

AGM 2020: Biographies

TRUSTEES WHO HAVE COMPLETED THEIR FIRST TERM AND ARE STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION

Dr SAMUEL BROCKINGTON

Sam studied Plant Biology at the University of Edinburgh, before gaining a PhD at the Florida Museum of Natural History, USA. He is currently a Lecturer at the University of Cambridge, and Curator of the Cambridge University Botanic Garden. Here his research group pursues a variety of questions relating to the evolution of plant biodiversity, particularly within the flowering plant order Caryophyllales. In his role as Curator, he is interested in how plant biodiversity is held and managed across the world's ex-situ collections, and its utility for ecological restoration.

REBECCA JARRETT

Rebecca is currently an HR professional at Cranfield University but has a background in communications and has held roles in the public, private and not for profit sectors. She has direct experience of the role of corporate governance and corporate social responsibility for organisations through board committee positions she has held in the past.

Rebecca is passionate about promoting sustainable land management, which started when she lived in South Australia and worked in industry to uphold environmental protection and support the concept of conservation corridors. She now lives adjacent to the River Ouse and has populations of water vole and otter on her property, so habitat conservation and management is high on her list of personal priorities.

CHRIS LEWIS

Chris has a degree in Engineering (BA 1976 and MA 1979) and worked as a chartered consulting engineer both in the UK and abroad for some 25 years. Chris joined commercial developer Prologis in 2001, taking the lead in the planning and delivery of infrastructure and resolution of environmental matters for major development sites. He has considerable experience in negotiating agreements with planning authorities, landowners and statutory bodies.

Chris was the link between Prologis and the WTBCN from 2008 until his retirement in 2018 and was instrumental in creating the partnership that has developed between the two organisations. Latterly, his main project was the third phase of the Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal (DIRFT III) where the Trust now manages the 193 acre Lilbourne Meadows wildlife area for Prologis.

Since retiring, Chris has been enjoying his renewed involvement with wildlife; as a trustee his aim is to continue to use his experience in development to help secure benefits for wildlife across the three counties.

Dr ANANYA MUKHERJEE

Ananya has a Ph.D. in environmental sociology and worked in various roles for nearly 10 years, specialising in the human dimension of nature conservation as these require an interdisciplinary approach. She is a Trustee of The Wildlife Trust and is making a contribution to nature conservation in a different capacity. Most of the projects she has worked are related to research, policy advocacy, community or stakeholder engagement and influencing decision-makers related to environment and climate change issues. She has also been involved in monitoring and evaluating projects, in assessing the impact of climate change and in climate change adaptation work, overseas. She has experience in fund-raising work, in building partnerships and in examining the sustainability of community-based conservation programmes using a landscape level approach. She has worked as a Research Fellow with the University of Surrey on their renewable energy programme with European partners working with local communities using social innovation and hopes to bring in this experience and knowledge to the role of a Trustee and make a difference to the world of nature conservation. Currently she is a Research Associate with Cardiff University working with the Welsh government in the Welsh Centre for Public Policy on sustainable development issues.



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CO-OPTED TRUSTEES STANDING FOR FORMAL ELECTION

JAN DAVIS

Jan is an experienced Human Resources leader, specialising in developing managers in complex, global environments. She is a Chartered Fellow of the CIPD and has a Masters from Westminster University. Whilst specialising in people development, her responsibilities as a senior manager in the telecoms and energy sectors embraced all aspects of business.

After taking early retirement she focused on volunteering. The roles she chooses enable her to combine her organisational expertise with her interest in improving peoples' wellbeing. As current Chair of Trustees of the Hunts Community Cancer Network (HCCN), she sees the activities of the charity making a real difference to local people living with a diagnosis of cancer.

Her interest in the natural world stems from a growing understanding of the health benefits and wellbeing that people derive from connecting with nature. Improving the emotional wellbeing of cancer patients for example is a key factor in enabling their survivorship. Rather_than having a scientific background, her interest lies in conserving habitats and wildlife, and enabling people to connect with the natural environment.

ALISON GREENWOOD

Alison is a marketing & communications professional with experience of strategic planning, campaign management, product management, brand management, social media, event management, PR, sales and business development. Having studied history at Warwick University, she has a background in business development and marketing. She is currently Head of Marketing & Admissions, Executive MBA, Cambridge Judge Business School (part of the University of Cambridge), and has previously worked in marketing at the Royal Society of Chemistry, at Greene King, at Gs Growers, and at Cambridge University Press. Her interests include landscape and garden photography, wildlife, and tennis.

