

# Newbattle Abbey College Board

## Meet the Members

**Gary Husband** (Board Member since 2019 and Chair of the Board from March 2024)



Gary is a Professor of Professional Education. Over the last 20 years Gary has held both teaching and leadership roles within industry, further education and higher education. Gary is an active researcher in the field of further, adult and community education and is educational research lead in the Faculty of Education, Society and Creative Industries at the University of Sunderland. Gary lives in the Scottish Borders and has active interests in archaeology, music and woodcraft.

**Roddy Henry** (Principal and Board Member since November 2021)



Roddy started his career in education as a lecturer at Glasgow College of Nautical Studies (GCNS) in 1998, following a first career in the shipping industry. He went on to senior roles at GCNS, before holding national positions as Head of Centre for Learning Effectiveness at the Scottish Further Education Unit, Associate Director at Scotland's Colleges and as one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education. Prior to his appointment as Principal at Newbattle, Roddy was Depute Principal at Inverness College, part of the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI), a post he had held for the previous eight years.

**Stuart Moir** (Board Member since 2021 and Chair of the Learning and Teaching Committee)



Stuart is a recently retired lecturer from the University of Edinburgh's School of Education. Stuart has been a member of the Learning and Teaching Committee since 2017 and is currently its Chair.

However, Stuart's involvement with Newbattle goes back much further, having been a student there in 1988/89. Stuart left school at 16 with few qualifications and started his working life as an

apprentice mechanic and then a bus driver. A successful year at Newbattle enabled Stuart to go on to Edinburgh University where he gained both under-graduate and post-graduate qualifications. Stuart then went on to develop a successful career as a community educator working in various school and community settings. Stuart returned to Edinburgh University as an academic in 2012 with an interest in citizenship and adult education. He gained a doctorate in 2021.

Newbattle transforms people's lives and Stuart knows this, not just from his academic knowledge and expertise, but directly through his own lived experience. Stuart is committed to contributing this knowledge, expertise and experience to his work as a Board member to help Newbattle and its students flourish.

**Andy McGoff** (Board Member since 2020, Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee and Vice Chair from June 2024)



Andy is a commercially focused Finance Director with extensive experience of working internationally with entrepreneurial and VC backed organisations as well as large corporates.

Andy graduated from the University of Edinburgh with an MA in Economics, before training to become a Chartered Accountant with Ernst & Young.

Having been with the Miller Group, the UK's largest privately owned house building, property development and construction business, for almost 11 years, Andy then worked across a portfolio of clients. This was either as a consultant or as director accountable for broad commercial business operations as well as functional responsibility for leading, managing and motivating the Finance and HR teams.

Prior to joining Edinburgh Napier University, in his current role as Finance and Operations Director in October 2016, he was a Board Member with Bloxx Limited, where he had a lead role in the successful sale of the company to Akamai Technologies Inc a NASDAQ listed entity. Andy chairs the Audit and Risk Committee.

**Colin Pritchard** (Board Member since March 2023)



Colin is a Building Surveyor with 20 years' experience in the public sector, previously working with Edinburgh City Council and currently with University of Edinburgh. Within his current role, Colin heads the delivery team for hard services across the University at their five campus locations. Colin is responsible for around 130 staff and £15m of revenue and capital budget. Colin

hopes to use his experience in senior operational management to support the College over the next four-year term.

Colin is from Lanark originally and now lives in Doune near Stirling with his wife and twin boys. Outside of work, Colin's main passion is golf and 5-a-side football, and he loves to travel with his family at every opportunity.

**Margaret McLean** (Board Member since March 2023 and Senior Independent Member from June 2024)



Margaret is a recently retired real estate lawyer and partner in an Edinburgh law firm. Margaret's specialism was the student housing sector. In her spare time Margaret enjoys playing the Scottish fiddle and exploring the Islands around Scotland and Scandinavia.

**Jane Grant** (Board Member since March 2024)



Jane is Depute Director, External Engagement and Partnerships at The Open University in Scotland. Jane started her career in academic publishing before moving into IT business consultancy, economic development, knowledge exchange, business start-up and business development consultancy, across a wide range of sectors in private, public and third sector organisations.

She has spent many years as a senior executive and consultant advising organisations on strategies to become more competitive, innovative and reap cost benefits from technology solutions and business improvement across all aspects of their business.

