
RE AGENDA ITEM 5 – ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees wishes to nominate the following for re-election to the Board:

a) Andrew Cooper

The Devon Wildlife Trust has featured large in my life for some 27 years as a trustee and chair of the board. During that time the organisation grew substantially, we appointed a new chief executive and many new trustees with a wide range of professional talents. Our experienced and enthusiastic staff continue to keep the charity at the top of its class.

As a biologist by training, my career as a television producer, author, broadcaster and presenter for BBC South West, and then the BBC Natural History Unit, enabled me to indulge my passion for wildlife worldwide, as well as the best that Devon has to offer.

Outside of television and senior media management I also served as a board member for major wildlife educational visitor attractions and non-executive director of a leading healthcare foundation trust. Having held several secretary of state appointments I also have a network of contacts that continues to benefit this charity. My extensive board level experience, making senior appointments and involvement with international diplomacy, continues to help and promote the Devon Wildlife Trust.

Devon is my life and my home. Owning a small farm with some very special wildlife I give talks to audiences across the south west of England and far beyond. I would like to continue to serve DWT as a trustee and help make a real difference to the wildlife conservation of the best county in Britain.

b) Charles Dixon

I have worked in land management in the Westcountry for 35 years and in Devon for 27 years and have been deeply involved in the interaction of the natural environment with all aspects of land management, farming and forestry in all parts of Devon. I have enjoyed working within Devon Wildlife Trust as a Trustee since 2010 in promoting the importance of the natural environment to different audiences in Devon through the Trust's work.

I have enjoyed bringing my skills as a working Chartered Surveyor and Land Agent and as a Director of a large private practice in Devon to benefit Devon Wildlife Trust's extensive portfolio of existing Nature Reserves and properties and look forward to assisting the Trust in developing additional Nature Reserves in parts of the county where Devon Wildlife Trust is under represented. I have been involved as the Trustee Advisor on Land and Property issues since 2011 and as a member of the Trust's Executive Committee since December 2016 which has enabled me to fully understand the working of the Trust and I would like to continue my active work for the Trust.

I foresee a challenging period ahead in the next few years for wildlife conservation voices to be fully heard in the huge reorganisation of regulations, grants and priorities for Rural Britain post Brexit and anticipate that I can bring a valuable body of knowledge and experience in Land and property management, to this potentially confusing period.

I live in rural Devon on the south east edge of Dartmoor however my work has taken me to nearly all parts of Devon and has reinforced my opinion of what an exceptionally special county we live in, and how we are all obligated to ensure its protection for future generations.

c) Barry Henwood

I have been a member of Devon Wildlife Trust for 40 years. I was brought up at Colyton in East Devon and worked as a General Practitioner at Newton Abbot in South Devon for 26 years before retiring. I have always been interested in the wildlife of Devon and am pleased to be able to now devote time towards nature conservation. I have been a trustee for 3 years and have volunteered most weeks with a practical DWT group for 6 years. As a result of this I have been able to see the health benefits for people engaging in volunteering activities and getting outdoors in our nature reserves.

I have an extensive knowledge of wildlife and expertise in butterflies and moths. I have been the county moth recorder for the last 6 years. The diversity of these groups and the interest in them means that they provide a good way of measuring biodiversity. The Devon moth database now has nearly one million records which is an excellent resource for both research and monitoring.

I am keen on education and have given talks to DWT groups and run field events for DWT jointly with other organisations. I am currently writing a Field Guide to the Caterpillars of Britain and Ireland which should promote further interest especially in life histories. I am keen to continue to use my knowledge and expertise in the role of a trustee.

d) John Whetman

It's a mixed blessing having been a teenager interested in natural history in the 1950s. Wildlife we regard as rare today was abundant – there were what Peter Marren describes as 'Moth Storms' on the roads at night. But there were signs of the damage to come long before useful records began in 1970. The 1950s provide my benchmark for wildlife. What is it for today's generation? We must try to preserve and encourage – and to try to join up - the depleted fragments that remain and involve the public in the vital role that Devon Wildlife Trust plays.

In 2001 my wife and I bought a County Wildlife Site in the Teign valley. The farm is managed as a wildlife reserve and it is also a working study in how best to manage wildlife habitats with cattle and sheep. Last year we shared our wildlife with over 400 visitors!

Apart from managing a business with up to 35 staff, I have spent the last 30 years or so involved in voluntary work. It began with the Devon Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), formed by enlightened farmers to encourage farmers to care for their wildlife. This led to the Kingfisher Award Scheme which gets children onto a farm to introduce them to wildlife and farming, and to the Devon Hedge Group, which encourages farmers to care for the 32,000 miles of wonderful hedges in Devon. For the last 10 years I have been a board member of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture - stepping down this year will free up more time for DWT.

The Board of Trustees wishes to nominate the following for election to the Board:

a) Rebecca Broad

Having lived, worked and studied in Exeter for the past 5 years, I feel as if I can represent the demographic with which Devon Wildlife Trust urgently needs to engage in order to help conserve nature for the future: young people. Though I am only 23 years old, I am hugely passionate about wildlife and have been throughout my life. I am graduating with a BSc in Biological Sciences from the University of Exeter in December. Studying to this level has equipped me to increase my skills in critically analysing information and evidence in order to ask the right questions. In addition, I have knowledge of how a variety of environments work at an ecological level, and my dissertation on science communication enabled me to understand the psychology and sociology behind how the general public see 21st Century biological challenges.

