

National Liberal Club - August 2021



The General Committee – Who’s Who?

The National Liberal Club is owned by the members. There are more than 1800 of us in the summer of 2021 and, collectively, we are the Club’s sovereign body – expressing our will through the Annual General Meeting and regular meetings of the **General Committee**, which we all elect.

Club members are now also the sole shareholders in the limited Company, set up in 1978, called **National Liberal Club Ltd**. This follows the Club's recent purchase of the controlling share in the Company from the Robson Charitable Trust – which saved the Club from financial ruin in the late 1970s.

The Company manages the day-to-day operations of the Club, runs its various services and hires and employs all the staff. The Board of Directors – all drawn from Club members plus its CEO -- are profiled separately, see separate link on the About Us page.

The working relationship between Club and Company has been under review, following the change outlined above, and the Club and the Board continue to work towards establishing working practices that produce the best outcomes for the Club and its members. So here is what you need to know about the 30 elected Club members, along with the honorary Officers and Vice-Presidents, who make up our **General Committee**:



TIM McNALLY

Club Chair *Joined Club 1985 Elected Gen Cttee 2016*

In my role as the Club’s Chair, I attend all our main committees and sit on the Board of NLC Limited, while also serving as the link person for relations with the Liberal Democrats, Liberal International and the Alliance Party. I am a former LibDem councillor, and an Alderman of the London Borough of Southwark.

I run a Greenwich-based charity ICT company, TISL, and chair or serve as trustee for seven charities, mainly targeted at supporting the elderly, as well as chairing an educational foundation. As a Liveryman and Chair of Membership of the Worshipful Company of Glaziers, I am a Freeman of the City of London where I am active in five guilds.

In my new role as the Club’s Chair, my main objectives for the year ahead include listening to the members, growing the membership, making better use of Club space, working with the Board on improving food quality and reliability, and embedding Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in all we do.

I also hope to enhance what we offer to members through our many Clubs, Circles and Forums, and embed sustainability throughout our work and operations.

When not at the Club, I enjoy opera, wine and walking - particularly in my beloved Madeira when Covid restrictions allow me to go there. I live in Bermondsey with my partner, Claire Mayne, who is also active in the Club, and our 17-year-old son, Matteo.



GENEVIEVE ARBLASTER-HULLEY

Art Curator *Joined Club 2019*

As an expert on the construction history and the architecture of our Clubhouse, I am passionate about its conservation. It was the subject of my Master of Studies (Cantab) thesis, which followed a History of Art degree including the care and conservation of works of art. It is an honour to assist the Club in my capacity as Art Curator.

I have been a regular visitor to the Club since 2015, both as a guest of my (now) husband and for research purposes, before becoming a member. Previously a financial investment adviser, I swapped Bloomberg and spreadsheets for Borromini and Sickert. I now work as a heritage consultant advising on listed buildings.



JANET BERRIDGE

Vice-President *Joined Club 2004* **Chair** *2016–2018*

Birmingham-born, I'm a committed European now living in Berlin and working with my husband, Michael, as a freelance translator to the music business. A General Committee member from 2007 - 2019, I also served on the General Purposes and Membership Committees, and initiated the Literary and German Circles. I introduced the first German reciprocal clubs, supported participation in "Open House weekend", hosted LibDem receptions at the Club, and championed many recently-established NLC Forums.

I was a prison visitor, Witness Service volunteer – supporting witnesses at court, and a charity worker in Canterbury. I was active in LibDem politics - first in Canterbury from 2000, then in Bromley until 2018 - and am now an active member of the (reciprocal) International Club, Berlin. My interests: music, literature, handcrafts, swimming.



KATE BIRCH

Joined Club 2008 *Elected Gen Cttee 2018*

A member of the Club's Marketing & Communications Committee, I also co-chair the Literary Circle and am on the NLC's Diversity and Art Collection Working Groups. I publish *inkswheatandtears.co.uk* – an online poetry and prose magazine with a small print section which has seen several pamphlets shortlisted for major poetry awards.

I sit on the board of *Poetry School*, described as the UK's largest provider of poetry education and 'inspiring tuition', and also support small-scale theatre productions, poetry scholarships and projects.

