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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:**

**Rebecca Broad**

I am delighted to have been nominated for re-election to Devon Wildlife Trust's Board of Trustees. Over the past three years I have enjoyed chairing a sub-committee, leading a renewal of Trustee recruitment and skills auditing processes, speaking at DWT events, and being on the board of Devon Wildlife Enterprises Limited. I am an Ambassador for the Young Trustees Movement and recently spoke at a Wildlife and Countryside Link event about diversity, equality and inclusion on charity boards.

I have lived in Devon all my adult life having moved from Leicestershire to study at the University of Exeter. I graduated in 2018 with a BSc in Biological Sciences which helped me develop a rigorous, evidence-led approach to decision-making and a varied ecological understanding. My part-time study allowed me to volunteer and then work for DWT (now I run my own communications business). I pride myself on genuinely caring for the staff at DWT, as well as the wildlife we all work so hard to protect, conserve, and benefit.

**Gaynor Castle**

I am honoured to be a member and Trustee of Devon Wildlife Trust since 2019. I am amazed and humbled by the expertise, dedication and passion of staff and volunteers, working tirelessly to protect rare and important habitats and species, making them accessible for everyone to benefit from and enjoy.

In my career with British Airways I delivered large technical and commercial projects and hope my experience in strategic investment decision making, business performance planning and project delivery contributes to the Board's skills, capabilities and diversity and to the Trust's long-term success.

Recent severe weather events, pandemics and lockdowns continue to demonstrate the damage human activity does to fragile ecosystems and that climate change catastrophes happen literally on our doorsteps. Also, how critical a strong connection with the natural world is to our physical and mental health. I want to continue contributing to the Trust, support brave initiatives such as the re-introduction of Beavers, and enable small acts for wildlife and wild places by everyone lucky enough to live in Devon.

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**The Board of Trustees wishes to nominate the following (all of whom were co-opted during the year) for election to the Board:**

**Chris Davis**

I am a traditional breed farmer in the Blackdown Hills. On our farm, over the past decade, we have re-established some of the last remaining wildflower meadows in the Hills, recovering an amazing diversity of plants and animals. In addition to farming, I work as a Nature Recovery Network partnership manager for Natural England.

Both my passion for farming and wildlife have led me to support Devon Wildlife Trust. Our family have been members for over twenty years.

There are significant challenges facing Devon both from the climate and biodiversity crises. DWT have a pivotal role in the County to help address these issues and I would welcome the opportunity to continue to support the work of the Trust.

Significant change is on its way to our farmed environment - with this change there are opportunities and threats. I feel I am well placed to support the Trust in identifying future opportunities and avoiding the threats. I will also continue to be an advocate for more sustainable and regenerative farming.

**Sara Papworth**

A proud Devonian, I am passionate about the wonderful county that we live in and would very much like to continue supporting DWT in promoting and protecting its natural beauty and diverse wildlife as well as ensuring that this is safeguarded for future generations to experience and enjoy. The natural world is hugely important for our wellbeing as individuals and DWT has a vital role to play in ensuring that this essential relationship is promoted and protected.

My career has provided extensive knowledge of the charity sector, having spent fourteen years as Director of Finance & Resources at Exeter Royal Academy for Deaf Education and also serving as a Trustee of the Exeter Northcott Theatre until 2019.

Since joining the Board in April 2021, I have been hugely impressed by both the first-class team at DWT and the wide-ranging and inspirational work undertaken. With my professional background in accountancy and relevant senior management experience, I will strive to support the Trust to ensure it continues to be a resilient, innovative and important conservation charity.

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**Richard Stockdale**

Being an advocate for wildlife and the environment has been the one constant throughout my academic and professional careers, as well as a passion in my own time. I am a white-water kayaker, wild swimmer and passionate environmentalist.

Whether in my day job as Managing Director of a company enabling investment in responsible growth or as a father and husband I am always working hard to find ways to protect and improve the environment and inspire others to do the same.

I have a PhD in environmental data, worked in the public sector for almost a decade leading several operational areas for the Environment Agency, before building the natural environment business at one of the country's leading environmental contracting specialists (which was named, in my time there, Best Green Business in 2020).

I was delighted to be appointed a Trustee for Devon Wildlife Trust in April and would be honoured to continue doing everything I can to help the organisation, environment and people of Devon for years to come.

**Ama Williams**

I was delighted to be appointed to the DWT Board earlier this year and am very keen to continue.

Devon has been my home since the 1980s and I represent a minority demographic that the Trust is looking to better engage with. I'm still getting to grips with the breadth of DWT's impressive operations and strategic vision but I ultimately aim to identify barriers to participation/engagement and contribute solutions; the team does a fantastic job, and it's important that more people know and get involved!

My professional experience is in marketing and communications and I am also a board member for a British charity which supports sustainable solutions to reducing poverty in Ghana; with a particular focus on reforestation and turtle conservation. I can't claim to match the incredible depth of conservation knowledge and experience that many of my fellow trustees possess, but I am enthusiastic, curious, vocal and I have a broad network who could be better engaged with DWT and contribute to its ongoing success.