

## **Speaker's Biographies**

### **Captain Graham Maclean - Chair**

Graham Maclean is the Chair of the Morecambe Bay Partnership and recently retired as the General Manager of Heysham Port.

He tells colourful tales of his 30 years at sea on merchant vessels and has worked as Operations Manager for an Irish Sea ferry company. He is a keen supporter of Morecambe football club.

### **Susannah Bleakley, Morecambe Bay Partnership**

Susannah has led the Morecambe Bay Partnership's work since 1997, except for a year on secondment with Government Office North West to support the early days of the North West Coastal Forum.

Her first career as Exploration Geologist with Shell took her to Indonesia and Africa where she saw first-hand the destruction of coral reefs and rainforests. She decided to retrain at Edinburgh University gaining a M.Sc. in Resource Management. She has worked in coastal management ever since, initially setting up the Severn Estuary Strategy.

Susannah believes that this year's event will be important for building collaboration with the new Marine Management Organisation as it takes on the role of marine planning. And also to ensure that there is widespread understanding of the important new offshore and energy developments.

She believes that the better people understand issues, the better they feel able to accept what may seem like unwelcome changes, and so she works with passion for the communities around the Bay to ensure there is understanding of what current policies and developments mean for Morecambe Bay.

### **Rosie Mathisen**

#### **Energy Opportunities Director, Britain's Energy Coast, West Cumbria**

Rosie Mathisen heads up the Energy Opportunities Team as Director and set up the team in 2003. She has worked extensively in economic development in West Cumbria for nearly 20 years and has an MBA from Durham University Business School.

Rosie heads up a team which leads on activity to maximise opportunities arising from changes in the nuclear industry, nuclear new build and other nuclear developments and, indeed, to influence those changes. Increasingly, this work is also focusing on the transition to the low carbon economy and the opportunities arising from renewable energy.

Britain's Energy Coast West Cumbria, through Rosie's team, was responsible for producing the nomination for the site adjacent to Sellafield - the only public body to develop a nomination for a new build site. The team also created significant market interest in the site, ensured a grid connection for the site and developed the Grid Routing Options work for a new 400 Kv line.

She works on a strategic level with top levels of management at the National Grid, the new build consortium, NDA, Sellafield Limited and NMP, the nuclear supply chain as well as the public sector.

In her spare time, Rosie is a keen sailor, yacht owner, gardener and photographer.

### **David Hayes, Consultant, Britain's Energy Coast, West Cumbria**

David is a London-based energy consultant working with British Energy Coast, particularly on nuclear power, renewable energy and other low-carbon issues.

David let the team in Government that set up the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority in 2004/05 and then became the NDA's Strategy Director.

David has worked in the public and private sectors, including in Brussels, Geneva and Washington. David's hobbies include running, cycling, a fairly catholic taste in music, and reading crime thrillers.

### **Matthew Green, Vattenfall Wind Power UK**

A Naval Architect and Chartered Engineer, Matthew has spent the past 15 years working in the offshore Oil and Gas and Telecommunication industries. In this time he has been involved in offshore construction projects in the Far East, North America, North Africa, Mediterranean and North Sea.

Having joined the Swedish utility 'Vattenfall' as a Project Manager in 2009, he is responsible for the Ormonde Offshore Wind Farm Project which is currently under construction off the coast of Barrow.

### **Richard Tracey, Northwest Regional Development Agency**

Richard works at the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) as Head of Environmental Quality.

He trained as a Town Planner and has worked exclusively in the public sector since. After a brief spell in the south east, he returned to his native Northwest to work in Salford on a wide variety of regeneration assignments, then moving to the Wirral,

initially to manage the Wallasey Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) programme and later the Northwood SRB programme in Knowsley.

Having completed an MBA focussed on area regeneration and neighbourhoods, he joined the NWDA, working first on the region's centre for regeneration excellence and then on a combination of regeneration and land based programmes. As part of the Agency's Energy and Environment Team he now leads a broad spectrum of projects and initiatives based around land, air and water.

Richard is warmly respected by his colleagues, not least, for including in his hobbies, "*trying to understand the world in pictures.*"

### **Andrew Dobson, Lancaster City Council**

Andrew Dobson is the Head of Regeneration and Policy at Lancaster City Council. He was appointed in June 2002 and is responsible for the City Council's planning and development services, its coastal defence function, housing and tourism strategy and the Arnsdale/Silverdale AONB. He was previously employed at Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council where he was the Borough Planning Officer.

Andrew trained as a planner in his native Cheshire, attending Liverpool Polytechnic between 1980 and 1985. He developed his specialism in planning law and practice at Blackpool then Langbaugh on Tees before becoming Development Control Manager at Crewe in 1989.

In addition to his mainstream activities Andrew was active in delivering planning training between 1995 and 2002 as an Associate Presenter with Trevor Roberts Associates. An active mountaineer, he trains from his home in the Lake District and lists amongst his accomplishments a successful ascent of Mont Blanc in 2005.

### **Chris Parry, Chair Marine Management Organisation.**

Chris has a passionate personal interest in the coastal, maritime, historic and natural environments and extensive experience, as a professional seaman and aviator, of working at sea. His distinguished naval career spanned 35 years and included active service in Northern Ireland, the Falklands and the Gulf. In his early career, he had experience of working in Fishery Protection and Search and Rescue and later he commanded a destroyer, an amphibious ship and an amphibious group. He subsequently went on to hold Director and then Director General roles at the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

With experience as a non-executive director and as the Chair of departmental and international committees, Chris was appointed for his long track record of successful strategic development and management of complex, multi-disciplinary maritime organisations and his experience of implementing two major multi-site and multi-

disciplinary amalgamation programmes (the Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre and the Maritime Warfare Centre). While Director General, Development, Concepts and Doctrine at the MoD, Chris led a large portfolio of work as Head of the UK's multi-disciplinary centre of excellence for strategic forecasting, geopolitical analysis, future concepts and the identification of best operational practice in land, maritime, air, space and information environments.

