



Meet the trustees – March 2022

Okehampton United Charity manages over 120 acres of land in Okehampton and the Hamlets. This land included two almshouses, three allotment sites, the site of Okehampton Community Garden and Men in Sheds. Ball Hill Woods and Tramlines meadows and several agricultural tenants.

Trustees have a property subcommittee of six who meet regularly and manage the day to day decision relating to the charity's land. Three of the trustees who sit on the property sub-committee are Phil Murray, Christine Marsh and Maria Cooper.



Maria Cooper - Phil Murray - Christine Marsh

Phil retired in 2017 after 34 years as a research scientist and has lived in Okehampton for over 30 years. He has recently joined the board of trustees and chairs the property sub-committee. "Okehampton is very lucky to have such a charity providing facilities and support for the town. My three children all benefitted from the educational fund whilst studying and now I feel it is a privilege to be able to give something back. I have a particular interest in the extensive land owned by the charity, which ensures a green space to be enjoyed by the town and Hamlets".

Christine - 'After my time spent as a Doctor's Secretary, I decided to stand as a Town Councillor. It was when I became Mayor that I was became aware of the then Okehampton Non-Ecclesiastical Charity. Now the Okehampton United Charity. I am also a trustee of Simmons Homes and the Simmons Park Charity. Being retired from work gives me time to put something back into the community. It has been great helping and learning about the various people, groups, and organisations. I am privileged to be part of this charity and support the work it does.'

Maria – 'Having lived and worked in the Okehampton vicinity all my life, I decided to stand as a Parish Councillor for Okehampton Hamlets, some 10 years ago. This led me to be a trustee on the board of the OUC as the representative for the Hamlets. My involvement and love of farming through all my life, as a farmer's daughter, wife and my 40 plus years in rural and retail employment has hopefully helped in my position on the property committee. The land purchased recently by OUC offers exciting times ahead for Okehampton and its residents, and I feel privileged and proud to be part of this.'