



Annual General Meeting 2026

Brief information about each Proposed Trustee

Alastair Ayton

Alastair is one of the Contributing Editors for the Victoria County History (VCH) of Herefordshire project focusing on Ledbury and the Malvern Hills. He is also the assistant editor of the Journal of the Mortimer History Society and administrator for the annual MHS Essay Prize. He graduated with a PhD in History from the University of St Andrews in December 2020, having successfully defended his doctoral thesis ('Politics, Policy and Power: the Marcher Lords and the English Crown in the March of Wales, 1254–1272) in his viva voce examination. He also holds an MPhil in Medieval History from the University of Cambridge and a BA (Hons) from the University of London. He has been an active member of the MHS since February 2021, and he has contributed to several MHS events.

Ian Bass

Ian originally hails from Herefordshire, where his father traced his family tree back to 1675 in Much Birch and Little Birch. His parents' love of history inspired him to read history at an academic level. In November 2020 Ian successfully defended his doctoral thesis ('The Crozier and the Cross: Crusading and the English Episcopate, c.1170-1313) in viva voce examination, graduating from the Manchester Metropolitan University with a PhD in History. He also holds a BA (Hons) and MA from the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David, Lampeter in Medieval Studies and a Postgraduate Certificate in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education from MMU. Ian has published widely with articles in journals on crusading, the English episcopate, pilgrimage, and saints' cults, with an especial interest in the cult of St Thomas de Cantilupe, bishop of Hereford (1275-1282, canonized 1320). He is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, Royal Historical Society, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, and Royal Society of Arts, and an Associate of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. He has been a member of the Mortimer History Society since 2016 and has won the society's essay prize twice. He has been a co-opted member of the committee since October 2024, and a Trustee since March 2025.

Mike Beazley

Mike is the MHS's Hon Treasurer. He served in the Army for 35 years. He then worked for a national charity and finally, part-time, as an assessor of charities for the Charities Commission. He has been involved in charity grant-making and trusteeship for many years. He has a MA in Financial Management and an ACCA Diploma and has been treasurer of several charities and independent assessor of others. He is a keen amateur medieval historian and re-enactor, which he employs as part of the MHS's schools programme, and he is a Ludlow town tour guide.

Kathy Cowell

Kathy started studying Architecture after leaving school but after two years changed course, becoming a teacher of Mathematics for nearly 40 years. She continued her studies throughout her career and completed an MBA in Educational Management in 2001. In the two years of studying Architecture Kathy developed a great interest in the history of buildings and a love of Ludlow which led her to choose to retire there in 2016. Since then, she has been able to develop her interests and has volunteered as a steward in St. Laurence's Church and as a Town Tour guide. Kathy has been very lucky to have had parents who completed extensive research into her family tree. She is very proud of her descent from the Mortimer family, and this has fuelled her interest into the history of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

Anna Dunne

Anna was co-opted onto the MHS committee in 2025. She moved to Leintwardine in Herefordshire in 2017 to look after her parents joining the society as a member in that year. She later moved to Ludlow. After completing a geography degree at Cambridge her working career was in property, finance and consultancy working for both the public and private sector including the Cabinet Office and the City of London. She tried retiring in September last year but that didn't last long and she is now the finance manager for St Lawrence's and treasurer for the Bishop Mascall Centre in Ludlow. Spare time is filled with early music, walking the dog and now history.

Anna was born and bred in Wolverhampton. Tracing her family tree, she discovered that far from just being train drivers (steam trains) her family were descended from the Dudleys of Dudley Castle and therefore seem to be descended from a number of high-profile medieval families including Roger Mortimer, Hugh Despenser and Joan the Maid of Kent.

She recently became a grandmother but was unable to get her daughter to name the baby Hawise after her 30th Great Grandmother.

Annie Garthwaite

Annie Garthwaite is the acclaimed author of two novels that bring the women of the Wars of the Roses to life. *Cecily* (Viking, Penguin 2021) was named a 'top pick' by *The Times* and *Sunday Times*, a 'Best Book of 2021' by independent bookshops and Waterstones, and has recently been optioned for television. *The King's Mother* (Viking, Penguin 2024) was named 'Book of the Month' by *The Times* immediately upon publication. Annie came to writing after a 30-year international business career, determined to cast light on a female history so often overlooked. Annie is the Vice-Chair of the Society, editor of our quarterly magazine *Mortimer Matters*, and leads our activity on social media.

