

The theme for Trustees Week 2023 is 'many voices working together, with purpose' and as part of this week of celebration, we asked CISWO's trustees to share their thoughts on the important work that they do and the impact that working together with purpose can have in making a difference to the lives of those affected by the coal mining industry.

What motivated you to become a trustee?

"Being a CISWO trustee is, for me, about helping to make a difference. It's also about working with others who can bring something to the table too and together achieving more collectively than we could ever hope to do apart."

Helen Lentle, Trustee

"A wish to contribute and make a difference to people and communities."

Carole Langrick, Vice Chair



Carole Langrick

What attracted you to CISWO when choosing a charity?

"I was born and raised in a coal mining community in South Yorkshire and many of my direct and extended family had worked in the industry. I have seen at first hand the direct impact of the industry on people and communities during its active years but, importantly, have witnessed and experienced the post-industrial effects and legacy that CISWO is actively working to ameliorate. Being a trustee of CISWO is a way that I seek to acknowledge my heritage as well as hope to be able to put something back into the area and its people." **Carole Langrick, Vice Chair**

"I have lived in Yorkshire for 26 years and seen the impact of the coal industry on it's landscape, communities and economics. There is a huge legacy and responsibility carried by CISWO and I was keen to be part of that" **David Steer, Trustee**

What experience and skills do you bring to the charity?

“I have been involved in charities and charity governance for thirty years. I chair three major charities and bring experience in oversight, strategic development, professional development and governance reform.” **Archdeacon Bob Cooper, Chair**

“My legal skills and board and governance experience complement the work of the board and I’ve been able to bring a Welsh perspective to the work of CISWO having worked across the public sector in Wales for years and lived in former mining communities for most of my life.”

Helen Lentle, Trustee

“As a registered nurse and health visitor coupled with over 30 years NHS management experience, I bring to the charity a particular perspective on the social welfare aspect of CISWOs purpose. In particular I take an interest in the social work and support services that CISWO provides to former mineworkers and their families”. **Carole Langrick, Vice Chair**



Archdeacon Bob Cooper

What are the roles and responsibilities of being a trustee and how does it impact the work that CISWO does?

“The role of a trustee is to bring oversight and scrutiny of the operational work and strategic direction of the charity. We ensure that accountability is transparent and scrutinised and that the resources are used in line with the best interests of the beneficiaries and the strategic goals are fulfilled.” **Archdeacon Bob Cooper, Chair**

“To act in the best interest of our client base, ensuring there is no conflict of interest, managing the charities resources responsibly, acting with reasonable skill and care and being accountable at all levels, ensuring the charity is in compliance with its purposes and with charity law.” **Jon Hattersley, Trustee**

What do you enjoy/find rewarding about your work as a Trustee?

"To be a trustee one needs to be sympathetic and dedicated to achieving the charity's objectives. The reward is knowing that those who are in need are being helped and I would recommend anyone who has the time to become a trustee of a charity."

Christine Kaye, Trustee

"CISWO is a big part of my life as someone who has worked in coalfield communities for over 20 years. CISWO's impact over the decade for which I have been a trustee has improved the lives of individuals and communities in areas which impact my own places of work."

Archdeacon Bob Cooper, Chair



What advice would you give to someone who is looking to become a trustee?

"Find a charity whose social purpose aligns with your own and jump in! It's a truly rewarding experience".

Richard Nield, Trustee

"There is something very fulfilling about working with a group of people who clearly want to make a positive difference. I think this is particularly true in the charity/ not for profit industry where motivations are very genuine and quite often personal. There is a strong sense of wanting to do the right thing, for the right reasons, for the right people. A trustee certainly takes on a responsibility, but gets to be a part of this. It feels very rewarding." **David Steer, Trustee**

CISWO and our Board of Trustees are committed to driving the current work of the organisation and setting strong foundations for the future to provide the best services we can and create greater opportunities for those affected by the coal mining industry. To find out more about the important work that CISWO does to support former coal miners and mining communities please visit our website www.ciswo.org.uk.