PROPOSED CHAIRMAN

Professor WILLIAM STEPHENS (new proposed)

William is an ecological scientist by background. The majority of his working life has been at Cranfield University in Bedfordshire, specialising in the effect of climate on plant growth culminating as Head of the Institute of Water and Environment until 2006. Since then and up to his retirement in 2018, he worked in the Vice-Chancellor's Office, latterly as University Secretary. He chaired the University Board for Energy and Environment responsible for the University's environmental performance. William is a Chartered Environmentalist and was a Trustee of the Marston Vale Trust for three years. He also served as a Trustee for the Bedford Charity for 10 years and as a Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner for six years. He has been a Trustee of the Wildlife Trust since 2014, and served as Vice Chairman from 2016-2018.

PROPOSED VICE CHAIRMAN

Dr JENNA BISHOP (current post-holder)

Dr Jenna Bishop trained as a solicitor and has worked in private practice and for the National Trust in its Legal Department, where she focused on property law, public access and conservation matters. She has an MA in Environmental Law, completed her PhD research on the impact of different land tenure arrangements on the rural environment, and has taken part in research projects on land tenure and management mechanisms with several conservation organisations. Jenna became a Trustee in 2010 and was elected Honorary Secretary in 2016 and Vice Chairman in 2018. She lives in Cambridgeshire and has been involved with several local charities.



PROPOSED HONORARY SECRETARY

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PAUL SOLON (current post-holder)

Paul Solon qualified as a Solicitor in 1973 and as a Notary Public in 1977. For many years he worked as a commercial lawyer in the City of London, acting for public and private companies in the shipping, food, publishing and transport industries. Since 1990 he has specialised in trusts, including charitable trusts and now practises independently for a select number of high net worth individuals and families. Paul has advised charitable institutions for many years and in Cambridge he has advised the University and several colleges on charitable issues. Currently, he is also a trustee of the University of Cambridge Veterinary School Trust and of the European Opera Centre. He is secretary of the corporate charity Since 9/11 Foundation. He has long been interested in nature and conservation issues and is a member of several environmental organisations.

PROPOSED HONORARY TREASURER

JAMES FANSHAWE (current post-holder)

James Fanshawe is a chartered accountant and farmer. He was a partner in PriceWaterhouseCoopers for 20 years until his retirement in 2006. In partnership with his wife, he is now a livestock farmer of 450 acres of grassland in Northamptonshire with a sucker cow herd of pedigree Beef Shorthorns and a flock of breeding ewes, including rare and native breeds. His farm is in a Higher Level Stewardship conservation agreement. He also has experience of policy work with DEFRA, meat processing and advisory work for farmers though AHDB Beef and Lamb and the National Beef Association.

PROPOSED CHAIR OF CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Dr MATT WALPOLE (current post-holder)

Dr Matt Walpole is a conservation biologist with over 25 years' experience in conservation research, practice and policy. His career in academia and subsequently in the international charity sector has combined ecological, economic and social perspectives to improve decision-making from local to global scales. This has included work on community engagement and participation in wildlife conservation and reserve management. He also directed the UK National Ecosystem Assessment to improve understanding of nature's value to society. Matt has lived and worked in Cambridge for the past 15 years, and serves on the board of several wildlife charities. He is a member of the senior management team at Fauna & Flora International.



PROPOSED PATRON

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BARBARA, Baroness YOUNG of Old Scone

Barbara, Baroness Young of Old Scone, is our long-standing former President who stepped down at last year's AGM. She is a Member of the House of Lords with special interests, among others, in the environment, agriculture, natural resources and climate change.

She has been Chairman of the Woodland Trust since 2016 and was appointed the Chairman of Council at the Royal Veterinary College in July 2019.

Her other voluntary positions include Honorary President of the South Georgia Heritage Trust; Patron of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Management; and Vice President of RSPB, Bird Life International and Flora and Fauna International. She has formerly held a variety of environmental leadership roles, including Chief Executive of RSPB, Chairman of English Nature and Chief Executive of the Environment Agency.

Baroness Young has also held leadership positions in health and social care, including management of health authorities in both Scotland and London. She was the founding Chairman of the Care Quality Commission and Chief Executive of health charity Diabetes UK.

Other posts she has held include Chancellor of Cranfield University, vice Chairman of the BBC and a non-executive director of AWG plc.

Baroness Young has a number of honorary designations and was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2017.