



National  
Trust

## Candidates' profiles

The following pages provide additional information from some of the candidates who are standing for election to the National Trust's Council in 2019.

This information is provided in conjunction with the candidate details published in the AGM booklet enclosed with the autumn edition of the National Trust Magazine.

Please ensure your vote reaches us by 11.59pm on Friday 11 October 2019.

[www.ersvotes.com/nt19](http://www.ersvotes.com/nt19)

# Your election candidates

## Geoffrey Wall, Ceredigion

I am able to represent primarily, but not solely, a Welsh population. I wish, while progressing the major aims of the National Trust, to bring to the fore the specific needs of our visitors. We are nothing without them and facilitating ever-increasing numbers is vitally important. I strongly believe in access for all which requires recognition of special needs, whether it be infirmity, disability, physical handicap or financial difficulties.

What does the Trust mean to me? As a member for almost 50 years I see the Trust as a preserver of places and property which should be made available to the largest proportion of the population as possible.

Why do I want to join the Council? I wish to give something back for 50 years' enjoyment. I feel I can contribute specifically regarding rural and visitor interest matters.

What relevant knowledge, skills and experience could I bring to the Council? I bring knowledge gained through 50 years as a visitor. I also bring insight gained through the teaching of history. I have a vast experience through probation and court work where I was required to advise, but not direct, judges and magistrates. In working in the voluntary sector (community centre and church) I have gained understanding of the vital part and particular needs and skills of the large number of volunteers working within the National Trust.

## Chris Paulson, Trafford

Many of the memories from my childhood are of family outings to National Trust sites locally and when on holiday – from playing in the river at Styal (and getting covered in mud) to playing with my cousins during a family outing to Broadway in the Cotswolds. In adulthood we continue to make memories for the next generation through family trips out. The National Trust plays an important part in our lives.

As society continues its battle with obesity and we are encouraged to be more open about our mental health, I would love to see the National Trust promote the role it plays in providing outdoor facilities for us to exercise – however we chose to do that – and the associated benefits that gives. I would also be interested to see how the Trust can work alongside other charities to help with overcoming loneliness in all areas of society. One of the great ironies of the social media age is how disconnected and lonely so many people feel. And it affects people across all age ranges. Given the size of membership and the facilities the Trust owns, I feel this is an area the National Trust could influence.

In the coming years we will all be challenged to make changes to the way we live because of climate change – whether that's through us giving consideration as to how we use plastic in our day to day lives or how electricity and not fossil fuel becomes the focus for transport and heating. I would be interested to see how the Trust, given its environmental credentials, will approach that and what plans are in place for the next five to ten years – and how it could help educate members to make these changes too.

# Your election candidates

## Doug Hulyer, Gloucestershire

At a time of great challenge, both socially and environmentally, the National Trust can play a significant role in moving us all forward. It should be seen as an exemplar for zero carbon and the restoration of fully functioning landscapes and systems across the country, that both are good for people and for wildlife. The Trust can do far more in helping create special places where people live, particularly in our towns and cities and, as an advocate for public parks and gardens, has much to offer in expertise and through direct action. I have always sought to drive this agenda, starting with restoration of pond and other habitat in South East London in my teens, through to the creation of the London Wetland Centre in my late forties, and as the natural heritage advocate with the Heritage Lottery Fund from 2006–2013. This advocacy work I continue as chair of the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership at both landscape scale and at the very local and personal.

Our rich, shared heritage is something that binds us, rather than divides, and the National Trust has been telling new stories at its properties that both open eyes and connect with a much wider range of people. I would like to see the Trust develop and grow in this area – and not be afraid of the controversial or the challenging. Through this work I believe that more people from a wider range of backgrounds will be attracted to the Trust and enjoy and learn from the experiences that we have to offer. We could do more in making our properties more accessible – physically, intellectually and socially – and we can connect across the generations. In short, we have some of the most beautiful, historically significant and naturally inspiring places in the country – I would love to play an even larger role in helping many more enjoy them.

## Carly Tutty-Johnson, Kent

I am at my happiest when I am outdoors surrounded by nature, and truly believe that it is good for the body, mind and soul. We are incredibly lucky in the UK to have such beautiful landscapes, enriched in history. As a keen traveller the more countries I visit, I increasingly find myself appreciating what we have here on our doorstep. Our British heritage really is something to be cherished. It would be a real honour to be a council member of the National Trust and play a personal role in protecting, sustaining and promoting this.

I am a qualified project and programme manager with a demonstrable portfolio of successfully delivering high profile and complex projects. I have excellent stakeholder engagement and communications experience, with a solid network of contacts across charities, local authorities and government. My particular area of knowledge and expertise relates to improving health outcomes for older people and reducing health inequalities across the population.

I am the Older People's Programme Manager at Public Health England, responsible for improving health outcomes for older people. Healthy ageing is more important than ever, and there is evidence that many health conditions can be prevented or delayed through keeping physically active, staying social connected, reducing loneliness and maintaining lifelong learning – all of which connect with the highlighted aims within the National Trust strategy.

My degree is in social psychology and I currently work alongside Public Health England's behavioural insights team and Social marketing team to deliver narratives that resonate with the public. My professional career is based on identifying the most appropriate messages to be delivered at the right time, in the right way to the right people, using digital and non-digital approaches. I also have an excellent track record in designing datasets that can be used to measure impact.

My career involves influencing and partnership working, across a range of sectors but particularly government departments, NHS, Local Authority and charities. I chair PHE's dementia and ageing well network, which is comprised of 9 regional leads for dementia and ageing and provides a mechanism for cascading information out to Local Authorities and Clinical Group Commissioners. I am a member of several cross-sector boards and forums with access to charities that promote the needs of underrepresented groups.

Public Health England's newly published Environment strategy highlights the objective to formally recognise the environment as a key determinant of public health. This is a global concern and the strategy sets out its proposed actions on climate change, reducing inequalities and building sustainable communities around the world. Public Health England could be a powerful partner in the mission of the National Trust and I would be very happy to facilitate this partnership.

# Your election candidates

## Deborah Lamb, London

I grew up in the north east of England and spent many holidays enjoying the Northumberland coast before I was aware that the National Trust was responsible for much of its protection and for making it accessible. Visiting sites such as Hadrian's Wall and Cragside helped shape my idea of what coming from the North East means.

Much of my career, working in government and then for Historic England (and English Heritage before it became a separate charity), was spent championing the value of the natural and the historic environment and making the case for its protection. I also understand how our heritage, and how we use and interpret it, need to adapt to make sure it has the public support necessary to thrive in the future. While working on environmental policy for government, I wrote a White Paper which balanced the need to protect England's natural environment and ensure that those who live in rural areas have jobs and homes. As a member of the Executive Board of English Heritage for over 10 years, I understood the need to generate income and invest in sites to attract visitors.

Throughout my career, one of my core values has been collaboration. I have a reputation across the heritage sector for encouraging collaboration with other organisations, rather than competition. Another of my values is accountability. Having begun my working life as a civil servant, much of my career has been driven by public service. I have no professional environmental or heritage qualifications and throughout my time at English Heritage and Historic England I saw part of my role as trying to see what we did through the eyes of the taxpayers who funded us.

I have extensive experience of good governance. At English Heritage and Historic England, my responsibilities included supporting our Commissioners (trustees) to help them be as effective as possible. This meant thinking carefully about what information they needed, without becoming swamped, and being creative about how to get their input and challenge. I have also been on the other side and understand the joys and frustrations of being a trustee, at the Royal School of Needlework and as a school governor.

I believe I have interests and skills which would help me be an effective member of the Council. It would be a great privilege to play a role in the future of the National Trust.

## Colin Pease, North Yorkshire

I have worked for the NHS for 30 years as a Consultant Rheumatologist looking after patients with arthritis, back pain and muscle disorders. This has led to many discussions about mobility and disability. I have been involved in a number of research projects and have been grateful for the participation of patients. Therefore I have been only too happy to help support three patient charities: Arthritis Care, British Sjogrens Syndrome Society and PMRGCA UK. I have led patient discussion groups, given lectures, served on committees and helped raise funds. Again on a voluntary basis I have worked for the British Society for Rheumatology the main body regulating training and work of Rheumatologists in the UK. I have held various posts such as Council member, Secretary and Treasurer, each post for four years. This has given me insight in to what a charity can and can't do, an understanding of financial governance and awareness of the difficulties of raising money for education and how important it is to have separate funding streams.

