

Wimbledon and Putney Commons: Election of Conservators 2018



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Why do you want to be a Conservator?

An opportunity has been offered to contribute to the care and administration of the Commons, which I live near and walk on every day.

My aim is to be a member of a unified, focused and harmonious team dedicated to assisting in the management of the Commons. I am acutely aware of the importance of the Commons to our community: from the fairs and group activities to the peace and tranquillity unique to a large open space in a vibrant metropolis. The variety of visitors using the Commons and their varied activities must be encouraged and enhanced without endangering the Commons fragile environment, habitat and landscape.

If elected I look forward to being a new and enthusiastic Conservator, delivering Common Sense for the Future of the Commons.

What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

My upbringing on a farm situated in a National Park gives me a unique understanding of the issues involved and the variety of skills required in managing and conserving a large tract of land that is open to the public.

I have spent a lifetime on committees for local and international charities and associations which has informed my understanding of the difficulties associated with committees and the need for successful and harmonious team management. I am one of the original organisers of the Wimbledon Village Fair, and continue to organise and sponsor of the Fun Dog Show. I have been a committee member of the Haygarth Place and Parkside Residents Associations. I currently run my own art dealership. This wide variety of experience and skills will be my contribution as a Conservator.

How will you support implementation of the Commons' Vision and Strategy?

The charm of the Common is that it sustains a diversity of landscapes. A combination of clay and gravel, acid heath and grass land, woodland and golf course, boggy areas with brooks and ponds sums up a unique environment. This diversity requires expertise from a wide variety of professionals and lay people to enhance this natural environment of spectacular scenery and beauty in the heart of South West London.

The Conservators are the guardians of this treasure and it is vital that the Act of Parliament of 1871 establishing the Commons remains strong and effective. Through an atmosphere of tolerance and awareness between users, open spaces and wildlife this wonderful asset will be secured for the enjoyment of future generations

My election as a Conservator will ensure that this happens.