

Stephen Wagstaffe

Master Chartered Architect 2017-2018



Born in Sheffield, Yorkshire and brought up in Ilford, Essex I live in Buckhurst Hill with Deirdre, to whom I have been married for 46 years. We have four grown-up daughters and two grandchildren.

As an architect I initially worked in general private practice doing military, educational and commercial work before moving to the Greater London Council where I spent 14 years designing, building and maintaining schools all over London.

When the GLC was closed down in 1986 I moved to the Department of the Environment.

As a Project Architect in the Property Services Agency I was responsible for multi-million pound projects at Tate Gallery Britain, Tate Gallery North, the Department of Energy, the Admiralty and the Royal Courts of Justice. The most important job held whilst at the PSA was as Superintending Officer for Phase 2 of the rebuilding work at Hampton Court Palace following the fire there in the King's Apartments at Easter 1986.

When the PSA was privatised in 1995 I set up my own practice doing small domestic and commercial work until 2005 and then planning consultancy work until finally retiring in 2009.

At the same time as running my own architectural practice I trained and qualified as a tour guide, specialising in the City of London, museums, church architecture and World War 1 & 2. In the last three years I have taken groups to Colditz Castle, Auschwitz, WW2 German fortified sites in Jersey, the U Boat pens at Lorient & St Naziere, the Maginot Line and the Normandy Beaches.

My interest in all things historical, and particularly of "the Square Mile", led to becoming involved with the ceremonial activities of the City of London, joining first the Ward Club of Bridge & Bridge Without in 1995 and the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects in 2000. Through the company I took on responsibility for the participation of the City's 42 churches in London Open House Weekend every September, only handing this role on when I started preparations for my year as Master Chartered Architect.

Away from architecture and civic events I am a trustee and former chairman of the North Weald Airfield Museum Association commemorating that airfield's role in WW1, WW2 and the "Cold War" and have been a volunteer bus driver for Epping Forest Community Transport for the last twelve years. My hobbies include swimming, model making, choral singing and watching motor sport.