

Biographies of Board Members

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Michele Armstrong

- Currently the Chair of the County Durham One Voice Network and the Lead Officer for the Wear Valley Volunteer Development Agency – now known as 2D. She has brought 2D from a £60K a year Volunteer Bureau to the Infrastructure Support organisation it is today; which as of the last financial year had a £1 million income. 2D is accredited to Volunteer England and the National Association of Voluntary Action and covers two districts in County Durham, Teesdale and the Wear Valley.
- Resides in County Durham where she had been a vocal supporter of local grass roots efforts to unite the voluntary sectors and the communities that need them.

Tim Blackman

- Currently Professor of Sociology and Social Policy, Director of the Wolfson Institute and Head of the School of Applied Social Sciences at the University of Durham
- Previously Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Law University of Teesside, Deputy Dean and Director of the Oxford Dementia Unit at Oxford Brookes University, and Head of Research at Newcastle City Council
- Tim began his academic career in Northern Ireland at the University of Ulster as a Lecturer in Social Policy, where he was also a founding member of the Community Technical Aid and the Northern Ireland Science Shop
- Current Neighbourhood Renewal Advisor with the Department for Communities and Local Government
- Current member of the Department's Housing and Communities Expert Panel, as well as a number of regional and local bodies including the Board of Coast & County Housing Ltd chairing the Operations Committee
- Tim is married to Roberta Blackman-Woods, MP for Durham, and they have one daughter

Ada Burns

- Currently Chief Executive with the Darlington Borough Council. Current Board Member of Tees Valley Regeneration. Past Director of Neighbourhood Renewal with London Borough of Greenwich, past Assistant Director of Housing in Greenwich, past Assistant Director of Housing in Croydon, and past Acting Director of Housing in Greenwich.
- Previously involved in the governance of a range of voluntary organisations, including a Women's Aid Refuge, Centrepoint Housing Association for young single homeless, and community events organisations.

- Grew up in Northern Ireland, lived in London for 20 years, currently lives in Darlington with husband and two children.

John Hamilton DL OBE

- Founder Director of Lamplas (Durham) Ltd
- Secretary and manager of R.W. Mann Trust
- On the board of Capital North East
- Founder Director of County Durham Training & Enterprise Group, acting as Vice Chair and later Chair until September 2002
- Past chair of Business Link representing the region nationally on TEC National Council, past director of Community Foundation Serving Tyne & Wear
- Headed up the Upper Weardale Task Force, past senior executive with the Derwentside Industrial Development Agency
- Past Chair of Derwentside College of Further Education, past Joint Chair of County Durham Careers Service, past Chair of County Durham Educational Trust Ltd, past Chair of the Rural Development Commission in Durham

Mark I'Anson

- Local businessperson with involvements across a range of economic development activities.
- Sold his own NASDAQ listed company, IMP.
- Board member of 3 local SMEs and is chairman of NEL, the North-East's leading regional venture capital firm.
- On the steering committee of both Newcastle Science City and the Northern Way
- A director of Alchemists.
- Member of Council at Newcastle University and a member of their Equity Committee.
- Trustee or Director of three major local charities.
- Personal interests include racing cars, skiing and sailing (all as fast as possible!); and is a champion leek grower.

Andrew Martell DL

- Born in Bognor Regis, 5th April 1948
- Education: Dragon School, Oxford; Wellington College, Berkshire; University of Perugia, Italy; University of York
- Previously in publishing with George Bell & Sons, London, currently Divisional Director of investment management group Brewin Dolphin Ltd.
- Chairman, St. John Ambulance, County Durham; High Sheriff of County Durham from 2002 – 2003; currently Deputy Lieutenant of County Durham; Trustee, Project Genesis; President, Elizabeth Finn Care County Durham; Patron, North East Community Forests Appeal; Patron, Chillingham Wild Cattle Association

- Family interests in agriculture and forestry; Manager Shotley Hall Forestry Estate
- Personal interests include shooting, reading – especially literature & history and classical music

Sarah Nicholson

- Agent for Princes Trust from 1977
- Vice Chairman Development Awards Durham Community Foundation
- Committee Northumbria Historic Houses Association
- Trustee of Auckland Castle
- Past President Children North East 4 years; past Chairman National Art Collection Fund Durham & Cleveland; past Committees Northumbrian Historic Churches Trust
- Personal interests include art, gardening and music

Richard Tonks DL

- As a local entrepreneur, founded the Savers health and beauty retail chain, which he had developed into a 200-store business, employing 3,000 people nationwide with its headquarters in Darlington when he sold it in 2000.
- Currently a non-executive chairman of the Republic Fashion Chain and has extensive interests in other retail businesses.
- Trustee of The Bowes Museum in Barnard Castle.
- Deputy Lieutenant for County Durham Community Foundation.
- Resides in Teesdale with his wife, Suzannah and two children.
- Personal interests include 'putting something back' to help the community that helped him, fishing and shooting.

