

**FROM LORD MARLAND,  
recently retired Chairman of the Trust**

It is nearly 20 years ago that Harold Cory asked to see me in his office above the Cathedral gate. He outlined his plan to acquire land that we now know as the Harnham Water Meadows and establish it as a charitable trust, thereby preserving the integrity of this wonderful part of Salisbury. The punch-line was that he hoped that I would give generously. It was always hard to resist Harold when he was in sales mode but I told him if he wanted a significant figure I would want to have ongoing interest and know how the money was spent. As quick as a flash Harold invited me to become a Trustee and money changed hands.

Thereby started my wonderful and enduring involvement with the Harnham Water Meadows Trust; ten years as a Trustee and ten years as Chairman. The most fulfilling part for me has been that it has brought me into close contact with many people in the Salisbury community who have given their time, money and commitment to restoring the Water Meadows to their former glory. To visit Rose Cottage on an open day, seeing the activity, the walks, the gardening, the making of teas, the interest of our visitors, should give a sense of pride to everybody involved.

We have established a site that has caught the eye of a nation that is becoming concerned about the environment and the state that we leave it for

future generations and I am in no doubt that this will continue to become a very special place in England. How many other cities in the world have at their heart 100 acres of farm land?

Throughout my time, I have been incredibly lucky with the unstinting support of our Trustees, Patrons and Friends Committee. All have given their full backing to any of the decisions that have had to be made and have shared in the responsibility. I want to thank them most sincerely.

I am absolutely delighted that the Trustees were able to persuade Helen Marriage to become Chairman. Her energy and sense of purpose will be invaluable.

My remaining aspiration, if I am allowed one, is that the Trust remains true to its ideal and that these remain working water meadows where we say no to local authorities trying to chip away at our boundaries or attempts to make them an extended garden. Preserving the integrity is vital.

My thanks to all of you as Friends for all your support.

*Jonathan Marland*

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**FROM THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE TRUST**

I've served as a Trustee for the Water Meadows Trust for a number of years and was really pleased to be asked to take over as Chairman from Lord Marland. Jonathan has served the Trust with distinction for 20 years and the purchase and refurbishment of Rose Cottage is largely due to his fundraising efforts. His elevation to the House of Lords and his new ministerial duties have meant he has had to step down. We all owe him a debt of gratitude.

I come to the Chairmanship with a clear view of how the Trust, and the associated Friends

organisation, might move forward into the next twenty years. Building on the successes of the past, I can see a bright future both for the organisation and the precious landscape that we all hold dear. I would hope that, in working together, we can reinforce the significance of the Water Meadows with the wider Salisbury public, simultaneously introducing visitors to the city to the extraordinary historic jewel that we hold in trust for the future.

*Helen Marriage*