

John Murray



Application for co-option

Background

Born in Dublin, but exported as an infant to SE England, my family moved to the north east when I was six. Brought up in Newcastle of course I support Sunderland. After school I studied chemistry in Bristol, worked in London for the National Union of Students and then the English National Board for Nursing before teacher training in Wandsworth. I started teaching in Gloucestershire in 1988, working my way through different schools until I retired as headteacher of the Catholic High School, Chester in 2019.

Kirkby Stephen

As a child I frequently visited Kirkby as the obvious stopping off point on the way to family holidays in the southern lakes or north Wales. Mum loved the cafes! With our own family living in Gloucestershire, or later, Chester it was the natural choice for stopping when we visited my parents in Newcastle, although once our sons found out how good the breakfast at J38 was, we had to stop there instead.

We had the opportunity to move here in Spring 2019 after [REDACTED] spotted an advert in The Friend for the flat above the Quaker Meeting House in Kirkby. We felt we knew the town and the area well enough and have enjoyed getting involved in a variety of community groups and volunteering. For me this has included the Community Choir, Churches Together, Good Neighbours, the Visitor Centre and, best of all the mountain rescue team. Out walking with my dad in the lakes 50 years ago he told that 'if he lived here, he would join the fell rescue'. Years later I have had that opportunity and I am very proud to be the team secretary.

Living here it has become apparent that we have a thriving community and I am very keen to contribute to that in any way I can. I love walking and would be happy to work others on local footpaths, and I would also be very motivated to get some ground work done in setting up a trades association. We didn't move here to let the grass grow under our feet but rather to get involved and be part of the town. Although the town council is non-political, I should mention that I am a LibDem as I wouldn't want that to come as a surprise later.

John Murray

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