



The countryside charity
Sussex

Trustees & Officers Standing for Appointment and Re-appointment

Libby Alexander was brought up in West Sussex and after many years of travel and living abroad returned to her roots and now lives in Chichester. She is concerned that the inherent culture, strong communities, and unique environment that encapsulates both the South Downs National Park and the rich low lying sea plain, interspersed with the estuaries of the many harbours of the AONB, is sadly under attack.

Libby became involved in the local Parish Council and was put forward as a prospective District Councillor not long after returning to Chichester. Whilst just missing out on the position, the experience afforded Libby an insight into how much was needed to raise awareness of the encroaching harms to the local environment. It was then that the idea to form an environmental group took shape and Libby created SOSCA, Save Our South Coast Alliance.

Libby's arts degree has been hugely powerful in her understanding of how crucial environments are to the well-being and functioning of society. Working at the United Nations in Rome, then CPRE HQ in London and other positions including an award-winning PR company in London has helped her form a strong belief that the corporate and political worlds have to be influenced towards the long-term benefit of mankind - most especially the environment.

Rodney Chambers spent his teenage years in rural Gloucestershire. He had a career in teaching (including a spell in Tanzania) and Community Education. On early retirement in 1992, he fulfilled a long-held ambition to move to Chichester – a characteristic Sussex town with a close relationship with its surrounding countryside.

He joined CPRE Sussex in 2006 and was very soon appointed Vice Chairman for West Sussex. Then, when Roy Haycock was forced by ill-health to retire from the Chair, Rodney became acting Chair until confirmed in the post at the 2008 AGM. During his time in office Rodney did his best to guide the Branch through a period of considerable change, some of it internal but much of it as a result of changes in planning law and the advent of localism.

Unfortunately, Rodney's eyesight eventually deteriorated to such an extent that he decided to step down from the Chair but continues to serve the Branch as Vice President. Rodney is a member of the Executive Committee of the Chichester Society which works to protect the urban environment of Chichester.

David Johnson was brought up on the edge of the Green Belt and North Downs, playing out on its commons and woods. Although going to school in central London, he became a 'Young Farmer' and worked on a small farm's dairy, its horse drawn milk float and potato picking.

David's varied career led him to work with the Irish cheese and 'real' food producers, to develop effective public, health and welfare services and encourage equal opportunities across rural and urban settings. In recent years he has taught on international MBAs in China, Japan, South America and Europe on organisational and management development and led leadership programmes in the UK and Ireland.

In the 1990s David moved from Wimbledon to rural East Sussex where he kept horses on a few acres, and subsequently, to Shoreham where he lives beside the River Adur. David has worked with voluntary organisations since the 1980s, currently as a junior school governor in Brighton; he helped set up Shoreham Wordfest, sings in a community choir and volunteers at the Ropetackle Arts Centre. He describes himself as 'semi-retired'.



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A long-time country lover and user, his anxiety at the Government's pressure for building at any cost, led him to join CPRE Sussex. He now seeks to build strong alliances with campaigners across Sussex, attract new volunteers and members from among both rural and urban country users and renew the sense of countryside stewardship in the wider society.

Monty Larkin has lived in Sussex for the whole of his life - he possesses a deep, life-long passion for the beautiful Sussex countryside. He spent 42 years working on behalf of landscape, wildlife conservation and the nurturing of cultural interest within Sussex and has strived hard to encourage a richer biodiversity of wildlife, achieved through both practical wildlife conservation, talks and collaborating with farmers, until finally retiring in 2017. Monty has self-published three books including *'Seven Sisters – The History Behind The View'*.

Monty's strengths stem from having had both a managerial and hands-on, long career. He holds an in-depth knowledge of many aspects of the countryside - both past and present, accrued over the years and enjoys a respected reputation for his expertise, having been able to apply his knowledge to benefit the countryside and the influencing of issues. He has a wide-ranging understanding of farmers requirements and their constraints developed through his work.

Monty has been closely involved with several bio-diverse countryside properties, including managing the 700 acre iconic Seven Sisters Country Park, as Area Field Officer for the former Sussex Downs Conservation Board and also responsible for the East Sussex Dutch Elm Disease Control programme, caring for the well-being of 53K elm trees between Brighton and Eastbourne including the towns of Lewes, Seaford and Newhaven. Monty also set-up and managed the Sussex Pony Grazing & Conservation Trust, this eventually totalling five herds consisting of 85 Exmoor free-living ponies, these assisting in the management of chalk and acid grasslands and heathland SSSIs.

Margaret Moore's career was spent in the education of the deaf, in England and in India, ending with the Headship of Hamilton Lodge School for Deaf Children in Brighton.

Following retirement in 1995, Margaret took the three-year Diploma in Landscape Studies in the Extra Mural Department of Sussex University. Here she met Dr Peter Brandon and Dr Geoffrey Mead, both leaders in all matters of the countryside and, under their inspiring influence, she gravitated to the CPRE, where she became the editor of the Sussex Review for nine years. Since then she has been privileged to be one of the judges and organisers in the CPRE Sussex Countryside Awards Scheme.