My wife and I particularly enjoy walking and living in North Yorkshire where we are fortunately spoilt for choice. Brimham Rocks and Fountains Abbey are two family favourites. We have also thoroughly enjoyed walking on coastal paths in North Yorkshire and North Norfolk. I am very conscious of the degree of path erosion and the need to constantly repair damage which must take considerable money even with voluntary labour. I am also struck by the amount of rubbish left behind and how much it devalues the experience of walking those paths for others. Two of our favourite National Trust Houses are Hardwick Hall and Blickling. I was particularly struck at Blickling how we could use an electric buggy to take my mother around the grounds. We have also enjoyed staying in National Trust cottages and I do believe they are a fantastic asset.

The use of plastic and its effect on the environment is a particular challenging issue. Although the seashore is not generally 'a Trust concern' the amount of plastic bottles left elsewhere must be. Biodegradable products often don't seem to be, yet supermarkets have greatly reduced plastic bag use and now have moved into reusable plastic cups for 'free' coffee and welcome customers bringing in their own cups or thermos.

I hope that my experiences may be of benefit to the Trust.

# Your election candidates

## Andrew Powles, Northamptonshire

The National Trust is a fantastic organisation that I have been privileged to be a member of since 1982. I have lost count of the wonderful days out I've had visiting country houses, immaculate gardens or just walking in open countryside. I think I nearly must have visited somewhere in every part of the country!

I want to play my part in the stewardship of this great charity, and bring to bear the skills I have developed in my 30-year career in HR and Personnel which has been gained in the voluntary, membership, public and private sectors.

I am currently the Chair of the local Civic Society, and myself and other volunteers on the committee, focus on making the town and borough a more pleasant place to live through working with other groups and planning officials to drive urban and community led conservation. I am also a member of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and the Historic Houses Association (HHA).

I want the Trust to focus on the great positive stuff that it does, to follow the aspiration to be forever for everyone, but not to air-brush parts of the history of the country houses, or re-write the narrative when the realities of history doesn't fit what feels right today – the past is a foreign country where they did things differently! We may, and should not agree with it but we mustn't ignore it.

We should go forward as an inclusive movement but not exclude our history.

## Dan Cope, Berkshire

In this modern day it is critical more than ever before to stay in touch with one's roots, with the ever-increasing demand on our attentions and time. The preservation and restoration of our culture and heritage which leads us to modern day is critical *"Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it"* (George Santayana).

Throughout my career I have worked with organisations across the globe with private, public and third sectors working to address key functional problems and challenges around technology and many other area. However most problems boil down to simple knowledge management having worked at C-level running national and international works. I am well versed in proactively addressing challenges in this area including technology, legal, compliance, data governance and organisation innovations and transformations.

Working across wide breadth and depth of organisation such as British Computer Society as Vice chair I have worked at looking at big data and transformation this into big intelligence allowing for clear proactive management.

I feel I would bring a range of skills and knowledge to the Council which would allow for a stronger network of subject matter expertise having run international compliance programmes across over 149 countries in leu of GDPR, working to develop clear industry standards and rights alongside working with Parliament to address data management relationship between NHS, police and other essential services, along with bringing technical expertise in legal, project management, asset and knowledge management, data governance and compliance, I would bring a diversity to the Council representing young members in the Trust and the next generation along with members of minorities.

# Your election candidates

## Inga Grimsey, Suffolk

I am passionate about the work of the Trust. It gives meaningful and enjoyable access to the treasures of our built and natural heritage.

I wish to join Council to help contribute to the Trust's future success, sustainability and growth. I wish to ensure that it is true to its core purpose and what this means in a changing world.

I would like to help broaden its appeal to wider audiences, in places where people live and to give access to our diverse populations.

I was fortunate to spend over nine years at the National Trust as a director, firstly in the commercial area and then as one of three operations directors where my responsibility covered about one third of the Trust's properties and lands.

Before joining the Trust, I worked in brand management, marketing and tourism. Later, I was at the National Portrait Gallery as Head of Commercial Operations and was also the Director General of the Royal Horticultural Society

Subsequently, for six years, I chaired the HLF for the East of England and became a governor of four schools. Since November 2015, I have been Chair of the Regional Advisory Board for the Trust in the East of England, where I live.

I have watched with fascination the way the Trust has recently evolved. I have been delighted to see the increasing focus on natural heritage, experience and the extension of property opening hours. None of this should be done at the expense of conservation or the Trust's long-term responsibility of inalienability. However, such changes have done much to enhance the Trust's appeal and offer.

Through my work with heritage projects at HLF, I have seen the value of heritage in local communities, but in contrast, I have also observed the frequent disconnect between many young people, their heritage and environment. There also seems to be a similar lack of connection with ethnic minority communities.

Whilst some of this may be due to the way that education presents history, heritage and environmental issues, some of it may also arise because organisations like the National Trust have traditionally been seen as appealing to middle-aged, middle-class, white communities. This is, of course, a wide generalisation. However, I feel that for future generations, whatever their background, age or ability, we should aim to make them feel as attached to their heritage, as many of the previous and current generations do. The Trust should act as a catalyst for this, influencing far beyond its current ownerships, especially in places where people live; engaging more actively with younger people through education and the use of technology and with all our diverse population. We must ensure we grow our support for the future.

Living in the East of England, we are blessed to have a broad spread of National Trust properties: spectacular built heritage as well as, wonderful countryside, coast and wild areas.

It would be a privilege to continue working with the Trust at a national level and share my passion and experience.

# Your election candidates

## Madelaine Pierson, Hertfordshire

I have long been a supporter of the National Trust as I wholeheartedly believe in the original ethos of the founding members; that places of such significance and beauty should be open to the public. The diverse nature of the places the Trust cares for means that there is something to spark everyone's interests and I hope that ever more people will be attracted to these sites.

In 2016 I became a mother for the first time and this has only solidified my belief that all children should be able to enjoy the beautiful countryside, coasts and historic places that we are blessed with in the UK. I used my first maternity leave to take my son to many National Trust sites, from Hampshire to Northumberland, and was thrilled at all there was on offer for children. I believe it is important to catch their imaginations young if they are going to be the custodians of the future.

I chose to study my MSc in Building Conservation as I have always loved historic buildings and feel that they offer people a chance to connect with our past. I care deeply about preserving our built heritage for future generations and respect the Trust's approach to conservation. I am fascinated by the spectrum of social history on display and think it is important that this valuable connection to where we came from is accessible to all. I am also passionate about the conservation of wildlife and I would be proud to be a Council member for an organisation that does so much good for the countryside and in particular for rare species.

My professional and academic experience in Building Surveying and Building Conservation is ideally suited for the work of the Council. Furthermore, I am enthusiastic and passionate, and I throw myself into every opportunity that I am given. I enjoy being part of a team and I would love to learn more about the work of the Trust, the Trustees and fellow Council members in order to help me flourish in this role. I am a person of strong integrity and would always put the core values of the Trust at the heart of every decision.

I am applying for this role as I would like to help shape the future of the National Trust and continue its long history of delivering excellent experiences for its members and non-members alike.

## Geoff Nickolds, Nottinghamshire

I'm a graduate in Ecology and Biological Sciences from the University of East Anglia and also a certificated Member of the Institute of Fisheries Management and a Chartered Environmentalist (C.Env).

Until July 2005 I was the Conservation, Access and Recreation Manager for Severn Trent Water Limited. I worked for the Company (previously the Water Authority) for 27 years, and for the final 10 years was responsible for fisheries, recreation and biodiversity issues across the Company's whole region and 50,000 acre estate. This included over forty reservoir sites that are open to the public, together receiving over four million visitors each year, with a broad range of facilities.

Since leaving Severn Trent Water, I have served as Chairman of the Environment Agency (Midlands) Regional Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee (2005–2012) and as a Member of the Peak District National Park Authority (April 2007–March 2015) where I was the Deputy Chairman of the Authority. I was the member lead on biodiversity (and previously recreation) and chaired the Peak District Local Nature Partnership, being instrumental in successfully bidding for a substantial HLF Landscape Partnership grant for the South West Peak. I also chaired the innovative Moors for the Future Partnership, a major upland habitat restoration project which has now grown to be worth £20 million. Somewhat less successfully I chaired the Peak District Birds of Prey initiative which has continually missed its species targets for successful breeding, probably due to persecution and intentional disturbance of these iconic birds. I remain keen to support the Trust in its efforts to overcome these problems.

