of working in a voluntary capacity with other charitable organisations, notably as a trustee of the Bushey Citizens Advice Bureaux, with the Harrow Museum and Heritage Centre, as Treasurer of the Friends of Exmouth Library and Watchkeeper and Secretary with Exmouth Coastwatch.

Over the last three years I have used my experience of managing organisational change to support the work of the DEI Leadership Team and, in this time, we have successfully developed the Institution structure to meet its strategic aims and charitable objects. The *Next Chapter* project offers us the opportunity to create a sustainable future for the Institution and, if re-elected, I look forward to continuing working with fellow trustees, our dedicated staff and volunteers in order to achieve this.

Ruth O'Neale - standing for election for a three-year term

Ruth O'Neale became a member of the DEI in 2019. Ruth has a degree in Ancient History and a MA in Medieval studies with a particular interest in the lives of medieval religious women.

Ruth works in programme and project management and has worked on technology and data projects for the Met Office, private sector companies and various education and children services for 13 years and is currently working for an innovative learning technology company based in Exeter. Ruth has a long history of volunteering and community engagement and since moving to Devon in 2011 has been a school governor, involved in the St Thomas allotment association and most recently in St Thomas Food Fight (free community meals).

Max Goodison - standing for election for a three-year term

My family and I moved from the south east to the West Country in 2009, originally to Tavistock and, since 2015, central Exeter. We have been members of the DEI for around 2 years and really appreciate the role it plays in promoting the arts, literature and history to a very wide audience and in so many ways.

I have spent most of my career in the financial services sector, in senior leadership roles for banking and insurance organisations and also technology, education & training, and consultancy providers to the sector. I was also chief executive of an economic development agency in East Sussex. I now have a part-time academic role at the University of Exeter Business School, where I lecture on degree apprenticeship programmes leading to the award of BSc in Applied Finance.

I have always had a strong interest in the arts and was previously a trustee of the De La Warr Pavilion arts centre in East Sussex during a period of major redevelopment funded by £8m of grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Arts Council England, and the local authorities of East Sussex.

I have a BA in Modern Languages from Durham University; a BSc in Financial Services from Manchester UMIST; an MBA from the Cass Business School, London; and I am a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Bankers.

Imogen Dudley - standing for election for a one-year term

Dr Imogene Dudley is a resident of Exeter and has a lifelong enthusiasm for history and heritage. She has a first-class degree in History from Swansea University, a Master's degree in Medieval History from the University of Oxford, and a PhD in seventeenth-century economic and social history from the University of Exeter. Her doctoral thesis investigated women's labour in household and farm accounts across Devon and Somerset, and she has conducted further research into the Courtenay family in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

Imogene is passionate about the conservation of local heritage and engaging the public with historical stories, and has volunteered for Castle Drogo, St Nicholas' Priory and the South-West Federation of Heritage. Having been a student member of the Devon and Exeter Institute for the past few years, she has always enjoyed spending time and studying in this atmospheric building and is looking forward to working towards its preservation and ensuring that its stories continue to be told.