

## **Dr Matt Pope**

I have now served on Council for six years, a period which has seen the Society weather tremendous challenges. It has seen the Society, lacking any meaningful reserves at the start, navigate a major cost of living crisis and a global pandemic. The Society survived this period through the awarding of resilience funding, the hard work of our staff and the commitment of the board of Trustees under the leadership of Amanda Jones. I am very proud to serve alongside a team of professionally diverse, highly skilled single-mindedly and committed people and wish to continue to do so. With the Society at such a point of positive change I feel myself committed to providing both continuity on the board as what will be its longest serving member and to helping to put in place exciting and rewarding programmes which meet our charitable objectives.

I currently Chair the Society's Curation, Engagement and Research Committee and have supported our curatorial staff and the SAC Editor during these challenging years. If elected I intend to spend my last three years as a Trustee working with the Society to continue to build greater resilience and a focused purpose supporting engagement with a wide range of communities including researchers. The goal is to turn loss in surplus and that surplus into enhancement.

The Society is a heritage organisation respected nationally for its scale and scope, its survival over the last three years has been down to commitment, determination and teamwork, if re-elected I am now looking forward to continuing to meet these challenges and continue the work of making the organisation sustainable and relevant to a new generation wishing to support the heritage sector through our work.