As the non-executive Chair of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Chris will oversee the development and implementation of overall strategic direction of the MMO and will lead the appointed board.

He writes and lectures widely on strategic forecasting, leadership and maritime themes and is a keen long distance coastal path walker. He is also a Fellow of the International Institute for Strategic Studies and the Chartered Management Institute and President of a Rugby League Club.

### **Graham Lymbery, Chair of NW Coastal Group and NW Coastal Forum**

Graham graduated from Liverpool University with a degree in Civil Engineering and a Masters in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Since this time he has worked for Sefton Council and for the last 16 years has worked on the Sefton coast.

Although his job is based in Sefton he has gained experience at both a regional and European scale, chairing the North West and North Wales Coastal Group and participating in a number of European projects.

### **David Whiteside, Bay Walker**

David was born in Fleetwood and went to Grammar school in Blackpool. He has a degree in theoretical physics from the University of London and a successful career in sales and marketing. His career highlights included working with the Co-operative retail services & TNT International.

He is currently delivering business support programmes to small businesses on behalf of local councils with funding from the NWDA.

His Grandfather was born in Barrow, lived in Ulverston and moved to Fleetwood. So in some respects David's walk around the Bay is a reverse journey to that of his grandfather's life.

David has many personal reasons for making this journey, which has been a long-held ambition for him. He is passionate about public access, wildlife and wilderness. Some aspects of his motivation for this journey come from the recognition of the restorative value of walking in natural places.

He is also raising funds for Diabetes UK and other local charities. He greatly appreciates the support of many people who have helped him on route.

### **Michelle Cooper, Assistant Keeper, Lancaster Maritime Museum**

Michelle has worked in the museums sector for 11 years based mainly in Cumbria working in museums in the South Lakes area and Whitehaven in curatorial roles. She joined Lancashire County Museum Service in 2008 to take up the position of Assistant Keeper at Lancaster Maritime Museum.

Here her role combines the day-to-day management of the museum, its staff, budgets, projects and initiatives along with a curatorial function to care for the collections, produce exhibitions and answer research enquiries on the maritime history of the Lancaster and Morecambe Bay region. She has particular interest in the human stories linked to our maritime history - from understanding what it must have been like sailing the high seas in the 18th century, to the life of a Morecambe Bay fisherman in the 20th century and everything in between.

### **Laura Bates, Liaison Officer for Irish Sea Conservation Zones**

Originally from Scotland, Laura is a marine biologist who spent many years working in the United Arab Emirates. She first worked as a project and research coordinator for a marine NGO and then became an environmental consultant on various mixed-use coastal and marine developments in the Maldives, Australia and the wider Middle East.

She has worked closely with large-scale developers, industrial organisations, and governments, giving her a sound appreciation for the different ways people value the sea. She now works for ISCZ as their Liaison Officer covering Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Northern Ireland. She spends much of her time communicating the project to people and helping people understand how they can be involved.

### **Louise Ann Wilson, Artistic Director - Louise Ann Wilson Company**

Louise is a director and scenographer working nationally and internationally to create small- and large-scale site-specific performance, and designs for theatre and opera. She was Co-Artistic Director of wilson+wilson (1997-2008), makers of site-specific theatre ([www.wilsonandwilson.org.uk](http://www.wilsonandwilson.org.uk)), whose works include *Mulgrave*, *News from the Seventh Floor*, *Mapping the Edge*, and *House*.

She is now Artistic Director of Louise Ann Wilson Co, which creates site-specific performance exploring the relationship between landscape and human life events. The work is created in collaboration with artists and experts from many different disciplines ([www.louiseannwilson.co.uk](http://www.louiseannwilson.co.uk)).

Louise has also created site-specific productions for Theatre Rites at the Ruhr Triennale, Germany, and Little Jasmine in Bangalore, India; and has designed sets and costumes for Opera North, The Royal Exchange Theatre, the Unicorn Theatre, The Watermill, West Yorkshire Playhouse, and many other companies.

Presently resident at the Storey Creative Industries Centre, one of her current projects *Jack Scout* is a site-specific piece based on Morecambe Bay.

Louise is developing this in collaboration with local people, and working with Nigel Stewart of Sap Dance. The aim is to perform the completed work at Jack Scout, Silverdale between 17–26 September 2010.

### **Nigel Stewart, Sap Dance and Lancaster University**

Nigel Stewart is the Artistic Director of Sap Dance and Senior Lecturer in the Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts at Lancaster University. He has choreographed, directed and danced for many other companies, and has been the Artistic Director and Administrator of Cornerstone Theatre Company, Theatre Nova and Theatreworks Ltd.

Nigel was also the Principal Investigator of the practice-based AHRC-funded project *Re-enchantment and Reclamation: New Perceptions of Morecambe Bay in Dance, Film and Sound* ([www.re-enchantment.org.uk](http://www.re-enchantment.org.uk)).

He has published widely in journals and books, and co-edited *Performing Nature: Explorations in Ecology and the Arts* (Berne: Peter Lang, 2005). Further details at: [www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/lica/profiles/85/11/](http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/lica/profiles/85/11/).