

# BULLETIN

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## Welcome

This special issue of the Initiative Bulletin announces details of the new Board of Trustees for Civic Voice. The new Board will take responsibility from date of the public launch of Civic Voice on Saturday 17th April. We are also asking those not able to attend the launch to send in thoughts and suggestions for what Civic Voice should focus on so these can be considered on the day. Remember to keep your eyes out for Civic Voice's new website - [www.civicvoice.org.uk](http://www.civicvoice.org.uk) - which will be live from Saturday 17th April.

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## Board of Trustees

We are pleased to announce that Paula Ridley has accepted the role as Chair of Civic Voice and has been co-opted into the role. Paula has over 30 years experience in the civic movement and has served in a number of important national roles, including as Chairman of the Victoria and Albert Museum. She is Hon. Vice President of Merseyside Civic Society. There is more information about Paula and all the other trustees below.

We are also pleased to announce Martin Meredith has been co-opted as Civic Voice's Treasurer. Martin is Hon. Secretary of Chester Civic Trust.

The ballot was very successful with 160 civic societies getting involved and casting 432 votes for the six trustee places available.

The results were as follows with the first six elected as Civic Voice's trustees:

1. Freddie Gick, Birmingham Civic Society	62 votes	14%
2. Helen Marcus, Heath & Hampstead Society	45 votes	10%
3. David Tittle, Coventry Society	43 votes	10%
4. David Lovie, Alnwick Civic Society	41 votes	10%
5. Paul Myers, Midsomer Norton Society	34 votes	8%
6. John Walker, Kent Federation / Canterbury Society	28 votes	6%
7. Carl Carrington, Blackpool Civic Trust / York Civic Trust	24 votes	6%
8. Gwyneth Gibbs, Stamford Society	22 votes	5%
9. Tony Fooks, High Wycombe Society	19 votes	4%
10. John Kershaw, Manchester Civic Society	18 votes	4%

11. Lucie Carayon, Peckham Society	17 votes	4%
12. Alan Morris, Bristol Civic Society	14 votes	3%
13= Marilyn Larden, Isleworth Society	11 votes	3%
13= Peter Lee, Peterborough Civic Society	11 votes	3%
13= Diana Terry, Saddleworth Civic Trust	11 votes	3%
16= Tim Lund, Sydenham Society	9 votes	2%
16= Peter Landshoff, Cambridge Past, Present &Future	9 votes	2%
18= David Massey, Merseyside Civic Society	7 votes	2%
18= Lesley Clarke, High Wycombe Society	7 votes	2%

There was a good geographical spread among the participating civic societies with the following regional breakdown:

## Early priorities - your thoughts

Arrangements for the public launch of Civic Voice on 17th April are well advanced. We are expecting over 150 delegates and there is growing media interest. As well as hearing from Griff Rhys Jones, Paula Ridley, Sir Terry Farrell and Tony Burton, delegates will be discussing the early priorities for Civic Voice. We know that not everyone can attend and are still keen to have your thoughts and suggestions. Please send these to Ian Harvey at [info@civicvoice.org.uk](mailto:info@civicvoice.org.uk) by noon on Friday 16th April and we will make sure they get displayed on the day and feed into discussions

## Background to Civic Voice's first Board

### Paula Ridley (Chair)

Paula is Chair of Civic Voice. She has been involved in the civic movement for over 30 years and is Hon. Vice President of Merseyside Civic Society, following many years as Hon. Secretary, where one of her key activities was helping to save the Albert Dock in Liverpool - the largest group of Grade 1 listed buildings in the country - from both dereliction and unsuitable development in the 1980s.

She was Chair of the Victoria and Albert Museum from 1998 - 2007, Director of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and Chair of the Liverpool Housing Action Trust, a large housing regeneration scheme in Liverpool.

Paula has had a long and varied career in both public and private sectors and throughout has always retained a keen interest in civic affairs, regeneration and architecture. Paula is Chair of the Liverpool Biennial of Contemporary Art, the National Student Drama Festival, and is on the board of the National Communities Resource Centre. Paula is a CBE and a Fellow of the RIBA.

