



THE BIRMINGHAM & MIDLAND INSTITUTE

Members Standing for Election at the 2024 AGM

OFFICIAL GOVERNORS



Dr Serena Trowbridge

Serena is Reader in Victorian Literature and Associate Director for Research at the School of English at Birmingham City University. She became an Elected Governor in 2018, and has held the posts of Chair of the Library Committee and Honorary Secretary before being elected as Senior Vice-President in 2020, and thus one of the seven Official Governors. She also chairs the Audience Engagement committee.

Serena has set up and organised the BMI Poetry Centre, which brings in a range of both well-known and obscure poets who attract a diverse range of attendees, many of whom have not visited the Institute before.

A regular speaker for the Monday lecture series, Serena tries to arrange meetings at the Institute and bring her students to visit, which has spread the word among the students she teaches.

Serena is standing for Senior Vice President



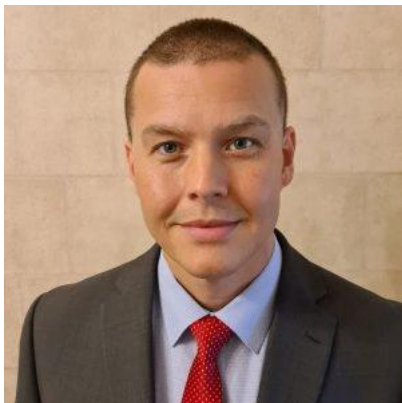
Samina Ansari

Samina became an Elected Governor in January 2019. She is also the Honorary Librarian and was elected Junior Vice President, and one of our Official Governors, in January 2020.

Samina has built a team of volunteers over the past three years who are trained and willing to help in any way they can.

Samina also chairs the Library committee, as Honorary Librarian, and also sits on the Governance Committee.

Samina is standing for Junior Vice President



James Fletcher

James is from Evesham in Worcestershire, and is Head of Management Finance for Malvern College, one of the United Kingdom's leading independent schools.

He qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1995, and a Chartered Tax Adviser in 1997, and has a proven track record of good financial governance.

James became an Official Governor when he was elected Honorary Treasurer for the Institute in January 2020. He has also held the role of Honorary Treasurer for the Victorian Society in the West Midlands since 2004, and was formerly also Treasurer for the Birmingham Civic Society between 2003 and 2009.

James sits on the Governance & Roadmap Steering committees.

James is standing for Honorary Treasurer

ELECTIVE GOVERNORS



Nigel Easom

Nigel has been a member of the BMI for over twenty years, he is a retired local government officer living in Amblecote in the Black Country. His local government experience has given him extensive knowledge and experience of governance structures, political arrangements and funding regimes across the region within the Black Country and the West Midlands.

Nigel holds an MA with Distinction in History from Wolverhampton University and in retirement has been researching the history of the Institute for a never quite realised PhD on social and cultural change in late nineteenth/early twentieth century Birmingham.

He is a member of the Library and Governance committees.



Mark Blake

Mark was Chairman of Lea Marston and the Abbey Hotel Golf and Country Club Ltd until 2017. His personal philosophy is to make sure that the business is well led, and that the people employed are valued as the greatest asset, and therefore need treating properly i.e. training, development and remuneration.

Mark is currently non-executive chairman of Mooch Creative and chairs the Marketing & Media committee of the Institute and also sits on the Roadmap Steering committee.

His areas of speciality are Strategic Planning, Leadership development, Marketing, Product Development, and Project Assessment.



Akil Dowe

Akil was elected to the Board of Governors on the 9th January 2023.

He is Assistant Headteacher at City Academy and ITT Subject Leader in Chemistry. He has taught science in secondary schools in Birmingham for over ten years.

Akil also volunteers at TCU – The Creative Universe, which supports arts events in Birmingham, enlisting a diverse range of young people to perform both musically and dramatically.



Jacqui Francis

Jacqui has over 25 years experience of the recruitment of ministerial appointments, executive and non-executive roles, and membership of regulators and expert bodies. As well as reviewing governance processes and supporting boards. She has a commitment to public service and the Nolan Principles. She was an accredited Public Appointments Assessor for the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Jacqui serves as an independent panel member for the Judicial Appointments Commission, selecting candidates for judicial office in England and Wales and tribunals. She serves as an Independent Appointments Panel member for the Bar Standards Board. Locally, she is a Citizen Member of Birmingham City Council's Independent Remuneration Panel, which recommends the basic and special responsibility allowances for the 101 councillors. She is a member of the Trust Board for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Birmingham, and is chair of the Workforce and Remuneration Committee. Jacqui is a Trustee of The Cole Charitable Trust, a small grant making trust, which supports charities in the West Midlands, Kent and Cambridgeshire.



Stephen Hartland

Stephen became an Elected Governor in September 2019 and has almost 40 years' experience working in IT and Finance for multi-national companies, including Sun Alliance, RSA & IBM and has been involved as project manager for a number of high-profile commercial customers.

Stephen is the Chairman of The Victorian Society in the West Midlands, and is a trustee of the Friends of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery and a trustee of the Middlemore Educational Foundation, which gives grants to assist students from disadvantaged backgrounds. He sat on the Executive Council of The Birmingham Civic Society 2000-2007, setting up its Planning Committee (2001) and Public Art Committee (2002) and Birmingham Trees for Life (2006). He sat on the Society's Board of Trustees 2011-22 and was Deputy Chairman 2020-22.

Stephen also chairs the Governance and Roadmap Steering committees of the Institute.



Alex Round

Alex is currently an AHRC funded PhD student at Birmingham City University in partnership with Midlands4Cities. Her research concerns Pre-Raphaelite women, as well as Gothic literature and prose and poetry of the nineteenth century.

Alex is a Visiting Lecturer in English at Birmingham City University and the University of Warwick. She is also an AFHEA and a SEDA Accredited Tutor in Higher Education, and a qualified A Level and GCSE teacher of English. Alex is the 2023 recipient of the Rose Sidgwick Award with the British Federation of Women Graduates, and a recipient of the 2023 Dahesh Museum of Art Prize.

Alex sits on the Library and Audience Engagement committees of the Institute.