



## 13th Annual General Meeting

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22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026 at 15:45

Venue: **The Dana Research Centre, The Science Museum, 165 Queens Gate, London SW7 5HD** and online via **Zoom**

Members should register to attend the meeting by [completing this online form](#) or emailing [administrator@heritagescienceforum.org.uk](mailto:administrator@heritagescienceforum.org.uk) by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

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### Agenda

1. Welcome from the Chair.
2. **Report** on NHSF's activities in 2024-25 from the Chair.
3. **Minutes** of 12<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 and matters arising.
4. **Ordinary resolution 1:** To receive the trustees' annual report for the year ending 31st March 2025
5. **Ordinary resolution 2:** To receive the statement of annual accounts for the year ending 31st March 2025
6. **Ordinary resolution 3:** To appoint/reappoint the following people as trustees of the charity
  - Alex Ball
  - Nancy Bell
  - Josep Grau-Bové
  - Virginia Phillips
  - Paola Ricciardi
  - Sophie Yana
7. **Looking ahead to 2026-27** from Professor Chris Gaffney, Chair of NHSF
8. **Any other business**

**Documents for the 13<sup>th</sup> AGM** are available on the [NHSF website](#) (link).

- Trustees' Annual Report and Annual Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025
- Draft minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025

## **Biographies of candidates standing for appointment/reappointment as trustees:**

### **Alex Ball**

Alex Ball is the former Head of Imaging and Analysis at The Natural History Museum. He has a particular interest in non-destructive imaging and analysis and a background in 3D imaging and data analysis. He has published extensively on new methodologies in imaging, particularly focussing on SEM and confocal microscopy. Alex is chair of the Society for Electron Microscope Technology, is co-chair of the RMS Education and Outreach Committee and former RMS trustee. He also coordinates the Hitachi STEM Education Outreach Project in the UK with his colleague James Perkins. This award-winning scheme sends portable SEMs into secondary schools to facilitate student-led research and STEM training for teachers.

### **Nancy Bell**

Understanding the power of science and technology to better preserve, access and interpret collections, is central to the many roles Nancy Bell has held. She was recently a Research Associate, Oxford University, where she developed protocols to better translate research to policy and practice for the heritage sector. Prior to this she has served in different capacities at the National Trust; National Archives and Record Administration, USA; and was Head of Collection Care, The National Archives, UK. She was on the advisory board of the AHRC/EPSRC Heritage Science Advisory Board, and is currently Chair, Idlewild Trust.

### **Josep Grau-Bové**

Josep Grau-Bové is Director of the Institute for Sustainable Heritage (ISH) at University College London, where he is a Professor of Heritage Science. His research specialises in preventive conservation, with a particular focus on computational approaches to understanding environments and their management. He has led major training initiatives in the sector, notably the MSc in Data Science for Cultural Heritage and the MSc in Sustainable Heritage. Alongside his simulation work, Josep is strongly committed to field-based teaching and research, regularly working with students in historic houses and leading citizen science projects. He is a member of the College of Experts of DCMS and has been involved in a range of research projects, such as ERIHS, and recently GreenHer (EC), ITHACA (AHRC) and the Getty Art and Sustainability Fellowships.

### **Virginia Phillips**

Virginia is a chartered mechanical engineer and member of the Institution of Engineering Technology. Her career spans more than 30 years, encompassing advisory, corporate, media and entrepreneurial sectors, most recently in finance for FTSE 100 companies. She has worked for the BBC making science programmes for Radio 4 and the World Service, and is passionate about communicating science to a broad audience. Currently, she is developing a non-executive portfolio career and undertaking voluntary work, including at her local heritage railway.

### **Dr Paola Ricciardi**

Paola is a research, impact and engagement professional and has held a variety of roles in the heritage sector. She trained as a heritage scientist in Italy and worked in France and the US before moving to the UK in 2011 to set up an analytical lab for the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. She was an NHSF Trustee between 2017 and 2020, representing the University of Cambridge Museums on the Board. She has held roles at the Royal Society and IROC, and currently works at the Natural History Museum in London, managing the museum's strategic partnership with the University of Reading. Paola is passionate about truly collaborative and interdisciplinary work, and continues to undertake research and engagement at the interface between heritage collections, science, history and digital humanities.

## **Sophie Yana**

Sophie's professional career spans data analytics, strategy, operations, and finance, primarily within the tech industry. Currently, she works in Business Finance for Google's UK & Ireland ads business, where she focuses on strategic financial planning and building data-driven insights to guide the UK & Ireland leadership team's decision-making. Prior to this, she held various roles in strategy, operations, and data analytics for large-scale consumer products at Google, including YouTube.

Originally from France and based in London, Sophie holds degrees in Mathematics, Computer Science, and Finance. She has consistently sought to bridge her interest in science and technology with her deep passion for the arts, notably by working on parallel projects focused on marketing insights for Google Arts & Culture. She brings governance experience from her role as a Trustee for the music education charity Apollo Music Projects, where she has served since January 2024. Sophie is dedicated to applying her commercial expertise to support the NHSF's mission of caring for cultural heritage through science and technology.