

Christopher Wright

Biography

My first experience of the zoo was 50 years ago, when my granny took me along from where I lived in Corstophine. My earliest memory of visiting the zoo is of a young pygmy hippo navigating an icy area in its enclosure.

Those early experiences clearly had a lasting impression as when I moved back North to Scotland, over 20 years ago, I became a member of the organisation and have remained so since.

In 2018, whilst working for John Lewis, I was delighted to take up a 6 month volunteer position with the Zoo. This was made possible through a Trust that John Lewis has. It enabled me to support the organisation by bringing an external eye and a different viewpoint and in return I was able to build new skills focused on project management.

Those 6 months led to me joining the Zoo's Business Advisory Group and to supporting the leadership team on the reopening plans as we came out of covid lockdowns. I am proud that I have been able to remain involved with the organisation after my secondment ended and believe I continue to add value.

I'm married to Gillian, and we have a Cavalier King Charles spaniel called Obi. Obi Wag Kenobi.

I love photography and I am a keen sailor. I am also, as you may have guessed, a Star Wars fan.

I have 35 years service with John Lewis, leading teams and driving the performance of our shops in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Statement

My experience would enable me to bring a values-led, purpose driven, commercial eye. I have the ability to interpret data and to make reasoned decisions based on this. In work I led our Partnership Council, whose role was to hold the chairman to account for business performance and Partner (employee) happiness. I believe that I can also bring those skills to bear to help drive the board and the organisation forward.