Prof Dan Osborn is founding Editor-in-Chief of UCL Open Environment a multi-disciplinary academic journal publishing across many aspects of the open environment and that on which we live. His own research interests concern how people's wellbeing relates to their environment and its natural resources.

Dan works closely with the Sussex Community Development Association (SCDA) and offers advice on the environment in SCDA's work with Sussex communities. He is a member of the Sussex Nature partnership's Health and Wellbeing Sub-Group.

Dan is President of the South Downs Network, a grouping of Sussex and Hampshire environment bodies with interests in the South Downs National Park.

Dan has worked with businesses, charities, national and local government in the UK and with the European Commission and various Parliamentary groups on a range of legislative and best practice issues.



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Much of this work has involved protecting the health and wellbeing people and the environment and ensuring that resources, such as water, are used more sustainably. Partnership working to co-produce knowledge and use it is an underlying theme of much of this work.

Dr Roger F Smith FRGS is a Sussex-born activist who has campaigned since 1996 against development that is inappropriate and destructive of communities, countryside and the natural environment. Educated Jesus Oxford (DPhil, and PGCE) and the University of Southampton; variously a professional archaeologist, Royal Air Force Officer, arctic explorer and expedition leader and planner, farm worker, conservation officer, company secretary, and Trustee CPRE Sussex and Protect Sussex Group chair. He is very concerned for the future of our precious countryside and landscapes.

Deborah Speirs was born in Horsham, Sussex and returned two years ago to live in this beautiful county. She is involved as a volunteer in a number of organisations and works part-time for the Co-op Local Community Fund supporting local good causes. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening and walking her dog in the West Sussex countryside.

Deborah is a fundraising professional having spent nearly 30 years managing multiple stakeholder relationship teams in major donor, corporate, trust, events and community fundraising. She has direct experience of development and fundraising in health and medical research charities including British Heart Foundation, Alzheimer's Disease International and RNID; environmental charity WWF, international development charity Hope and Homes for Children and children's charities including Rainbow Trust and Naomi House children's hospice as well as independent school foundations.

Deborah continues to use her experience of fundraising in a voluntary capacity both as a mentor to younger charity professionals and as a trustee.

Corinne Stuart, for the last 13 years, has specialised in working with membership organisations including the Royal Institution and the Countryside Alliance.

A natural partnership builder, she is accomplished in member engagement, retention, and recruitment and has a consistent track record of delivering outstanding results for the organisations she works with. Corinne is currently Chief Executive of the Society of Homeopaths, responsible for the strategic direction and financial health of the Society.

Corinne grew up in Kent and East Sussex moving back to Hurst Green from Surrey in 2019. She was born with a love of the countryside, her father, grandparents and great-grandparents all farming in the Heathfield area. Remembering the number and diversity of wildlife in the countryside of her childhood, the destruction of hedgerows and natural habitat for insects, bats and bees, and their alarming decline, is of great concern to her. As is the building over large areas of woodland and meadows, enjoyed for generations but lost to our children and grandchildren.

By offering her skills to CPRE Sussex she hopes to be of help in growing support across Sussex, delivering on even more projects to protect the countryside today and into the future.



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Dr Jill Sutcliffe was born in London within reach of 9 Ancient Woodlands though it was some time before she understood this! She had Scottish and Cornish grandparents so became aware early on of the experiences of the more distant parts of the UK. She attended the Henrietta Barnett School in north London, a voluntary-aided state grammar school for girls founded in 1911 by the social reformer, community planner and pioneer of early female education, Dame Henrietta Octavia Weston Barnett.

Her first degree was in Combined Sciences as the Environment hadn't yet reached the curriculum! Her first job marked out the course she would follow working with student environment groups and supporting their work with newsletters, conferences and liaison. She took part in the first botanical survey of Cornwall evaluating the importance of the sites, setting up the junior branch of the Wildlife Trust and coordinating the local branches.

At last she had both the time and the Environment courses she could apply for – namely the masters and PhD in Environmental Technology at Imperial College. That was followed by working to coordinate the botanical work for 10 years of English Nature now named Natural England.

Alongside her working life she has taken part in a variety of voluntary groups – opening a Women's Refuge, chairing the Manhood Peninsula FOE group, co-founding the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group, encouraging local people to take an active interest in their local environment and chairing KKWG, the Keep Kirdford and Wisborough Green group – opposing an application for “fracking” and becoming the first village in the UK to succeed in getting the application turned down. She co-chairs the Office for Nuclear Regulation, ONR-NGO Forum.

Katherine Sykes grew up on a dairy farm on the Surrey/Sussex border and has a deep and abiding love of cows, fields and trees. Having spent most of her working life in London, she returned to Sussex a few years ago and is now happily living in the South Downs, which she views as the green lungs of the south of England. Katherine is a keen walker, avid gardener and strongly believes in preserving our nation's beautiful countryside, rivers and seas for all to enjoy.

Professionally, she specialises in strategic and crisis communications, PR, public affairs, policy and campaigns and has spent over 20 years delivering board and senior level counsel to FTSE 100 companies, trade associations, membership organisations and charities, particularly in the health and food sectors. She was previously a City lawyer specialising in product litigation, regulation and public policy. She is an experienced director, non-executive director and trustee.