

BOARD PROFILES

- Gordon McNab (Chair)
- Caroline Boswell (Secretary)
- Alison McNab
- Ronnie Neil
- Joanie Garvin
- Graham McQueen
- Mhairi Ross
- Ronnie Forbes (Finance)

The Trust has a strong Board that came together quickly to secure the site and has continued to move forward progressively as a team with each member bringing strengths, enthusiasm and skills such as legal, accountancy, architecture/ buildings, heritage, volunteering/ charities, performance, the arts and media.

A strong support team has been built to support the Board to progress the vision for the building. It is intended that this team will continue to grow as the Trust moves towards delivering the shared vision for the people of Oban and those who visit and cherish the town.

BOARD PROFILES

CHAIRMAN - GORDON MCNAB, SOLICITOR

I studied law at Edinburgh University and came to Oban 35 years ago to further my career. I am a Director of the solicitor practice of Stevenson, Kennedy Ltd. As a local solicitor I see the needs which are lacking in our community in my daily working life.

As an active community volunteer I could not step back and allow the town to lose the former Rockfield School, it had to be saved for the town and be put to a useful sustainable purpose. We must look after our community by taking matters into our own hands. With austerity cuts, basic needs are being sacrificed and we need to help where we can.

The possibilities and potential for this project are limitless. From day one I have been convinced that the Rockfield Centre had the potential to change lives and see the unique opportunity to achieve a fantastic social and cultural hub as a beacon of creativity and care.

I am committed and care passionately about The Rockfield Centre and will use my enthusiasm, drive and skills to achieve our objectives.

MEMBER SECRETARY- CAROLINE BOSWELL, QUALIFIED GENEALOGIST

I have worked for 28 years in the civil service attaining qualifications in management, security and health and safety. Prior to that I worked for the tourist board in Oban for 4 years. In the last few years I have pursued my passion for genealogy by gaining

postgraduate qualifications in Genealogical, Palaeographic and Heraldic Studies at Strathclyde University.

I have lived in the Oban area for 35 years since coming here after university to work at Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory. I believe that the formation of Oban Communities Trust and the creation of the Rockfield centre is a fantastic opportunity to bring heritage, arts and enterprise to the heart of Oban to the benefit of the whole community. My central role is not only to support our membership but to use my knowledge to support our heritage projects and the volunteers who are enthusiastically carrying out oral history interviews, social and local history research and archiving. However, I am also a keen gardener and have been helped to restore the grassy area in front of the building and create attractive tubs to bring colour to the outside areas. I'm also a dab hand with a paintbrush.

RONNIE NEIL – CHARTERED ARCHITECT

With 25 years practice experience in Oban I have a broad experience in working with community and charity based projects, including local Churches and several community hall projects.

I have an interest in historic buildings, I am Cathedral Architect to St John's Episcopal Cathedral and have completed building inspections throughout Argyll for the Church of Scotland Presbytery and the Episcopal Diocese.

In combining these interests, I am enthusiastic about breathing a vibrant new life into this prominent building as a creative focal point at the heart of the community.

ALISON MCNAB - FREELANCE JOURNALIST

I have worked for many years as a journalist/editor on a range of weekly newspapers/magazines including specialist fishing/fish farming titles. I am currently freelance with Yachting Life and carry out occasional PR work.

After graduating I came back to Oban to work as an assistant scientist at SAMS and then moved into community education working with a youth scheme researching and developing local needs. When this finished I worked with the local tourist office as an information officer marketing the area's visitor attractions and running the publications retail outlet. I am on the committee of West Highland Yachting Week, former commodore of Oban Sailing Club and former chair of West Highland Anchorages and Moorings Association. I currently project manage the restoration of a historic house and garden.

I believe The Rockfield Centre will breathe new life into our community as a centre for everyone - locals and visitors helping fulfil the range of needs that are identified. I want to help this vision become a reality.

GRAHAM L. MACQUEEN, MBE DL – BUSINESS DIRECTOR

I am owner and director of two very successful small businesses: MacQueen Bros Ltd (est. 1983) and MacQueen Self-Storage Ltd. (est. 2005). I have extensive

experience serving both commercial and retail clients and committed to providing the highest level of service to customers locally, nationally, and internationally.

With a lifelong passion for public service with extensive affiliations to local groups and charities including entrusted positions: President, Chairman, Trustee, Director. As an ardent supporter of the Argyll community, I was awarded MBE for services to the community and appointed Deputy Lord-Lieutenant for Oban, Argyll & Bute in 2013.

As a community activist I am very aware of the needs of our older generation and hope that by bringing my business skills I can assist our community to establish The Rockfield Centre as a social/ cultural space that will be welcoming and open to all

JOANIE GARVIN- TEACHER, MUSICIAN

With a background in arts marketing and sponsorship - working with Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Museums, Glasgow Science Centre and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, I returned to Oban with my family in 2000 to run an accommodation business and become involved in the community.

In 2011, through a life-long interest in Gaelic and involvement in music, I retrained and embarked on a new career initially as a Gaelic medium primary teacher, and now as a primary music specialist.

The holistic benefits of a supportive and stimulating community environment are clear, and I am determined that The Rockfield Centre develops in the heart of Oban as a renowned and wonderful hub for the local community and visitors alike. Much has been achieved so far, and I am very excited to be involved in the development of an exciting, ever-changing, inclusive and sustainable asset with learning, wellbeing, creativity and a sense of our rich heritage at its heart.

MHAIRI ROSS - RETIRED TEACHER, WRITER , LOCAL HISTORIAN

I was born in Oban, as were seven generations of my family, and I have a strong attachment and commitment to the town.

I worked at Drummore School Hostel with children with special needs and learned to appreciate the benefits participation and inclusion can bring. A gathering place, where sense of ownership and belonging are fostered, will be one of my prime driving forces in taking this project forward.

I was a senior teacher at Park School for many years and retired in 2004. Since then, I have written historical articles for a variety of local and national media. I had my first book published in 2009.

I feel the skills of discipline, commitment and perseverance used in writing and research will be invaluable in taking forward the heritage and history aspect of the centre.

I am a keen hill-walker and cyclist and appreciate the value of exercise in promoting good health. The ethos of the Rockfield Centre will promote well-being and healthy activity.

As a pupil in Rockfield, my love of history was encouraged and I want to put something back- both tangible and long-lasting. I am happy to wield a paint brush, clear rubble and undertake any other practical tasks that need doing to breathe life into this fine building.

RONNIE FORBES – FINANCE

After retiring from BP where I worked in retail strategy and operations in the UK and abroad, I moved in to organisational consulting where I worked in the NHS and the nuclear industry. I retired to Argyll in 2013, and my interest in the outdoor opportunities on our doorstep soon took over from my business interests. However, I must have retained some of my old drivers, because I was excited to be asked to join the Board of Trustees. I see the Rockfield Centre as central to the town's future as it is to its geography. I am hugely impressed by the work already done, the commitment of the volunteers and the appetite in the townsfolk for what can be achieved here.