I spent six years (2013–2019) as a member of the Heritage Lottery Fund committee for the East Midlands, assessing grant applications and deciding grant awards. This not only gave me an in depth knowledge of the HLF grants process and new grants strategy, but also an up to date and broad understanding of the heritage world and its different organisations.

As an Attractions Assessor for VisitEngland I visit, rate and advise a broad range of attractions mainly in the Midlands area (including some National Trust properties). These include Country and Forest Parks, Nature Reserves, Historic Houses, Museums and other family attractions. This enables me to be fully up to date with the attractions and heritage market and the best and worst examples of what it has to offer. I am keen to bring this experience to bear in helping the experiences provided by the Trust to be the best that they can be.

I am a member of the Forestry Commission Regional Advisory Committee and a Trustee of the Trent Rivers Trust. Previously a member of the Trust's Midlands Regional Advisory Board (2006–2012) and of Trust Council for a single term (2013–2016), I am keen to re-join the Council since I believe that my knowledge and experience are now even more relevant to the role.

I love walking and cycling in my spare time, and watching cricket at Trent Bridge.

# Your election candidates

## Elizabeth Whitehouse, North Somerset

I feel passionately for the landscape and I am an enthusiastic supporter of the National Trust as a member, volunteer and as a member of the Trust's Council.

I want to continue to do what I can to support the Trust in its mission to tackle threats to the environment, caring for and enhancing its estate, reducing energy use and investing in renewables.

As a Council member I have raised various issues, for example the roll out of digital technologies, working towards a policy for electric vehicles, and the alignment of the Trust's investment policy with its charitable objects, and I want to continue to do so. I have served on a Council Nominations Committee and have represented the Council at several Trust events. I travel widely and visit Trust properties wherever I go because of the joy of doing it but also as part of my remit as a Council member to be the eyes and ears of the Trust. I shall shortly be making a trip to Northern Ireland specially to visit seven National Trust properties I have not yet seen.

In my professional life I worked as a solicitor specialising in employment, discrimination and human rights law. As a lawyer for the Equal Opportunities Commission I was involved in many leading cases as well as with policy development and the legislative amendments debate.

## Grant Schlereth, West Yorkshire

When I first moved to the UK I became a National Trust member. After returning to the US for a decade I came back, and this time joined with family membership for my wife and three young daughters. The Trust's mission and values can be felt so strongly within the properties, and the connection between heritage, education, preservation and fun allow us to have varied and consistently excellent experiences with every visit. I feel it is very important to pass on a love for these precious places for future generations and across our visits, I have already noticed our older two begin to take this on board.

From these experiences I would like to actively participate in helping to deliver your impressive vision and am excited by the possibility of using my skill set and perspective, both engineering and business, to assist your organisation.

Specifically, I have a deep background in the design and development of green infrastructure and park design. My work included everything from parklets, the length and width of a car along the streets of San Francisco, to brown field schemes to revitalise underserved communities. Often these projects incorporated additional benefits such as water quality, wildlife habitat and community space. In my current role at McKinsey & Company, I continue to work with infrastructure at a national scale working to improve both quality and financial performance from a business perspective, including diagnosing and developing targeted improvements in the management of dispersed assets, to setting transformational aspirations and delivering organisation change.

I would be grateful to be considered and honoured to work with you and the National Trust.

# Your election candidates

## Dylan Butt, Cheshire

The North West region spans a rich Industrial, Social and Rural heritage reflected in assets owned by the Trust and other organisations that benefit the public. Therefore in my part, as a local councillor representing a ward with a significant portion of greenbelt and conservation areas, I have always sought to defend such areas from inconsiderate planning for the benefit of future generations and the environment.

As one of Asian background, I believe in supporting access to NT locations for the wider ethnic communities to help increase the interest and learning of great British heritage on display across the UK.

As a keen jogger I regularly run through local NT parkland and also attend exhibitions therein.

## Hugh Owen, Cheshire

It was after retiring that I took up my membership at the National Trust. I was Head of Forensic Investigations at Cheshire Constabulary, and I was responsible both for the strategic direction of the department and the management of over 100 staff, ensuring forensic science provision were both effective and proportionate to the work. The ability to deal with the public, in a confidential way, whilst ascertaining the issue, is what I did on a daily basis. I sincerely believe that it is these skills, knowledge, experience, and personal qualities that I could bring to the Council and would assist in debating the key strategic topics, providing advice and support.

I've been fortunate in my career to have individuals that I could call upon when I needed advice and guidance. I'm now in a position where I feel I can give something back, which would be rewarding both for me as an individual and hopefully the National Trust.

I retired 4 years ago and feel privileged to have time to do what I want to do. I volunteer at the Storyhouse Theatre in Chester and at Chester Castle and have volunteered for the Citizens Advice and am regularly involved in my local Rotary club, helping with local community events and raising money locally.

The National Trust has become very important to me, I have taken up Nordic walking and visit my local National Trust properties to walk, but I have always been an avid walker and have spent many hours on long walks within Snowdonia, which was where I was born and grew up. I have always needed this outlet to provide me with a sense of wellbeing having had a long career in a very stressful and demanding job.

Whilst working for Cheshire Constabulary I also travelled to the USA to study the scientific examination of crime scenes, suspects, and victims having been awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship. At the time there was a growing sophistication of organised crime in the UK that meant demands on the police's ability to examine and recover evidence were increasing. The Fellowship represented an opportunity to acquire knowledge and experience from colleagues in the USA.

I visited police forces across the USA, as well as the Secret Service and the FBI. Following the Fellowship I shared my findings with colleagues and senior police officers, speaking at conferences and delivering training. In my retirement I still give talks regularly on my Fellowship at various local groups and clubs.

I have also joined a Debating club and a Speaking club, being retired and therefore no longer in the workplace, I felt as I now give talks regularly, it was also important to keep these skills fresh and develop them further, so the clubs have given me this aspect, but in such an enjoyable way. I have met so many people and discussed and debated so many topics such as politics, GM foods, environmental issues, social media and the value of education to name just a few.

I would welcome a forum where I can bring all my skills, knowledge, and experience together and harness them in a way that can bring real value to my local and national environment by helping to influence the debate for the future and for my children and my children's children, and hence I would love to be part of the Council for the National Trust.

# Your election candidates

## Dr Bruno Roesch, Switzerland

I live with my wife and three cats near the Swiss-French border near Basel. Until just now we lived on the French side in a house completely built of wood and based on our own plans where we applied ecological standards. We are about to move to a smaller home on the Swiss side of the border.

Yes, we do live in some sort of an earthly paradise here. Nature still seems to be in good order. Closer observation shows the relativity of our luck. Many people do not seem to be aware of the importance of a healthy environment. Don't drive – walk. Shut the motor off while waiting. Take your cigarette butts home, please ... You know what I am writing about, I am sure. I know from personal experience that the situation in England and elsewhere is not much different.

My concern, put into a question: Is it possible to establish a closer relationship between the preservation of nature and heritage on one hand and the protection of the environment on the other? "For ever" means to preserve – a giant task by itself – and also to prevent. Appropriate ways and means would have to be defined and applied where possible – so another giant task could be waiting.

## Jack Kitchen, Somerset

As a Young Person member of the Trust, I believe I can offer a different, diverse perspective not yet covered on Council. There are extensive possibilities to engage with young people, and this should be representative in its governance.

For the 2018/19 academic year, I was a Students' Union Officer at the University of Bath and a Trustee of the Students' Union and Governor of the University. I've had insight into complex institutional governance and partaken in significant governance reforms of both organisations. The SU is a membership organisation and as an Officer, I was accountable for my decisions. As such, I understand the need for accountability (and how to hold to account effectively), in addition to a requirement to approach issues with objectivity and good judgement. The SU has a diverse membership and over the course of my tenure, I developed significant knowledge of inclusivity and accessibility and lobbied for increased university campus accessibility. Furthermore, as young people's mental health becomes a growing concern, I believe there are countless opportunities to tackle issues using the special places protected by the Trust.

Growing up, my family had a membership – and I'm now in the second year of my own membership. I've spent countless weekends over the last year exploring properties across the South West (Dyrham Park being a regular visit!) and have successfully convinced a number of friends to join too! The National Trust is an important part of our heritage, and as I cease to be a leader in my university community, I want to help guide an organisation dedicated to protecting special places.

