

Meet the Raven Management Committee

Chair & Communication – Peter Sturman

Responsibilities include: arranging and recording meetings, overseeing CBS documentation, acting as the point of liaison between the MC and the manager, line manager for pub manager, designing and implementing the media liaison strategy, issuing news releases and fostering good relationships with local media outlets.

Peter says:

'I am a retired senior Scotland Yard detective. For the last four years of my service I was in charge of the Accelerated Promotion Scheme at the National Police College. I also spent time as a media liaison officer for the police.

I am also a qualified lead assessor for the International Organisation for Standardisation. My wife and I moved to Culcheth in 2011, having previously spent a lot of time visiting relatives in the area.

I was dumbfounded when I learnt of plans to demolish the Raven and joined the movement to 'Save the Raven' early on.

I became part of the steering group and I have been able to utilise my media liaison training and experience to help publicise the fight to save the Raven.

As chair of the steering group and now the management committee, I have been able to rely upon a considerable amount of experience both as an operational leader in the police service and my leadership and development role at the Police Staff College.

As we move toward operating the Raven as a community pub I am excited about all the possibilities we have before us. Our local community have been and continue to be incredible with what has been achieved, so far. I consider myself lucky to be a part of it.'

Deputy Chair & Environmental Sustainability – Fraser Hampson

Responsibilities include: to act as chairperson, in the absence of the chair.

Responsibilities for overseeing the environmental sustainability policy within the Raven and its surrounding grounds. Monitoring and responding to new initiatives within this area.

Fraser says:

'I have been in sales and business development for over 10 years and most recently Product Owner and Inventory Management the last 5 years helping to create and start up cinch.co.uk the online car buying platform. I feel my skill set along side the other members of the MC we will help us to successfully re open, manage and sustainably run the Raven Inn as a community pub restaurant for the present and future.

I have lived between the villages of Glazebury and Culcheth my whole life and know the area and the community very well. I have also been a part of this group from the very beginning and have a great drive and determination to see the Raven re opened and successful community pub restaurant, with a strong focus on being environmentally sustainable.

Treasurer – Matt Smith

Responsibilities include: overseeing share offer, reconciling bank statements, managing cash flow, signs off expenditure for or by the manager, liaise with accountants, book keeping.

Matt says:

Matt Smith FCA / FCIM

'I am a Fellow member of both the Institute of Chartered Accountants and Chartered Institute of Marketing, with almost 25 years' experience working across the respective

industries.

From a finance and marketing perspective, there is little I've not seen or experienced. Having trained at PwC and worked with leading entrepreneurs both domestically and internationally, I was inspired in 2017 to spearhead a Management buyout of my current business BDB (www.weareb2b.com). I then sold the business in 2021 to become a 100% employee-owned business, remaining active in my strategic role as CEO. Egalitarian ownership, collaboration and business transformation are close to my heart, and something I am passionate about, reflected in my Board role with the Employee Ownership Association.

Having moved to Culcheth in 2016 and now made a home and many friends in the community, I hope to be able to apply my full skillset and experience, to help the Raven team realise their aspirations of operating a successful community pub'.

Deputy Treasurer - Suzanne Smith

Responsibilities include: to liaise with FCA re annual returns, assist treasurer as necessary
Suzanne says:

I am a Chartered Accountant (also trained at PwC) I am the Chief Finance Officer of a northwest public company listed on the London Stock Exchange. My expertise lies in building business models (cash flow forecasts in particular) in order to raise finance and appraise investments.

Secretary – Carole Watson

Responsibilities include: ensuring that AGM is properly held, annual return submitted, accounts are audited (if necessary), oversee register of members.

Carole says:

'As secretary I feel I have the necessary organisational skills to ensure the smooth running of the management committee. I always stick to deadlines and would ensure timely reminders are sent out when tasks require completion by other members, offering support and advice if necessary.

I have been involved in the fight to save the Raven right from the beginning and am passionate about reopening it as a community facility which would bring people together, offering a wide range of opportunities for social cohesion and promoting the wellbeing of all members of our local communities'.

