

Development Trusts Association Scotland

Item 5 – Board of Trustees Nominations 2026-27

The DTAS Constitution requires that one third of the Board retire at the AGM (but are entitled to seek re-election). The board consisted of 15 members and six trustees are standing down this year. These are:

- Graham Back, Moffat Town Hall Redevelopment Trust (Full Member). Graham is not seeking re-election
- Jane Lamont, Beith Community Development Trust (Full Member). Jane **is** seeking re-election
- Mark McRitchie, Community Central Halls (Full Member). Mark is not seeking re-election
- Janet Miles, Gairloch and Loch Ewe Action Forum (GALE) (Full Member). Janet is not seeking re-election
- Michael Roy, Antermony Development Trust (Full Member). Michael is seeking not seeking re-election but has been nominated by another member (see below)
- Tracy Thomson, Royal Bank of Scotland (Associate Member). Tracy is not seeking re-election

We have received nominations for nine new Trustees, they are:

- Lauren Brook, Greener Kirkcaldy (Full Member)
- Roger Duerden, Coulter Community Trust (Provisional Member)
- Stewart Ferguson, Rosewell Development Trust (Full Member)
- Michael Fletcher, Lochbroom and Ullapool Community Trust (Full Member)
- Samurath Jabir, InspirAlba (Associate Member)
- Michael Leng, Gairloch and Loch Ewe Action Forum (GALE) (Full Member)
- Jeannine Mansell, Strathglass and Affric Community Company (Full Member)
- Michael Roy, Strathkelvin Community Woodlands Association (Provisional Member)
- Graham Struthers, Alyth Development Trust (Full Member)

In line with our constitution, we must have at least one associate member trustee on the board. This means that as Samurath Jabir from InspirAlba is the sole current or nominated trustee from an associate member, he will be confirmed as a trustee at the AGM, with no voting process required.

This means we have five vacancies on the DTAS board and a total of nine nominations. This means that we are holding a vote to elect our trustees.

Every full and provisional member organisation has one vote. Only one individual should be authorised to vote on behalf of your member organisation. It is up to your organisation to agree who this individual should be. In the event of any dispute or challenge, DTAS reserves the right to check and verify this. Multiple votes from the same organisation will not be counted.

Online voting was open from 20th July 2026 – 24th August 2026. Any members who have not cast a vote online will be able to do so in person at the AGM on 1st September 2026. Ballots forms will be provided at registration to any full and provisional member who has not already cast a vote online.

The nominated trustees with the greatest number of votes will be deemed elected. If possible, this will be announced during DTAS annual conference, but we will defer the announcement in the event that there are any issues.

Development Trusts Association Scotland

Trustee profiles

SHEENA BOYD – NEW CUMNOCK DEVELOPMENT TRUST (FULL)

Sheena is currently employed as operational lead in a community-led charity aiming to regenerate New Cumnock. Responsibilities include operational HR, finance, fundraising, project development and management, supporting trustees with governance and reporting to the board. She is a professionally qualified accountant and previously worked in private sector, practice and international charity before changing career. She has volunteered in various roles from community activist to charity trustee for approximately 20 years. Previous board roles include as director with Scottish Rural Action and founding trustee with Sanquhar Enterprise Company. Her current board role is with Firstport. She has also recently joined the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership.

LAUREN BROOK – GREENER KIRKCALDY (FULL)

Lauren has been the Chief Executive of Greener Kirkcaldy since 2023, after 10 years with the organisation. She has experience in managing projects and teams, HR and wellbeing, financial planning and management, developing strategy, securing funding, generating income, community engagement and working in partnership with others. She also has experience of governance and organisational development.

Lauren has a passion for community development, climate action and tackling inequalities. Alongside her role at Greener Kirkcaldy, she is involved in partnership work in Kirkcaldy, including town centre regeneration through the Lang Toun Partners group. She was also previously a trustee with Fife Communities Climate Action Network, applying for, and setting up, the new Fife Climate Hub.

SANDY BRUNTON – MULL & IONA COMMUNITY TRUST (FULL)

Sandy was born and raised on the Isle of Mull, trained as a boat builder, then moved to Southampton. Returning to Mull with his wife Jane, they reopened the village shop and Post Office in Fionnphort and raised a family. After 25 busy years, they sold the shop in 2011. He is involved in many community-based local and national organisations. Sandy has been the Convenor of Mull and Iona Community Trust for a number of years and is on the board of Connecting Scotland, a CiC which aims to increase the use of participatory processes in organisations throughout Scotland. He plays in the local pipe band and also a local volunteer Coastguard.

ANDY CUTHBERTSON – ROSEMOUNT DEVELOPMENT TRUST (FULL)

Andy Cuthbertson is the Community Development Officer with Rosemount Development Trust, leading on Royston's Local Place Plan, as well as a large-scale greening project including acquiring Vacant & Derelict Land for park development and a local heritage project which will feed into Royston's school curriculum.