# Your election candidates

## Jamie Males, Cambridgeshire

I've been a member of the National Trust for the past five years – which might not sound a lot, but I'm only in my mid-twenties! Before joining in my own right, I was a regular visitor to Trust properties with my family, and volunteered at Anglesey Abbey as a teenager. The Trust has a special place in my heart, and I would love the opportunity to be able to give something back.

I have a background in plant biology, and became increasingly interested in nature conservation during my PhD. I now work in scientific publishing, through which I have honed my skills in communication, digital media, and working in partnership. I also volunteer for several conservation organisations in administrative, research, and 'hands-on' capacities, including the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, the Woodland Trust, and my local Wildlife Trust.

If elected, I would leverage my experience in conservation and ecology to contribute to shaping the Trust's role as guardian and champion of our natural heritage. With its extensive estates encompassing a cross-section of the varied habitats of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the Trust is uniquely positioned to lead the way in pioneering conservation programmes, protecting and enhancing biodiversity and ecology. I would advocate for a bold, proactive, and joined-up approach to ecological management and sustainability at this critical juncture in the history of our natural and farmed environment.

It's been wonderful to see the Trust evolve into an increasingly open, inclusive, and forward-thinking organisation over the past decade. I would like to represent the views and aspirations of younger members of the Trust to build on this momentum, and to ensure that minority groups are better represented.

## Jemma Bartholomew, Somerset

Hi, my name is Jemma and I am blessed to live adjacent to National Trust fields, woodland and footpaths in Bath, with the Bath Skyline walk passing just 150 yards from my home. I walk with my dog (a gorgeous lab/basset cross) on these fields and paths almost every day – and every single day I do so, I say a great big Thank You to the National Trust for their existence and my life's journey that has led me here.

I spent nearly 20 years working for BP all over the world. With deep strategic understanding, I delivered detailed commercial and operational aspects of complex multi-billion dollar international oil deals with governments and other stakeholders. I have an eye for detail, both in words and numbers, and excel at un-packaging and translating complicated concepts into straightforward and practical steps.

Following my move to Bath in 2013, I sought out opportunities to apply these skills for the benefit of my local community, as well as joining the National Trust. I became Volunteer Project Manager of the community-led Smallcombe Cemetery project, a beautiful urban oasis that was falling into dereliction.

I successfully managed delivery of the project, working closely with other volunteers and key stakeholders including the National Trust and the Heritage Lottery Fund. I also became Treasurer of an inspirational youth charity in Bath, have worked part-time to support the Bath Abbey Footprint Project, and am a Trustee of a school in Tanzania.

I love what the National Trust does and what it stands for and would be thrilled to be able to use my skills and experience as a member of the Council.

# Your election candidates

## Sheila Ely, Gloucestershire

The areas of strategy that I feel particularly interested in are:

- improving information flow about local initiatives on a local level, between the National Trust and the public. Thereby aiming to create better understanding and increasing membership.
- improving information flow about local initiatives between volunteers and employed staff, and hence the general public. Volunteers are important ambassadors for the Trust.
- reaching out to sectors of the population who are not familiar with the Trust.
- improving the experience of the National Trust for disabled visitors, including those with learning difficulties and disadvantaged sectors of the population.
- improving educational initiatives at all levels, including children's activities.
- promoting the benefits of exercise for health (mental and physical) for all age groups.
- improving the Trust's links with organisations such as the Scout and Guide movements.
- promotion of wildlife corridors via outreach to other landowners.
- National Trust's strategy on wilding on its properties.
- promoting a greater understanding of the need to balance the conflicts of interest between public use/flora and fauna.
- National Trust as role model on environmental issues e.g. carbon emissions, plastic and other forms of environmental pollution, and wastefulness of natural resources.

## Kevin Corry, Warwickshire

At the time of writing I am approaching 61 years of age and have been visiting National Trust properties and locations for as long as I can remember. As a Trust member (on and off) for the last 15 years, my passion for conservation of wildlife, habitats and the marvellous legacy of the properties and locations under Trust care means that I will never tire of visiting these places.

My previous professional career in management consultancy has seen me very busy advising organisations in the public and private sector (including charities) on how to manage things well or better than they do now, helping them deal with the increasing challenges of the world we live in.

Moving into semi-retirement (starting a small children's book publishing business with my wife) my thoughts also turned to the National Trust. I asked myself whether I should volunteer as a Council member, offering to try and bring some of these valuable experiences to help manage the mammoth challenges involved in managing the growing national set of treasures that are in their care. My conclusion was yes.

My hope is that I can help the Trust continue to be successful in a broad range of areas. From helping ensure their investments deliver the benefits desired (from a successful roof repair plan to coordinated plans for land conservation) through to providing constructive challenge to help optimise Trust strategy, to helping grow and retain the fantastic member numbers.

I am passionate about what the Trust does and stands for and would welcome the opportunity to sit alongside other Council members to help in its management.

# Your election candidates

## Rachael Magson, West Midlands

I am passionate about the National Trust and having recently become a mother for the first time, I am now seeing the properties and landscapes anew in how they can best cater for families. My daughter Lorelai had already visited two properties before she was only 10 weeks old!

I know the Trust has a big focus on interpretation and animating properties, and regularly collaborates with artists and cultural charities to breathe new life into its collections. I could bring my specialist knowledge to the Council to help shape future initiatives of this kind, having first-hand experience of artistic commissioning and contracting.

Indeed, when I was at Pentabus Theatre Company I had first hand experience of this, when we partnered with the National Trust for a new theatre tour. The Lone Pine Club – a new play based on the original books by Malcolm Saville – explored children's relationship with the natural world. It also asked some big questions about the ability for children to be 'wild' – how they can explore, take risks and enjoy natural landscapes, and our role as adults and parents in enabling or disabling this freedom. Against the backdrop of the 50 things to do before you are 11¾ campaign, the partnership made great strategic sense.

I often describe my career as being a 'specialist generalist' – having worked in the cultural sector in a range of roles with very broad job descriptions. What this has given me is a breadth of experience coupled with a depth of knowledge. In my career to date I have dealt with everything from artistic commissioning contracts to fire alarm installation to customer complaints, business planning to fundraising to building regulations!

I also have experience of being a charity trustee – for an incredible dance theatre company called Motionhouse. A trustee for three years, it has been a pleasure to play a role in supporting the company to deliver its visionary business plan. The company tours incredible dance theatre productions all over the country and internationally, and its artistic Director Kevin Finnan MBE choreographed the opening ceremony of the Paralympic Games in 2012.

I am also passionate about supporting volunteers and the incredible role they play in helping many cultural and heritage organisations survive and thrive. This is another aspect of the National Trust that really chimes with me – as volunteers are so integral to its daily function. We should champion and celebrate every volunteer – and ensure the management of volunteers is strong and effective, to ensure mutual benefit.

I feel this range of skills would set me in good stead as a Council member, and I would hope to grow my knowledge and skills further through this important role in shaping the future of the National Trust.

## Michael Morris, London

I believe the need to preserve the past and the importance of protecting the environment for the future is brought together almost uniquely through the National Trust.

Recent press releases and official documents highlight the urgent needs in these areas. The way that our historic buildings harmonise with the landscape by the use of local and natural materials is admirable in providing a relevant and sustainable template. I believe that individuals, with guidance, can use this knowledge, to the benefit of future generations and I wish to be part of these processes.

My experience at a practical level (I have converted an historic building into a comfortable home) together with my professional training as a Chartered Civil Engineer and Urban Designer means, I believe, that I can contribute as a member of the Council to:

- review trustee decisions at a practical level;
- guide in setting the policy and strategy of the Trust;
- discuss initiatives and provide advice on unusual or important events; and
- assist in the communication of the Trust's aims and ideals to others.

# Your election candidates

## Oliver Maurice, France

Having lived and worked in the Lake District on and off for 21 years I am motivated by the need for the protection of this amazing landscape. That includes ensuring the livelihoods of the hill farmers whose sheep are effectively the architects of that landscape.

It is also why, as Director of the NW region at the time, I helped to establish in 1993 what was then called the Lake District Tourism and Conservation Partnership but is now known as the Lake District Foundation. When founded it was a partnership between the National Trust, the Lake District National Park Authority and the Cumbria Tourist Board. Its purpose was to raise funds from both tourism businesses in and visitors to the Lake District to put towards conservation projects. It seemed grossly unfair that the tourism businesses and the tourists were benefiting from the exceptional landscape without spending anything on its maintenance.

