

# Meet The Team

Wray Village Store

The heart of the community

## DAVID CANNING - Steering Group Member

David grew up in south Manchester, so thinks of himself as a Lancashire boy. He works in the Civil Service and spent twenty five years in Whitehall before taking the opportunity to move to Wray in October last year, along with Rachel, his wife. He loves the friendly community spirit in the village and believes a local shop is a vital asset that we need to retain. When not developing a second career as a poet, David is an information, data and records management professional. He has extensive experience in major operational delivery, public policy, and in the governance of voluntary and charitable organisations; he was a chair of school governors for sixteen years, a borough councillor, and is motivated by a strong belief in community activism.



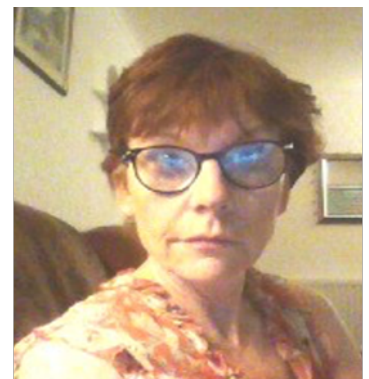
## JULIA FOX - Operations Sub-Committee

Julia has lived in the village for 40+ years with her husband Ray. She has been involved in various aspects of village life over the years including, working in the school, toddler group, school board of trustees member to name but a few. She is semi-retired from working full time in fashion design and education. Julia still works in the design field but juggles this with time spent with her six grandchildren. She is keen for the village shop to not only provide essential provisions but also for it to be a place where villagers can drop in for a natter, a catch-up and maybe a brew.



## MARILYN GASKELL - Shop Manager

Marilyn moved to Wray in 2017 from Heysham, and not long after became involved with work for the Benefice of East Lonsdale, helping to produce the Bell newsletter, which you may well be familiar with! Other interests include participating in bird counts for the British Trust of Ornithology and of course exploring the local area. Currently Marilyn is employed in the Civil Service in a customer-service role, and is very much looking forward to participating in this new community venture.



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## PETER GORST - Steering Group Member

Whilst coming from families that have lived in and around Wray for generations, Peter has lived in the village for a modest 26 years. He is married with four adult children who all enjoyed growing up in this community. The family is keen that the sense of community that has enriched their lives in Wray is preserved for other families – shop, pub, school, churches, scarecrows are all part of that. Peter has been active in various village activities, often involving sport, is chair of the School Trustees, a Methodist lay preacher and secretary of Kendal Athletics Club. He brings nearly 40 years of management experience and presentational skills to the team.



## BOB HALSEY - Interim Chairperson

Bob has lived in Wray for over 26 years and has come to appreciate the friendliness, supportiveness and welcoming nature of the people who live here. When he heard that there was a risk that we could lose the village shop, which he had seen evolve into a central asset of the village, he committed himself to helping secure the shop for the community. Bob's family, Libby, Natasha and Tom, who have all grown up in the village, have all appreciated having a local shop, providing essential and non essential goods. Bob has a vision for the shop which will expand its recent services and provide outlets for the many products the locality provides, as well as serving the people of Wray and its visitors with the staples of life. In his working life Bob has managed many large infrastructure projects, and he hopes that his skills as a project manager can assist with driving forward the initiative and achieving the aims that the team have set out – A village store owned by, run by, and for the community.



## SILAS HEYS - Interim Secretary

Silas is a Lancashire lad, and returned to the county with his wife in 2021 to live in Wray, after living in Kendal for four years. As an in-house solicitor for a local building society, he has brought expertise in corporate governance and property law to the project. He has been a voice of challenge amongst the steering committee, seeking to ensure ideas are refined to their best possible state before being taken forward. He is passionate about mutualism and member-ownership, believing that people care more when they own a stake in something. Silas has been in awe of the community in Wray since moving here, and is excited to offer what skills he can to ensure a member owned and run shop can further enhance the community.



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## **PAUL MAYCOCK - Steering Group Member**

Paul has lived in the village for 29 years, and, although from the 'South', Wray is the centre of his families' lives. At the hub of a thriving village is a friendly, well stocked shop, catering for and being responsive to the communities' needs. Like others in the village, the risk of losing the shop, spurred him into action to secure this valuable village asset. Although he is still actively working Internationally in the Nuclear Industry, and considers himself the 'oldie' in the team, he is receptive to innovation and passionate about our community.



## **EMMA O'KANE - Interim Chairperson Operations Sub-Committee**

Emma is a Deputy Designated Nurse Safeguarding Adults. She moved to Wray with her family five years ago and is proud to be part of the community. Emma values all of our local businesses and community groups, and she is keen to ensure the provision of a local shop remains available to the residents of Wray, surrounding farms and villages. Emma has some retail experience, but her key contribution is her enthusiasm to ensure the village shop is a warm, welcoming, interesting place to enjoy for local people and visitors to the wonderful Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, that we are lucky enough to call home.



## **STEVE OPENSHAW - Interim Vice Chair**

Steve has lived in the area for over three decades and moved to Wray in 2019, with his wife and daughter. He has a passion for getting stuck into all that a vibrant, tight knit and supportive local community offers. He enjoys supporting local events, helps out lifting heavy things for our Scarecrow Festival and is a Trustee of the Village Institute. Steve runs a geophysical consultancy which takes him all over the UK, whilst being lucky enough to spend office time at home in the village. Steve believes that the village shop is absolutely at the heart of Wray and offers his small business operational skills to the project.



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## TRACEY SLATER - Operations Sub-Committee

Tracey has lived in Wray for over 33 years. She lived with her late husband and brought up her four grown up children here. Her daughter Stacey lives with her now. She also has five grandchildren. She has been involved in many aspects of village life including voluntary and paid jobs in the primary school, toddler group, youth club, sports committee, worked in both pubs. Tracey would love to see the shop become a central part of village life, not just for the children popping in for treats after a hard day at school, but also to give our older generation a place to pop in for a few essential fresh groceries while possibly staying for a natter and a cuppa. You do not have to be alone to feel lonely and this could turn out to be a lifeline for some.



## HEATHER WELLS - Interim Treasurer

You may know Heather as the person with a white fluffy dog, Miska. Both enjoy the many walking routes available so close by and greeting other dogs and people on the way. She moved to Wray about 18 months ago and is very glad she did, believing it to be a lovely village, where everyone has been very welcoming and the village has a fantastic community spirit with so many places and events to bring people together. Heather's hope is that we can all support in various ways a new beginning of the village shop following Tony & Jane's retirement providing a place to meet, enable people to shop locally and feel involved. Her working life has been primarily in finance & business, and she plans on helping out as much as she can with the set up and ongoing bookkeeping requirements and assist in the shop when required.

