Biographical details

The following trustees are seeking re-appointment:

Brian Smith
In 2001 I was recruited by the previous Chairman and Vice Chair, during the "Covid" period. My interest is History and living within a few miles of Kew led to my appointed as a Trustee to the Friends of the National Archives.
My time with FTNA include being part of the Finance and Governance committee, along with becoming the Treasurer on a temporary basis in 2022. I am now the longest serving trustee on the current board. I was successful in submitting the Gift Aid claim for 2022 on behalf of the Charity, and currently assisting in the current claim covering the 2023 and 2024 periods.

My background is Accountancy, being a fully qualified Accountant and Company Secretary.

I continue to help various charities using my knowledge, skills, and experience in assisting them in a financial and business capacity. These include, as Hon. Treasurer, Bushy Park Sports Club, Kingston and District Football League and Kingston Referees Association.

Previous Trustee posts include Surrey Mediation Family services, and I was Independent Governor at East Surrey College based in Reigate. I have also worked with Young Enterprise and The Fitness League.

Rebecca Gregory
Rebecca is a membership professional with 15 years of experience working in a variety of membership organisations and charities. She is currently Head of Membership and Operations at the Society of Genealogists, having previously worked at Historic Royal Palaces. She has a passion for history and conservation and is looking forward to another term as a trustee at the FTNA.

The following trustees have been co-opted since the last AGM and are now seeking appointment by members:

Andrew House
Andrew worked in Banking, Oil and Publishing companies as a computer programmer and systems designer before spending 30+ years in the service sector specializing in data management, database marketing and technical support roles. Since retiring he has spent significant time researching family history discovering ancestors in Scotland, Australia and South Africa together with military information obtained through TNA. He has lived in SW London for many years and regularly visits TNA to delve into local history and explore other amazing collections.

Stephen Daglish
Stephen is a retired music company executive, having worked on intellectual property and royalties, in an industry that moved from vinyl and cassette to CD and then to digital streaming. He is a Life Member of the Friends and previously served as Membership Secretary. His interests include the study of surnames, an extended form of family history, and local history.

Samantha Edwards
I have worked in the public sector for 25 years with roles ranging from crisis communications to Brexit and more recently for the Covid Inquiry. I am passionate about learning from history and first discovered The National Archives when we found that it held the only photograph of my grandfather from his years as a merchant seaman. I am currently the Director of Communications at the Covid Inquiry. I have spent the last three years ensuring that we document the impact that the Pandemic had on people across the UK. I am looking forward to bringing this record to The National Archives in the coming months. I am a keen gardener, traveller (when time and money permit) and reader.

Asha Lutchmun
Asha has extensive global HR and Executive Search leadership experience from US tech businesses, management consultancy and luxury hospitality. She is a member of local Richmond history societies, volunteers in a charity shop, sings in a choral society and invigilates for public exams. She holds a degree in French and Russian from the University of Bristol.

Nicola Martin
Nicola is an award-winning tech Fellow, advocate, coach, and founder of NMC&C, with a background in quality, software engineering and leadership. She is passionate about ethical technology, diversity in digital spaces, and creating inclusive, human-centred environments. Alongside her professional work, Nicola actively volunteers her time to support community initiatives and tech causes she cares about, contributing her expertise to help drive positive change.

Mervyn Watson
Mervyn retired July 2024 following an unexpected second career as a University Lecturer at Royal Holloway University of London. Over 8 years he taught Television and Film Production at Undergraduate and Post-Graduate levels. Prior to that he was Producer and Executive Producer of popular TV dramas including Coronation Street, Casualty, and Emmerdale. Way back he worked for the British Steel Corporation. He continues to write and is thoroughly enjoying being a student again in Richmond.