

Nomination for Trustee of Nonsuch Dulcimer Club – October 2024

Candidate's Statements

The following people are standing for election as trustee of Nonsuch Dulcimer Club. They have supplied this statement about themselves.

Christine Fitt

Since discovering the Nonsuch Dulcimer Club way back in the early 1990s, the organisation has been an important part of the lives of both myself and Bob, not least because it has been the means of gaining a great many good friends.

My long term involvement with Nonsuch has included several years respectively in the roles of Membership Secretary and Annual Residential Weekend Organiser and, in partnership with Jenny Coxon and other club members, have played a major part in many Nonsuch promotional & outreach events and festivals such as Fylde, Ashover and Edgworth, as well as other public events, particularly in Yorkshire. In 2015 I was also a member of the organising committee for the international Dulcimer World Congress held in Malvern. Outside of Nonsuch membership I have been a primary school governor for the past 9 years, with the subject of music awareness always a major interest of mine.

I would be proud to act as a Trustee of this wonderful Club and would look forward to helping the Club move forward in its aims of promoting the world of dulcimers in the UK.

William Duddy

During an enjoyable 4-year term as a Nonsuch trustee and active committee member, acquiring a broad knowledge of Club processes and procedures, it has been a privilege to play a part in the Club's continuing development, made especially challenging through the Covid epidemic.

Looking back, my contribution – as part of the trustee/committee team – has included

- Developing an initial draft Club Risk Register, and subsequent periodic reviews
- Leading our participation in the online "Making Music" self-assessment process, to identify areas for development/improvement to meet the regulatory requirements of the Charities Commission, generating consequent improvement in our compliance.
- Initial drafting/review of several essential Club policies for comment/approval by committee and trustees
- Representing the Club at periodic "Making Music" Zoom training seminars and subsequent sharing of relevant learning points
- Representing the Club at occasional Northern Ireland regional "Making Music" seminars, building connections with other local music organisations.

As a keen mountain dulcimer player, my involvement in the musical activity of the Club includes:

- Regular, annual flights to Great Britain to participate in Spring Fling, Halsway Dulcimer Week and our Annual Weekend – getting to know a
- Helping Steve Gray in the organisation of Spring Fling in Newcastle

- Regular participation in Geoff Black's Virtual Nova Scotia Zoom sessions, and participation in a "backup team" which can run the session, if requested by Geoff.
- Participation as an annual "Mystery Guest" in the "Send in the Music" sessions facilitated by Pat Clark in Sanford, Florida, making new friends across the "Pond".

As an "offshore" Nonsuch member, I have wide networks in folk and old-time music circles in Ireland and GB and have been a dulcimer "pioneer and advocate" in our local folk club. Following on from my 36-year senior management career in NI Water, subsequent post-retirement voluntary positions and recent completion of a 4-year term as a publicly appointed trustee with National Museums NI, I would be pleased to continue my contribution to Nonsuch Dulcimer Club – if re-elected.