

BRLSI Trustee Company Director Elections 2023
Nominee Details

Prof Chris Budd OBE, FIMA, CMath, NTF

I am a Bath resident and have lived in Combe Down with my wife and dog, for the last six years.



I have been Professor of Applied Mathematics at the University of Bath for nearly 30 years. My research work is on applications of mathematics to industry, and a large amount of my work centres on establishing long term links between the university, industry, government and business. For many years I have worked closely with the Met Office on problems linked to climate change. During the pandemic I used mathematical modelling methods to advise SAGE and the government in their response to COVID-19, and I received an award from the Office for Science for doing this. I am also a keen advocate for outreach by the university. I run university based mathematics workshops for young people in local schools on many weekends, as well as giving many mathematics talks to schools all over the world. I have also developed a credit beating course training undergraduate students in outreach which involves them in many forms of collaboration with the community (including sometimes the BRLSI). I am professor of mathematics at the Royal Institution, and was Gresham Professor of Geometry till 2020. In 2015 I was awarded OBE for my work in mathematics and science education.

I have been a strong supporter of the work of the BRLSI since starting at the University of Bath. In 2000 along with Bob Draper MBE and Peter Ford MBE, I was one of the founders of the Bath Taps into Science Festival, which was a collaboration between the BRLSI and many other organisations in Bath, including the two universities and many local schools. I directed this for 20 years and saw it grow into a major science festival, until the pandemic shut it down. I have also helped with many BRLSI weekend events for young people. I often go to talks at the BRLSI and enjoy taking my visitors around it.

I believe that there are a number of ways that I can help and work with the BRLSI by being a director. Firstly I would be able to support its work with young people and to act in both a strategic and an operational manner to help plan and develop programmes of activity for them. For example planning, and running, a relaunch of the Bath Taps into Science hands on festival, and seeking ways of making it sustainable (including raising funds). Secondly I would be able to act as a link between the BRLSI, and the University of Bath, and the wider academic community. Hopefully to the mutual benefit of both. Thirdly, I have extensive links to industry (including bodies such as the Met Office) and charities such as the Royal Institution, the IMA and Gresham College, and would aim to link all of these to the BRLSI. I hope that this would lead to some interesting and entertaining talks/presentations at the BRLSI of hopeful benefit to its members,

I very much look forward to working with the BRLSI, and would be keen and ready to put in the hours needed. I hope that this application to be a Director is successful.

David Hall

As a BRLSI director for the past three years I have served on the staff sub-committee, through the challenges of COVID, and contributed to working groups on planning and governance.



Since late 2022 I have been heavily committed to planning and preparing for BRLSI's Bicentenary in 2024, a significant landmark for the institution. To encourage widespread involvement of members and other stakeholders in generating ideas for the Bicentenary year I organised brain-storming sessions. I have since been closely involved in developing ideas into practical plans, with a range of partners. I would relish the opportunity to remain on the board to see proposals through to successful implementation and maintain the momentum.

I strongly support the drive to expand membership, enhance the range and number of activities, and strengthen the institution's finances. I see these as vital for increasing BRLSI's standing and recognition of its importance as a cultural hub, while ensuring the development of our Collection.

I have been a member of BRLSI since moving to Bath and continue to enjoy its range of activities. I actively support other Bath cultural and environmental charities and am a trustee of Bath Natural History Society.

Now retired, my career was in newspaper and magazine publishing, as journalist, editor and consultant in skills and management development. It also included communications management for companies and charities. As a volunteer I established an amenity group to safeguard a neglected open space in London and chaired a charity running a thriving neighbourhood community centre.

In 2020 I was appointed a director of BRLSI by Bath Preservation Trust (BPT) where I was a trustee. My term as a BPT trustee has since expired so I am standing for election as a BRLSI director in order to continue supporting the institution as an active member of the board.

Andreas Wasmuht

I have been involved in the Bath Royal Literary Institution for at least 15 years, as result of my passion for philosophy, world affairs and culture in general.



My first role at BRLSI was as convenor for philosophy, followed by Business & Economics and more recently convenor for World Affairs. Over the years I have convened 100s of talks at the Institution, delivering dozens of talks myself.

I have been a member of the Programme Committee for many years and chaired the Committee for three years between 2020-2022,

steering the cultural activities through the pandemic by moving the talks programme online and creating a video library legacy of circa 300 talks in the process.

The vast majority of talks, circa 120 each year, are still being run on a hybrid basis, with speakers and audiences both being present at the Institution and live online. This helps us to reach a much wider audience and speaker base across the globe.

I have been a member of the Management Committee for the past 4 years and co-chair over the past 15 months. During this time the technology at the BRLSI has been transformed and we are at the cusp of broadening the extent to which our invaluable collections will be available to the public. In addition, I chair the weekly Scheduling meeting that coordinates cultural activities at the Institution and sit on the Digital and Communications committee.

In my commercial career I have filled senior and director level roles in as diverse organisations such as Lloyds Bank, AXA, Tesco, BSM, EE and BSKyB, focusing on organisational strategy, governance, marketing and customer excellence. Latterly I ran my own international business consultancy, specialising in business and multi-channel transformation.

I am passionate about and committed to the Institution and its potential and look forward to being part of the Board team entrusted with evolving the Institution into a premier cultural institution in Bath and beyond. This means creating a public museum of natural and human history and amenities for members and visitors, including multi-functional spaces, a café and a shop. I look forward to helping shape a vibrant and diverse Institution that plays a pivotal cultural and educational role in society.

Dr Joe Willson

I joined BRLSI in October 2019. I became Chair of the Finance sub-committee in February 2020, and was co-opted onto the Board (subsequently successfully standing as a candidate in October 2020). The pandemic started shortly after taking over the Finance role, so the following three years have been something of a roller-coaster.



With the help of the FsC, staff and volunteers, the finances of the institution are now better understood with robust reporting and analysis. We are still some way short of being able to consistently generate a financial surplus, but I think we are well set to achieve that in the next couple of years.

If I am successful in being elected as Director, it is my goal to hand over the reins of Finance to a worthy successor, so that I can contribute more fully to the cultural side of the institution. I was involved in running the pilot “Engineered in Bath 2023” exhibition and am currently preparing for the next one in 2024. I intend participating as a speaker for several talks and will have presented a World Affairs talk on “Are our prisons safe and humane ?” by the AGM. I’ll also be involved in the Bicentenary activities in 2024.