Am currently working with writer development agency *Spread the Word* and academics from Glasgow University on the Runaways Project, which involves creative responses from Black and South Asian writers and artists to adverts published in London in the Restoration period to help trace runaway slaves. Few are even aware that slavery was practised in the UK.



JOHN BRYANT

Joined Club 2018 Elected Gen Cttee 2019

I am a retired company director of my own company, JBGS Brent Ltd, which provided services to school governors in the London Borough of Brent. I also helped to create the Brent Schools Partnership, a company which continues to provide training services to schools.

A parliamentary candidate for Hull Central 1979, and for Beverley 1987, I served as a Liberal or Liberal Democrat councillor on Hull City and Humberside County Councils in the 1980s, and more recently LB Camden from 2002-2014, where I was Executive Member for Children for two years and Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee for six years.

A member of the Club's Marketing & Communications Committee, and the Membership Committee, I was also Vice-Chair of the recent Rules Revision Working Group.



THEO BUTT PHILIP

Joined Club 2001 Elected Gen Cttee 2017

I am a member of the Club's Membership and General Purposes Committees, as well as serving on the General Committee. In 2019, I became Chair of the Orpington Circle, which commemorates that famous by-election victory, organises the annual Orpington Dinner and raises funds for Liberal Democrat by-election campaigns.

To raise money for NLC members standing as LibDem candidates in the 2019 General Election, I revived and chaired the Club's election appeal. I stood for Parliament in Bridgwater and West Somerset in 2010 and 2015, and was a member of Wells City Council for eight years (including a year as Mayor). I currently work for South Gloucestershire Council as Political Assistant to the Liberal Democrat opposition group.

Originally from Somerset, I currently live in Camberwell with my wife, Belinda (also a Club member), and our young daughter.



PETER CARGIN

Joined Club 1987 Elected Gen Cttee 2012

I worked at the British Film Institute for 24 years as Editor of its magazine, *Film*. As a member of the International Film Press Critics - FIPRESCI - founded in 1933, I attended more than 30 film festivals around the world, often as a jury member, and have given a talk at the Club on 'My Life at Film Festivals'.

A trustee and Treasurer of The Critics' Circle (founded 1913), I am a member of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, BAFTA, and of the Arts Club.

The first Club committee I joined was General Purposes, then the Membership Committee – where I went on to serve as Chair until 2021. I have been a member of the Liberals/ LibDems since 1988. Apart from film, music is my other love.



LORD (DAVID) CHIDGEY

Joined Club 1994 Elected Gen Cttee 2014

As a Chartered Consulting Engineer and Associate Partner with a London-based practice, I spent 20 years developing and directing major projects in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. I was Chief Advisor in the creation of the Dublin Transport Authority and directed the design and reconstruction of 300 km of Guinea's national route N1, and the doubling of the 80 km piped water supply to the capital, Conakry.

My early engineering career began with the Admiralty, where I trained and graduated as a mechanical engineer. From there, I moved to Hampshire County Council and into civil engineering, graduating at what became Portsmouth University.

In 1994, I won the Eastleigh by-election for the Liberal Democrats, retaining the seat at two subsequent general elections until I retired in 2005 and entered the House of Lords as Lord Chidgey of Hamble-le-Rice, whose village pubs I first discovered as a student.



ELIZABETH CROWTHER-HUNT LVO

Joined Club 2016 Elected Gen Cttee 2018

Chairs General Purposes Cttee

I enjoy political discussion, networking and fine dining – all on offer at our Club, which I came to join thanks to meeting an NLC member at a networking event.

Such events and opportunities to network – to meet and develop contacts - are a major focus both at the Club and also at Westminster Business Council, where I am CEO. There we provide connections and intelligence to help London businesses grow, and introduce employers and students for career opportunities. In 2019 we ran our inaugural Business Awards Ceremony at the Club, where I also chair the Business Forum.

My career has involved influencing government policy and pioneering innovative projects in deprived areas. I led the development of the national Prince's Trust Team programme to help unemployed young people build their confidence and find work.



NICK DOHERTY

Joined Club 1987 Elected Gen Cttee 2018

I have always enjoyed the Club and so, after some 30 years as a member, I decided to stand for election to the General Committee.

