

AAXZ0016 v1.1 Bio of Candidates for 2023 VoBR Trustee Elections

Frank Wooldridge

Frank is 73 and for most of his working life has run his own business supplying, installing and servicing milking machines on farms in and around Gloucestershire. From this he has a knowledge of site work, electrical and mechanical installations. He got started volunteering at the VOBR in 2016, and in late 2017 took over responsibility for the finances from the previous treasurer and became a trustee. His task now that VOBR is a charity, is to ensure the funds raised are safeguarded and spent appropriately.

Most weeks he will be at the engine shed in the barn area working with others on the VOBR rolling stock, having previously worked on the Vanguard shunter, the 03, the jacker packer, and some shed improvements like the electrical installation in the barn. He is also one of our qualified telehandler drivers.

Carolyn Jones

My family joined Vale of Berkeley Railway in 2022 and have been volunteering at Oldminster Sidings. I am also assisting the heritage group with grant applications and have when possible helped with the exhibition stand. I am possibly a “closet” train fan (but will save that story for another day). I trained in events management before embarking on a wide and varied career that has seen me build administrative and people skills. I have experience of working with many different organisations collaboratively and in my current role I have to co-ordinate a large number of volunteers from a variety of backgrounds. I also have responsibility for a large complex site and a good knowledge of the need for Risk Assessments, Health and Safety at work and General building and site maintenance issues. I would bring all of the above to the board along with a desire to grow and broaden our membership as we look to the future both immediate and long term.

Phil McNamara

I recently retired from the Nuclear Industry where I spent 35 years as a Radiochemist, Radiation Protection Adviser, Respiratory Protection Adviser and Dangerous Goods Safety Adviser. For the final 10 years of service I was the Company Dangerous Goods Safety Adviser for EDF Energy, working in the Spent Fuel Services team which meant I had dealings with Direct Rail Services.

I also represented EDF Energy’s interests at industry level in RAMTUC and have worked with Regulators in the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, Office for Road and Rail and the Department for Transport.

My railway preservation career started in 1978 at the West Lancs Light Railway before moving on to Southport Railway Centre in 1980. I became a Director in 1986 working on the operational side and then later, as the Museum Curator, navigating us through the first round of museum registration. Southport Railway Centre closed in 1999 and moved over the following 2 years to a new site and building at Preston Docks which became Ribble Steam Railway. I’m also a qualified driver, fireman, guard and shunter. I stood down as a Director in 2010 due to work and family commitments.

I joined the VoBR last year and work on the Health and Safety Committee where I hope I bring useful experience from my time both in the nuclear industry, working with regulators and as part of the move from Southport Railway Centre to the new site at Preston Docks.

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I also have a keen interest in Fireless Steam Locomotives, about which I am currently writing a book, and have made no secret of my desire to see 'our' fireless loco returned to working order as well as bringing at least one other example to site for restoration.

Andrew Goodman

My interest in all things railway began at a very early age, having been taken on a steam train when only a few weeks old.

In later years, I took up train spotting and travelled the country extensively, enjoying many happy trips the length and breadth of the country.

Railways have formed both a major part of my working life, I have been in the road haulage industry for 40 years specialising in the road movement of railway locomotives and rolling stock around the world.

As a hobby, railways have featured large as I have spent many years helping in the railway preservation movement.

I was a founder of the Vale of Berkeley Railway project and have contributed extensively, both in a financial capacity and time wise, in order to help establish the project as we know it today.

I am sure that with continued hard work and effort we will finally achieve our ultimate objectives.

Howard Parker

Having begun my railway volunteering in my teens with the Ffestiniog Railway and the South Devon Railway, I have also worked on the Welsh Highland and more latterly with e Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Railway before becoming a member of the VoBR since 2015 and a member of the Trust Board since its inception. I feel honoured to have been elected by the Board to be chair for two terms and would like to put myself forward for a further term of 3 years.

In that time, I have been closely involved as part of the team who have worked to overcome many of the challenges we have faced. During the past three years, I have worked hard with Network Rail until we secured the lease to the sidings and after many delays and difficulties in dealing with the Canal and River Trust, I am pleased and also relieved that we are on the verge of gaining a licence so that our plans for the developments we have planned for Oldminster Sidings can go ahead.

I hope you will consider voting for me to continue as a Trustee for the next period during which time, I hope we can make some real and urgent progress forward to achieve our goals as a railway organisation.

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