V&A Membership Advisory Group (MAG)

1. Isobel Clarke
   “Bel has lived in London for much of her life, greatly enjoying the city and all it has to offer. After graduating from Durham University (and later after raising her family), Bel has held a variety of professional roles, in retail, property and at a Royal Household; she currently works part-time for the Duchy of Cornwall Estate. She is a volunteer at the V&A, helping on the desk and in the office. Bel has a good understanding of our Members and the visitors to the museum.”

2. Judith Duell
   “Judith Duell has over thirty years of experience in the primary education sector, including two headship posts and took early retirement in 2010. She trained at York, has a first degree in English and a master’s degree in education from Durham University. She is a member of her local PCC, leads in preparing children for confirmation and communion and is an Ambassador for the Children’s Society. Judith has a great interest in art, design, fashion and music. She enjoys travelling and visiting galleries and museums in the UK and abroad. She is learning Italian and enjoys cooking, playing the piano, skiing and fell walking. Judith lives in Durham with her husband and has a son who lives and works in London.”

3. Brooke Fitzsimons
   “Brooke is a practicing artist. Born in Sydney (1959), with a background in magazine art direction (Sydney 1979-1988), she moved to London permanently in 1988 where she studied Fine Art: a BA in Fine Art Practice and Theory (2001), and a Master of Research in Fine Art Practice both at Chelsea College of Art (2013). She has been a Member since moving to London and particularly enjoys the Gamble, Poynter and Morris ‘refreshment’ rooms, the original museum café and the jewellery gallery (rooms 91-93). Her favourite object, so far, is Zephyr the marble statue made in Florence in 1577. Now too fragile to be left out in the open he lives on loan from Kew Gardens in the Medieval & Renaissance gallery (room 50a).”
4. Terence Haywood
“Terry recently retired after 30 years as Headmaster at the International School of Milan. He has written and published extensively on educational topics, made keynote presentations and led workshops at numerous conferences. He has also led accreditation teams and worked as a consultant in five continents. Terry has been a Board Member and Chair of several international school organisations and he is still a Trustee of the Alliance for International Education. He was awarded the M.B.E for services to education. Terry studied Physics at Oxford University before becoming an educator. His interests range across art, travel and the history of science but most of all to exploring the vibrant diversity of ways that people across the world have devised lifestyles and expressions of their identity. Terry is one of two international members participating in the group.”

5. Sam Hewgill
“Sam Hewgill became a regular visitor to the V&A whilst studying nearby at Imperial College and recently became a Member in order to experience all the museum has to offer. For Sam, the V&A offers a unique opportunity to travel the world of art and design in one place. As such, he is passionate about participating with the Membership Advisory Group to help improve the experience of fellow and future members. Sam’s background is in Mathematics and he currently works in financial regulation. He lives in London and is a keen triathlete.”

6. Arendse Lund
“Arendse Lund is a doctoral candidate at University College London where she researches the intersections between early medieval law and literature; because of this, she is entranced by the V&A’s medieval collection—especially the Cast Courts. She is also the coordinator of the UCL Student Engager team, an interdisciplinary team of PhD students that share their research in the UCL Museums. Arendse studied English Literature & Language at University of California, Berkeley, followed by an MA in Medieval and Renaissance Studies at University College London.”
7. Susan Nial

“Susan is an attorney and a member of the board of Landmark West! a non-profit organisation based in New York City committed to preservation of the architectural heritage of NYC and the quality of life of the neighbourhoods on the Upper West Side. She is also a member of the Faculty of the Worshipful Society of the Apothecaries based near Black Friars, London. Ms. Nial has been a frequent visitor to the V&A for decades and views the Museum as an important tool to support cultural literacy and as a unifying force in a very diverse world. Susan is one of two international members participating in the group.”

8. Emma-Jane Skinmore

“Emma studied clothing production at London College of Fashion. She worked for approximately 15 years in the workplace design industry in the U.K. and France, but currently splits her professional life between her school governance clerking business in West London and the teaching of needle-crafts to a wide range of age groups and backgrounds with a strong focus on recycling and sustainability. Past projects include community quilts/embroideries, Tudor black-work and a fabric graffiti-wall. She became a governor of an inner London state secondary school in 2012 and regularly undertakes outreach work to encourage people from disadvantaged backgrounds to participate in artistic pursuits and explore the wealth of free museums London has to offer.”

9. Nishma Tate

“Nishma is a Finance professional who has worked in Financial Services for the last 12 years. Having sat on a number of committees at the Chartered Institute of Chartered Accountants, Nishma wanted to volunteer somewhere that engaged her creative mind, which was the reason for becoming a Member of the V&A (the fashion exhibitions being a particular draw). As someone who loves to try new things, recent accomplishments have included learning to ride a horse as well as upholstering furniture...her current obsession being exercise and learning how to grow vegetables at her newly acquired local allotment.”