

HarmonicaUK Committee Members 2021

Existing Committee

Pete Hewitt, Chair



Pete has been a member of HarmonicaUK since 1982. In October of 2020 he stepped up as executive chair. During his career Pete has been in senior management, specialising in restructuring businesses/departments and also in people management, where he built and enthused teams. His management experience was not only within the airline world but in performing arts where he was director of operations. Pete is a keen chromatic player and plays wherever possible with established bands. Pete's aim is to have a robust plan for the next decade for HarmonicaUK.

Barry Elms, Editor

Barry bought his first Marine Band in the early '90s after hearing the harmonica played on the Dr Who episode 'The Happiness Patrol' and has been playing ever since. He plays harmonica, guitar and organ in a 60's cover band, and harmonica and melodion with a folk music band. Barry is an IT specialist by day, and has 20 years' experience working as an adult education tutor. Barry brings many years of writing, editing, IT and project management experience to the roles of Harmonica World magazine editor and advisor to the HarmonicaUK IT team.



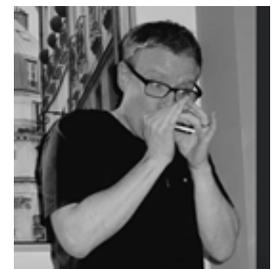
Phil Leiwy, Treasurer



Phil is a practicing Chartered Accountant and has been the Treasurer for 16 years. When he first became Treasurer, the annual festival saw him walking around with large sums of cash in various envelopes, hoping not to be robbed, or more likely, mislay it. With the advent of paypal, there is much less cash around which makes festival time much less stressful. He has only once forgotten to bring the money and the accounts to the AGM/annual festival. Phil is looking forward to retiring from accountancy, so that he can devote all of his hours to Harmonica UK.

Sam Wilkinson, Communications

Sam 'Sammy Boy' Wilkinson is best known for organising the Lockdown Sessions. He got a tremolo when he was three and dabbled in playing the harp in his teens and twenties, until making a serious effort to play in the late noughties. He is also a keen bass player. His main claim to fame is appearing on Eggheads (Series 21, Episode 38 – it's on Youtube). His favourite foods are sausages and custard, but not necessarily on the same plate.



Simon Joy, Safeguarding / Good Practice

As the only tremolo player on the committee, Simon is carrying the torch for all the members who play tremolo and double reed instruments. He is using his background of working in health and social care to oversee HarmonicaUK's commitment to safeguarding and managing risk. He looks forward to the day he can meet some of you in person to play tunes together.

Davina Brazier, Secretary

Davina is a keen chromatic and woodwind player. She performs locally with a mixed wind ensemble and is also learning the piano accordion. Her background in healthcare management has helped to equip her for the secretary role and she has spent the last 12 months establishing the foundations of good governance. In her spare time, she participates in aerial circus, fire and flow arts, and rides a unicycle!



Richard Taylor, Outreach



With a background in classical piano and choral work, Richard taught himself diatonic harmonica during the Pub Rock boom of the 1970s and 80s. This led to lesson requests, whereupon he started music teaching and joined the National Harmonica League. In 2007 he launched the Harp Surgery website for harmonica players, with interviews, tutorials and workshops, and co-founded Harpin' By The Sea, Brighton's annual international harmonica festival. In 2010 Richard became a franchisee of HarpScool providing harmonica learning for 7–11 year old school children, before launching his own company, Harp Academy, adding pre-school harmonica learning for 4 year olds. In 2020 Richard joined the HarmonicaUK Committee where he oversaw the charity's rebranding project. In his current role, he is steering HarmonicaUK's outreach programme, supporting harmonica learning across the UK.

Dave Hambley, Membership Secretary

I am an average (very) Chromatic player and as I only play for my own enjoyment I have practice issues! I have been a NHL/HUK member since 2006 and Membership Secretary for more years than I care to remember – maybe 12 years. I have a background in the manufacturing industry as a Production Engineer in a variety of practical and management roles which have honed my spreadsheet skills – essential in a Memberships Secretary.

Barbara Tate, IT and GDPR Support

Barbara has the dubious honour of being a Trustee of HarmonicaUK without ever having been a harmonica player! She is custodian of the harmonica legacy of her late husband, Douglas Tate, as well as being a past Membership Secretary (just after the last Ice Age) and IT and GDPR advisor. She doesn't have an active role at present due to family commitments, but is always on hand if needed.