Andy previously worked as Head of Heritage at New Lanark, leading on projects including heritage-led regeneration, decolonisation and exploring LGBTQ+ lives in the Industrial

Revolution. They have previously worked in PR for TRNSMT festival and Whyte & Mackay brands, with an extensive background in social media marketing.

MIKE DANSON – STRATHNAIRN DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (FULL)

Mike lives in the Highlands where he is the Chair of Strathnairn Development Company, Vice Chair of Strathnairn Heritage Association and on the board of Cultarlann Inbhir Nis. He has worked mostly as a Professor of Economics in universities in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Paisley but also as a senior economist in Strathclyde Regional Council. Currently he is Professor Emeritus of Enterprise Policy, Heriot-Watt University, Visiting Professor of Energy Policy, Strathclyde University and Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, of the Institute of Economic Development and of the Regional Studies Association. He has worked with and advised national and international organisations: including Scottish Government, OECD, WHO, EC, trades unions and community groups and has published widely on rural, regional and island economies; community buyouts; microbreweries; Gaelic and minority languages; and many other areas.

ROGER DUERDEN – COULTER COMMUNITY TRUST (PROVISIONAL)

Roger is a Chartered Engineer with a background spanning large organisations, SMEs and his own consultancy business. He has served on five charity boards (four as treasurer), often supporting organisations at an early or transitional stage to strengthen governance and financial management. He is a former chair of the Nadara Glenkerie Wind Farm Community Fund panel.

As founder, trustee and treasurer of Coulter Community Trust, he has helped to establish a development trust focussed on rural regeneration. In two years, they have taken over the operation of their community hall and acquired their historic village library. As a founder of a relatively new development trust, he brings a current, practical understanding of the challenges faced on the ground, from asset transfer and funding constraints to governance, capacity and community engagement.

STEWART FERGUSON – ROSEWELL DEVELOPMENT TRUST (FULL)

Stewart has more than two decades of experience in the voluntary and private sector in Scotland, Ireland and England, mainly in homelessness services, social housing and community development. Stewart is currently the Centre Manager at Rosewell Development Trust, managing The Steading, a busy community hub. In the three years he has been in the role he has expanded the range of services and activities available, developed partnerships with local organisations and secured funding to support delivery and growth.

Stewart is the Co-Chair of the Tyne & Esk Local Action Group. Throughout his career, he has a long-standing commitment to volunteering and community-led approaches, with a focus on improving outcomes for disadvantaged individuals and communities.

MICHAEL FLETCHER – LOCHBROOM AND ULLAPOOL COMMUNITY TRUST (FULL)

Michael is a professional accountant with a 40-year consultancy and training career working worldwide. His passion is training in business financial literacy. He has had numerous volunteer positions during the past 50 years and is currently the treasurer of Lochbroom and Ullapool Community Trust, the treasurer for Lochbroom Community Council and a trustee of Ullapool Village Hall.

DAVID FRYER – TORRY DEVELOPMENT TRUST (FULL)

David was one of the founding members of the Torry Development Trust and was Secretary of Torry Community Council for five years up to 2017. With a background in architecture,

building conservation, project management and community development, he brings an accumulation of knowledge and experiences from the last fifty years of community involvement, environmental and campaign organisations to share with the DTAS and its partners. David has been on the DTAS board since 2022 and is keen for Development Trusts to develop collaborations with third sector, academic institutions and community organisations especially in the new age of less and lesser government that is being talked up in the political environment.

SAMURATH JABIR – INSPIRALBA (ASSOCIATE)

Samurath has been the Digital Coordinator for the Rural Social Enterprise Hub at Inspiralba for the last two years. He engages with rural community-led organisations to understand why they exist, how they operate and some of the challenges they face. He is also a member of the Collective Leadership Group in Argyll and Bute, a collaboration of public and third sector organisations working collectively and democratically to share resources and address rural challenges.

He is a member of the migrant community of practice with Migration Policy Scotland and a peer researcher. As a migrant living in Scotland, Samurath brings an understanding of the challenges and inequalities that can exist within communities. As someone living in rural Scotland, he has lived understanding of the unique challenges that rural communities face.

JANE LAMONT – BEITH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST (FULL)

Jane is the Senior Officer at Beith Community Development Trust in the Garnock Valley. She has spent much of her career in the voluntary sector, championing genuine community participation and local action.

Her work with Beith Trust grew from a commitment to her own community and a belief that real change happens when people have the conditions, confidence, skills, and practical support to take action and build upon the assets around them.

Jane has served on the DTAS Board since 2015, bringing practical experience, local insight, and a strong commitment to community-led change.

MICHAEL LENG – GAIRLOCH AND LOCH EWE ACTION FORUM (GALE) (FULL)

Michael was an NHS nurse for 16 years before working in a charity / housing association for 16 years. He then worked for a local authority in a capital development role within adult social care for six years. He was a secondary school governor for ten years and was a trustee of a charity working within deprived communities for six years including two as Chair.

Michael relocated to Wester Ross four years ago. He is currently Chairperson of the Gairloch and Loch Ewe Action Forum, trustee of Aultea Community Hub, a volunteer driver for a local community car scheme and Peoples Partner for Health Improvement Scotland. He has a career-long commitment to tackling inequality experienced by marginalised groups and in addressing the factors which underpin poverty.

