

World Heritage UK Annual General Meeting 2023 6 December 2023

Item 6: Trustee Elections to the Board

There are a total of four candidates.

Due to the retirement of three trustees, there are three vacancies on the Board. Nominations have exceeded the total required and therefore there will be a ballot to select the three required Trustees.

Candidates were asked to supply a 250-word Statement to support their election and these are presented below in surname alphabetical order.

Election Statements:

Graham Bell

Graham Bell works at a European level, putting UK World Heritage into context. He aims to support WHUK with his UK and European NGO/networks management experience and perspective.

As director of Cultura Trust, which owns Alavna Roman fort in Maryport, he's a stakeholder in the Frontiers of the Roman Empire WHS – Hadrian's Wall, but also as collaborator on the Antonine Wall and with continental European counterparts. He has governance responsibilities with Europa Nostra (board member), Federation for European Heritage Crafts (vice-president), Hungarian Renaissance Foundation (director), Buzludzha Project Foundation in Bulgaria (trustee), is a member of ICOMOS and committed to digital, e.g., Europeana, BIM4Heritage. He aims to support WHUK governance and funding/activities management.

As UK national co-ordinator for 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage, working with the European Commission, he created an exhibition of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire from the Irish Sea to the Black Sea, highlighting relevance today of World Heritage for all communities: 'what have the Romans ever done for us?' The exhibition toured the Antonine Wall, supported by HES. He'd like to develop such initiatives with WHUK.

He has worked with the Council of Europe on Strategy21 and this year in Vienna a workshop for 50 national co-ordinators of European Heritage Days; he has proposed in 2024 that the England/Scotland Borderlands Initiative should adopt a cross-border WH theme. In Bruges, he has just delivered a keynote to the OWHC on using SDGs/ESG to reconcile WH and climate action.

Altogether, themes leading him to contribute to WHUK.

Barry Gamble

I am pleased to apply to become a Member of the Board of Trustees of World Heritage UK. I was born and grew up in the Westcountry, left for some years, and returned. I studied geology and geography before entering the heritage sector in 1996, first working in World Heritage in Guanajuato, Mexico.

My World Heritage engagement continued in 1999, and 2003 to 2005, as Principal Author of the nomination of 'Cornish Mining' to UNESCO, inscribed in 2006; the first of many nominations undertaken for a range of countries, landscapes, and sites.

I have a deep experience and working knowledge of UNESCO, the nomination process, and management planning, derived intensive practical experience mostly overseas. I made a substantial contribution to the inscription of nine foreign World Heritage sites, with four more submitted and currently under evaluation in 2023. Recent involvement in the UK has been as advisor and co-author of The Great Spa Towns of Europe inscribed in 2021, as advisor and co-author of The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales inscribed in 2021, and Coordinator and Principal Author of Moravian Church Settlements, a transnational led by the US and including Gracehill in Northern Ireland.

I maintain active global links, with State Party contacts at Focal Point, ambassador, and ministry level. I have attended World Heritage Committees since 2006, on various State Party Observer delegations including the UK and more recently for Poland, Germany, Romania, Czechia, and Denmark. I have a regular dialogue with UK international representatives up to Ambassador level.

Brandi Hall-Crossgrove

I am delighted to apply to be a Member of the Board of Trustees for World Heritage UK. I am currently the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site Coordinator and have been in the world heritage sector for over a decade now. For the last two years I have started the Industrial World Heritage Site sub-group of WH:UK that brings together 11 of the 33 UK sites.

I am the ICOMOS UK Emerging Professional Representative as well as the ICOMOS EPWG European Regional Coordinator where I have brought together intergenerational dialogue to build succession planning within the organization. I have also been voted onto the ICOMOS UK Executive Committee. Recently I have started to revitalize the ICOMOS Industrial Heritage International Scientific Committee in conjunction with TICCIH.

In my various roles I have been able to give speeches and participate in International, European, and UK policy pertaining to the heritage sector.

Through my work I encourage collaborations and partnership working. As partnership is a fundamental key value of the UN which as UNESCO World Heritage Sites we support as a tool of peace through understanding our shared human history. I also bring to the role degrees in World Heritage Management, International Relations and Comparative History. Prior to entering the World Heritage Sector I owned my own business and worked in the corporate world. I will bring this knowledge with me. I am very interested in accelerating WH:UK in assisting WHS Coordinators by bringing our resources together for the betterment of us all.

Henry Owen-John

I am a firm believer in the importance of WHUK's unique role as a body which can draw on its membership to promote the value of the UK's World Heritage Sites for all, and particularly those communities which live in and around WHSs.

I retired from full time employment two years ago and now have the capacity to contribute to the work of WHUK. I have been fortunate to gain expertise in heritage management and protection from a career with the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust, where, as well as fieldwork, I helped to develop an archaeological advisory service to local planning authorities, and with English Heritage/Historic England, where my work included heritage led regeneration and advice to government and others on international heritage conventions. This work included management and leadership roles and building relationships with a range of partner organisations. I also gained experience of governance when serving two terms on the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

If elected, I aim to harness this knowledge and experience to help sustain and support the continuing development of World Heritage UK at a time when, although it faces challenges, the organisation also has great potential, working in partnership with others, to play an even fuller role in generating public benefits from our internationally significant heritage.