### Martin Meredith (Treasurer)

Martin is Civic Voice's Treasurer. He has been involved in Chester Civic Trust for over 10 years and is Honorary Secretary. After a career as a senior financial manager in international insurance Martin has devoted time and energy to numerous local bodies involved in heritage and culture and is on the Finance Committee of his local golf club after 6 years as its Treasurer.

### Freddie Gick

After an international career in human resources Freddie has helped build Birmingham Civic Society into an effective and respected organisation delivering a broad range of programmes from planning and heritage to tree planting and citizenship. Freddie was Chairman of Birmingham Civic Society between 2004 and 2009 during which time it has taken 7,000 children through a citizenship program, obtained a Grant of Arms, increased very significantly

the number of active volunteers and secured commercial and local authority funding. Freddie is also involved in the regional grouping, West MASA, and is Chairman of Sutton Coldfield Municipal Charities, a trustee of the Birmingham and Midland Institute and Sir Barry Jackson Trusts and Hon Vice President of the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists.

### **David Lovie**

David has a long career in conservation and environmental education. He is a member of the Executive and Planning Group of Alnwick Civic Society. David was President of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation between 2003 and 2008 and founded and chaired the North East Environmental Education Forum for over 25 years. He has also been Chair of the Urban Design Alliance and currently chairs the team co-ordinating Northumberland's Heritage Open Days programme. As a conservation consultant he has undertaken surveys of the nature of civic societies in the North East and Cumbria and initiated Newcastle's famous Grainger Town Partnership, involving nearly £300m of public and private investment. David is a writer and lecturer and has advised the BBC in the north east.

### **Helen Marcus**

Helen is Vice President of the Heath and Hampstead Society, one of the oldest civic societies in the country. She is on the committee of the London Forum and edits its newsletter as well as that of her local civic society. Helen has a musical background - both as a retired opera singer and through her involvement in chairing the Hampstead and Highgate Festival and involvement with the Royal Academy of Music's Development Committee and as a trustee of London Opera Players. She is also experienced in arts promotion, including as the former artistic director of performances of the New Shakespeare Company at the Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park. Helen founded the Camden Amenity Forum and was the first elected representative from the voluntary sector on Camden's Local Strategic Partnership. She has wide experience of local restoration projects, including Hampstead Town Hall.

### **Paul Myers**

Paul is Secretary of the Midsomer Norton Society and has been one of the main instigators of the Wessex Civic Society Network - a new cluster of local groups. He is also Chairman of the local Chamber of Commerce. Paul's background is in marketing and communications, working with British Telecom, British Aerospace and ntl among others. He has experience in PR, website design, branding and event management. Paul is also a qualified Radio Production Assistant and is a trained handloom weaver. Among other jobs he runs a small business which produces British ethnic textiles and maintains traditional handloom weaving skills.

### **David Tittle**

David is actively involved in the Coventry Society - the first member of Civic Voice - where he has helped in its revival as a lively local campaigning group. He works as Head of Design Excellence at the West Midlands architecture centre, MADE, and manages CABA's urban design summer school. He has a postgraduate diploma in urban design. David worked for the Civic Trust in the early 2000s, managing the Pathfinder programme for strengthening civic societies. He is also involved with the Spon End Building Preservation Trust which has restored a terrace of six medieval buildings to mixed-use.

### **John Walker**

John is Chairman of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies, one of the longest standing and most effective groupings in the country. He is also a founder member and is Vice Chairman of the Canterbury Society and Chairman of Whitstable Music Society. He was formerly a trustee of the Kent People's Trust and the Museum of Kent Life. John has a business background with 20 years experience on the Board of a PLC.

## **Join us at the launch of Civic Voice**

Civic Voice is being launched on Saturday 17 April at the Building Centre, Store Street, WC1E 7BT in central London ([Click here to see a map and directions](#)). The event will run from 10.30am for 11am until 4pm and very few places remain. If you are intending on coming along we urge you to register beforehand, and let us know. A £10 fee is being made to help cover refreshments.

Griff Rhys Jones has confirmed he will be attending and you can join him at this event by registering [here](#)