

# Meet the Board



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**The Board is vital to United Welsh as an organisation as the Board sets the strategy for United Welsh, providing direction, and helping to guide and support the executive team in delivering this strategy.**



## **Grahame Sturges (Chair)**

I recently retired from a long career in housing, including senior positions in the Local Authority and Housing Association sectors. I also serve on the Board of Caer Las Trading, the subsidiary of Caer Las Cymru, the Swansea based charity specialising in the promotion of social inclusion. I joined the UWHA Board in 2012 and became Chair in July 2016.



## **Kath Bergmanski (Vice Chair and Chair of the Remuneration and Governance Committee)**

I am a former Director of Nursing and health strategy adviser with experience of working in Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly and the Vale of Glamorgan. I joined the Board in 2009 and became Vice Chair of the Board in July 2016.



## **Damian Williams (Chair of Audit & Risk Committee)**

I am a Chartered Certified Accountant with 10 years' experience in the finance sector specialising in Audit & Assurance, Governance & Risk Management. My current role is Group Financial Controller for the Parts Alliance Group Limited. My interests are sports and charity fund raising. I joined the Board in 2014.



## **Bart Geere**

My career has been primarily in corporate banking in London where I worked for a number of years before returning to Cardiff. I now work on a part-time basis as Head of Credit Risk (CRE) at Optimum Credit. I live in Tremorfa, Cardiff where I help to lead a community focussed church. I joined the Board in 2016.



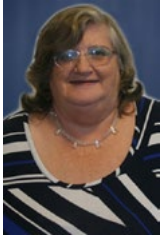
## **Jeremy Brown**

My experience includes private, public and voluntary and sectors as Managing Director of a Healthcare consultancy and as County Director in Ceredigion. I also spent a year volunteering in India with my wife and sons. I joined the Board in September 2017.



### **Phill Stokes (Chair of Celtic Horizons Ltd)**

Having over 30 years Industry experience, I set up my own Development and Housing Consultancy 5 years ago and now work with many clients in both Private and Social Housing Sectors. I was born and bred in the Afan Valley and now live in Maesteg with my wife and two sons. I joined the Board in 2015.



### **Gail Williams**

Following my retirement as Manager for Disability Wales I now volunteer for NHS Education Programme for Patients, United Welsh and my church. I enjoy crafts and as a disabled person am passionate about all strands of equality and celebrating diversity. I joined the Board in 2015.



### **Emma Tamplin**

With qualifications in Human Resource Management, I now work as Collaboration Partner at Chwarae Teg; a charity which aims to promote gender equality in the workplace. In my spare time I enjoy fund raising and volunteering. I joined the Board in 2016.



### **Joanne Jones**

I am a Chartered Accountant currently working at the Wales Cooperative Centre as the Director of Finance and Resources. Since qualifying, I have gained over 13 years' experience in the Housing sector, auditing Housing Associations and as Head of Finance at Bron Afon. I joined the Board in November 2017.



### **Lynda Sagona**

I joined United Welsh in 2009 as Director of Housing & Communities and was then appointed Group Chief Executive in 2016. I led in the transformation of the Association's asset management services, developing and implementing a unique model of delivery via the Association's wholly owned subsidiary, Celtic Horizons, in partnership with a leading commercial provider. I joined the Board in 2018.



### **Richard Mann**

I have been a Director at United Welsh since 2005 and am now Group Director Operations and Deputy Chief Executive. I am proud to have not only overseen growth in the numbers of properties delivered but to be involved in the development of major regeneration programmes and environmental innovation. I am a member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (Building) and have served as the Chair of Community Housing Cymru's Technical Services. I joined the Board in 2018.



### **Neil Chidgey**

I joined United Welsh in 2019 as Group Finance Director. I am a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and have Director experience for over 25 years. I have worked extensively in the private sector and have experience in Housing Development, Construction and Support Services including Social Housing Maintenance and have worked with a number of Local Authorities and Housing Associations.