

Trustee Profile

Owen John | Partner



- Board member, Cwlwm Busnes Caerdydd

Describe your journey and what motivated you to take on these roles?

My journey to becoming a board member began with my involvement in Cwlwm Busnes, which is a truly unique organisation. It is the only organisation of its kind dedicated to promoting and facilitating networking through the medium of the Welsh language.

I was motivated to take on this role because I believe in the importance of supporting and enhancing the use of the Welsh language in professional settings. By becoming a board member, I saw an opportunity to contribute to this mission and help create a vibrant community where Welsh-speaking professionals can connect and thrive. This role allows me to use my skills and passion for the Welsh language to make a meaningful impact.

Can you describe the mission of your charity and its impact?

Cwlwm Busnes Caerdydd - to promote the use of the Welsh language in the business and professional sectors of Cardiff. By encouraging the use of Welsh in these areas, we aim to create a more inclusive and culturally rich environment. This initiative not only supports the preservation and growth of the Welsh language but also fosters a sense of community and identity among Welsh speakers in the professional world. Through our efforts, we make a significant difference by ensuring that the Welsh language remains a vibrant and integral part of Cardiff's business landscape. [Cwlwm Busnes Caerdydd](#)

What's your primary role and what skills or experiences do you bring to it?

As a board member (and formerly a co-chair of the organisation), my primary role involves contributing to the strategic direction and decision-making processes of our group. I bring a wealth of experience in using the Welsh language in business and professional settings, which I hope helps me understand what works well for others.

My background allows me to provide valuable insights into how we can effectively promote the use of Welsh in various professional contexts. This experience is crucial in helping us develop initiatives that are both practical and impactful for our community.

How do you balance your trustee responsibilities with your professional and personal life?

Balancing my extra-curricular responsibilities with my professional and personal commitments is primarily a challenge of managing work capacity and time. The most significant challenge is finding enough time to dedicate to all my responsibilities effectively.

The COVID-19 pandemic was also a particularly challenging period for our organisation, which relies heavily on face-to-face events. We had to adapt quickly to the changing circumstances, finding new ways to engage and support our community despite the restrictions.

What lessons have you learned along the way?

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Be ambitious. Throughout my voluntary work and role, I learned the importance of being optimistic and positive. It is crucial to recognise and seize opportunities as they arise. This helps to ensure you make the most of every situation and contribute effectively to the organisation's goals.

What advice would you give your younger self?

If I could go back to the start of my voluntary journey, the advice I would give to my younger self would be to ensure that the organisation you are part of is something close to your heart, aligns with your interests, and is something you are truly passionate about. Being genuinely enthusiastic about the cause will make your volunteer work more fulfilling and impactful.

What are your hopes for the future of your charity? How do you see your role evolving?

My hope for the future of our organisation is that it finds its place in the post-COVID world by adapting to the new work patterns people have developed, especially when it comes to networking. I envision our organisation evolving to meet these changes effectively, ensuring that we continue to provide valuable opportunities for connection and collaboration.

As for my role and voluntary work, I see it developing to support this transition. I aim to help our organisation navigate these new dynamics and find innovative ways to engage with our community. By staying flexible and responsive to the changing landscape, I believe we can maintain our relevance and continue to make a positive impact to our members and the business community in Cardiff.