JEANNINE MANSELL – STRATHGLASS AND AFFRIC COMMUNITY COMPANY (FULL)

Jeannine previously worked in the commercial production industry and since 2025 has been working as the Community Development Officer for Strathglass and Affric Community Company. She feels very privileged to have found a role that aligns with her values and allows her to contribute to her community.

Prior to moving to the Highlands, Jeannine volunteered as the Chair of the Tenants and Residents Association on a council estate in South-East London for eight years. She was also a key member in the formation of an organic kitchen garden on the estate. She has pursued part-time studies relating to health and wellbeing, most recently a COSCA Counselling Skills course at UHI.

EWEN MCLACHLAN – ASSYNT DEVELOPMENT TRUST (FULL)

Ewen McLauchlan, has been Development Officer with Assynt Development Trust since 2018 and over this time he has been pivotal in addressing priority areas for the North West of Scotland in terms of housing shortages, low paid employment and the threat of depopulation. Tourism, housing, economy and environment are key areas of Ewen's expertise, and he actively works in delivering transformational services with ADT and being instrumental in setting up other community-led activities. Including Discover Assynt, Assynt Food Larder and a proposed mixed housing development. Ewen is also active in various advisory, research and steering groups on a local and national level for offshore community benefits, creation of new jobs and connectivity in the North West.

Previously Ewen has worked as a columnist, owned a media and production company and events.

MATT PEARCE – WEST CALDER & HARBURN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST (FULL)

Matt is the Chief Executive of West Calder & Harburn CDT which is where he lives and grew up. As a founding director then employee, he has been involved from planters and Santa's Sleighs through to major capital works and asset transfers. He thinks that communities should be able to decide what is best for themselves and that Development Trusts help make that happen. In a supportive environment this can have a huge impact and the opportunity to help DTAS provide that is really inspiring to him. His interests include woodland management, history and travel (including an endless camper-van conversion!).

CAROLYNN REDDELL – EDINBURGH OLD TOWN DEVELOPMENT TRUST (FULL)

Carolynn has worked within Edinburgh Old Town Development Trust since 2021 as their Facilities and Operations Manager. This has involved managing the finances, administration, and staff management of the organisation, as well as the running of The Crannie – EOTDT's community hub. Carolynn is particularly proud of developing a financial inclusion project, through which she has been supporting residents of Edinburgh Old Town through the cost-of-living crisis. Prior to this, Carolynn worked for St John Ambulance service as an event coordinator, ensuring adequate first aid provisions were provided to events, from small community fetes to large events such as football games and the London Marathon. Before St John, she worked for Picturehouse Cinemas, where she ran their Outdoor Cinema programme.

MICHAEL ROY – STRATHKELVIN COMMUNITY WOODLANDS ASSOCIATION (PROVISIONAL)

Since 2022, Michael has served as Chair of the DTAS Board, providing strategic leadership and governance oversight, helping to set organisational priorities, and supporting the Chief Executive. He brings experience of community asset ownership and local regeneration from his involvement with Antermory Development Trust, where he was secretary between 2019 and 2025. He is currently Vice-Chair of Strathkelvin Community Woodlands Association.

Michael is Professor of Social Innovation and Sustainable Organisations and Associate Dean for Research and Innovation at the University of Stirling, where his work focuses on

social enterprise, community wealth building and the social economy. Previously, he led the social economy research group within the Yunus Centre for Social Business and Health at Glasgow Caledonian University, and before that worked in and around government and the third sector. (129 words)

GRAHAM STRUTHERS – ALYTH DEVELOPMENT TRUST (FULL)

Graham is currently a board member of Alyth Development Trust and of Stirling Voluntary Enterprise. He is a business professional managing his own company, providing leadership, motivation and teamwork in directing people and projects. His company designed and supplied the first LED lighting installation in Scotland.

He is a member of the Federation of Small Businesses and has recently stepped down as a member of the executive board of Highland Reserve Forces and Cadets Association. Part of his role as trustee of Alyth Development Trust is to lead on transforming a derelict industrial site into a major community asset and gateway to the Den O'Alyth.

MELLISSA THOMSON – EDAY PARTNERSHIP (FULL)

Mellissa has lived on the small island of Eday in Orkney for most of her life, engaging in farming, fishing and various other island activities. She serves as a Director of the Eday Partnership, the development trust for the island, and also as a director of the trading subsidiary, Eday Renewable Energy. Eday Partnership delivers on training, community transport, events, climate action and is currently investigating housing options for the island.

A couple of years ago, Mellissa was elected as a Councillor for the North Isles Ward of Orkney Islands Council. Additionally, she chairs the board of Orkney Ferries, which operates the internal ferry service within Orkney and employs over 200 staff.

With a broad spectrum of knowledge, Mellissa is keenly aware that financial resources are becoming more constrained for everyone. Therefore, she advocates for strategic spending and innovative thinking. She believes that collaboration is essential for success.