



Eden Valley Museum Trust

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Registered Charity 1209505

Members standing for election to serve on the Board of Trustees 2026-2027

JEAN FRENCH

I have been a volunteer since 2018. As a retired schoolteacher I was asked to join the Executive Committee because of my education background. I run activities for children in the school holidays linking them to the various displays in the museum where possible. We aim to develop skills and educate the children by providing an enjoyable activity in a safe environment. I have been involved in group visits to the museum, as well as outreach activities and talks at the Edenbridge Memorial Centre. I help put on displays in the museum and currently provide Edenbridge Magazine with copy for each issue. I am one of the editors of the Heritage magazine and I steward a couple of times each month.

ELIN HANCOCK

Having completed a degree in history and also completing my school-work experience at the museum, I have a vested interest in this institution. The museum's transformative journey presents a unique opportunity to engage with the local community and inspire a new generation of supporters, which is crucial for ensuring its continued relevance as a cherished local institution. The Eden Valley's overlapping history and colourful past make it a fascinating area and one I am passionate about keeping an interest in.

RICHARD SEYMOUR

Richard has various ancestral connections to the Eden Valley and is actively involved in historical research. As a barrister he specialised in professional negligence and building and construction work, became Q.C. in 1991 and appointed Senior Circuit Judge of the Technology and Construction Court in 2000. In 2005 he moved to sit as a Judge of the High Court in the Queen's Bench Division in the Royal Courts of Justice. He retired in 2015. Richard has a variety of volunteering experience, most recently at the Combined Military Services Museum in Maldon, Essex. Richard is currently a director of West Kent Mediation.

ALAN SMART

I wish to continue as Trustee with the Museum. I bring strong management skills, particularly in communications and people management, but with an ability to be hands on and involved as a volunteer. Over many years of experience in challenging environments overseas I have extensive experience in crisis management, conflict resolution and strategic thinking. I have a passion for the history and wellbeing of our communities in the Eden Valley.

MIKE STOCKDALE

I have held senior positions within retail, ecommerce, publishing and consultancy focussed on business improvement. I have now become involved in volunteering roles as Chair of Trustees for Crockham Hill Village Hall, as a local councillor on Edenbridge Town Council and a volunteer for Wealden Sailability. I have a degree in History from LSE and very much support the need for us to understand and learn from our local history.

RAY TAYLOR

I have been a volunteer for some years with the Museum and would like to continue a member of the Executive Committee. My work experience, being a director of an international shipping company, an underwriting member at Lloyds and, of course co-owning and running a business with my late wife for 13 years employing 34 staff, gives me the confidence to continue in my role of Trustee.

JOAN VARLEY

I have been involved in the museum for more than 18 years in various capacities as Deputy Curator, as a volunteer and part of the Curatorial Team, as a Trustee and Hon. Secretary, and in recent years as a Trustee and Hon. Treasurer. Despite now living further away on the south coast, I would like to continue as a Trustee and Hon. Treasurer working remotely and attending Trustee meetings either in person or remotely via Zoom and along with the continuing support of the small team of Trustees and volunteers who assist in managing the museum accounts.