I have a great affinity for the coastline and am a strong advocate of the Neptune Coastal Campaign. As Director in Northumbria I started a campaign to acquire stretches of the Durham coastline that were despoiled by years of coal mining, prior to the closure of the collieries, in the belief that once they ceased to operate and were removed, the beaches would be restored by the tide from their blackened state and the hinterland would once again revert to a natural or agricultural landscape. That belief has now become a reality.

I also negotiated the acquisition from the South Tyneside Borough Council, at no cost to the Trust, the 200 acre strip of coastline, the Leas, separating the town of South Shields from the North Sea.

Whilst Director of that Region I felt that the Trust needed to be more in tune with the vision of its founders and so we established the Newcastle Inner City project, with financial support from the Rank Foundation, to give many of the poorest sections of the community of all ages, the opportunity to visit our properties and take part in different activities. It proved extremely popular but sadly was closed in 2013 after 25 years in operation

Since working as a volunteer for 17 years with National and Heritage Trusts around the world I would be able to bring an international perspective to the work of the Council and would welcome the opportunity to do so.

## Malcolm Ellis, Lancashire

My exposure to the National Trust estate over a number of decades has fuelled a fascination for past lives and a desire to see those worlds which have survived continue to be conserved and protected, dating back to early visits to Speke Hall in Liverpool as a child and through my visits to properties around the UK as an adult. The sense of reaching back in time is compelling.

My interest extends to the natural domains in the ownership of the Trust: coastal areas, woodland, forest and other natural habitats. My early studies were in geology and mining providing familiarity with the requirements of land conservation and environmental management. My working life has brought me into close contact with forests in connection with timber harvesting and importing. Conservation is also a key theme in this world. I am a keen walker with excellent local terrains to enjoy. When travelling in the UK I often find myself inadvertently coming across land owned by the National Trust.

Access and availability to all these treasures should be an opportunity for everybody. Attracting and engaging with visitors from all social and cultural spheres as well as age groups can be a challenge.

All of the good work comes with a price. A sustainable approach to the governance, management and financing of the estate is essential in a world of increasing challenges. This is essential to protect the National Trust and its estate for future generations.

Whilst my hands-on experience in some of these matters is somewhat sparse I am keen to learn more and help where I can. I promise a passion to deliver what is asked of me and I hope I can bring fresh eyes and perspectives to the Council role to support the National Trust in all of its responsibilities and all it does.

A little about me: my wife and I celebrated our Pearl Wedding last year. We have a daughter who is at university. My choice of geology and mining for my degrees came from a fascination in gemstones and jewellery-making. I would never have chosen to be an accountant but have been delighted with the strong backbone this has given to all that I do at work. I swim regularly, in the sea when abroad. We enjoy walking. I play the cello my mother bought for me when I was 10 in a local orchestra. I paint and draw and keep up a bit of French and Italian.

# Your election candidates

## Michael Salter-Church MBE, London

When my grandmother passed away 15 years ago a small sum of money was left to my parents who used it to purchase a Life Membership to the National Trust for me. Their rationale was simple: that from the moment I'd been born the National Trust had been part of my life. It had afforded us wonderful places, interesting spaces, beautiful gardens, picnicking lawns, tea and cake, fed our imaginations and educated and informed us. Importantly the properties were great places for the family to meet, for granny to admire the gardens, for me to explore the buildings and ask multiple questions about the lives of the people who lived in them and the history. Quite simply the NT was central to holidays, days out and family outings, it enriched our lives from Northumberland to Cornwall, Wales to Suffolk (where we lived).

I now visit the Trust's properties with friends and family; my nieces love running around, my mum enjoys the gardens and tries to get the grandchildren to focus on some of the history (they're probably a bit young) and I now also look at how accessible properties are in a different way as my father has MS and uses a wheelchair. Ensuring that the family can enjoy the Trust's countryside and properties together is very important to me. My husband is also supportive of my application to join the Council, he has said that time volunteering for the Trust building fences in Cornwall was one of the best breaks he's been on – and he's ready to put on the wellies, take up the pliers and hammers and do it again!

My work on Pride in London is evidence of how I approach issues: I believe in stepping up and getting involved in order to make a positive difference. I have worked in environments where the ability to take account of multiple points of view and then provide clear judgement were vital, allied with discretion and integrity in order to be trusted and ensure that decisions were seen to be fair and well considered. I was the principle advisor delivering equal marriage in the UK and helped negotiate the first Prime Ministerial TV debates as part of the 2010 General Election. I am now involved in delivering the next generation of digital infrastructure for the country, working as the Director of External Affairs & Policy for the country's biggest provider of digital infrastructure. This is a role which has required fresh thinking and the ability to map out a strategy and help create a business case – engaging political stakeholders from councillors to Cabinet and multiple third parties such as the Country Landowners Association, NFU and FSB.

Connecting people and businesses is my day job, but it also serves as a reminder of how the Trust needs to continue to connect and ensure it is using technology to protect our heritage, improve accessibility, educate and benefit e.g. its tenants by ensuring they have access to ways of working that will increase yields or protect our natural world.

I am fortunate to have been part of the senior management team in two significant companies, Sainsbury's (195,000 colleagues) and now Openreach (32,000) so I understand the importance of empowering teams of people on the ground and developing a supportive and nurturing culture for employees – so everyone cares, feels rewarded and clearly understand how they contribute to success. As a former school Governor, I also understand the need to support and offer honest counsel to those running an organisation, and as a Council member this would include ensuring the best Trustees are appointed to protect the integrity of an organisation and support, guide and encourage the talented people working and volunteering for the Trust.

My volunteering experience has also included serving on fundraising committees for Terrence Higgins Trust and Action for Children – helping to break income records for both. Diligent and careful stewarding of resources is crucial, and I believe everyone serving in governance positions has a duty to consider new, sustainable, ways of raising the funds required to support the Trust's work. I've also supported charities practically, for example helping build homes for destitute families in southern India and serving on the advisory board for National Student Pride.

I would be honoured to be elected to the Council, so I can be part of the team working to ensure the National Trust's future is as successful as its past; so it can continue playing a vital role in the protection of our environment, the stewardship of our landscape, the protection and celebration of our heritage and the education of future generations. I hope that my enthusiasm for the Trust, coupled with my experience, will provide me the opportunity to give something back - through election to the Council. If you place your trust in me and honour me with your vote, I thank you.

# Your election candidates

## Mark Wright, Hampshire

I first joined the National Trust about 20 years ago and it has always given me and my family enormous pleasure. It has an absolutely unique position in the UK because of its geographic spread and because it looks to safeguard not just our built heritage but also our natural environment and social history.

I am currently the Director of Science at WWF but my career, spanning 35 years, has always focussed on environmental conservation or social development issues for a variety of governmental, volunteer and independent bodies. As part of these roles I have done a great deal of communications and outreach work to engage and inspire partners and the public.

Nature in the UK is faring badly compared to elsewhere – we have poor woodland cover, species are in decline and wetlands and rivers are under increasing pressure. As a significant steward of key landscapes the Trust can showcase how to manage our environment in a way that benefits both nature and people and, importantly, how we can respond to the challenge of climate change. In short, the way the Trust manages its estate can become the gold standard. More than that, as the UK changes its relationship with Europe, it is playing an important role in influencing government to strengthen evolving environmental legislation.

These opportunities I find hugely exciting and, I hope, I can bring my passion and skills to these roles. I truly believe the Trust can become as well known for its inspirational and forward thinking land management as it is already for its extraordinary track record in protecting our historic properties. And I would dearly love to contribute to that.

## Alan Lascelles, Devon

A member of the National Trust since 1978, joining at St Michel's Mount in Cornwall, which clocks up over 40 years membership. I have always been interested in the natural environment and historic buildings and places, particularly buildings of the 20th Century, which is something which I hold dear. Having moved from one part of the country to another with career moves, I have visited numerous properties and places and see the different feel to the care of each one of these establishments. One thing is clear, is the enthusiasm and deep knowledge of the vast team of volunteers, without whom it wouldn't be possible to survive. Over the decades I have seen how the focus of the National Trust has changed from buildings and contents to people and personal histories, which I applaud. I have also seen the positive impact of Enterprise Neptune and land acquisition and bequests strategies.

