

Elizabeth Dodds

I moved to Darlington 17 years ago and Crown Street Library was the first public building I visited; I have been a regular ever since. Lifelong learning enriches and transforms lives and libraries have a unique role to play, offering community hubs where generations can learn together. I want to serve as a trustee because it is the town's history that led me to make Darlington my home and I am passionate about preserving that heritage. I know that the best way of achieving this is for our historic buildings and organisations to evolve to meet the needs of current and future generations. Having worked for 23 years in management at Durham University, including a number of years working for Durham's historic colleges and in leading roles on major projects, I have gained a wealth of experience that will help me to serve the town, its people and its trust.

Yvonne Richardson

I have lived in Darlington for 25 years. I have been chair of Friends of North Lodge Park since 2001 and we have run hundreds of events and raised £220,000 to get the bandstand restored in 2010. I was a member of Northgate Partnership and involved in many projects in Northgate. I continue to try and address issues which adversely affect our quality of life. I have used libraries all of my life wherever I have lived. They are amazing sources of information, culture, entertainment and knowledge. Crown Street also houses a treasure trove of artefacts which tell the story of our town and its people through time. Crown Street Library is housed in a unique and special building that is beautiful, built of high-quality materials and is well loved by a great many people from Darlington as well as from surrounding areas. The history of the library and people's memories of their use of it connects us all as a community, promoting civic pride and a feeling of belonging to a special place. The Library is the beating heart of Darlington to its users. It has the potential to be so much more both as a building and a service transformed to meet the needs of the digital generation.

Matthew Roche

I moved to Darlington with my wife (who grew up here) over 13 years ago. As well as borrowing books my wife, daughter and I go to a whole series of events at Crown Street Library (including plays and workshops), I enjoy visiting the art gallery and have even volunteered there. I was a founder and Secretary of Darlington for Culture for over 8 years, under whose auspices I registered Crown Street Library as an asset of community value and supported the campaign against its closure. Currently Director of both Darlington Credit Union and Bike Stop, I have been involved in the charitable and social enterprise sector for most of my life. My current job involves leading on grant-making to charitable organisations in the North East. It would be a huge honour to be part of protecting the important cultural legacy of such an influential Darlingtonian as Edward Pease.