Latterly she worked in the college sector consulting with a range of stakeholders and partners to help organisations develop their teams and create innovative practice. As a senior director she leads teams to deliver ambitious strategic programmes in Education & Skills.

She is also a board member at Prosper (formerly SCDI) and a trustee board member at Floris Books.

**Alyson Tobin** (Board Member since March 2024)



Alyson is an Emeritus Professor at Edinburgh Napier University where she held the post of Vice Principal for Learning and Teaching until her retirement in 2023. She is a Fellow of The Royal Society of Edinburgh and a member of the RSE's Education Committee. Alyson held academic posts for 19 years at the University of St Andrews as a Professor and latterly Dean of the Faculty of Science and is now an Honorary Professor of Biology at St Andrews.

She is an experienced advisor in higher education, formerly Chair of the Scottish Higher Education Enhancement Committee, a reviewer for the Qualifications Assurance Agency, and a member of the SQA National Qualifications Strategy Group.

She was previously a non-executive Director and Chair of the Science Excellence and Research Impact Committee at the James Hutton Institute and is now an Honorary Fellow at JHI. She has held Royal Society research posts at the Universities of York, Sussex and Manchester, published research papers on plant biochemistry and physiology and co-authored an advanced research-level Plant Biochemistry textbook.

**Howell Davies** (Board Member since September 2024)



Howell is Head of Strategic Programmes and Funding at Interface, a Scottish organisation that has helped thousands of businesses to find and access academic expertise, research, funding, technologies and facilities to enable them to solve challenges, innovate, grow and ultimately become more sustainable. Previously, he spent most of his career working for Scottish food and drink companies as well as for Highlands & Islands Enterprise supporting businesses and communities.

Howell now lives in Dalkeith and in his spare time loves spending it with his family as well as the odd game of golf.

**Iain Reid** (Board Member since November 2024)



Iain is a retired Chartered Accountant whose most recent management role was as CEO of the Faculty of Advocates. Prior to this role Iain held a number of Finance Director positions in the charity, IT services and property sectors both in the UK and abroad. Many of his roles have involved significant corporate events including the sale of Newell & Budge to the French company, Sopra, and the demutualisation of Scottish Widows. Iain is currently a non-executive director of Lothian Buses Ltd where he chairs the Audit & Risk Committee.

**David Peace** (Board Member since December 2025)



David trained as a Chartered Surveyor and worked in property (mainly buying and selling farms, country houses and sporting estates) for about 10 years. He then moved to management consultancy, working across, and at the crossovers of, public, private and third sectors. After being made redundant due to a takeover of the company he then moved into self-employment and enjoyed a number of very different roles including investigating and settling insurance claims, setting up a bespoke shirt making company and property investment advice. About 10 years ago he set up a careers advisory consultancy specialising in helping individuals and small teams realise their potential. For the last three years he has been working through the Association of Chief Officers of Scottish Voluntary Organisations (ACOSVO), now called Charity Leadership Scotland, where he sits on the Mentoring and Interim Executive panels. David mentors senior officers and works to help organisations resolve issues or as a stop gap where they have an employment gap.

David sat on the Board of Borders College for 8 years until early 2023 where he was Vice Chair and Mentor to the student association and he currently sits on the Board of the Borders Further Education Trust. David lives in the Borders and coached rugby at Melrose for 15 years.

**Zoi Zompopoulou** (Teaching Staff Board Member since November 2024)



Zoi is a qualified sport and exercise psychologist based in Edinburgh. Zoi moved to Scotland in 2016 to pursue an MSc in Psychology of Mental Health at the University of Edinburgh. She then pursued a doctorate in sport and exercise psychology at Glasgow Caledonian University, where she worked as a psychology tutor for two years.

Zoi is currently running her own performance psychology support business, Creative Sport Mind. Zoi is also working as a psychology lecturer at the College where she leads the Associate Degree in Social Sciences, in partnership with Queen Margaret University. Zoi has experience working in academia, physical activity and professional, community and student sport. Zoi's expertise and research areas include self-care, self-compassion and personal development.

**Aislinn Wood** (Board Member since March 2024)

**Susanne Schulz** (Board Member since October 2024)

**Hala Kurdi** (Student Board Member since October 2025)

**Mariama Baldeh** (Student Board Member since October 2025)