In my own life I have had a number of career paths, including; local government (Planning and Building Control Department), retail management, and then as a regional manager for workforce development and performance improvement company. I moved into lecturing at FE Colleges after gaining a PGCE (Post 16 – Further Education and Higher Education) at Huddersfield University. Apart from business studies I also taught community development, presentation skills and customer service skills. I then moved into 'Skills brokering' for West Yorkshire Enterprise Agency, providing information and guidance to SME's (Small to medium size enterprises) on their skills development needs. After two years I became one of a team of Established Business Advisers for Business Link Yorkshire, progressing to become one of ten principle business advisers covering all of Yorkshire. I contributed in making a significant impact on businesses I assisted in terms of turnover, staffing, marketing and performance.

A gained a BSc (Hons) in Social Science and Technology and a Master's Degree in Environment, Policy and Society through the Open University. This included, management development, environmental valuation, environmental conflict resolution and a dissertation on sustainability, looking at the viability of village amenities.

Lectured at Sheffield Hallam University in management, business studies and retail achieving praise from colleagues, line managers and students.

Since retiring, I have volunteered to establish a new community organisation, championing fundraising. I am also a group leader for the U3A (University of the Third Age), lecturing in social history and geography.

As a Council member my aim would be to use my broad range of experience, qualifications and knowledge to provide a personal perspective, concentrating on environmental projects, conservation, strategic management and commercial enterprise. Lastly, I embrace the evolution of the Trust, change and making a difference to the visitor experience and its volunteer army, including access but with a focus on the core values of National Trust.

Finally, working with other Councillors with a different range of experience and background would be stimulating for my own future development and this range of experiences and interests should add to the whole ethos of the National Trust.

# Your election candidates

## Penny Ann Marshall, Tyne and Wear

I have been vegetarian for more than 40 years, garden organically and was trying to reduce my impact on the planet and live sustainably long before it became fashionable. We have now reached a position where reducing our environmental footprint is an absolute necessity, and I firmly believe we must all make significant changes to many areas of our lives, if we are to have any hope of meeting legally binding climate change targets. That includes bodies like the National Trust which I believe have a moral obligation to lead by example. The Trust is making great strides in the use of renewable energy, reducing energy and water use, recycling, organic gardening and preparing seasonal food. One area where I feel more could be achieved is in making properties more readily accessible by transport modes other than fossil fuelled private vehicles. I do not underestimate the scale of the challenge – many Trust properties are in remote locations and difficult to access. As a nation we have allowed our public transport networks to decline and are consequently heavily reliant on our cars. But just because something is difficult does not mean we should not try.

I am a female civil engineer, from a generation where more than 90% of engineers were men. As a consequence, I am very determined, and not afraid to defend my position. I have experience in talking to and negotiating with people at all levels, from Government ministers to school children. I have reached the age where I am looking to reduce the number of hours I spend in paid employment, to spend more of my time attempting to make a difference with things that really matter to me. The natural and heritage assets protected by the National Trust are amongst the things that matter most to me.

## Michael Turville, Switzerland

I have been a National Trust member for more than 20 years and I have also been involved as a Working Holidays Leader and have been on the Readers Panel from its inception. The National Trust is not just important to me, but my family too, my children love to visit properties and play in the gardens, collect conkers in autumn and it is just a great day out for all the family and that is something we should preserve and support the National Trust.

My background is civil engineering and I worked many years in coastal engineering and flood defence with local government and with the Environment Agency. This has given me great experience in managing coastlines and the impact on man's intervention along the coast of England and impact on nature. My work has brought me close to the issues of how to manage our coasts and its impact on nature and the communities that live by the coast. I have been involved in coastal and river strategies and management plans ranging from the River Thames to the South Coast of England. In terms of what I can bring to the Council, I feel that this brings first hand knowledge of how management of our coast and waterways can have a dramatic effect on both humans and wildlife and how we deal with the fine line of conserving and letting nature take its course.

I am also a keen gardener and have an interest in our gardening history and how we preserve our historical gardens for the future. This is also a fine line on how we manage our historical landscapes for the future and compliment the visions of our great landscape designers through history.

# Your election candidates

## Leslie Brantingham, Wiltshire

A call for civil engineer's skills is unusual, and so I trust that you consider my details as apposite and of use to the National Trust's Council in its role of oversight and guidance to the Trustees.

If like me you care deeply about the nation's heritage, are curious as to how it was created, how used, how it fits with the political and social history of this country, then you will understand why one would want to be further involved with the National Trust. These aspects of our country are a joy, and I have long supported, through membership, the aims and objects of the Trust. I endorse the initiative to widen the reach and appeal of the National Trust.

Having served as a Governor at UCLH for three years, I am familiar with the work of an overseeing Council. I served on both the Quality & Safety and the Appointments & Remuneration committees. I have been a trustee of Haig Homes, and am presently a trustee of the Islington Boat Club and the Foyant Badges Society. I have worked at directorial and chief officer level, am familiar with project and procurement processes, business case management, serving as the Contracting Officer for both Houses of Parliament.

In my view the key task of the Trust's Council is that of oversight and advice; a safe sounding board and critical friend. And a role with which I am familiar. It requires a confederate approach to establish good relationships where understandable data is available to substantiate and underpin proposals, developments, purchases, procurements, and investments; only then can a Council member make a real contribution. Not in second-guessing but in constructive and robust challenge that the right options are selected and policy followed, or its variation justified.

I am able to assimilate large amounts of information, often of a unfamiliar or technical nature, and form a coherent view of the merits and dangers inherent. I work well with people from all walks of life, and especially where those diverse people come together to achieve a common purpose. I am a Chartered Civil Engineer and was called to the Bar in 1997.

I have the time, the skills and the desire to commit to the National Trust in its work to protect the national assets it holds and both widen its appeal and to satisfy its charitable objects.

Sample of relevant projects and experience:

- Modifications, repairs and renovations on old houses.
- Forensic engineering analysis and design of repair schemes for building distress and failures.
- Resident Engineer on the recently listed Hillingdon Civic Centre (1972–1975).
- Reinstatement of SSSI and AONB after Works.
- Conservation, Development, Maintenance of Grade 1 and 2 listed buildings, and World Heritage sites.
- Maintenance and restoration of landscape Scheduled Monuments.
- Recreation of Devon Hedgebanks and Drystone walls, and their capabilities and stability.
- Addressing 60 East London year six pupils about the joys of Civil Engineering and how it affects their lives (2016).

# Your election candidates

## Philip Monk, Essex

Membership of the National Trust has a plurality of meanings – a great deal on the local car park, a place to walk the dog, peace, space, fresh air, a country home, conservation. For me it's come to mean supporting the Trust's work financially, through my membership and café purchases, and with my time, by volunteering. I know this protects the places and experiences I love, ensures that future generations are able to experience what I can, and helps more people understand what the National Trust is all about.

My three years on the Council have been a fascinating and rewarding experience, and I strongly believe that I can continue to make a meaningful contribution.

Since my election I have engaged fully with the work of the Council, serving on two nominations committees, and as an active and committed member of a working party that has sought to improve the process by which we ensure Trustees are effectively overseeing the work of the Directors of the charity. These roles have made a real difference to the work of the Trust.

Seeing how complex challenges are identified and overcome has been intriguing, not least because when I now visit a Trust property or landscape, I see it from many more perspectives – a virtuous circle that has helped me become an ever more effective member of Council.

Hearing from the directors in charge of conserving what we have, protecting nature and landscapes, and improving the visiting experience has convinced me that the Trust is working hard to meet its purpose. Our achievements have mounted and our aspirations have risen. Although the Trust doesn't get it right all of the time – things aren't perfect, and some decisions are very difficult – it's definitely moving in the right direction.

My skills, experience and background have enabled me to make effective contributions to our discussions. As a teacher and someone with a young family I remain convinced that engaging with younger audiences, listening to visitors, and helping them better understand and value the intrinsic qualities of the places protected by the National Trust are key to confronting challenges faced, gaining support, and ensuring success.

For example, while volunteering in Essex, our work to create one hectare of high nature value woodland pasture looks like we're clear cutting an established woodland.

Speaking with visitors, though, and giving some context, almost invariably engenders support.

I can't praise the hard work, passion and generosity of volunteers enough – they've been inspiring, whether fixing a footpath in a downpour, or selling ice-creams on the beach. They are, for many, the public face of the Trust.

I believe I have a unique mix of experience and skills that will enable me to be an effective member of Council. I can help people understand the conflicts, contradictions, and challenges of conservation. I can explain the value of what we have, and integrate different viewpoints to find consensus.

I hope you can continue to support me so that I can continue to make a difference.

