



PRESS RELEASE

11 February 2021

Treading the Boards

Opportunity for four more trustees to join Queen's Hall Arts board as two new members are announced

Queen's Hall Arts is proud to announce the appointment of two new Trustees and an opportunity for four more people to join its board. **Clare Forsythe** and **Dr Tony Newton** are no strangers to the Queen's Hall, having both appeared on stage at the Hexham venue.

Jonny Tull, Chair of the Board of Trustees at the Queen's Hall said, "*We're delighted to be welcoming Tony and Clare to join the board of Trustees at such an important time. Their experience and guidance will be much-needed as we plan for our re-opening and the exciting years ahead. Myself, our Artistic Director/Chief Executive Katy, the staff team and the Trustees are all looking forward to working together.*"

Clare Forsythe is a former Queen Elizabeth High School student, and has stayed in the North East to pursue a career in the arts. She is currently studying a distance learning degree in theatre studies from Rose Bruford College of performing arts. She said, "*I am delighted to have been appointed to the board at Queen's Hall Arts. I am passionate about the arts, the beautiful Northumberland landscape, culture and heritage. I have performed on the Queen's Hall stage since I was seven, the building has always been a part of my past and I wanted to be a part of its present and future. I have been involved with the arts all of my life and I really want to see the Queens Hall become an artistic hub in the North. I hope to offer a youthful eye to the board and to help it emerge from this pandemic bolder than it was before.*"

Dr Tony Newton combines a life sciences background with a Doctorate in Business Administration from Durham University Business School. He has held senior corporate communications positions within FTSE 250 and Nasdaq 100 companies. His science, medicine and technology writing has appeared in numerous publications including The Times, The Independent, and his work has been shortlisted for the 'BT Technology Journalist of the Year' award and for 'Aerospace Journalist of the Year'. A long-standing RAF Reserve Officer and media specialist, he also brings a wealth of governance experience; previous roles have included London mental health charity 'New Directions Camden', President and Board Chair of the Oral Health Foundation, and Chair of Tynedale Talking Newspaper, plus he has been a public governor of Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and is an Expert Member on Newcastle & North Tyneside Research Ethics Committee.

Tony explains, "*I wanted to spend more time on governance work that had local or regional benefit. The arts have suffered greatly during covid, and the Queens Hall is central to the region's cultural life both as a venue and through its outreach work. I've performed on stage there, been in the audience, and made use of café, gallery and library. I've also rattled my collecting tin outside its doors during our annual Tynedale Talking Newspaper flag day. So I have a lot of time for the Queen's*"

Hall as a local Institution. It's going to be a steep learning curve as it's a complex organisation, but I'm really excited to join the QHA team."

The Queen's Hall is one of the North East's leading arts and culture organisations, delivering a programme of rich arts experiences spanning theatre, live music, spoken word, digital art, visual arts and more. Having secured over £200,000 of capital investment from Arts Council England to develop our studio space and improve our backstage area, and almost £150,000 from the ACE's COVID-19 Cultural Recovery Fund, the team is carefully planning the best ways of adapting to the evolving global situation. This includes looking at challenges and opportunities and the new ways in which we can serve the people of the region with a rich cultural programme that is adventurous while also being accessible and relevant to all.

Queen's Hall Arts is now looking for another four new Trustees to join the existing Board in helping to lead and guide the team, led by Artistic Director/CEO Katy Taylor and Chair Jonny Tull. The deadline for applications is 26 March. To find out more or to arrange an informal chat visit www.queenshall.co.uk/news

ENDS

Contact

- For more information or interviews please contact [Helen Fussell](mailto:Helen.Fussell@queenshall.co.uk) / 07801 369 778
- Images are available [here](#)

Queen's Hall Arts Centre, Beaumont Street, Hexham, NE46 3LS

E: boxoffice@queenshall.co.uk

Online booking at www.queenshall.co.uk

Notes to Editors

Queen's Hall Arts (QHA) is a registered charity and multipurpose arts centre based in the heart of Hexham. We develop and deliver a vibrant arts programme offering a wide range of shows, exhibitions, concerts and special events, support professional and aspiring artists, provide opportunities for our community to take part in the arts and offer a valuable creative resource to our local area. Through the arts we make life better, having positive impacts on our community and the individuals who live and work within it. Queen's Hall Arts (QHA) is the company that manages the Queen's Hall Arts Centre venue within the Queen's Hall, Hexham. The Queen's Hall building is a magnificent early Victorian building which faces Hexham Abbey (dating from 647AD). From its christening as an arts centre in 1983 until the hand over to the charitable organisation, Queens Hall Arts, in 2001 the building was under local authority control. Queen's Hall Arts Centre boasts a 350-seat theatre and two galleries managed by Queen's Hall Arts. Queen's Hall has established itself as a strong base for an extensive range of artistic activity, attracting the best international and national artists from music, drama, dance and national touring comedy to non professional shows put on by local community groups. In addition to activity in the building, QHA delivers an extensive outreach programme bringing workshops and performances to communities throughout Northumberland. www.queenshall.co.uk

Board recruitment & timeline

As a member of the Board of Trustees, you will be committed to ensuring the highest standards of strategic oversight of the charity's decision making, sustainability, and good governance. You will receive a full induction at the outset and peer support throughout your time on the Board; and (as

our existing Trustees are quick to attest) you can expect huge satisfaction in contributing to important and enjoyable work.

The role of Trustee is voluntary and you will need to be able to attend quarterly board meetings, contribute to one of the three sub-committees as well as be an ambassador for QHA at local events.

We invite applications from everyone with a passion for playing a part in this. QHA presents a diverse programme which stimulates, entertains, nurtures creative talent and above all serves the community we live in. To undertake this work with confidence and integrity, we believe that our workforce and Trustees should reflect this community and hence represent a diversity of backgrounds, beliefs and levels of experience.

We welcome applications equally from candidates with experience of Boards and those who are seeking their first Trustee position and/or are at an early stage in their career.

Timeline:

- 26 March 2021 – deadline for applications
- w/c 1 April 2021 – shortlisting
- 8 -19 April 2021 – interviews
- July 2021 - new trustees join board meeting

To apply, or if you would like an informal discussion about the role please email Katy Taylor katy.taylor@queenshall.co.uk