Now, as Chair of the NLC Shooting Club, I am involved in our social activities and am keen to further develop the social life of the whole Club. We have a diverse membership and a wide range of activities, and I welcome views on how the Club can be further improved.

My day job is as a barrister specialising in crime and firearms licensing law. I am a Freeman of the City of London and a Liveryman of the Gunmakers Company.



CHARLES GILLETT

Archivist *Joined Club 2014*

I am a non-political member of the Club and joined specifically to contribute to the preservation of the NLC and, in particular, the building it occupies. Appointed as our Archivist in 2020, I am now responsible for conserving the Club's archives (which stretch back to its formation in 1882), adding to the collection and making these archives available to legitimate researchers and - through occasional articles in the Club's magazine - to the membership as well.

A contentedly-retired Lloyd's insurance broker, I specialised for 20 of my 45 working years in international construction projects. Since joining the Club, I have tried to be as active a member as I can to help ensure it continues to flourish.



TERENCE GLEED RICHARDS

Vice-President *Joined Club 1967* **Chair** 1991-93

I joined the Club more than 50 years ago and have served as its Chairman, as a Director of National Liberal Club Ltd, Trustee and Chairman of Club Trustees, as well as chairing the Membership Committee.

I was a Liberal Parliamentary Candidate in 1974 and 1979. My interests include travel, opera, music and the arts, politics and gardening.



ROBERT HAMMOND

Joined Club 2010 *Elected Gen Cttee 2013*
Chairs Beer, Wine & Spirits Cttee

A senior civil servant, I am currently Deputy Director of Estates in HMRC. I've been a member of the Church of England General Synod since 2000, and am a lay canon of Chelmsford Cathedral.

I now chair the Club's renamed Beer, Wine & Spirits Committee. In my spare time, I lead wine holidays to Italy and France, run the occasional wine tasting and also judge for the International Wine and Spirit Competition.



The Revd PAUL HUNT MA

Vice President *Joined Club 1992* **Chair** 2007-2010

I joined the Liberal Party in 1974 and the Club in the 1990s. I was first elected to the General Committee in 2000 and served as Club Chair and then Chair of National Liberal Club Ltd.

Ordained in 1992, my clerical posts included chaplaincies at Mill Hill School and Emanuel School, and I also served as a Priest-in-Ordinary to HM the Queen, taking services at the Chapels Royal. I was recently coaxed out of retirement to become priest-in-charge of Hastings Old Town.



ADRIAN HYYRYLAINEN-TRETT

Joined Club 2017 Elected Gen Cttee 2020

I joined the Club as a political member in 2017, having been a regular visitor for more than 12 years. In 2018, I founded the Club's LGBTQ+ Forum with a dedicated committee and represent an essential part of NLC's motto of being London's most "inclusive" and "diverse" club.

Currently, I work for a not-for-profit organisation, *The Employers Network for Equality & Inclusion* (ENEI), as their Global Relationship Manager. In 2015 I stood, as the first openly HIV+ parliamentary candidate in Vauxhall, and then in Ipswich at the snap general elections of 2017 and 2019.

Previously, I have chaired LGBT+ Liberal Democrats and, since 2018, I've chaired Liberal International British Group, part of Liberal International - which is also based at the Club. I was elected Vice-Chair of the Club's Membership Committee in 2021.



GILLIAN KAILE

Joined Club 2001 Elected Gen Cttee 2009

I am a life member of the Club, and a member of Liberal International. After an MSc. degree in Computing for Commerce and Industry, my career has been in management, finance and information technology.

A member of Mensa, I am Director of *Mensa at Cambridge* - an annual international conference inviting prestigious speakers to discuss a topical issue: in Sept 2021 - *The Skills Crisis*.

I am a former trustee of the Open University's charitable education fund - providing help for those with limited resources. Also, a life member of the Institute of Directors, and Art Fund - which raises money to aid the acquisition of artworks for the nation.

A Liveryman (Glaziers) and Freeman of the City of London, my other interests include target rifle shooting, falconry and oriental carpets.



Dr NICK KIRBY

Joined Club 2009 Elected Gen Cttee 2014

I have been Lead Officer (Pensions) at the largest education union in the UK, the National Education Union, and formerly at the National Union of Teachers, since 2007.

