

PRESS RELEASE

20 February 2020

RESULTS OF CANAL & RIVER TRUST COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Canal & River Trust has announced the results of the voting to elect new representatives to the charity's Council. Each elected candidate will take up their voluntary post for four years starting in March 2020.

The elected Council representatives are as follows:

Private boating:

Tim Allen
Helen Hutt
Dave Mendes da Costa
Phil Prettyman

Business boating:

Heather Duncan
Carl Onens

Volunteers:

Ian McCarthy
David Williams

Employees:

John Ellis

Stella Ridgway has been appointed as the new representative for Friends of the Trust and David Kent the new angling representative, both appointed without election as they were the sole candidates.

Allan Leighton, chair of the Canal & River Trust, said: "I would like to thank all those who put themselves forward for election, and all those who voted for them. I'd also like to thank the outgoing Council members who have contributed to the success of the Trust these past years.

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"The Council plays an important part in the governance of the Trust and brings new voices, ideas and perspectives to our work. As we continue our work to bring to life our 2,000 miles of waterways, I very much look forward to working with the new representatives when they join us in March."

The Council is made up of elected and independently nominated members including the chairs of the six regional advisory boards and a representative from the Trust's Welsh Bwrdd. Together they reflect the wide appeal of the waterways – from boating and angling through to walking and conservation. The Council is responsible for the appointment of trustees. It debates important points of principle to provide guidance and perspective from different stakeholders, suggesting issues of concern for the trustees to pursue, and acts as a sounding board for the trustees in relation to the development of proposals and strategy.

All new appointees will commence their new terms from 26 March 2020 for four years. More information on the results can be found here: <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/about-us/how-we-are-run/the-council/council-elections-2019-20>

ENDS

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Notes to editors:

The manifestos of the elected Council members.

Private Boating:

Tim Allen

I'm a Narrowboater, having owned (with my wife), our 55' semi trad since December 1997. We are marina moored for the winter months in Calcutt Boats, close to the junction of the GUC with the South Oxford canal. We spend a short part of every summer on the Thames at Marlow. We operate an RYA training centre from the boat and hold a Roving Traders Licence for this purpose. I'm an active member of Thrupp Canal Cruising Club, and also a member of the Royal Yachting Association Inland Navigation Panel, which helps to influence decisions made by all the navigation authorities. My previous experience as a senior manager in industry for 30 years, combined with my experience working in the volunteer driven, charitable status environment of the Scout Association for almost as many years, puts me in a good position to bring value to the Governing Council of the charity. I firmly believe that the future of our canal networks needs to

be driven forward by boaters and this I would do through the broad experience that I would bring to the table as part of the Canal & River Trust Governing Council.

Helen Hutt

I have been cruising, single-handed, for the last 14 years with my narrowboat Pipistrelle. I've covered almost all the navigable waterways in England and Wales (including the Wash, the Severn and the Ribble Link) and, on hire boats, some in Scotland and Ireland. I hope to do the River Medway in 2020 and the Rochdale Canal (sometime!). Last year I acquired a mooring at Evesham, on the River Avon, but I plan to continue cruising Canal & River Trust waterways for many years to come. If elected I will campaign, as a liveaboard boater, for those things which I consider essential for an enjoyable life afloat. That includes, for example, sufficient and well-maintained facilities, well-maintained and dedicated visitor moorings, trouble-free lock gear, good water supplies and so on – whilst accepting that Canal & River Trust faces immense challenges to keep the network in good condition, and that boaters themselves can help in many ways. Canal & River Trust emphasises its commitment to boaters and I strongly believe that we boaters have much to offer Canal & River Trust, in terms of on-the-water experience. I have been Honorary Treasurer/Council Member of NABO for five years and am a member of the RBOA, IWA, GOBA and ANT.

