

Trustee profiles 2017

Sir David John KCMG (Chairman)

Sir David John is familiar with the Cotswold Water Park and the area, having had a home in Gloucestershire for the last 20 years.

He brings to the Cotswold Water Park Trust a wealth of experience gained in business, government and the not-for-profit sector. In his business career he has held senior positions in the UK and Asia, in Inchcape and Redland, amongst others. He has been Chair of Balfour Beatty plc (2003-2008) and of the BOC Group (1996-2002), Premier Oil (1996-2008) and BSI (the British Standards Institution).

He was on the Board of the Welsh Development Agency, Vice Chairman of British Trade International, promoting exports and overseas investment, chaired the CBI International Committee and on the Advisory Council of the Institute for Business Ethics.

He has also served as a Director of the Development Trust – a charity associated with raising funds for building sheltered housing for severely mentally handicapped people, and was a Member of the UK Development Board of “RYA Sailability” – a charity to encourage disabled people to sail. He was Vice President and Member of the Board, Prince of Wales’ Business Leaders Forum from 1996 to 1999.

Sir David John was knighted in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List in June 1999 for Services to British Business Interests Overseas.

“The Cotswold Water Park is an area of endless fascination, rich history and biodiversity and full of potential. Our challenge is to use all our skills, with limited resources, to assist and guide its development, so that what the area becomes is something that local people are proud of and which stands international comparison”.

John Hayward

I live at Siddington on the edge of the Water Park. I am a chartered surveyor with some 35 years’ experience dealing at one time or another with most aspects of commercial property, mostly from a private sector perspective. With the reduction of public sector funding for the conservation and tourist focussed activities of the CWPT, I see my particular role as being to help to identify opportunities for the private sector that will generate funds to allow the CWPT to continue to meet its objectives. In addition, as a practising surveyor, I am able to provide support to the management team on the administration of the Trust’s portfolio and direct them to sources of specific expertise when necessary. As the Water Park’s landscape continues to change through extraction, the challenge of shaping its future requires an evolving vision to which I am happy to contribute alongside the multi-talented team of dedicated co-Trustees and the various local authorities and their often conflicting priorities.

Paul Hazel

Paul Hazel currently provides services as an independent Finance Director to a number of local enterprises, including several charities. He is also Trustee of four charities based in Cheltenham.

He qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Price Waterhouse, Birmingham and he has thirty years' experience of senior financial roles including that of Group Finance Director of two Listed Groups. This broad exposure covered a wide range of commercial and legal matters across operations in engineering, chemicals, building materials, musical instruments and publishing. He dealt with operations in the USA/Canada, Japan and across Europe and was involved in over thirty acquisitions and disposals.

“For the past eighteen years I have lived in the North Cotswolds on a small farm. This has given us a great love of everyday life in the country including raising sheep and latterly Alpacas! I hope my experience, along with my charity and broad financial background, will bring useful skills to the Board to complement those of the other Trustees.”

Mike Low

Mike Low has most recently been consulting on international standards, having retired in 2012 as Director British Standards at the British Standards Institute (BSI). This followed a long management career including Managing Director of Amey Rail, a Main Board Director of British Energy and various major capital project and safety roles with Nuclear Electric, beginning his career at the CEGB.

His key role has been to bring about significant change in businesses including electricity privatisation, a major turnaround in the performance of railway maintenance and significant growth of the UK Standards activities on a global platform. In all of these sectors he had a key focus on safety and the environment, achieving significant improvements in performance and in understanding the business benefits of reducing the environmental impact of major infrastructure operations.

He is a Chartered Engineer with a degree from Imperial College, London University.

“We have lived in the Cotswold Water Park area for 20 years, initially in Somerford Keynes and now in Ashton Keynes. As such we are huge fans of the park and major users of its facilities; cycling, sailing, walking, dining and using the children's facilities. As a family, we have been delighted to see this wonderful national asset blossom and feel strongly that everyone in the area should be supporting its development. I am privileged to live in one of the most attractive areas of the UK. Locally I have been working with the Parish Council to improve the condition of all waterways in the extensive Ashton Keynes boundaries within the park.”