## Robin Leigh, Buckinghamshire

In addition to the business and arts background described in my election statement, which could be of practical use to the National Trust in a more administrative Council role, I have a deep interest in the hands-on aspects of the Trust. As a student I spent most of my holidays working on construction sites, and remain fascinated by the process of construction and preservation even if my skills have never progressed much beyond manual labour, so seeing the fabric of Trust properties and understanding their evolution and restoration is one of the most exciting aspects for me.

Similarly, I have always loved spending time outdoors, whatever the weather, enjoying everything from a half day stroll to hiking and trekking holidays, adventure races and outdoor sports around the world ... though a British landscape on a fine summer's day is hard to beat, or the camaraderie of a day's hike in driving winter rain!

I would therefore particularly enjoy exploring and assisting in the creation of new ways to bring the joys of National Trust properties and collections to a wider and more diverse range of people, through a greater variety of events at Trust properties, collaboration with other organisations, and increased accessibility.

Having lived primarily in Asia for over 20 years until recently, I haven't had the chance to volunteer at Trust properties, but during my time as a student in the UK I volunteered extensively with other organisations, helping to organise and run camps that gave handicapped adults and disadvantaged children activity-filled UK holidays and weekends away, and I organised exhibitions to showcase student art at Cambridge, so I also enjoy the project management and logistics of creating events, and seeing the pleasure of those attending the events.

Having said the above, I fully recognise that an important consideration for all heritage properties is the need to balance popularity and accessibility with preservation, since increased visitor numbers inevitably also increases wear and tear on fragile buildings, collections and landscapes. Crowds can also make a visit less enjoyable for everyone and limit the chance for people to experience the atmosphere of a well-preserved property. I am also therefore very interested in exploring ways to help the Trust achieve this balance, potentially through adopting new technologies and alternative ways of structuring visits.

Finally, I also recognise that I have only experienced a limited part of the overall work of the Trust, and have met only a small selection of the groups and people who combine to ensure that the Trust is able to achieve all that it does. Through the Council I would like to develop a deeper understanding of the different priorities and contributions of each of these groups who have a hand and an interest in the Trust's success, and to assist in ensuring that these wider stakeholder objectives are met.

# Your election candidates

## William Parry, North Yorkshire

I am a rural Chartered Surveyor, living near Ripon in North Yorkshire.

My role is focussed on the sale and acquisition of rural property across the UK, working with farmers, landowners, investors and institutional clients, helping the either dispose of, or invest in, land and farms.

We are privileged to work on diverse projects and prodigious properties or with entrepreneurial people, all linked to the countryside and rural places. I have to give advice on the best methods of sale, or whether to invest in certain sectors of the market and give the very best in order to provide, what we hope, is the best outcome in an enjoyable way, where possible.

People must come before property, therefore listening and learning from how individuals or families perceive places – whether as an investment, a family home, or a place to bring others too, will nearly always help surmount most challenges. The countryside must be seen as an accessible extension to the classroom, or to your daily life. Education, be it the history of somewhere or how it might look throughout the seasons, is terribly important.

Above all however, enjoyment must be a key driver for those who choose to become a member of the Trust and explore its places. To spend time with others, outside and indoors can only be good for you and your health. The Trust may not acknowledge the intangible good that a visit somewhere has. Not only the physical benefits, but the mental health benefits too, not forgetting the stories on the way home or to others they will see and pass on the great experience.

Finally, conservation and farming/land use must dovetail in order for our countryside to prosper. Conflict between the two cannot only mean that people, wildlife and traditions will fall away from the rural scene. The next phase in farming support, including subsidy and environmental schemes must complement each other.

## Simon Sansome, Leicestershire

I am one of the top disability consultants in the UK. I run an organisation called Ability Access which is the largest disability page in the UK reaching millions of people every month.

I have my own show called While Disabled on Apple podcasts. I travel around the UK interviewing disabled celebrities. I have just finished season one, guests include: Countess Swinton, Tanni Grey Thompson, TV chef Michael Caines and TV presenter Adam Pearson. I have over 20,000 followers on social media.

I am also a qualified journalist and run a disability blog. I write stories on disability.

Last year I was awarded a Certificate of Excellence for the UK National Diversity Champion. I am the recipient of the prestigious Rev Jessie Jackson Prize (Breaking Down Barriers in the Community) for my work on Ability Access.

I do believe that the National Trust can play an important role in improving the quality of life for people with disabilities, getting people out of their homes and into the countryside improving peoples wellbeing and mental health.

Before my disability, via a rugby injury, I worked in Social Services specialising in adult mental health and physical disability. I also have the experience of being former elected Councillor and I have stood for parliament twice. I have now retired from politics, due to my injury.

# Your election candidates

## Sarah Hollingdale, Herefordshire

I've been a member of the National Trust since I was a small child, and wherever I have lived, National Trust properties have been my haven; from talking to deer at Charlecote Park as a child, to escaping to Longshaw Estate as a student, to imagining myself enjoying pre-dinner cocktails on the lawn at Coleton Fishacre. I love the National Trust more than anyone I know – I even compete with my boyfriend to see who can tick most properties off on the app! I'm up to 76 so far. After years of volunteering in schools and on other heritage projects, as Oral History Intern at Quarry Bank Mill I gained a new perspective on the organisation I had always admired. I learnt a huge amount in that year, about using archives, supporting volunteers, and running a project. Not only that, Styal became my home and I loved sharing the stories of past residents with the local community and online. I am passionate about making history relevant and relatable.

I believe that heritage should be accessible, in all senses of the word – whether that be sharing stories from oral history interviews to make history more personal, using social media to engage with new audiences, encouraging young people from diverse backgrounds to visit and volunteer, or ensuring visitors with conditions and impairments have an equal experience. As Accessibility Officer at Hereford Cathedral, I introduced numerous new initiatives and events; monthly Quiet Hours and Dementia Friends sessions, to make us more dementia-friendly; Social Stories and Sensory Trails for autistic visitors; Tactile Tours for visually impaired visitors; Accessibility Training for all staff and volunteers, and policies that ensure that carers are considered too. All of these things were done with members of the local community – I firmly believe in 'Nothing about us without us'. It was this work that led to the cathedral being the first ever place of worship to be awarded the Autism Friendly Award from the National Autistic Society. I am also a Dementia Friends Champion and sit on the Dementia Action Alliance for Herefordshire.

Now, as Activity Officer on our NLHF-funded Eastern Cloisters Project, I run activities and events in our Cloisters, but accessibility is still at the heart of all we do. Our volunteering roles, for example, are designed to be flexible so that people with chronic conditions or caring responsibilities can still be involved.

Access should be integrated into everything that an organisation does, rather than an add-on, which is why I think I'd be of value to the Council. I want to bring my experience and expertise of accessibility to the Council, to ensure that everyone can benefit from the National Trust in all the ways that I have – as a visitor, and a volunteer.

## Dr Tom Kennedy, Cheshire

I discovered the National Trust as a teenage birdwatcher in Essex, when visiting Lingwood Common on my bike – I quickly realised that those distinctive silver circles atop a square sign represented access to very special places.

We've always holidayed as a family in locations in the UK within easy access of National Trust properties – places like The Gower, coastline & castles of Northumberland or Blakeney, Norfolk.

I greatly value the places of historic interest and natural beauty entrusted to and managed by the National Trust. I wholly support the objectives to conserve the UK's heritage, whilst widening access – enabling more people to visit, enjoy and cherish these special places.

I volunteer for the National Trust, leading bird walks in my local Felbrigg Park. My love of Felbrigg and the impact it is having on my grand-kids is captured in the NT video – Trevor's Story. I've also written a book about The Birds of Felbrigg Park.

In my working life I developed knowledge, experience and skills to effectively manage a large and complex public organisation. Qualities that are directly transferable to a role on Council.

Much of nature in Britain is in dramatic decline – it's up to us all to do something about it. In retirement I have kept busy by creating a new registered wildlife charity – Felbeck Trust [www.felbecktrust.org.uk](http://www.felbecktrust.org.uk) – to help restore neglected parcels of land, increasing biodiversity and, hopefully, reversing the worrying trends across the range of our native species. We're also active partners with the National Trust in the Riverlands Project – helping clean-up and clear Norfolk's unique chalk streams. Community-led conservation making a direct and positive impact on Norfolk's declining wildlife.

The National Trust is a major player in wildlife conservation today – together we can (and must!) make a difference. These challenges are best tackled by determined people, from a variety of backgrounds, knowledge and skills, working together in support of the National Trust – helping protect the places we all love deeply and on which our wildlife so utterly depends.

