

Nominees for Trustee of Nonsuch Dulcimer Club – October 2020

Candidates Biographies and Statements

The following people are standing for election as trustees of Nonsuch Dulcimer Club. They have supplied these statements about themselves.

Hilary Davies

I started playing the Hammered Dulcimer in 2005 while I was living in the USA, and enjoy playing many different types of music. I joined Nonsuch in about 2009, and came over for Annual Weekends starting in 2012 when I retired. I volunteered for the 2015 Dulcimer World Congress, and after I moved back to the UK in 2016, I joined the Nonsuch Committee as Annual Events Organiser. I have been an active member of the Nonsuch Committee since then, and agreed to be a Trustee in 2019 to help with the work of applying and running the club as a registered CIO.

I have a BA in Mathematics & Philosophy (Leeds, UK, 1974), an MA in Accounting & Information Systems (MTSU, USA, 1979) and a Master of Arts in Teaching (Johns Hopkins, USA, 2005). I worked for General Electric in the USA for 25 years, first in communications software engineering, and then as an Asset Manager (Operations) and Deal Manager (Sales). I was responsible for a large budget (\$100M) for data center operations equipment, software & services. I have also been active for over 40 years in non-profit organisations, including as Treasurer on the Board of Maryland NARAL for five years, and on my local school PTSA committees.

I have a lifelong love of music - mostly classical and jazz until I started playing the dulcimer. Nonsuch Dulcimer Club means a great deal to me, as it promotes and supports music and this "sweet-sounding" instrument of ours, and just as a wonderful group of people. I would be pleased and honoured to serve as a Trustee.

Sandra Hudson

I wish to be considered for the role of Trustee for the Nonsuch Dulcimer Club.

I am now retired but have had a life where I have given my service freely. My first experience of volunteering was as a teenager when I became a Sunday School teacher at my local church. At teacher training college I was secretary for the Junior Common room Committee. I had a relatively short teaching career as I had to resign once we had children and I felt that my role was to look after the home and the children while Ken pursued his career in teaching. However, I realised that resources for young mothers were lacking in the village where we lived, so together with two neighbours we set up a Mother and Toddler group in the village. I held the roles of secretary and treasurer of this group. It was very successful and was still running long after we left that village some years later.

When we moved to Shepley in 1980, I became a member of the school parent teacher association and in due course became the secretary. We joined the local church, where over the years I became involved more deeply, being on the PCC, the Deanery Synod and was involved in running courses for Deanery members. I also joined with two friends to hold marriage preparation courses. I finally became a church warden at my local church and had the privilege of dealing with church matters during an interregnum, chairing meetings, arranging for vicars to take services, weddings and funerals and generally caring for the church- both the building and the people.

In 2001 we moved to York where we had the great pleasure of running a B&B. This gave us a whole raft of experience dealing with, and catering for, guests from all over the world. It was here

that we made contact with Jenny Coxon and held several weekend courses for the Dulcimer Club, which we remember with great fondness.

Since 'retiring' I finally achieved my ambition to own a dulcimer, and joined the Dulcimer Club. After a while I volunteered to become editor of the newsletter, which has given me the opportunity to learn more about dulcimers and to 'meet' so many very kind and talented people.

I would now like to offer my service as a Trustee.

Sally Whytehead

I started playing the hammered dulcimer in 1989 and was instrumental in the formation of the club in 1993. For most of the time since, I have been actively involved in running the club, filling most of the committee roles on offer at different times. I became club President in 2017 and have been Chair twice including currently. I was the lead player in setting up the Nonsuch Dulcimer Club as a charity in 2019 and designed and set up the current website last year.

I retired from my day job as a principal software engineer and project manager for Fujitsu in 2013, leaving more time for my own interests. Since retiring I now do a mix of paid work and volunteering for the Arts Development and Events departments of Redditch Borough Council. In recent years I have also started playing mountain dulcimer, having met and heard so many great players over the years.

Since 1993 I have attended the Cimbalom World Association Congress (for all types of dulcimer), each year in a different country, and was elected to their board in 1997. I agreed to host this biennial event in the UK in 2015 and in 2014 I set up a charity 'Dulcimer World Congress' as the vehicle for it. Nonsuch Dulcimer Club was a major partner in the event. I was chair and one of the main organisers. It was extremely successful with over 200 delegates from 23 countries. We had some great feedback that it was the best Congress so far! We also ran music workshops in 10 local schools and a schools concert and created a dulcimer education pack.

I was also on the Worcestershire Arts Partnership as an amateur sector representative for about 8 years, giving me very useful professional and voluntary sector contacts and friends. For many years I was also treasurer of the Redditch Arts Council and also a trustee and treasurer of a local grant giving charity Redditch School of Arts Trust. Going further back, I was involved in running a folk club and festival in the 1990s, and have many contacts and friends in the folk world. Since the Congress in 2015 I have cut down on these roles and spent more time on Nonsuch.

I am conscious that the knowledge of running the club should not be vulnerable to one or two people and so have been developing documentation about our processes and policies with the other trustees, committee members and volunteers.

What I love about the Nonsuch Dulcimer Club is the great community and friendship it brings. Over the years my strongest friendships have been with dulcimer folk! I am delighted to give back to this community by offering my time and expertise serving the club as a trustee.

29th September, 2020.