

Meet Our Management Committee

Mark Gordon (Chair)

Mark is an award-winning entrepreneur, international marketer and consultant. He has held senior positions with some of Europe's most respected corporates. Mark's work with Feather Down Farms has given him hands-on experience of running an operation from top-to-bottom and of winning awards from Mumsnet and other social media in the process. In 2015 Mark took up the role as Director of Communications and Partnerships at Power to Change, the independent trust endowed with £150 million from the Big Lottery Fund to support community business.



Mark joined the Management Committee in February, 2015. In accordance with the Rules, as an elected member, Mark's term of office ends at the conclusion of his third AMM which will be in 2017.

Robert Spain (Treasurer)

Robert joined the Management Committee in January, 2016. He is a chartered accountant (ACA) who qualified in practice, specialising in charities audits and accounts preparation. He is also a qualified risk manager (PRM). Since 2007 he has worked for international banks, focusing on treasury finance and corporate real estate. His interest in the farm stems from years of living in urban areas, without outside space to cultivate. It is a pleasure for him to be involved with an enterprise providing such a social and environmental benefit.



In accordance with the Rules, as an elected member, Robert's term of office ends at the conclusion of his third AMM which will be in 2018.

Diane Harris (Secretary)

Diane joined the Management Committee in February, 2015, bringing with her strong legal and governance expertise. Diane is a qualified solicitor and since 2005 has been Chief Operating Officer for the Private Infrastructure Development Group, a US\$400m international aid programme, providing financing to infrastructure projects in developing countries.



Diane has experience advising on company and commercial issues, including companies, LLPs, not-for-profits, trusts, funds, SME financing, grant and loan administration, corporate governance and company law. Diane lives in Sutton and has been buying her vegetables from the farm since 2014. She strongly supports community farming and local sourcing of food.

In accordance with the Rules, as an elected member, Diane's term of office ends at the conclusion of her third AMM which will be in 2017.

Charlotte Steel (General Manager, Elected Member)

Charlotte has been involved at the farm for four and a half years, starting as a volunteer in April, 2012 and joining the staff team that September. Until December, 2015 her responsibilities included volunteer management, group facilitation, vegetable production and financial administration. Her role evolved along with the needs of the organisation and she has applied her skills accordingly. Over the last four years she has built up intimate knowledge of the farm operations putting her in a good position to take over as General Manager from January 2016.



Prior to joining Sutton Community Farm she spent three years as an Investment Analyst working in environmental finance, helping to make decisions about clean technology investments. She has a Masters degree in Leadership for Sustainable Development with Forum for the Future and a BSc in International Relations from the London School of Economics.

Charlotte joined the Management Committee in September, 2015. In accordance with the Rules, as an elected member, Charlotte's term of office ends at the conclusion of her third AMM which will be in 2018.

Samuel Smith (Elected Member, previous General Manager, Business Development Expertise)

Sam has been involved with the farm since its beginnings in 2010. From 2012-2015, he was the General Manager and helped the farm to transition into a community-owned enterprise. Sam lives in Sutton and is a passionate VegBox customer. Before the farm, he worked as a Sustainability Consultant for local charity, BioRegional, delivering various projects in the community (2008-2012). Following this, he went to Kenya to help establish a successful renewable energy company.



Sam currently splits his time between supporting an inner-city farm in Waterloo and working in renewable energy. He has been on the Management Committee since September, 2013.

In accordance with the Rules, as an elected member, Sam's term of office ends at the conclusion of his third AMM which will be in 2017.

Joris Gunawardena (Elected Member, Farm Representative)

Joris has been the Head of Production at the farm since 2012. He has always been passionate about food and has worked in the industry for 15 years. He has managed small-scale vegetable production on farms for the last eight years.



Joris has proven experience in successfully facilitating groups, mentoring apprentices and trainees and helping volunteers become confident with food growing. He is also an experienced chef and runs cooking demonstrations for volunteers and customers. He is passionate about seeing the proliferation of small farms in the UK - bringing vegetable production back into the heart of communities.

Joris joined the Management Committee in June, 2016. In accordance with the Rules, as an elected member, Joris' term of office ends at the conclusion of his third AMM which will be in 2018.

Judy Groome (Elected Member, Community Representative)

Judy is a shareholder, customer, volunteer and fervent supporter of Sutton Community Farm and was elected as a Community Member of the Management Committee at the AMM in 2016. As a regular volunteer she is a member of the VegBox packing team and also regularly supports our stall at the Wallington Farmers' Market and other venues. Judy lives locally and loves the idea that we have a local farm that supports all the principles of growing vegetables for the community in an ethical, organic way.

Judy's background is in education rather than business (she is a retired Assistant Headteacher). Her experience in management and the fact that she is on the Governing body of a local school, gives her the experience needed to support the farm on the Management Committee.

Judy joined the Management Committee in August, 2016. In accordance with the Rules, as an elected member, Judy's term of office ends at the conclusion of her third AMM which will be in 2018.