Elizabeth Holley

Elizabeth taught English in two Colleges of Further Education before training to be a political agent. She was the Agent for a Surrey constituency before taking an executive post in the party's headquarters. Her role was to interview Members of Parliament in order to write newsletters on political matters of importance to expatriates, to support expatriates where necessary and facilitate visits by politicians to supporters' societies overseas. Finally, Elizabeth and her husband set up a company which trained business executives and other professionals in communication skills. She had responsibility for the MHS books and merchandise for over two years. She is producing a back catalogue of *Mortimer Matters* and also proofreads it.

Philip Hume

Philip is the Chair of the Society and has a lead role in organising the programme of events and conferences, and the Online Seminar Group. During his career, Philip worked in the voluntary and community sector for several years. Subsequently, his roles in local government included development advice and support to voluntary organisations before becoming head of a service responsible for corporate policy and governance. Philip was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 2022. He is the creator and editor of a three-volume series of books on the Welsh Marcher Lordships, and author of vol 1, *The Welsh Marcher Lordships I: Central and North* (Logaston Press, March 2021); he has written *On the Trail of the Mortimers'* (Logaston Press, 2016), *On the Trail of the Mortimers in the Welsh Marches* (Logaston Press, 2022), is a co-author of *The Ludlow*

Castle Heraldic Roll (Logaston Press, 2019), co-editor of *The Mortimers of Wigmore, 1066–1485: Dynasty of Destiny* (Logaston Press, 2023), and author of articles in various journals. Philip is a part-time PhD student at Swansea University – his research is based on the life and career of Roger Mortimer (d.1282). He gives talks to many historical societies about the Welsh Marcher lordships and the Mortimers.

Angela Iliff

Much of Angela's working life was spent in Australia, always in the area of administration. She worked in a variety of roles from being the youngest female account executive in an Australian advertising agency, to organising and coordinating fundraising events, managing the day-to-day running and the maintenance of the financial records of a fish factory. On returning to the UK in 2003, Angela joined the Soil Association. Since her retirement as their governance administrator, she has been able to indulge her lifelong interest in medieval history with a particular interest in the lives of women of that period, closely followed by an interest in costume and textiles. Angela was Membership Secretary of the Mortimer History Society from September 2019, and is now the Secretary since 2022, and is also a member of the Richard III Society.

Yve James

After a career in teaching, ending at headship level, Yve took over general management of the engineering company her husband had started. This continued until they successfully sold the business at their retirement.

Yve has served as an officer on several charity committees and belonged to a study group in Shrewsbury, transcribing and translating medieval Latin manor court documents; she was also a member of an Anglo-Saxon group which met at Keele University.

At present, Yve is the co-ordinator for the Society's Medieval Document's Research Group, Chair of the Society's Bursary, plus prints and mails Mortimer Matters etc to members who have no internet access. In addition to her long-standing involvement in the MHS, Yve has been involved in a number of organisations (though many were shelved due to her late husband's ill-health): Herefordshire Family History Society (Chairman); National Burial Indexing Project for Herefordshire (co-ordinator); Kimbolton Millennium Book (editor-in-chief); Kimbolton Parish Plan (production sub-group member); and, in addition, produced the monthly Parish Magazine for 25 years.

Clive Jupp

From school, Clive spent 22 years in the Banking Sector operating and supporting IT Systems. Following this, Clive worked for 25 years as a Systems Engineer for QinetiQ (formerly the Defence Evaluation & Research Agency) until retiring in 2022. History, medieval in particular, has been a passion as an enthusiastic amateur since his early years. Clive was a past treasurer of the MHS and has since retirement returned to the work of his youth looking after the MHS website.

Pamela Thom-Rowe

Pamela Thom-Rowe has a lifelong interest in social and folk history. After a lengthy career in the NHS she now researches and writes about her main interest, the context of folklore and the impact of landscape upon tradition and folk belief, particularly within the Welsh Marches. She has an MA in Celtic Studies from the University of Wales Trinity St David and maintains an active interest in archaeology. Pamela is a member of the Mortimer History Society Programme Committee, the Social Media steering group, and the Medieval Documents Group. Pamela is a member of the Folklore Society and works as a volunteer guide and site monitor for English Heritage.