

## The Trustees of The Friends of Walpole Old Chapel CIO, 2026



**Simon Weeks:** Simon moved to Walpole in 1999 with his family, to a house built about the same time as the Chapel and previously the home of former Chapel custodians. Simon's family has been involved with the Chapel ever since. Simon has retired from Suffolk County Council, where he worked in quality assurance, policy development, project management, and inter-agency partnerships. Simon has been a trustee since FWOC was made a CIO in February 2022. He is Secretary of FWOC, liaises with the Heritage Fund, has the Safeguarding Lead and is Volunteer co-ordinator.



**Lyn Banks:** Lyn spent her working life in education. This included roles as maths teacher, youth worker, and in teacher training. Having achieved a Masters Degree she moved into education advisory and administration work and Ofsted Inspections. In her retirement Lyn is involved 'hands on' with a variety of local charities and community organisations including FWOC and a community owned pub. Lyn has been a trustee since FWOC became a CIO in February 2022. She is the charity's Treasurer.



**Paul Simmons:** Paul worked in the NHS and then became secretary of a clergy charity. He knew about the Chapel from his friends David and Linda Holmes and after he moved to Halesworth was invited to join the team then running the Chapel. He has always had a love of Suffolk's religious built heritage. Paul became a Trustee when FWOC became a CIO in February 2022. His current roles include supporting and promoting the formal Friends scheme, liaising with Patrons of the charity, and health and safety matters. Paul chairs the monthly Board meetings of the Trustees and the Annual General Meeting.



**Lin le Versha:** In 2016 Lin's daughter was married at Walpole Chapel, encouraging Lin to become an Authorised Person registering Marriages in the Chapel. She is Director of the Southwold Arts Festival and a crime writer with a series of six books set in Suffolk. Lin has been a Trustee of FWOC since February 2022. Her major role is as the Programme of Events organiser for the Chapel. Each year, she curates a summer programme of concerts, talks and drama. In 2026, for the first time, the Chapel will host an artist in residence who will work towards an exhibition and run workshops. Lin hopes that the renovations will increase the range of arts events and community use of the Chapel.



**Miriam Stead:** Miriam has a career in museums, arts and culture. She was Head of Heritage, Arts & Culture for Essex County Council before her retirement in 2013. She has played active roles as volunteer and trustee for charities including the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology & History, the Suffolk Local History Council, Bawdsey Radar, East Anglian Traditional Music Trust, and the Essex Cultural Diversity Project. Miriam became a FWOC Trustee in 2023, leading the Discovery Local History Project and working with Simon on fund-raising. Miriam lectures to local history groups and is the FWOC liaison with UEA's School of History.



**Jacquie Burgess:** Jacquie is an emeritus professor in Cultural Geography with a research career focused on developing new ways of engaging communities in environmental policy-making. After retirement in 2010, she was appointed a Member of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads National Park, chairing the Authority (2015-2018). Jacquie visited Walpole in 2024, fell in love with the Chapel, became a Friend and volunteered with the Discovery Project. She was appointed a Trustee at the July 2025 AGM. Her current roles include editing FWOC's quarterly Newsletter and working with other trustees on the Heritage Fund development grant.