

The Community Farm Personal Statements 2023

Rachel Hammond (*Standing for election for the first time*)

I currently live in Berkshire, but have lived in Yorkshire (Todmorden, the birthplace of Incredible Edible) and Oxford, and my parents are in Somerset. I am a Landscape Architect specialising in food production and biodiversity plantings, designing spaces for food and wildlife, as well as training future growers in productive systems and soil health. My passion is local food systems and whole ecosystem design. I have grown food all my life and professionally for the last 10 years. I would love to bring my experience of food production, system design, integrating biodiversity and soil health to The Farm. I have my own business and understand the need for financial viability well too.

Naomi Kent (*Standing for election for the first time*)

I have lived in the Chew Valley for over 20 years and in this time, as a regular veg box customer and rather more irregular volunteer at The Community Farm, I have seen how it has grown and developed and I have observed the increasing impact it is having. I have always had an interest in the mental health benefits of spending time in the natural world and am increasingly interested in the link between good food, good health and good mental health. I am a social and market researcher and have run my own business for over a decade working with a range of organisations in the environmental and sustainability area (e.g. Defra, Environment Agency, Sustrans, Soil Association) and within the food and drink industry. I'd like to bring both my business and research experience to The Community Farm to help it develop and thrive.

Phoebe Ruxton (*Standing for election for the first time*)

I am a Shropshire lass who moved to Bristol seven years ago. Since then, I have worked in sales and marketing, followed by five years working at FareShare South West (a surplus food redistribution charity) through a period of fast growth- making me no stranger to packing deliveries, food warehouses, volunteers and tonnes of potatoes. I led and diversified their Fundraising and Communications functions, as well as supporting the strategy through expansion. I now fundraise for a mental health charity called OTR where I see nature and therapy combined to transform young people's wellbeing. Through FareShare and Bristol life, I have come to know and appreciate The Community Farm ethos, particularly from a food justice and environmental perspective. I would like to offer my fundraising and business development expertise particularly as The Farm develops this area of income generation. It would be a pleasure and a privilege to be part of The Farm and volunteer my support.

Maddie Dunn *(First elected 2018. Retiring by rotation and standing for re-election)*

I am an agricultural lawyer practising in the food and farming sector, with a specific focus on rural property, farming partnership dispute resolution and landlord and tenant matters. I am a member of Women in Property and the Agricultural Law Association and have acted as a mentor for the Law Society's Diversity Access Scheme. I live in Shepton Mallet with my family. I have served on the Management Committee since 2018, including a spell as Secretary, and focusing particularly on tenant-landlord matters, governance and policy making. I love the ethos of The Farm and its positive impact on the lives of so many people, including children. I suffered a serious illness in 2023 and am currently on sick leave, but if re-elected would love to continue to be part of the management committee once my health is restored.

Masuyo Newman *(First elected 2017. Retiring by rotation and standing for re-election)*

I grew up in Japan, and have now lived in the Chew Valley for over 20 years. I have been a volunteer at The Community Farm since 2016. I ran a Japanese food shop in Luxembourg for three and a half years. I gained therapy qualifications and have been practising from home for nearly fourteen years. But my long-time passion is cooking. My cooking techniques have been developed through my daughter's atopic condition that started when she was one year old in Luxembourg. I decided to cook every meal using the ingredients for her condition. I have written blogs about food and culture both British and Japanese, in English and Japanese languages. I have also done catering of sushi and Japanese dishes for weddings and home parties. I run popular workshops on sushi making and pickling, including for the Farm and on the Chef's Demo stage at Valley Fest. I love being part of The Farm, which is growing healthy food and helping so many people to feel part of a real community. I would like to continue to serve on the Management Committee.

Angela Raffle *(First elected 2011. Retiring by rotation and standing for re-election)*

I have been involved in The Community Farm since it was first an idea, and have served on the Management Committee since the Farm began in 2011. I have been Chair of the Committee since 2015. I am a medical doctor, specialising in Public Health, and have lived and worked in Bristol since 1985. I've been involved in Bristol's food movement from 2007, helping with the Who Feeds Bristol Report, the setting up of Bristol's Food Policy Council, launch of the Good Food Plan for Bristol and the Sustainable Food Cities Silver Award. I have supported the Farm through many challenges, seen our team of staff and volunteers steadily gain in experience and skill, and seen our reputation and influence slowly build. Despite my frequent checking with staff and committee members as to whether it is time for me to step down, at present the answer seems to be that I am still needed. I would like to serve The Farm for a while longer.