The work of the National Trust is challenging – often with competing priorities – and requires a representative, competent and principled Council to help steer it. Ensuring that the Trust does what it 'says on the can' – *preserving and protecting historic places and spaces – for ever, for everyone* – is what Council is there to do. Professional staff and volunteers, experts and amateurs, working alongside each other, to help achieve the shared objectives of the Trust. I'd like to help do this.

# Your election candidates

## Sarah Lewis-Briggs, Cumbria

I have been visiting National Trust sites since I was a child, and as an adult – like so many of us – I have taken my children round them as well. I can't even remember how long I've been a member as I don't remember ever not visiting Trust sites! I've seen how the Trust has developed in that time to become an organisation I respect for the way in which it promotes itself, as well as protecting our environment and heritage, with some brilliant commercial ideas whilst remaining true to its role as a conservation charity.

Since moving to Cumbria from the south, I have appreciated the work the Trust carries out even more: I have developed a love of trail running and of being out on the Fells, so often owned and managed by the Trust. I have learnt of some of the issues which need to be resolved or balanced. As a chartered surveyor I've always been interested in sustainability: moving to a rural setting means I have learnt even more about the environment and this beautiful planet of ours, and that I care more than ever about looking after it for future generations.

My main job is as Portfolio Surveyor for the English Heritage Trust, but I am also a writer, chef, singer and mother. I believe that my wide-ranging and varied experience, both hands-on and at a senior management level, and previous experience on various boards and committees, means that I can offer a practical and strategic approach to the overview the Council provides to the Trust Board.

## Rod Giddins, Kent

Throughout a varied career I have always sought to achieve and sustain high standards. I care deeply about our history and how the story of our nation can be told in a way that engages existing and new audiences. I believe in simplifying often complex information whilst maintaining authenticity at all times.

I've worked in many different organisations, often collaborating with community partners. I was a founder member of the East Midlands Regional Cultural Consortium and, with the Trust's Regional Director, I established the first Regional Heritage Forum. I presented, to the Regional Assembly, a document profiling the region's historic environment. In my home town of Northampton I served on the Town Centre Conservation Areas Advisory Committee, commenting on many development proposals and planning applications.

I was deeply involved in a local campaign by a Friends organisation to restore and open to the public an historic grade II\* house called Delapre Abbey in Northampton, which had been semi-derelect for 20 years. I then chaired the newly-formed Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust, which successfully bid for £3.6m from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the project, phase one of which completed and officially opened in March 2018.

I am particularly keen to ensure that the visitor experience is the best it can be and that the care of buildings, landscapes, staff and volunteers is delivered to the highest affordable standards.

I am a Life Member of the Trust, the John Muir Trust and the Royal Horticultural Society, a Member of English Heritage, the Antarctic Heritage Trust, the Isle of Thanet Photographic Society, the Birchington Heritage Trust and a supporter of the Tibet Relief Fund.

# Your election candidates

## Peter Brotherton, London

I have over 35 years experience in banking with many years of team creation and team leadership both in the UK and working with European colleagues. This is complimented by two trustees roles since 2007 in national charities.

In the first, Streetwise Opera, I provided commercial and restructuring guidance within the Board as it grew from a young charity to become an international award winning organisation. I stood down by rotation after over two terms of offices, Streetwise provides arts and performance training within homeless centres leading to high profile performances at venues such as the South Bank, London. More recently I have been appointed as Treasurer of NAIRO – a national charity representing social workers whose main purpose is to protect the best interests of children in care. Both of these roles have been/are very rewarding in terms of ‘making a difference’ to the lives of the disadvantaged.

Whilst National Trust may be in a very different sector I still consider that the protection of parts of our cherished countryside/heritage properties for the benefit of future generations is part of our morale commitment to present and future society.

I would hope to offer the Council considerable finance/commercial experience and hands on knowledge (both as a Trustee and in my day job) of good working practice, compliance and risk assessment. Not the most exciting areas I realise but in a world where risk compliance is a necessary challenge I would hope these skills would compliment a wider desire to progress the aims of the National Trust. My working life is in its later stages which gives me a strong sense of team working/team leading with professionalism and judgment to make a positive contribution to Council matters as well as the experience to create ‘space’ to devote myself energetically to a role in the Council.

I realise that many candidates will have more hands on experience of the Trust’s work. I fully understand and appreciate these skills. What I hope to offer is an ‘independent’ approach based on strategic things complimented from a career and Trustee experience where working with people from very different backgrounds has been so important .

Thank you for reading this and taking the trouble to consider my application.

## Stuart Grant, West Sussex

I am a very motivated individual that is always looking for a challenge; I always want to find better ways to improve myself. Whether this is in my career, or volunteering, where I can learn new skills and better myself in life. I enjoy sitting as Secretary for two committees down by where I live. These provide me with the motivation, to know that I am doing better for them and the local community. And the work that I can do can make a difference in many people’s lives. Even in my job, wherever I can help somebody, I will. Knowing that I have made somebodies day just slightly better, makes me get a good warm feeling and encourages me to continue and go out and do the same for more people.

I believe that the countryside and what the National Trust has to offer, is a brilliant asset that everyone could have access to. And is known that fresh air and the countryside benefit many things. Even if I have had a bad or difficult day, I know after a good walk around the countryside or even a trip across to a National Trust property, that I will feel better.

Through my entire career I have focused on the human resources side of the organisation. Ensuring that all members of staff and colleagues are happy and ensuring that all problems that have arisen have been dealt with in a timely manner. Many people that I work with and manage in the past have always been happier and more motivated with the way I go about doing my job.

Through my committee work for The East Grinstead Concert Band and The East Grinstead Social and ex services club. I have been focusing on the secretarial duties. Ensuring that the day to day running’s go smoothly, the sending out of important information to all members, and the main important thing of good organisational skills, so important documents can be found, to ensure smooth running.

I believe I would be really good as a Council member for the National Trust as I would be able to bring in my Human Resources skills and secretarial skills. To continue the smooth running of the National Trust for the future and when you inevitably expand in the future. And having worked in a variety of job sectors I will have the eye for the market, for the best course of scaling.

# Your election candidates

## Jenny Evanson, Oxfordshire

Personal information:

- Having lived and worked in London for 25 years, I now live in The Cotswolds, near to Burford with my seven-year-old son, my husband and a Labrador called Eva.
- I care deeply about preserving the beauty and heritage of our national treasures and spaces and have demonstrated this in my non-executive work with Wimbledon and Putney Commons.
- As a family we like to get out to enjoy this beautiful region as much as possible. This keeps me fit, along with fairly regular Park Runs.
- I am a passionate sailor and my husband is a Master Mariner. During the summer months we join friends on their boat moored in Hamble, Hampshire for a few adventures.

Professional experience:

- I have 25 years business development experience gained in London working for consumer magazine brands such as Classic Boat, Country Life and The Field. The thread of conservation and heritage has been evident in my work.
- I have a great deal of experience of working on and with committees.
- Whilst working for the UK's largest consumer magazine publisher, then IPC, now renamed Time Inc, I sat as a trustee of the Time Warner Pension Scheme.
- I am currently a member of my local parochial church council.

## Stuart Quin, West Yorkshire

Benefits I could bring to this role are: A strong sense of strategic planning, business management, and knowledge of the practicalities of conservation and restoration. Skills and experience in:

- Extensive (rural and urban) planning, development, and conservation.
- Restoration and management of key listed buildings.
- Senior management and Director responsibility for strategy, budget, risk management and HR.

The Trust is in my view a key national player in education and culture and vital to advancement of understanding experience and appreciation and development of a civilised society. I have been a member for over 10 years.

I qualified as a town planner and a surveyor, and have varied experience of planning and development ranging from the British new towns movement (Telford) through development control, local plans, design and conservation, and economic development in a large urban and rural district (Harrogate).

Latterly, I moved into the tourism industry and held senior and director posts at a large international convention centre, as well as being responsible for leisure tourism initiatives and the operation of a number of TICs. I was the project sponsor for the restoration of Harrogate's Royal Hall in the 2002-2008 period, as well as for a number of major capital schemes.

I am a published author (*Kursaal 2008; Visitor Guide to Yorkshire 2013*). I am currently chair of the Board of Trustees of a charity (BEA) which delivers a range of services to older age groups across west and north west Leeds.

I have experience of board level reporting, of devising and managing business strategies, capital and revenue budgets, HR, risk management as well as dealing with politicians at all levels.