



Eden Valley Museum Trust

Registered Charity 10655466

Officers and Members of the Eden Valley Executive Committee 2019-2020

Governance 2019/2020

Chairman	Lee Ward
Deputy Chair	Alan Layland
Hon. Treasurer	Diane Banks
Hon. Secretary	Joan Varley
Members	Paul Byrne
	Richard Johnson
	Anna McMillan (Curatorial Chair)
	Alan Smart OBE

Executive member nominees willing to stand for election / re-election for the year 2020-2021

Chairman	Lee Ward
Deputy Chair	Alan Layland
Hon. Treasurer	Diane Banks
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Members	Paul Byrne
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Present Executive Committee Members willing to stand for 2020-2021

In alphabetical order

Diane Banks

Diane has extensive board experience, both exec and non-exec, as well as experience in arts fundraising and policy. In her day job she is Chief Executive of Soho-based literary, broadcast and speaking agency Northbank Talent Management, which she arrived at via a 20 year career in publishing at Penguin Books, Hodder & Stoughton, the British Museum Press and then as a literary agent. She is a non-executive director of Westminster think tank Bright Blue, sits on the advisory board of the Conservative Arts & Creative Industries Network, facilitating dialogue between creative industry practitioners and government, and she recently served on the development board of the Ovalhouse Theatre, tasked with successfully raising £11m to move to a new home in Brixton through a combination of grants and private donations. Previous experience in the cultural sector includes serving on the National Trust Thames & Solent Regional Committee.

Paul Byrne (co-opted to the Executive Committee on 14th January 2020)

I have lived in Edenbridge for the last 18 years and retired 6 years ago after working for 45 years in IT. I have been volunteering at the Museum for approximately 3 years and have also had the roles of House Manager and Treasurer in that time. I volunteer for another local charity, Friends of Limpsfield Common and I am a member of the Edenbridge Parish Council Emergency Committee and a member of the town's speedwatch and daffodil planting groups (who knew there was one!). My main leisure activities involve my grandchildren (7), theatre going, art galleries, reading and hiking. I have a keen interest in history in general and hope to continue serving on the Museum's Executive Committee allowing me to contribute in keeping the Museum available to all.

Richard Johnson (co-opted to the Executive Committee on 19th September 2020)

I have lived in Edenbridge since 1961. I am married to Julie. We have one son and two grandsons. I attended both primary and secondary schools in Edenbridge. The first 3 years of my working life were spent at Tonbridge as a draughtsman with a large water treatment company, Wallace and Tiernan. In a change of direction from engineering I was employed at Fox and Manwaring as a negotiator dealing primarily with house sales for a further 3 years. Reverting to engineering I remained with this discipline until my retirement, firstly at Francis Barker and Son (approx. 1 year) manufacturing mainly military compasses and then Harvard Apparatus (approx. 32 years) ending there as Production Manager. Responsible for manufacturing and factoring teaching equipment for medical students through to products for drug discovery supplying the major companies around the globe. After its' closure and relocation to Cambridge I was employed by a small sub-contract engineering company back

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over at Tonbridge where I remained for a further five years until my retirement, somewhat ironically supplying machined parts for both Wallace and Tiernan and Harvard! Away from work I joined the Edenbridge Rifle Club at Hever and was a member there for over 30 years ending my time as chairman. I was fortunate enough to have represented the County for approximately 12 years. I joined the Kent Fire and Rescue service in 1981 and served exclusively at Edenbridge Fire Station for 25 years as a retained fireman running concurrently with job at Harvard Apparatus. During my time there I was approached to join the civilian committee of a newly formed Air Training Corps Squadron in the Town. I remained on the committee for just over 25 years until the sad closure of the squadron approx. five years ago, the final ten years serving as chairman. Regarding the museum my wife and I have been involved since the museum catalyst history exhibition at Edenbridge Primary School organised by (we think) the local council regarding the 100th anniversary of town and parish councils?? My contribution was a display charting the history of the local fire service. Since then we both have been involved helping out with catering at various launches and events and in my case, an exhibition of the local fire service during WWII and later on a small exhibition commemorating 100 years of the Royal Air Force in 2018.

Cllr. Alan Layland

I have been a resident of Edenbridge for the last 51 years and have been a Town Councillor since 2012 and a Sevenoaks District Councillor since 2014. I have supported the museum for many years regarding issues of Health and Safety and the installation of the recently commissioned lighting system. I am a trustee of: Edenbridge Volunteer Drivers; The Norman Foundation; The Public Recreation Ground; Blossoms Park Recreation Ground. Chairman of Edenbridge Town Council. Elected member for Edenbridge North and East Ward. Elected member for Sevenoaks District Council for Edenbridge South and West Ward. Should I be elected as a trustee I will continue to support the museum in any way I can.

Anna McMillan

I have been a member of the Edenbridge Historical Society since 1976 and I was also editor of the first "Aspects of Edenbridge" a series of books which printed interesting facts about Edenbridge and District. I was a Town Councillor. I was in at the inception of the Eden Valley Museum. I am very proud of our Museum and I am very grateful to all the volunteers and people who have helped make it happen. I ran the Brownies for 30 years and was County Commissioner. I was a founder member of the Citizens Advice Bureau in Edenbridge and Manager of the CAB in Westerham, Edenbridge and Swanley for 25 years. I was also a member of the panel for Employment Tribunals and for Child Support Appeals.

Cllr Alan Smart OBE

I was born in 1961 at Chiswell Farm, Marsh Green, Edenbridge, where my parents farmed. I



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went to school at Spitals Cross Secondary Modern School (as it then was) in Edenbridge, before taking a BA Honours Degree in English Literature and History of Art. Since 1986 I have worked for the British Council both in the UK and overseas. Initially spending seven years teaching English in Egypt, I subsequently went on to be the British Council's Country Director and Cultural Attaché in Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Burma (Myanmar), Palestine and Afghanistan. I am currently working at the British Council's head office, commuting to London where I am the Country Director Iran. I was awarded an OBE for my work in 2010. My main interests are history (both local and international), literature and art. I volunteer as a Steward for the Eden Valley Museum. I live in Edenbridge and have always considered it home even when working overseas. I remain passionate about my hometown.

Joan Varley BSc Econ. (Hons)

I served in the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) / Women's Royal Naval Reserve (WRNR) for more than 15 years, retiring as a Petty Office Wren RS (Radio Supervisor) in 1991. In parallel to my service in the WRNR I worked at the University of Portsmouth in various library and information posts for 21 years, culminating in managing a specialised fisheries economics library and acting as UK Desk Officer for several West African research projects. I subsequently became a UN Consultant working for the Support Unit for International Fisheries and Aquatic Research (SIFAR) based at the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Rome, Italy, developing and managing an online fisheries information system and working on numerous smaller projects for various UK, European and International development agencies. I have been a member of National, European and International aquatic library associations, serving on the Board of the European Association and as President from 2000 to 2003. On moving to Edenbridge and subsequently taking early retirement I became involved with both the Edenbridge Homeworkers Group and Edenbridge Rotary Club and applied successfully for a part time post at the Eden Valley Museum. I served as Deputy Curator at the Museum from July 2007 to October 2011 and have continued as a volunteer managing the museum's digital archive, co-editing the annual newsletter and curating numerous exhibitions. I also served as the Community News Correspondent for the Edenbridge Courier from 2009 to 2017.

Lee Ward has a BSc in politics and is currently a civil servant in the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy working on the UK's energy policy, currently focusing on the UK's oil and gas reserves. In his spare time, he is an active member of the Edenbridge Players and cares about local causes. He is looking to serve his third full year on the museum's Executive Committee.