I bring a variety of perspectives to the board, having previously volunteered and then worked for DWT. My experience leading a university conservation society introduced me to the challenges of making decisions when people's time and money is in strong demand.

b) Andrew Burns

A lifelong interest in natural history and conservation has fuelled a passion for wildlife and the natural environment. I am now seeking to apply the expertise and skills I have developed during my 30-year career in the Royal Navy to supporting the conservation sector. As a Devon resident I can think of no better way than playing an active role in the work of the Devon Wildlife Trust. I want to help address the challenges we face to protect the natural environment and play a part in maintaining biodiversity for future generations. As a trustee I would aim to contribute to the leadership of the trust and support the management team in realising the vision of a county where nature thrives. I would particularly enjoy the opportunity to be part of a team that promotes conservation and the value of the natural environment to all sectors of society.

With a home on Dartmoor and with a personal appreciation of the unique qualities of the National Park I would be committed to maintaining and enhancing the wildlife of the county as well as helping to raise awareness of the threats to our environment. I hope I would be

able to contribute both on the basis of my leadership and management experience but also from my wider understanding of national and global environmental challenges through my membership of conservation charities. I would be an energetic advocate for the work of the Trust across the range of supporters and communities.

c) Gaynor Castle

I am fortunate that my full time working career has been interesting, challenging, rewarding and exciting. I have explored a variety of sectors in private industry from telecommunications and insurance to commercial airlines, and a range of roles, in purchasing, sales, technical project management, customer experience and product development.

I worked most recently as a senior manager for British Airways, defining and delivering the strategy for aircraft cabin interior product, creating an on-board environment that delighted millions of passengers and ensured the airline's Brand competed with the best in the world. I secured and governed multi-million pound budgets, worked directly with customers and developed multi-discipline specialist teams including suppliers and industry partners to deliver. Crucial to my success was the trust and support of the Directors and Board and my teams.

While travelling extensively I became painfully aware of the monumental challenge to protect habitat and species and integrate human activity that exists almost everywhere, and the health benefits the natural world can bring to humans leading ever more urban, mechanised and sterile existences.

I wanted to make a personal contribution internationally and locally and having recently moved to Devon I am confident that as a Trustee of Devon Wildlife Trust I can bring my commercial skills and experiences to help in delivering transformational change over the coming years, secure a stimulating personal purpose and connect more fully with the new, beautiful, but threatened place which is my home.

d) Gail McKenzie

First and foremost, I have a real love of Devon and the natural world, and admire all that the Trust is achieving here for both wildlife and people. I am deeply impressed by the vision, expertise and commitment shown by the whole team – and really hope that I can bring some of my own passion and skills to the Trust.

Having been born and raised in Devon, I returned to my 'homeland' 5 years ago and am now a freelance communications consultant. Having developed my particular skills in national nature and environmental organisations, and worked in partnership with many others, I feel I could offer a balanced view and strategic outlook. I have dealt with many high impact and crisis situations, and often been the key liaison person between the organisation and the public, and of course the media in all its forms.

Having studied Zoology and Botany, I worked at the Natural History Museum in London for several years, and then moved to Bristol as publicist for the BBC Natural History Unit on major series such as The Private Life of Plants and Blue Planet.

I became a member of the Devon Wildlife Trust 5 years ago, and was previously a Trustee of the Avon Wildlife Trust.

e) Helen Nathanson

My interest in wildlife and the countryside began at school but I am learning all the time about the issues facing our environment and the Trust has been a significant source of information and inspiration. I would like to continue to serve as a Trustee because decline in habitat and species continues to be an urgent cause and I feel that my background and skills can help the organisation to thrive.

My professional background is in management of finance, administration and governance which makes me well placed to understand the role of a Board of Trustees to a large and diverse organisation. I have worked extensively with volunteers and community groups and have a very good knowledge of local planning policies and their role in protecting habitats against development.

An experienced teacher, I support the Trust's education and engagement programmes, encouraging young people to value and make positive contributions towards their natural environment.

I have lived in Devon for 25 years and am a member of the Trust's Avon Valley Project which seeks to improve the diversity and abundance of species in South Devon. As a smallholder I want to ensure that the land is managed in the best possible way for wildlife and am committed to improving and creating new habitat.

I hope that my skills and experience can support the Board and help the Trust with its vital work.

f) Vicky Pope

My career has been devoted to the development and application of cutting edge science to understanding and solving environmental problems in various roles at the Met Office. At different times I have led the Met Office response on climate change, air quality, drought and access to data.

I am keen to diversify the application of my knowledge and skills in a voluntary role benefitting the local environment. Climate change, in particular, means that the landscape and habitats will change whatever we do locally. I believe that I can help the Devon Wildlife Trust to make well informed evidence based decisions. Whilst passion for wildlife and the environment is important, objectivity and strong evidence are vital to ensure that we make the right choices for a sustainable environment.

The government's recently published 25 year environment plan sets out the issues as well as anyone:

'The scale of human impact on the planet has never been greater than it is now... The effects on wildlife and habitats are stark. We are in danger of presiding over massive human-induced extinctions when we should instead be recognising the intrinsic value of the wildlife and plants that are our fellow inhabitants of this planet. Furthermore, human-induced climate change threaten unpredictable and potentially irreversible damage to our planet. It is in everyone's interest to be part of the solution.'

The success of this plan depends on implementation. DWT has a valuable role, and in some cases such as the Beaver project a unique role, in influencing that implementation. This project is close to my heart as I live a few hundred yards from the River Otter. I have been a member of DWT since shortly after moving to Devon in 2003.