Before this, I was senior and then principal researcher at *Which?* magazine for six years, specialising in articles on pensions and investments. This followed on from my Ph.D. at the London School of Economics on UK pension policy.

At the Club, I am a member of the Chess Circle and a regular attender at Tuesday and Thursday Table.



GORDON LISHMAN CBE FRSA

Joined Club 1978 Elected Gen Cttee 2014

Until retirement, I was Director General of *Age Concern* (now merged into *Age UK*) and Chief Executive of the *Age Concern Group*.

I am a Burnley Borough Councillor, a Director of NLC Ltd, Treasurer of the Social Liberal Forum, and Organising Secretary of the Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidates Association.

The many roles I have held in the Liberals and Liberal Democrats over nearly 60 years include Federal Board and predecessors (1969-2020); Chair, International Relations Committee; and Chair, Association of Liberal Councillors / Association of LD Councillors. I have been a Parliamentary candidate a total of seven times and a European Parliament candidate twice.

With three children and five grand-children, I take delight in organising family holidays for groups of 13.



SAAMIR MAHMUD

Joined Club 2018 Elected Gen Cttee 2021

Born in Karachi, I have lived in Pakistan, the USA and now the UK. I read Law at Oxford and Oriental Studies at Cambridge. Based in Bloomsbury, I am a barrister specialising in domestic violence, family law, asylum and immigration.

At the Club, I chair the Bridge Circle and, as well as running fortnightly bridge, we will be starting regular open competitive Bridge sessions. I am also on the Reciprocal Clubs Working Group and the Diversity Working Group.

I am proud of my Pakistani heritage and have facilitated a meeting between our Club Chair and the Pakistan High Commissioner. Watch this space for further developments... I am a keen theatregoer, and like to think of myself as an approachable and eternal 'glass half full' Sagittarian.



DENNIS MARTIN

Joined Club 2018 Elected Gen Cttee 2020

As well as joining the Club's General Committee last year, I am a member of the Marketing & Communications Committee, the Not-So-Younger Members' Group, Shooting Club, the German Circle, Defence and Security Circle, and the European and Commonwealth Forum.

My work as a Risk, Compliance and Resilience Consultant is to help companies approach their risk and compliance management in a structured, strategic way.



CLAIRE MAYNE (She/Her)

Joined Club 2018 Elected Gen Cttee 2020

I am an active member of the Club's Membership Committee, Diversity Working Group and Not-So-Younger Members' Group. I chair the Catering Liaison Working Group, am Vice-Chair of the LGBTQ+ Forum and have a particular interest in membership recruitment and retention.

By profession, I am an accountant experienced in charity finance, governance, IT system management, human resources, change management, and health & safety. In 2019, I resigned as a Chief Operating Officer, transitioned into the commercial aviation finance sector, and became a charity trustee and school governor. I'm a Freeman of the City of London and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Glaziers.

I have eclectic taste in music, consider myself an amateur chef and am a keeper of rare-breed chickens. Other interests include opera, ballet art, travel and all things queer.



MICHAEL MEADOWCROFT

Vice-President Joined Club 1962 Rejoined 1983

Served as the Club's Librarian and its Archivist, and also sat on the Wine Committee for many years. After joining the Liberal party in 1958, I held various party positions and was elected to Leeds City Council in the first Liberal success in the city for 30 years.

Was elected as the Liberal Member of Parliament for Leeds West from 1983 - 1987, and am an Honorary Alderman of the City of Leeds. Over some 25 years, I have led or been a member of more than 50 electoral assistance missions - providing advice and practical assistance to 35 new and emerging democracies on four continents.

In recent years, my traditional jazz band has provided the music for the Club's summer party. I write and lecture on Leeds political history – and contribute articles and obituaries for the Club magazine.



Dr MICHAEL C. McDONAGH

Joined Club 2019 Elected Gen Cttee 2020

After nearly 40 years' service in HM Armed Forces (Corps of Royal Engineers) and the Metropolitan Police, I moved from New Scotland Yard as a Counter Terrorism Commander to a multinational financial institution as their Global Head of Protective Security and Intelligence.

