



# ST FRANCIS FIELDS

## NORTHIAM

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### **SFF Community Interest Company Directors September 2022**

#### **Jacky Broad**

I have lived in my cottage in Dixter Lane since 1969. When working I carried out various aspects of accounts and administration work including working for a national charity. I was associated with 1st Northiam Scout Group for over 40 years, mainly as a uniformed leader and fundraiser. I was on the original fundraising committee for the building of Northiam Village Hall. I am a member of Northiam Bonfire Society, help with their fundraising events and play Pétanque when I can. As a committed resident of Northiam, my aspiration for St Francis Fields is that given time, the CIC will be able to provide the community asset which the village voted for.

#### **Greg Collett**

I have lived in Northiam since 2013 and I still work full time in London. I am a 5<sup>th</sup> generation South African and moved to the UK with the family in 1993. I studied Mechanical Engineering at Cape Town University and subsequently worked in mining, automotive, stainless steel manufacture and life insurance industries before immigrating to the UK with the family. While in the UK I have worked in private healthcare insurance, corporate consulting and finance in London and Europe.

I was a director of the Hutchings Wharf Right To Manage Company from 2009 to 2017 and reappointed in 2018. I remain a director.

I am a Chartered Financial Analyst and a member of the CFA UK Society where I set up the CFA UK Volunteer Steering Committee on request of the Chair of the Board. The committee established the rules and guidance for the volunteering efforts across the Society which has in excess of 12,000 members and 350 volunteers.

I am also the Events Organiser for the Wealden Woodturning Group. We meet every third Sunday in Robertsbridge in a wonderful and friendly social environment. I am a keen gardener, DIY and keep fit enthusiast.

I am look forward to contributing my skills to the St Francis Fields project for the benefit of Northiam.

### **David Cooper**

We moved to the village in 1978 when I began working at Dungeness B where I eventually headed the group responsible for radiological protection and environmental discharges. I took voluntary severance from Dungeness in 2002 and spent five years running my own consultancy business. Having said 'that sounds interesting' once too often, I then got involved with the group working to set up a Hastings branch of the homelessness charity Emmaus and have been its chair of trustees since 2010. That project involved raising an initial capital cost of about £1.2m and now houses 23 people, with operating costs primarily funded through its social enterprise business that now has a turnover of £300k pa. Between 2012 and 2021 I was a member of the board of Emmaus UK, the umbrella body for Emmaus communities in the UK, including three years as vice-chair. When our children were younger, I was a governor at Northiam Primary School and then at Rye College and during the early Covid lockdowns I managed the volunteer database for Northiam Together. I'm a founder member of the CIC board and am determined that St Francis Fields becomes an amenity the village can be proud of.

### **Sarah Giles**

I've lived in Mill Corner since 2011 and during that time have become very involved in village life. I'm Chair of Northiam Conservation Society (which, with well over 500 members, is our largest society by some margin) and a trustee of the Village Hall. Both these roles help to give me a really good insight into how villagers are feeling and what they want to see happening here. I'm also an allotment holder and a co-founder of Northiam Together, the voluntary organisation set up at the start of the coronavirus lockdown to help anyone in need.

As a journalist for more than 30 years, working for many well-known national magazines and holding senior managerial roles in a number of large publishing houses during that time, I am very used to getting quickly to the nub of a situation and distilling often complex information into a format that's quickly and easily understood - skills which are very useful in helping the CIC to communicate its plans and progress to the village. I set up my own limited company in 2003 to work as a freelance journalist - and was inundated with work from day one! Having now taken early retirement, I'm not exactly sitting with my feet up - I teach English online to adults and children in Hong Kong, and I run a very successful B&B business. Having overseen the creation of the footpath through St Francis Fields, as well as setting up the pop-up pub, I'm now looking forward to seeing more projects come to fruition on this beautiful site at the heart of our village.

### **David Green**

I've lived in the village since 2017. I spent 39 years working in the John Lewis Partnership in a wide variety of middle and senior management positions across HR, Finance, Distribution, Project Leadership as well as retail where I managed branches. My final role in the Partnership, before accepting voluntary redundancy, was as Senior Independent Advisor to the HR Director. I am currently heading up delivery of training to more than 11,500 Post Offices as part of their IT transformation programme. In the past I have twice served as a Parish Councillor when living in The Chilterns, and then more recently, when we lived in Wittersham. In both areas I led successful local initiatives ranging from village litter picks to carols on the village green as well as the more regular PC focuses. I joined SFF CIC in 2021 and am particularly keen to look at raising finance to develop the buildings, known affectionately as The Hub, to create a valuable amenity for all Northiam villagers.

### **Judith O'Connor**

I've lived in Northiam since 2009. I worked in France and Spain for five years in the 1970s then for 30 years in London, ten years at London Business School, 16 years at the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, where I organised UK groups at automotive trade shows worldwide and trade delegations into and out of the UK, then at the Society of Operations Engineers and Haymarket Exhibitions. I've travelled widely in interesting times to many different countries on business and pleasure and had the privilege of working with people at all levels of the international motor industry. I'm involved in fundraising for Northiam Bonfire Society, was a co-founder of Northiam Together, served in the past as treasurer at the village hall and at Tenterden Bridge Club and was a Brownie leader in Chiswick and Secretary of Chiswick Horticultural Society. I am a competent DIY-er, enjoy gardening and cooking and am a keen but mediocre bridge player. I'm looking forward to working with new CIC members as well as our existing directors and volunteers on the various short and longer-term projects planned for St Francis Fields.

### **Pete Sargent**

Following training at Bristol Old Vic, I started my working life as a theatre technician and progressed through stage management, lighting design and production management both in repertory and touring before ending up project managing large scenic builds for major opera companies, trade shows and corporate presentations. I then switched over to management of large outdoor events and festivals where people management and being able to work to a strict deadline is a crucial skill.

I arrived in Northiam in 2009 and very quickly became involved in village life. I was a committee member of the Conservation Society for several years and have been actively involved with the Bonfire Society since it reformed. I am a trustee of Northiam Village Hall and from 2015 to 2021 was Chairman of Northiam Parish Council, where together with Ray Harrington-Lowe I managed to successfully negotiate the purchase of St Francis Fields from The Blue Cross for the village.

Making the St Francis Fields project a success is a major challenge for the residents of the village and I am determined that in the fullness of time it will be something the village can be proud of.

### **Jonathan Strong**

I've lived in Northiam since October 2010 and am a retired Chartered Surveyor (general practice) having held a number of senior management and Board positions in various public and private real estate organisations during my career. My experience covers all aspects of commercial, industrial, agricultural and in part residential property. I was from December 2017 until June 2022 a Trustee of The Benenden Village Trust - a Charitable Incorporated Organisation - which owns community properties in that Parish and financial investments. SFF is an amazing asset for the village with potential for the Parish to create mixed-use facilities to benefit the whole community. I would like to contribute to achieving that ambition as a Director of the SFF CIC, using my professional, business and property knowledge and experience.