

AAXZ0021 v1.0 Bio of Candidates for 2024 VoBR Trustee Elections

Edgar Craggs

Originally from Cumbria and spent early years active in the family property business. Moved to Bristol to study IT and never left, majority of working life has been in Retail/Corporate Stockbroking, rising to the position of Head of IT.

I have a life long interest in heavy engineering, particularly railways and also shipbuilding. When not at the railway I enjoy various outdoor activities including walking and rowing.

Around 15 years ago was involved in a permanent way project, which was very rewarding and this activity has now continued as my principal area of activity on heritage railways and specifically with VoBR at Oldminster Sidings.

Age: 59

Status: Semi-retired

Bryan Whitfield

I'm a former advertising creative, now retired after more than 45 years in the business.

I've worked full-time and freelance in advertising agencies in London, Bristol, Düsseldorf, Prague, Amsterdam and Paris on well-known brands including Mars, Procter & Gamble, Apple, Jaguar, Rolls Royce Motor Cars and Westinghouse, Invensys Rail and Siemens.

I've always been interested in historic transport, having owned and restored several classic cars including Austin Sevens, a Bristol 401 and currently a Jowett Javelin.

For 13 years I was involved in preserving the ex-RAF Bristol Britannia aircraft at Kemble, including a management role and setting up the group's Facebook page. My first heritage railway volunteering was on the Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway in 1973. I joined the VoBR in 2016 and became a Trustee in 2022. In my marketing and promotional work for the VoBR, I use the principle of imagining yourself as one of your potential customers, understanding what motivates them and using that to guide all your communications with them. By winning over the public, new members and volunteers, and keeping them coming back for more, I aim to help us secure the funds and support we need to keep the VoBR moving forward.

Dr. Andrew Woodhall M.Sc., M.B., B.S., DRCOG.

The VoBR project was well underway, when I joined 7 years ago. My workshop skills were limited, then, to car and motorbike fettling.

Experience on restoration of the Vanguard locomotive; Wickham 8S trolley, and Jacker Packer brought me into regular contact with so many other volunteers at the shed over that time - I still marvel at the priceless wealth of experience we all bring to the project.

Having bought Planet 3947 a year ago, I own up to benefiting hugely from the enthusiasm and competence of the volunteers. As a retired GP I also act as honorary medical advisor.

I have seen volunteers come, and go over the years, and aim to join the board to help shape a direction which promotes their continuing enthusiasm and retention.