Dave Mendes da Costa

I have been living on my narrowboat Stellar for six years and have had the pleasure of exploring many of the UK's canals. Our waterways offer a unique opportunity to travel and live in a different way and I want to protect this way of life for everyone. I believe this means keeping the navigation open and in good condition, and challenging the reduction of Canal & River Trust staff with the knowledge and experience needed to maintain the waterways. It means taking steps to reduce crime on the towpath (taking inspiration from London's Canal Watch initiative) and increasing the quantity and quality of boaters' facilities. It means cherishing our heritage by keeping the canals a living environment. I'm an active member of the community, chairing the NBTA London branch in 2017 and volunteering as a caseworker. As chair, I helped set up the Lea Boaters Collective, a coalition of local organisations who came together to hold the Environment Agency and Canal & River Trust to account following their slow response to a large oil spill on the River Lea. If I am elected to the Council I will bring this experience of successful cooperation, representing all boaters and working to improve, renew and restore our waterways.

Phil Prettyman

I have owned an ex-Willow Wren camping boat since 1972 and have cruised extensively around the waterways system. I have been involved in negotiations first with British Waterways and now with the Trust over navigation issues such as dredging, vegetation, pinch points and historic structures and currently on issues of red diesel and engine emissions. I have served one term on the Trust's Council as a Boater's Rep and am a member of the Canal & River Trust Appointment Committee where I see my role as probing applicants for their genuine enthusiasm for the

waterways. During my present term I have encouraged Canal & River Trust officers and trustees to get out onto boats and witness the boater's view of the waterways. This allows us to demonstrate the working of the waterways in a practical manner and to show the importance of lock furniture, adequate depth and clear sight-lines. I have also written a series of very detailed reports on the maintenance of individual canals and forwarded them to Regional Managers. I am a firm believer in the importance of boaters' involvement in monitoring our waterways and for us to offer critical advice, help and support to Canal & River Trust whenever this is realistic.

Business Boating:

Heather Duncan

I have worked and lived on the waterways for 37 years giving me a very broad base of experience and knowledge of the issues impacting canal businesses.

- I work at Union Canal Carriers, our family owned hire business
- Past relevant experience running Coal, Camping & Community Boats. Education Officer for British Waterways

Some of the challenges over the next few years for Canal & River Trust:

- Managing Change
- Environmental Regulations & complex aspirations on emissions
- Relationship with National & Local Government
- Funding – meeting the challenge of the need for greater investment in infrastructure repairs balancing with needs to identify sustainable sources of income

My family livelihood is directly impacted by the policies and success Canal & River Trust has in delivering effective management of the network. Our canals and rivers are an asset that must be protected, but in the right way. Canal Businesses need to find new markets and appeal to a new generation of consumers who want tranquillity but with facilities that are greener and better connected. All of this, whilst protecting our unique ribbon of water and communities along it. I have the experience, passion and drive to work with businesses in these next-generation times for Canal & River Trust.

Carl Onens ACMA CGMA BA (Hons)

I have been involved in Inland Boating Business since 2006 having joined ABC Leisure Group as the Finance Director. In the following decade I worked in all areas of the multi-faceted business becoming the Operations Director prior to my appointment as Managing Director in June 2017 following the retirement from the business of Edward Helps. ABC Leisure Group are involved in all areas of business boating, with 14 owned marinas offering boat hire, boat management, boat building, repairs and maintenance, brokerage, retail and all associated services. Prior to my involvement with ABC Leisure Group I have worked in a number of multi million pound / dollar / Euro international organisations in the manufacturing, retail and service sectors. I sit on the British Marine Inland Boating Committee as treasurer as well as representing boating businesses

on the Canal & River Trust's Stoppages group. I regularly meet with many other operators to garner opinion and happily represent the view of the wider boating business community. I believe the combination of my experience in large organisations combined with the broad inland boating business experience would help shape policy, raise issues and contribute to debate.

Volunteers:

Ian McCarthy

During my four-year term as your Council Representative, I have worked on the Appointments Committee, appointing new trustees, regional Chairs, and determining the composition of the Council. I have campaigned, successfully, for the expansion of volunteer representation on the council, and as a result there are now two roles for volunteers. My next focus will be, if elected again, to encourage greater diversity in age, gender, disability and ethnicity within the volunteer movement of Canal & River Trust. Volunteers already cover a huge range of jobs, from meet and greet, through teams who are taking on significant heavy tasks, such as offside vegetation management, to trustees whom set the company direction. I wish to encourage even greater expansion of the use of volunteers across all areas of the Trusts operations, working alongside the dedicated workforce. During the summer I enjoy working as a 'Volkie' on the Manchester 18 and in the winter I work with the local Direct Services Team. I have been a canal volunteer for over six decades. As a young teen I worked alongside my Dad at PFCS working parties, I am founding member of WRG(NW) and other societies. I help to maintain and run an Historic wooden narrowboat.