Project planning and delivery – Austin Hutchinson

Responsibilities include: to oversee the renovation planning and delivery. Oversee the continuing project planning, such as the beer garden. Also representative of the owners.

Austin says:

'I feel I bring a wealth of business and management skills to the management committee having set up and run a successful financial services firm, overseeing funds approaching £1bn.

I also have significant project management experience having developed numerous commercial and residential projects. I am also a director of a property development business, bringing the benefit of my contacts and experience to the Raven.

I live close by and am delighted to be helping bring back my local!'

Compliance – Joanne Grundy

Responsibilities include: H&S policies, environmental health, fire safety, food safety and licensing.

Jo says:

'I have lived in Glazebury for 25 years, moving here from Liverpool after meeting my husband who has lived here all his life.

We live in the Avenue directly behind the Raven and it has been a part of all of our family's lives for many years.

I have worked in the pub industry for 32 years, the last 27 of which I was a General Manager for various Pub Companies including Yates's Wine Lodges, Greene King Pub co, Spirit Pub Co I have been involved in the Compliance side of running these types of business in all aspects including Health and safety, Fire Safety, Food Safety and Licensing.

Working within the industry for so long has given me the experience needed to carry out this role for the Raven Management Committee.

I will bring my experience to the table and be able to support the appointed Manager and the shareholders in keeping us safe, legal and compliant.'

Volunteers coordinator – Sue Leather

Responsibilities include: compiling and maintaining a volunteers register. Volunteers will include – coffee shop, stand by volunteers to cover short notice staff absence, 'No one alone' transport volunteers, gardening, plumbers, odd job people and window cleaners.

Sue says:

'I have lived in the village of Glazebury all my life. My family have farmed on Chat Moss behind the Raven for 5 generations and still continue to do so.

I have been involved in lots of community events and fund raising throughout my life from village carnivals, tractor festivals, to building a new scout centre, and have been on the committees that have co-ordinated to make these things happen.

Living in the village for so long gives me the advantage of knowing many people who I can hopefully call on to help with volunteering their time and skills.

Village Liaison – Maureen Parkinson

Responsibilities include: personal contact with groups and individuals in Glazebury and Culcheth. Both keeping people updated, but importantly fostering relations with groups who could use the Raven, eg scooter club, walking groups etc. Seeking out groups and individuals who could benefit from what the Raven Inn Community pub will have to offer.

Mo says:

'I feel I have a lot of skills relevant to the Village Liaison role. I have worked in management running my own business and am very experienced at helping people, liaising with people and solving problems. I am very outgoing and a good communicator. I find it easy to talk to people from all sections of society, in fact I thrive on contact with people. I am also very resourceful, creative and have great ideas regarding potential community events involving different groups of people.

I was one of the people who initiated the 'Save the Raven' campaign back in January 2019. I live just behind the pub and it has been my local for many years so I am determined to see it return to a thriving community facility. I will do everything I can to ensure the success of this community project'.

Website, social media and IT – Steve Wood

Responsibilities include: (dependent on the level of input from the manager into the website, but as a minimum) maintaining the website, ensuring it is as 'visible' as possible to internet searches etc. Overseeing social media and IT systems.

Steve says:

'As an owner and director of a small IT consultancy business for the past 30+ years I have developed software, designed complex systems and managed small to extremely large IT infrastructure for local and global clients such as IBM, Astra Zeneca, Lockheed Martin, Lidos, Manchester Airport Group, Royal & Sun Alliance, MTV Russia and Copper Dragon Brewery.

The years working within this industry has taught me a broad range of skills on building and managing IT systems, from writing the software to improving SEO and utilising 3rd party search systems to increase rankings on various search engines and improving social interaction/engagement.

We have also supported clients in a range of community and charity projects, most recently helping European Metal Recycling build and promote a recycling education site aimed at schools, in partnership with Curry's along with building and building/maintaining the government back websites for the Council For Sustainable Business, also in partnership with European Metal Recycling'