



Epping
Forest

Registered Charity

Epping Forest Verderers

Biographies

Northern Parishes



Verderer Michael Chapman DL

Michael spent his childhood in Theydon Bois attending Woodford Green Preparatory School and then going on to “Eton” (Leyton E10). Michael was offered a place at university but decided to join Attwater & Liel Solicitors in Loughton for Five Years Articles to train as a solicitor.

Upon placement, Michael worked for clients who were sitting tenants of the Harlow Development Corporation and were purchasing their properties under the Right to Buy scheme. Michael eventually led the department and delivered significant process improvements. He was also innovative in supporting return to work mothers.

Michael joined Wade and Davies Solicitors as a partner and remain with them for the rest of my career. He also qualified as a Notary Public in 1984.

Michael joined the West Essex Health Authority upon its creation and was elected Chairman five years later, during which time he oversaw the centralisation of acute services, the establishment of care in the community for those with mental health problems and the first Cancer Breast Screening service in the country. Michael was also served as Chairman of St Clare’s Hospice during which time the In-patient Unit and the Hospice at Home Service was created.

Michael has also served on a wide range of other local organisations, including the Chelmsford Diocesan Synod, the Commissioners for Taxes, the Epping and Theydon Garnon Joint Charities, the Theydon Trust Ltd and Uttlesford Leisure. In 2008 he was appointed as a Deputy Lieutenant for the county of Essex and have taken an active part in the swearing in of new citizens as well as attending various functions and charities on behalf of the Lieutenancy.

Michael has served as a Voluntary Forest Keeper and was elected a Verderer when Mr Davis retired.

Northern Parishes



Verderer Councillor Paul Morris

Paul trained as a mechanical engineer and specialised in Petro-chemical flexible pipeline manufacturing, installation and independent safety inspection. That led onto working for all the big Petro-chemical, MOD, military and Government sites where hazardous chemicals and fuels are either stored or transferred in all on and offshore locations.

Much of this work was based around that eras prevention and clean-up of environmental impacts of the Petro-chem industry and he and his father were both heavily involved in the development of vapour recovery systems for petro-chem liquid transfer which is now an industry norm. Previously to this all vapour was vented into the open atmosphere ranging from ships, oil rigs, tankers to aircraft.

He has worked on developing pioneering solutions for offshore drilling technology and cryogenic liquified gas transfers.

Growing up and living next to the forest instilled a lifelong love of this beautiful asset and the value of it further demonstrated by the comparisons between work life industrial locations and home. Being away from home so much of the time wasn't compatible with a growing family and when the company was eventually bought out decided to re-train and go into domestic construction and renovation rather than to relocate away from the area especially the forest.

Currently Paul is serving as a Verderer of the forest and a Parish councillor in Theydon Bois.

Southern Parishes



Verderer Nicholas Munday

Nicholas lives in High Beech. He is a lawyer and business investor and has been a Verderer since 2018. He has lived in and around the forest all his life. He has been a registered Commoner for many years.

He is an advisor to the board of Trustees at the Copped Hall Trust and a supporter of the Copped Hall restoration. He and his wife Nicola were two of the founders of the Friends of Copped Hall.

He has enjoyed the forest as a horse rider, mountain biker and runner. Nicholas has a particular interest in rural land management.

Southern Parishes



Verderer His Honour William Kennedy

William has been a Verderer since 2020. A lawyer all his working life, he practised in Epping and Harlow and in 2001 became a Circuit Judge. He sat at Snaresbrook Crown Court and as a visiting Judge at the Central Criminal Court.

He has lived within a maximum of 1 mile from Epping Forest throughout his life. His current house backs onto the forest and he walks in it at least twice daily. He is proud to play a part in its protection for this and future generations.