Gordon McGlone

Gordon studied Botany and Zoology at University College Swansea where he specialised in environment. He was invited to study for a PhD and took over the helm of the tiny Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust in 1979. At that time the Trust had three staff and less than 4000 members.

"One of my first tasks in summer 1979 with the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust was to complete the acquisition of the Whelford Pools nature reserve. I subsequently put a lot of energy into this site and personally led the volunteer groups that built the two bird hides. I have a great affection for and excitement about the Cotswold Water Park. The area is of outstanding national and international importance for wildlife yet it still languishes as a Cinderella among our UK heritage treasures."

Other examples of Gordon's long-view include founding the Gloucestershire Bat Group and Environmental Records Centre for the county in 1989 (against local opposition). He also got Gloucestershire local authorities to sign the first 'Peat Charter' in the UK with Sir David Attenborough 20 years ago

Gill Raikes

Gill Raikes is Chief Executive of a London Charity which raises around £5.5m a year for Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals - two specialist hospitals treating patients with heart and lung disease. The job is split between running the Charity and managing the property portfolio in Chelsea, which acts as an endowment producing a valuable income for the hospitals.

After starting as a cub reporter on a regional newspaper in North Wales, she joined The National Trust as a press officer and spent the next 28 years in a wide range of roles from organising events, to external affairs and from fundraising to supporting the change programme when the National Trust moved from four locations to a single head office in Swindon. Her last role was as Director of Fundraising, growing annual income to £87m per year by the time she left in 2012.

During that time she was also Chair of the Fundraising Convention and was given a Lifetime Contribution Award by the Third Sector. She sat on the board of the Fundraising Regulation Standards Board, and supported the Institute of Fundraising through speaking at conferences, and being a mentor. In 2010 she was awarded an MBE for services to conservation.

"My family home is in Cirencester where we have lived for the past 16 years. My husband also works within the NHS and is a keen kayaker. The Cotswold Water Park played a very important part in the formative years for my three children as kayaking, snorkelling, sailing, walking and cycling were all weekend activities which have remained with them into adulthood. I am hopeful I can bring some support for the CWP through my experience in membership and fundraising, and raising the profile of this beautiful landscape."

Terry Robinson

Terry has nearly 40 years' experience in countryside conservation and the management of open air recreation. For most of his career he has been a lead authority for the national Government managing programmes for the Countryside Commission and its successor bodies, including Natural England. As a ranger, he has also developed and run country parks similar to the Cotswold Water Park. He has worked in a senior capacity managing teams delivering for nature and people and devising and delivering programmes that have advanced and consolidated practice. He has also held senior posts on the board and on the staff of schools in the UK and abroad. He has lived near Stroud for 33 years. He sees enormous scope for developing the Water Park as an exciting and enterprising attraction using modern management practices fit for the twenty-first century.

Robin Rogers

I have had an interest in the way we preserve our landscapes from an early age, with involvement in various conservation bodies in the UK and Malaysia, as well as with my degree in Land Economy. For twenty years however we lived next to Clattinger's flower meadows and Lower Moor's magical lakes. This local affiliation meant I found myself vocal at and then a member of the Joint Committee for the CWP as representative for the Wiltshire villages and then at the height of the Society's crisis, playing a part in restructuring the organisation as a charity.

Since most of my career has been in executive search, I was able to set about recruiting and reconstructing the Board of the new Trust in 2011 and continue to thank my colleagues for their commitment and loyalty to the task. I joined them only in 2015 as a Trustee. Having qualified a while ago as a Chartered Accountant, I also assist as a member of the Finance Committee.

All visions for an area of the UK require support of the participants and the Water Park has a high level of recognition locally as a special area with an identity of its own - from local communities, the gravel companies, the leisure operators and others. This support is the basis of our confidence in the future vision but while our local authorities have run out of the financial resources to underwrite the vision, we all look to them to support the venture in every other way possible.