

## Annie Brown - **National Appointment**



Annie was appointed to the SDNPA in July 2020. She is a third generation family farmer on the South Downs, with a formal education in agriculture, business management and marketing. She lives in the Cuckmere valley on her husband's farm, and has overseen the strategic development of her family farm at Truleigh Hill since the inception of the National Park. She picked up the reins with mother and sister when her father died, and has overseen the delivery of a highly complex environmental stewardship scheme. The business has gained local and national recognition for its achievements in making space for nature while producing food. She feels passionately that the South Downs is a working landscape and that

traditional mixed farming practices – creating a mosaic of growing crops, grazing mixed livestock, wildlife corridors & field enclosures – contribute to the open rolling views that signify what we know and love about this landscape.

She is the lead farmer in the Eastern South Downs Farmer Cluster and is actively working with a group of farmers, land managers and stakeholders between Eastbourne and the Adur to improve the local natural environment at a landscape scale through co-operation and knowledge exchange. Based on the principle of "bigger, better, more joined up" this approach to land management is coming into focus with the development of the new Environmental Land Management Scheme.

She is vice Chair of the CLA South East committee, an active member of the local community in the Cuckmere, the NFU, the local agricultural society & the Local Access Forum for both Brighton & Hove City Council and the National Park and is keen to explore opportunities to reach out – to visitors to the Park, influencers, academics & researchers. Engagement is not traditionally in the tool box of many farmers, but never has there been a more important time to communicate beyond the farm gate, bridging the gap between urban and rural, working landscape and visitor, the importance of health and wellbeing, and an understanding of where our food comes from.

The structure of farming on the South Downs is fragile, and she is keen to champion the voice of the farmer and working landscape, to help protect and enhance the wealth of Natural Capital in the Park.

## Tim Burr **National Appointment**



Tim was appointed to the SDNPA in July 2020. He has lived at Watersfield in the National Park with his wife Gillian since 2006. Tim was first elected to the SDNPA in June 2017 as a West Sussex Parish Member, and served on the five-Member Task and Finish Group that led the review of the Partnership Management Plan. Unsuccessful in the 2019 Parish Member election he lost his place as a SDNPA Member, but re-applied in 2020 and was reappointed as a Secretary of State Member. This persistence reflects a strong commitment

to the National Park, and especially to broadening its appeal across all sectors of the community.

Interests include British prehistory, in which Tim graduated from Southampton University post-retirement; cultivating Australian flora; and managing his 28 acres of National Park woodland. He was a volunteer on the SDNPA's Secrets of the High Woods project and, as an occasional stargazer, strongly supports its Dark Skies initiative.

Tim's career was in public finance, over more than 40 years, mainly in HM Treasury but with two spells in the Cabinet Office and concluding in the National Audit Office, ultimately as Comptroller and Auditor General. Reflecting this career path, he was – and now is again – a member of the Authority's Policy and Resources Committee.

Melanie was appointed to the SDNPA in July 2020. She was born and raised in Lewes, and grew up surrounded by the South Downs. Her love for the area has not diminished, and even though her career in education has drawn her to other parts of the country, she has always returned to Sussex.

A graduate of the University of Oxford and a trained teacher, Melanie has had a long and varied career in education which included secondary school and further education – working within and across colleges in Sussex. She has held posts with national responsibility in the Learning and Skills Council and Ofsted – both of which required regular contact with a variety of government departments and agencies.

Latterly, Melanie was Principal and Chief Executive of Sussex Downs College until she retired in 2015. She was a member of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership and worked closely with local and county councils, employers and community groups to promote high quality further education for young people and adults in East Sussex.

She now lives in West Sussex and is a keen walker, artist and writer.... inspired by the South Downs of course!

□ [Maggie Jones, Baroness Jones of Whitchurch](#)

### **National Appointment**



Maggie was appointed to the SDNPA in July 2020. She is a member of the House of Lords and opposition spokesperson on environment, food and farming issues. She is President of the Friends of the South Downs charity and is a keen walker.

Maggie also Chairs the Board of Rothamsted Enterprises, which is part of the globally renowned Agricultural Research Institute which is finding new ways to harness nature to improve the sustainability of food production. Maggie is a Sussex University graduate and has lived in Hove for over 20 years where she has a much loved

allotment.

Her background is as a union official for the trade union, UNISON. She also has a background as a housing campaigner and chaired one of the UK's biggest Housing Associations for a number of years.

Maggie has a strong belief in the importance of a good diet in improving health and wellbeing, and was the Chair of the School Food Trust which first implemented nutritional standards for all school meals.

#### Tim Whale **National Appointment**



Stephen was appointed to the SDNPA in July 2020. He studied Economics & Politics at the University of Birmingham, after which he studied Law at the College of Law and the Inns of Court School of Law. He was Called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1999. Stephen is a senior practising Barrister, specialising in all aspects of planning law plus a range of rural law issues (including rights of way, village greens, felling licences and commons).

He frequently advises private clients, local authorities, residents' groups and Secretaries of State, as well as representing them at public inquiries and in the courts. Stephen is a member of the Agricultural Law Association, the Planning & Environment Bar Association and CPRE's Legal Panel. He writes the chapter on planning enforcement in the Encyclopedia of Planning Law.

Originally from Yorkshire, Stephen lives with his family in the South Downs National Park. He is Countryside Champion for the Ashford Hangers National Nature Reserve near Petersfield. Stephen's interests include golf, country pursuits and the Scottish Highlands.

#### [Melanie Hunt](#)

Melanie was appointed to the SDNPA in July 2020. She was born and raised in Lewes, and grew up surrounded by the South Downs. Her love for the area has not diminished, and even though her career in education has drawn her to other parts of the country, she has always returned to Sussex.

A graduate of the University of Oxford and a trained teacher, Melanie has had a long and varied career in education which included secondary school and further education – working within and across colleges in Sussex. She has held posts with national responsibility in the Learning and Skills Council and Ofsted – both of which required regular contact with a variety of government departments and agencies.

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