

LCWO Trustee biographies for the 2023-24 AGM

Standing for re-election

Geoffrey Ferres

Geoffrey Ferres has been a member of Low Carbon West Oxford since 2010 and a trustee since 2015. He first came to live in Oxford in 1972 and in West Oxford in 2006. He is also a member of West Oxford Community Renewables and the Low Carbon Hub. Geoffrey was a senior manager with Oxfordshire County Council between 2004 and 2009, moving then to a job as Head of Policy and Public Affairs with a national supported housing charity. He has not yet managed to retire completely from paid work – he is still Clerk of one South Oxfordshire parish council. Geoffrey first became environmentally aware when his father made a programme for the BBC about Gordon Rattray Taylor's The Doomsday Book, published in 1970.

Continuing Trustees

Gary Irvine, Treasurer

Gary retired in March 2021 from his job as a self-employed Domestic Energy Assessor, working in Oxford and surrounding areas. Over a period of ten years he built up a sound knowledge of the energy usage of residential properties and the most effective ways to improve their efficiency. Prior to this he was an IT consultant specialising in bespoke software development.

He is originally from West London but has lived in West Oxford since 2000. He lives with his wife and son, who currently attends Matthew Arnold School. His interests include: photography (he holds an ARPS distinction from the Royal Photographic Society); and running.

Alison Mathias, Chair

Alison has lived in West Oxford for over 20 years and was one of the first cohorts of LCWO Low Carbon Living Programme. She has worked as a Strategy Manager in Homes England where her portfolio included both Existing Stock and Environmental Sustainability. She worked on The Decent Home Standard; Ecohomes XB BRE standard for Existing Stock; and Fit for the Future the Green Homes Retrofit Manual. Alison also has a background in social housing development and management with Housing Associations, including as Development Director at Oxford Citizens Housing Association. She is a qualified member of the Chartered Institute of Housing and has an MSc in Policy Research. Alison is a non-Exec Director of the Oxfordshire Community Land Trust.

Gráinne Darnton

Gráinne's background is in HR, with over 25 years' experience in the profession, primarily in HR management and change in large and medium size organisations, recruitment, employee relations, performance management, policy and HR project work. Gráinne graduated from the University of Ireland with a BA and gained MCIPD in 1995. She joined the Irish diaspora through moving to London after graduation and finally to West Oxford in 2006. She is committed to LCWO's environmental aims and excited to have the chance to make a difference through the charity.

Jean Hindmarch

Jean is a longstanding resident of West Oxford. Born and brought up in the northeast, she came to Oxford via the University of Warwick and Madrid, where she taught English. She worked as an editor for Blackwell Science and Oxford University Press before moving to a London-based educational charity, and then to Hospice UK where, until her recent retirement, she was Projects Director.

Jean is keen to play a more active role in her local community. Having participated in the Low Carbon Living Programme, she is an enthusiastic supporter of LCWO and its value to both individual households and the wider community. She is also a member of WOCORE. As a Trustee of LCWO she would hope to contribute to its sustainability and growth.