I went on to become Managing Director of a bespoke risk, security and crisis management advisory consultancy, working with global organisations in a wide range of sectors including Formula One, cultural, media, sporting, governmental and Third Sector.

In my spare time I am an avid reader, keen skier and hill walker and have recently become a member of the NLC Shooting Club and the Defence and Security Circle, both of which I am finding interesting and stimulating.



EMMA MOORE

Joined Club 2019 Elected Gen Cttee 2020

A senior criminologist and human rights advocate with 16 years' experience, I manage more than 500 people and multiple programmes. I am currently working to help procure funding so that many flat owners in high-rise blocks can afford to replace unsafe inflammable cladding.

I founded and chair the Club's Sustainability Forum, am the NLC Representative to the Gold Alliance (Under 40s European Interclub network), One Young World Ambassador, and an Executive MBA candidate. I am passionate about reaching the Sustainable Development Goals, and making the Club successful by working towards increased diversity and inclusivity.

Among my other interests are upcycling - the creative reuse of discarded products, and ballroom dancing.



Dr ELIZABETH NEGUS FCCT FRSA

Joined Club 2017 Elected Gen Cttee 2018

Since joining the NLC, I have enjoyed its convivial atmosphere and wide range of interesting Clubs and Circles. I chair the Diversity Working Group and am a member of the Commonwealth Forum, which has allowed me to work collaboratively with the Defence and Security Circle, among others.

An international speaker on education issues, I have also debated in the House of Lords on 'The challenges for international relations in the 21st Century'. A researcher, author and book editor, my work has also included mentoring students at secondary schools in oral presentations, and I'm a judge for the English-Speaking Union's *Churchill Public Speaking* – the largest public speaking competition for schools in England and Wales. I am also a school governor.



INDERJEET SINGH NIJHAR

Joined Club 2017 Elected Gen Cttee 2020

I chair the Club's Political and Economic Circle and am an active member of several others. I have been involved in many community and business start-ups since the 1980s, and have had a diverse professional career as one of the youngest CEOs to lead a housing association, and as Executive Director of the homeless charity, *Centrepont*.

Elected a councillor in 1994, I worked as a civil servant in the PM's Strategy Unit on formulating national policy under Tony Blair and the Tory-Lib Dem Coalition. I have also held posts at both Capita and PwC. I chaired the national commemoration, based at the House of Lords, of those from the British 'Empire' who fought in both World Wars. I am a passionate foodie, and a big fan of the Italian home-sourced olive oil now available in our Clubhouse!



ROBERT ORCHARD

Joined Club 1984 & 2013 Elected Gen Cttee 2018

Hello, I'm a freelance political journalist, lecturer and copy editor, based in Cardiff and London, writing occasionally for Parliament's own magazine, *The House*, among others. The son of a Devon farmer and Welsh nurse, I trained as a teacher after university before entering journalism in Cardiff, moving later to Westminster via Brussels and Strasbourg.

After 25 eventful years as a BBC Political and then Parliamentary Correspondent, I became a very mature MA student at King's College London - 40 years after my 1st degree. I also rejoined the Club and was part of the working group that successfully recommended liberalising the dress code, though there is still more to do.

Outside work, I have long enjoyed acting and producing – latterly with Tower Theatre in London and my own company, Moonlight Theatre, which toured *Under Milk Wood* to Malta in 2019. I am also a charity trustee for *Homeopathy UK*.



TREVOR PEEL

Joined Club 2011 Elected Gen Cttee 2014

I chair the Club's Commonwealth Forum and the European Forum, and serve on the General Purposes and Membership Committees. With colleagues, I established the annual NLC Diplomatic Reception.

A retired prison governor, I'm also a former chair of the Independent Review Panel for Continuing Health Care, NHS England (2003-2014), and a former Mental Health Act Commissioner for England & Wales. I also serve on the International Committee of the Royal College of Nursing, and am a member of the Liberal Democrats and the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland. My interests include travelling (I worked in Guatemala & Honduras in the 1970's), reading and the theatre.



MICHAEL PICKERSGILL

Vice-President Joined Club 1996 Chairman 2013–2016

I am a retired Secondary Head Teacher and a senior management consultant. I was also a Director of the Centre for the Study of Comprehensive Schools.

