

David Russell

The Harpur Trust

David attended Leeds Central High School, joined the Royal Navy in 1970 and commanded three submarines and a surface warship during a career in which he reached the rank of Commodore. He was the first Commanding Officer of HMS VANGUARD, the UK's lead Trident submarine, and led the British effort to rescue survivors from the sunken Russian submarine Kursk in the Barents Sea in 2001.

He attended the Royal College of Defence Studies in 1995, the Higher Command and Staff Course in 1998 and completed the Financial Seminar for Senior Managers at London Business School in May 2002 and at the Judge Business School in 2009. He gained a first class honours degree in law with the Open University in 2003 and has spoken at the Oxford Union, Harvard Business School and Lausanne University.

David joined the Harpur Trust as Chief Executive in 2002. During his time as Chief Executive, the Charity has adopted its first three strategic plans, under which it has increased its grant making, widened access to its schools, merged two of its girls' schools, changed its legal structure, introduced a new reward strategy for employees, revised its governance arrangements and sponsored an Academy in Bedford.

His other interests include reading, sailing and skiing and he has completed the London Marathon three times. He is married to Kathy and between them they have 5 children.



David Russell
Chief Executive
The Harpur Trust