David Watson FCMA

- Born in Sunderland, County Durham, 15th February 1944.
- Educated in Sunderland.
- Previously Chief Internal Auditor for North East Region with British Rail for all rail locations and the National Pension Fund. David retired from Northumbrian Water Group as Company Secretary in 2000.
- Fellow of the Institute of Management Accountants; Company Secretary of Northumbrian Water Group; Trustee of Pension Funds, Directorships in various Group companies.
- Personal interests include golf, swimming, amateur operatics and model railways.

Alex David Worrall, FCCA

- Current Chairman of Helius Energy Plc, previously Senior Industrial Director
- Previously with Ford's European Headquarters, ICI, Tallent Engineering and ThyssenKrupp, U.K.
- Founder director / shareholder of D1 Oils Plc,
- Non-Executive Director of China Goldmines Plc
- Past Chairman of the Durham Chamber of Commerce, past Chairman of Durham Common Purpose, past Director of Business Link and Durham Learning Skills Council

David Joseph Martin, FCIS

- Banks Group Company Secretary since 1987
- Spent earlier career in Assistant Company Secretary positions with
 - Arriva PLC (formerly Cowie Group)
 - Barratt Developments PLC
 - Swan Hunter Shipbuilders
- Have represented Banks Group at various times in their relationships with connected organisations, such as Wear Valley Enterprise Agency, Chester le Street and City of Durham Enterprise Agency, Tow Law Community Association, County Durham Foundation (of course!)
- Main interest outside business (aside from handling the cultural and personality clashes of a 19 year old son and a 17 year old daughter) is cricket – as a player and Club Secretary at Boldon Cricket Club; as an avid supporter of Durham CCC and as an administrator (having served on 4 Benefit Committees at Durham and currently as a Trustee of the Durham County Cricket Club Youth Trust)
- Other personal interests are predominantly active (though the waistline doesn't offer much in the way of evidence) – football, golf, squash, skiing, cycling and running.
- Resident in Sunderland – within walking distance of the Stadium of Light

Christopher Lendrum, CBE

- Currently Chairman of Barclays Pension Funds Trustees Ltd, following retirement from Barclays PLC in 2004 after 36 years with the bank, where he was latterly Group Vice Chairman with responsibilities including Corporate Responsibility. He was appointed CBE in 2005 for services to banking.
- In his earlier career Chris gained extensive domestic and international banking experience, with senior appointments including Deputy MD UK Banking, Chief Executive Corporate Banking, Chairman Barclays Africa and Group Executive Director.
- He joined Barclays from Durham University having read economics and economic history. The link with the university was rekindled when he chaired the 175th Anniversary Appeal which closed in 2007, since when he and his wife Margaret – they met as students at Durham – have relocated to the north east with a home in Durham City.
- In addition to his Barclays role, he is a Governor of Motability, Chairman of the Aston Martin Heritage Trust and a Trustee of the City of London Endowment Fund for St Pauls Cathedral – and is planning to become involved in venture capital and economic regeneration activities in the north east.

Gerry Osborne

- Education at Milford Haven Grammar School and University of Birmingham.
- Currently Chairman of Roman Ltd, now the UK's leading shower manufacturer, a company which he founded in 1985. Previously with C&J Clarks Ltd and Rothmans International.
- Past president of UK Bath and Shower Manufacturers Federation, past president of European Bath and Shower Manufacturers Federation.
- Currently trustee and director of Northern Sinfonia.
- Personal interests include flying, rugby union, cricket, music, gardening and geology.
- After growing up in Wales has now lived with his family in the North East for over 25 years.

Kate Welch OBE

- Kate is the chief executive of the Acumen Development Trust, which works to achieve social and economic regeneration in the East Durham area through learning, employment and enterprise.
- She was responsible for setting up the Easington Action Team for Jobs and developing the Aim High partnership, which involves agencies and communities working together to increase skills, support people into work and develop a culture of entrepreneurship.
- Kate's previous roles were Operations Manager for JobCentre Plus, Adult Training Manager at the County Durham Training and Enterprise Council, Centre Manager for Community Industry on Tyneside, and Deputy Managing Director of Lambton Park Garden Centre.

- She leads the Testbed Learning Community work in Easington, which has a strong emphasis on community engagement. She is also a board member of Groundwork East Durham, Street NE, the Keyfund Federation and Complementary Care.
- Kate, who also has an MA in social policy from the University of York, sits on the Education Board of Sunderland AFC Foundation.
- In her spare time, Kate is an active member of the Methodist Church and of Girl Guiding UK.
- Kate was awarded an OBE in the 2008 New Year Honours list for services to Social Enterprise in the North East.