A former Chairman of the Club, I have also served on the General Committee (Vice-Chairman), General Purposes Committee (Chairman) and the Wine Committee (Vice-Chairman). A Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and one-time member on the Speaker's Commission on Citizenship, I also served on the Metropolitan Police Working Party on Schools Involvement.

A member of the Liberal Democrat Party and a former candidate in local elections, I am also a writer for my local party during election time.



PHIL REEVES

Treasurer Joined Club 1987

I qualified as a barrister and went into tax advisory work when I was persuaded (perhaps unwisely) to take the chartered accountancy exams, which I passed but not without significant effort. After 30 years in the tax profession, I semi-retired to work on one main client and am also Treasurer of The Cricket Society, which aims to promote cricket in all its spheres – playing, watching, listening and reading.

A member of the NLC for nearly 35 years, I am currently the Club Treasurer, Vice-Chair of the Wine Committee, now renamed the Beer, Wine & Spirits Committee, and a Board member of NLC Ltd. When not doing this and other work, I travel the world playing golf, watching cricket and trying to reduce my golf handicap - this is a work in progress.



KARIN REHACEK

*Vice-Chair Joined Club 2013 Elected Gen Cttee 2015
Chairs Membership Cttee*

Elected as Vice-Chair of the Club in July 2021, I currently chair the Membership Committee, the Reciprocal Clubs Working Group and the German Circle. I sit on the Staffing Group, am Secretary of the Shooting Club and was instrumental in setting up the NLC Women's

Network and Tuesday Table. I am heavily involved in many of our varied social events and have encouraged and supported members to stand for General Committee.

As a seasoned Human Resources professional, I have more than three decades of experience within the international financial services industry and am a Freeman of the City of London and a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Glaziers. My interests include the arts, literature, walking, cooking and travel, having explored more than 80 countries.



Dr KEIR SHIELS

Joined Club 2019 Elected Gen Cttee 2021

I am a consultant paediatrician at Great Ormond Street and have been a life-long Liberal Democrat, including a spell as sub editor of the Liberal Democrat Youth and Student magazine while at university. Before I entered medicine I had a brief career as a wine merchant in Cambridge.

My time during the Covid pandemic has been split between developing distance-teaching methods for medical students and volunteering as a vaccinator in my local community of Wanstead and Woodford. I am keen to use this experience to improve the ability of members to access club events and committees from a distance.

I have particular interests in theatre, food and drink and have been an active member of the Club's Wine Beer and Spirits Committee for two years. I'm delighted to now have the chance to contribute to sustaining the Club's incredible current momentum.



RAHUL SINHA

Joined Club 2019 Elected Gen Cttee 2021

Having recently moved to London from Washington DC, I have found the Club a real home from home. I currently advise the Fore Trust (a philanthropic foundation that funds small charities) on their grants programme and impact evaluation. Previously, I have worked in international development, on education policy, and as a macroeconomist at a think tank.

I'm firmly committed to the liberal character of our Club, as those shared principles also animate my volunteer work. I serve on the Executive Committee of the civil liberties group, *Liberty*, and, as a party member, also serve on an Appeals Panel for the Liberal Democrats.

I am an avid theatregoer, and serve on the board of the Gate Theatre in Notting Hill. I'm also a competitive story teller, and have performed in London, Tokyo, and Washington DC. I'm also hoping we can get an NLC cricket club together, so that I can join — once I learn how to play!



VAL STANSFIELD

Joined Club 2008 Elected Gen Cttee 2019

I am Vice-Chair of the Club's General Purposes Committee, and chair the Women's Network. The popular Tuesday and Thursday Tables are something I co-host: these provide an opportunity for members, new and old, to meet together, get to know new people and enjoy the comforts of the Bar and Dining Room just as much or as little as they please.

My work is as an employment rights adviser for a trade union and, in such spare time as I have, I enjoy reading (mainly novels) and knitting.



ANGELA STYLE

Vice President Joined Club 2000

Born and brought up in Sussex, I finished my education at the Lycée Francais de Londres. I became a secretary working initially in PR, then for the BBC and for CBS News & Reports. On moving to Worcestershire with my family, I became a local councillor and eventually became the WRVS County Organiser... running the whole 'Meals on Wheels' service for Hereford & Worcester.