David Williams

I am passionate about waterways; they have fascinated me from childhood and have become a place to walk, go boating, relax, take photographs, watch wildlife, volunteer and, most recently, work at a local boatyard. Over the last forty two years, I have explored most of the navigable waterways of England and Wales, as well as some formerly navigable waterways and a few overseas waterways. I have been a Volunteer Lock Keeper at Caen Hill locks on the Kennet and Avon Canal since 2016 I was fortunate to be able to retire early from my post as a Civil Servant in the Ministry of Defence, where I spent my career involved in and managing engineering projects. That experience means that balancing budgetary constraints against the pursuit of engineering excellence, whilst meeting the needs of diverse stakeholders is a very familiar one. I believe that, in its relatively short lifetime, Canal & River Trust has achieved some notable successes in this area. However, it must be said that there are aspects where "more work is required." If elected as a Volunteer Representative on Council, I would like to use the opportunity to address some of these issues at a strategic level.

Employees:

John Ellis

I joined BW in 1988 and have witnessed first-hand the evolution of the organisation. I joined Council in 2016 and seek a second term. I share the vision for our positive future as a health and

wellbeing charity whilst recognising the need not to inadvertently alienate the boating and angling paying customer base. How customers and users collaboratively share the space remains work in progress. The Trust's most important asset will always be its people and the need to be one united team. Whilst broadly welcoming the principles of regionalisation, experience and expertise that still sits in national teams must not be forgotten. We must remain mindful of the loss of talent and long serving staff with profound knowledge of our waterways. We are getting to the stage where we do struggle to attract the best talent in the marketplace. We don't want this to impact on Trust success going forward. Investment in productivity through initiatives such as Strategic Thinking is to be welcomed and expanded. The Trust's made great progress in the areas of diversity and equality but there's still further work to do identifying unconscious bias that perhaps prevents us becoming the very best we can be.

Friends of the Trust:

Stella Ridgway

Hi, I am Stella Ridgway and until recently was a Friend and liveaboard Boater. Unfortunately, due to my husband's illness, we had to move on land, but remained Friends of the Trust as we are still passionate about maintaining and protecting our inland waterways and see Friends as a part of the process. I was on Council as a Boater Rep for the last four years, so have that experience to draw on and this will help in increasing both my representation and raising the profile of this constituency.

I do believe that Friends provide a vital part of the information process needed to educate other canal/towpath users in heritage and provide a useful conduit to do this. If elected, I will ensure that Friends have a voice on Council and hope you will vote for me. Thanks.

Angling:

David Kent

As a lifelong angler brought upon canal fishing I have always been passionate about helping to make our canals a truly good place to enjoy this wonderful sport of ours. For over 30 years this passion has prompted me to represent fisheries and angling at national level with British Waterways until 2012 and then with the Canal & River Trust where, amongst various roles, I have been Angling Trust's nominated representative to the Members Council. However we have now agreed that the fisheries and angling representative should, in future, be elected by the Canal & River Trust's angling club customers. We have made real progress on a variety of fronts but key issues such as the use of towpaths, moorings and vegetation management are still work in progress. Without doubt the adverse impact of these on angling can be significant. Anglers are talking with their feet often leaving many of Canal & River Trust's angling Club customers in real financial difficulty. Inevitably the Trust will then lose some of these Clubs. Therefore my prime objective for now wanting to be your elected Council Member is to continue the fight for the restoration of the whole angling experience so our canal fisheries once again have real value.

Nominated posts:

AWCC – Andrew Phasey

CBOA – Tim West, Vice-Chairman

Wildlife Trusts – Ali Morse, Water Policy Manager

Local Government Association – Cllr Peter Thornton, Cumbria County Council

Mind – Gavin Atkins, Head of Community Services

Country Land & Business Association – Mark Riches, Midlands Regional Director