

**Name, age, role**

Name: Phoebe

Age: 21

Board Director: Repair Cafe  
Wales

**What is your role with Repair Cafe Wales? (what even is a trustee?)**

I am a Board Director for Repair Cafe Wales, which involves helping to run the organisation alongside 5 other directors. Repair Cafe Wales is a community interest company, which sets up repair cafes across Wales to fix things for free in order to reduce waste, teach skills and bring communities together. Part of my role involves helping to open and run these cafes, but also to help with the wider running of the organisation as a whole. This could be anything from strategy, marketing, funding or events management.

**How did you get involved?**

I joined as a student volunteer at the beginning of my third year at Cardiff University. I was looking for a role that would give me more of a challenge than my previous volunteer position and I was really keen to work in the sustainability sector. After about 6 months with Repair Cafe Wales I was made a Board Director.

**What is the best bit about your role?**

The best bit about my role is that it is so varied. Not only has this enabled me to gain lots of new skills, but it has also given me exposure to so many other exciting organisations in the third sector and beyond. The environmental sector is growing really quickly and I love being part of an organisation that is contributing to shaping the sustainability landscape in Wales.

**What is the most challenging bit?**

Initially, I was carrying out my director role whilst also finishing my degree and now I do it alongside a full-time job, so I would say time management is definitely the most challenging part! Repair Cafe Wales is expanding so rapidly at the moment (we now have 22 cafes!) and whilst that is hugely exciting it can also be really frustrating not having the time or resources to pursue every opportunity. I think as a young director specifically, feeling credible can be quite difficult. However, at a recent event I attended, a senior leader of a third-sector organisation noted that even as you progress imposter syndrome never really goes away and therefore to take it as a sign you're challenging yourself.

**What would you like to say to an organisation that thinks that young people may not be suitable for a governance role?**

I would ask them to consider the fresh point of view a young person could bring to an organisation. The third sector can have a bit of a reputation for being quite slow moving and I think young people have the power to change that. By incorporating the new ideas and diverse skills that young people can bring, organisations are much better placed to adapt. Plus, if your organisation wants to involve young people there's no one better to engage them than their peers.

**What would you say to someone that is thinking about joining a board? (not necessarily a young person)**

I would say to make sure you join the board of an organisation where you really feel passionate about what they are doing. Being a board director is hard work and working for a cause that you really believe in makes it so much easier and so much more rewarding.

**Sum up being a director in 10 words or less**

Challenging, rewarding, exciting!

**Anything else that you want to get off your chest?**

I would be a rubbish director if I didn't include a shameless plug so please come along to one of our Repair Cafes and check out our social media (@repaircafewales) if you'd like to get involved!