I helped initiate a victim support scheme which was adopted nationally as a voluntary service within its own right. After my husband's death I went to Bristol University and qualified as a probation officer, moving back to London and becoming a councillor again, this time for Barnes where a group of us helped create the Wetlands under the auspices of Sir Peter Scott.

I joined the National Liberal Club more than 20 years ago and, while chairing the General Purposes Committee, launched the first Chinese New Year celebration and subsequently Diwali. I now chair the Wednesday Lunch Circle.



Dr SETH THÉVOZ FRHistS
Librarian *Joined Club 2004*

As Club Librarian, I curate our collections of rare Liberal books, pamphlets and ephemera. I am an academic historian and investigative journalist, with two specialisms: the history of British political finance, and the history of private members' clubs. I am the author of *Club Government* (2018) and *The Secret Life of London Clubs*, due out in 2022.

I've taught students across London, Oxford and Warwick Universities, and from Georgetown in the USA. Long-standing freelance assignments include *Private Eye* (allegedly) and *openDemocracy*, with a sideline in business intelligence consultancy, focused around risk.

Shortlisted for the Whitfield Prize in History (2019) and the British Journalism Award for Best Investigation (2020). My work means I now have to be largely politically inactive; but I remain a lifelong Liberal, and have held various Lib Dem party posts.



CHARLES WELCHMAN
Re-joined Club 2015 *Elected Gen Cttee 2016*

I am a retired circuit judge and a life-long Liberal - resigning my LibDem membership while a serving judge. A Club member in the 1970s, I re-joined post-retirement, and was delighted to find it revitalised. I chaired the working group which successfully recommended reforms to modernise the Club's dress code in 2019.

A Devonian by birth, I have lived in London since reading law at University College, where I was President of the Debating Society and Best Individual Speaker, Observer Mace 1965. Married Rosemary in 1972 – we have a son and daughter. At the Bar, I specialised latterly in clinical negligence and personal injuries.

Contested Esher in Oct. 1974 and 1979, Putney in 1983. Outside politics and the law, interests include theatre, opera, biography and jazz as well as good food, wine and company.



VALERIE WILLIAMS
Vice President *Joined Club 1997*

Having started my working life with BP in London, I then moved to NATO in Paris before going to work in the United States. Upon my return to this country, I joined the European Commission's office in London and am now a retired European Commission official.

A life-long Liberal/Liberal Democrat, I was active in the constituency of St Marylebone, as Chairman, agent and Council candidate. I now live in a constituency – Kingston and Surbiton – with a Liberal Democrat MP, where I help with the work.

I have been a member of the Club for more than 20 years and served on the General Committee and the Membership Committee, of which I am a former Chairman.



YISHA XUE

Joined Club 2018 Elected Gen Cttee 2019

I worked in the City for 15 years, first as a commodities broker and later in commodity financing. I then started my own consultancy company, dealing in metals and later in property. I'm a Liveryman of the Glaziers Company, and received the Freedom of the City in 2019.

A former trustee of the Islington Chinese Association, I am involved with the Cambridge Music Festival as a patron. I produce the successful concert evenings held at the Club by the *Kettner Society*, a charity which also hosts monthly lunchtime talks there, and it is my great honour to serve on the General Committee. I look forward to working together with all our members to make the NLC the best club in London.



ALEX YOUEL

Joined Club 2004 Elected Gen Cttee 2019
Chairs Marketing & Communications Cttee

A business consultant specialising in membership and tourism, I'm now mostly retired but still interested in aspects of heritage (nearly 30 years' experience at senior level with the National Trust), the environment (six years at the Peak District National Park), natural history and bird watching in particular.

My main current contribution to the life of the Club is chairing the Marketing & Comms. Committee, and as Membership Secretary to our Business Forum, as well as sitting on the General Committee and Membership Committee.

I'm a baritone with Wimbledon Choral Society and piano accompanist to the Lantern Arts Community Choir. I am church warden for St Mark's Church in Wimbledon, an occasional fly fisherman and long-term carer for a classic but troubled Jaguar XJ40 Sovereign.

