

The Community Farm Personal Statements 2021

Maddie Dunn (*First elected 2018. Retiring by rotation and standing for re-election for the first time.*)

I live in Shepton Mallet, Somerset, with my husband, two young children and a border collie. I work in Bristol as an agricultural lawyer with Burges Salmon, practicing in the food and farming sector, with a specific focus on rural property and farming partnership dispute resolution and landlord and tenant matters. I am also a member of the Agricultural Law Association and have acted as a mentor for the Law Society's Diversity Access Scheme.

Having served on the Management Committee since 2018 I am inspired by The Farm's approach and ethos, which are so important, especially for giving children and young people the opportunity to feel connected to the land and to know where their food comes from. I believe that, as well as providing educational opportunities, and physical and mental health benefits, this is also the best way to guarantee strong, sustainable, environmentally sound food production for the future. It is, of course, also fantastic fun and I have seen just how excited and inspired my own children are by visits to the farm, especially my youngest, three year old Jake, who is currently keen to be a farmer when he grows up and was persuaded to try courgettes purely because he had been able to "help" set up the beds for them to be grown in.

I would love to continue to serve on the Management Committee in order to go on helping The Community Farm to stay special and to become ever more excellent in all that it does so would, if re-elected, be very grateful to have that opportunity.

Masuyo Newman (*First elected 2017. Retiring by rotation and standing for re-election for the first time.*)

I have lived in the Chew Valley for twenty three years, and since starting to volunteer at The Farm in 2016 I have felt for the first time like I am a real member of the local community, because the volunteers and staff of The Farm make each other so happy, like a family. I was born in Kyushu, Japan. Before we came to the Chew Valley, which is where my husband is from, we lived in Luxembourg where I ran a Japanese food shop for three and a half years. I gained therapy qualifications when I came back to the UK and have been practicing from home for eighteen years. My long-time passion is cooking. My cooking techniques have been developed through my daughter's atopic condition that started when she was one year old in Luxembourg. I decided to cook every meal using ingredients to help her condition. My experience as a Wado-ka Japanologist brings different ideas and a way of seeing things from different angles. I have written blogs about food and culture both British and Japanese, in English and Japanese languages, and I have done catering of sushi and Japanese dishes for weddings and home parties.

Angela Raffle (*First elected 2010. Retired by rotation and re-elected in 2012, 2015 and 2019.*)

I have been involved in The Community Farm since it was first an idea, and have served on the Management Committee since the Farm began in 2011, for the last six years as Chair of the Committee.

I am a medical doctor, specialising in Public Health, have lived and worked in Bristol since 1985, and have been involved in Bristol's Food Movement since 2007. I have supported the Farm through many challenges, seen our team of staff and volunteers steadily gain in experience and skill, and seen our reputation and influence slowly building. During my time as Chair I have helped strengthen the Management Committee both through improving the way we work, and by recruiting new highly experienced members. Although I hope to hand on the baton as Chair in the near future, my committee members tell me that it is not quite time for me to stand down yet. I would like to serve for a few more years to ensure stability and continuity.