Wavendon Allmusic Plan Trustees

David Meadowcroft: Chair
David is a senior business leader in the facilities and technology sector and is currently Global Alliance Director with CBRE. He has also played a leading role in the local community, recently stepping down from the board of governors at Milton Keynes College after nine years, seven of those as Chair, where he helped to steer the organisation through a period of growth, including the development of the Institute of Technology and the new Business College.

Alex Aitken
Alex is a West End musical director and works nationally as a conductor, pianist, organist, writer and educationalist. He is the author of *Mastering A-level Music*, which is used in schools worldwide. He is also a musical director with the National Youth Music Theatre, the Assistant Musical Director at Milton Keynes Chorale, a coach with The Oxford and Cambridge Singing School and accompanist to The National Children's Choir of Great Britain, Oxford Pro Musica, CBSO Chorus and Youth Chorus, Sing for Pleasure and The Military Wives Choirs.

Donna Harrington
Donna qualified as a chartered accountant with PwC and stayed with them for five years in a manager role post qualification. She took a short break to start a family and then began lecturing in accounting and audit for the training firm Kaplan, where she remained until 2018 when she left to take up the Finance Director role for the charity Bikeability Trust. Donna left this role in 2021. Donna heads up the Finance and Audit Risk Committee.

Steve Hasson
Steve has been a trustee at The Stables for a number of years. Whilst live music is one of his passions, his background is in business. He is a former senior PwC partner international tax partner. The main focus of his tax work is now research into tax incentives and corporate behaviours. In addition to lecturing and writing on business related subjects he acts as an angel investor in a number of start-ups. He is also a founding partner in Talent Wizard LLP, a social enterprise aimed at providing career coaching particularly to school leavers and students. Apart from his work at The Stables he is a keen football fan and is currently training a search and rescue dog.

Nicola Powell
Nicola is an experienced Project Manager and established archaeological finds specialist. She is the Training and Wellbeing Officer at the Open University Students Association and has worked for the Museum of London Archaeology and Portable Antiquities Scheme and as a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Leicester. She is also Director of the Woad Farm Project.

Zoe Raven
Zoe has lived and worked in and around Milton Keynes since 1983, and is the founder and CEO of Acorn Early Years Foundation, a charitable social enterprise which has grown from a single nursery to 18, 13 of which are in Milton Keynes. She has been a school governor, and a trustee of the Parks Trust, Women Leaders, and Arts Gateway, and she has a keen interest in the arts and in live music. She completed a doctorate in business ethics in 2023 and she is passionate about working to reduce social inequality.

Professor Lynette Ryals OBE
Lynette is Pro-Vice-Chancellor at Cranfield University and CEO of MK:U. She was previously Pro-Vice-Chancellor Education and also Dean of Cranfield School of Management and was awarded the OBE in 2019 for services to higher education. She is a Non-Executive Director of East West Rail and of the Oxford-Cambridge Pan Regional Partnership and she is an Ambassador for Willen Hospice.

Lal Tawney
Lal is a Director at Whitecap Consulting and is a senior strategist and marketer with expertise across the education and financial services sectors. He has over 30 years strategy, product and change management experience gained from working with a range of organisations including The Open University, British Council, London South Bank University, Barclays, Santander and KPMG. In addition, he was part of the management team of a financial services start up.

Dipesh Tosar
A qualified solicitor, Dipesh is Deputy General Counsel at dentsu international, advising one of the largest global marketing and advertising networks in the world on a broad range of corporate and commercial specialties. He previously worked in the technology sector advising across various international markets, and also held a Governor position at a Primary Academy Trust.

Associate Trustees

Manny Ademolu
Manny is a performing singer-songwriter, voiceover artist, and student adviser dedicated to empowering creative communities. In 2025, he received an Inspirational Award for his significant contribution to the music scene in Milton Keynes. A former board director and trustee of Milton Keynes Fringe, Manny brings a collaborative ethos to every space he enters. He has extensive experience as a youth and inclusive music facilitator across Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, with a strong focus on representation in the arts. Passionate about connection, Manny strives to bridge the gap in representation between emerging talent and established institutions, creating opportunities and amplifying diverse voices.

Hasmita Chavda

IF Milton Keynes International Festival

IF: Milton Keynes International Festival Advisory Board

John Cove: Chair
John is an accomplished Chair, Board Director and former Chief Executive who led organisations across the charity, sport, cultural, education, regeneration and public sectors. Since retiring from StadiumMK and MK Dons Football Club, John continues to chair Destination Milton Keynes and the Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Deal as well as participating in the City of Culture Bid Task and Finish Group.

Will Cousins
Will has extensive experience of master planning and urban design on a wide range of projects in the UK, Scandinavia and in Australia. He has worked for the Milton Keynes Development Corporation and London Docklands Development Corporation. In 1990 Will joined David Lock Associates Planning and Urban Design Consultants and helped build the Company into an award-winning international consultancy. He was previously Chair of Milton Keynes Gallery and a Board Member for the Milton Keynes Development Partnership. Will is currently a Partner at Pooleyville a Milton Keynes-based Creative Agency working across Culture, Tech and Urbanism. Among its diverse portfolio of projects, it publishes the fortnightly windows on MK - City Mag.

Alex Darbyshire
Alex is Director of Business and Strategic Projects at Rambert. She has previously been Executive Director at Norfolk and Norwich Festival and Tamasha Theatre Company, Administrative Director at English Touring Opera and Vice President at Universal Pictures Visual Programming. Alex has been a Trustee at Nuffield Theatre and Tender.

Donna Harrington
Biography as above

Steve Hasson
Biography as above

Marian Livingstone

Paul Thomas

Paul Thomas is the Director of Planning and Placemaking at Milton Keynes City Council, and has over 20 years' Local Government experience, the last 10 of which have been in senior roles in planning, strategic transport, economic development and cultural services. Paul has been a member of the Royal Town Planning Institute for 20 years. Paul is also a Director of Destination Milton Keynes, and uses this position to promote the benefits of living, working, and investing in the new City of Milton Keynes.

Gamiel Yafai

Gamiel is Founder and CEO of the multi-award winning EDI consultancy, Diversity Marketplace. He has worked on diversity and inclusion culture change initiatives at the highest levels with many public, private and voluntary sector organisations including The Victoria and Albert Museum, Imperial College London and Santander. He is the co-author of *Demystifying Diversity* and *Yemen Proud*. Gamiel founded and headed up the Diversity Practices for two of the UK's largest HR Resourcing Agencies before setting up Diversity Marketplace in 2005. He is a Trustee for Women Leaders UK, The Inclusivity Foundation and co-founder of Milton Keynes Ethnic Business Community.

July 2026