

Council Trustees 2018-19



David Baldock, Chair Conservation Committee (Oct 2015-20)

David has worked in environmental policy all his life. After 18 years as Executive Director, he is now a Senior Fellow of the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), the leading think tank on the environment in the EU. He established the Institute's agricultural policy work in the mid 1980s and remains a leading authority on the Common Agricultural Policy, the single most important issue affecting birds and other wildlife in the countryside. David is a trustee of Green Alliance and board member of Greener UK. He has been responsible for a series of research projects on agriculture, rural development, nature conservation, climate and other policies in Europe, and regularly gives evidence to parliamentary committees and advice to government agencies.



Helen Browning OBE (Oct 2017-22)

Helen Browning runs a tenanted 1,350 acre organic livestock and arable farm in Wiltshire, which supplies branded pork products to multiple retailers, independent outlets and export, and runs the village pub too! Helen became Chief Executive of the Soil Association in March 2011, having been its Chair in the late 90s, and prior to that was Director of External Affairs at the National Trust. Helen is a member of the RSA's Food Farming and Countryside Commission and has been involved in several similar initiatives over the years, including the 'Curry' Commission on the Future of Farming and Food; the Agriculture and Environment Biotechnology Commission; the Meat and Livestock Commission, and was Chair of the England Implementation Group for the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy. She was awarded an OBE in 1998 for services to organic farming.



John Bullock, Chair, Fundraising & Communications Committee (Oct 2018-23, 2nd term)

John has headed multi-national businesses and been a Board member in several countries. He recently stood down as Executive Vice President of Shell Global Retail, a business employing thousands of people across the world in many different forms of partnership. Originally trained as a research scientist, John is impressed with RSPB's commitment to evidence-based advocacy/campaigning. He has a wealth of experience of strategic business management, financial affairs, partnerships and brand development, and is well practised in handling challenging issues and crisis management. With a lifelong passion and appreciation of all wildlife and the countryside, he regularly visits nature reserves on the north Norfolk coast. John shares his wife's passion for helping children appreciate art, nature and wildlife, through education. He is a member of NT and Norfolk Wildlife Trust, and lives in Surrey.



Victoria Chester, Chair, Committee for England (co-opted Dec 2018-Oct 2019)

Victoria is Chief Executive of the Bristol Animal Rescue Centre (which combines RSPCA Bristol and the Bristol Dogs and Cats Home). She was formerly Executive Director of the Prince's Foundation for Building Community, Chief Executive of Plantlife, CEO for the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Acting Joint CEO at the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, and Chair of the Wildlife and Countryside Link. Victoria's family formerly farmed 1700 acres of mixed arable and dairy in Hampshire. Before entering the NGO sector, Victoria worked in law in the USA and as a solicitor in the UK. She is currently a lay minister in the Church of England. Victoria was one of three speakers with Sir David Attenborough at the inaugural launch of The State of Nature Report and is a strong advocate of partnership working to secure long-term conservation gains.



Kevin Cox, Chair of Council (Oct 2017-22)

Kevin served on RSPB Council from 2011-2016 and was appointed Chair of Council in 2017. He was actively involved in magazine publishing and was Chairman and Chief Executive of Origin Publishing, a company he founded in 1996 and subsequently sold to BBC Magazines. His interest in international conservation led to his involvement with the World Land Trust where he is a Council member and Chair of its trading company. He is a former Chair of Devon Birds and a member of the BTO, WWT and Devon Wildlife Trust amongst other conservation organisations. He lives in Devon on the edge of Dartmoor where he and his wife manage 130 acres of woodland and meadows as a nature reserve.



Robert Cabbage, Treasurer (Oct 2018-23)

Robert's career to date was an Audit Partner in Ernst & Young (EY) for 25 years, latterly he was the Global lead advisor to one of the largest banking organisations in the world. He held various leadership roles within EY, including responsibility for Banking on the EMEIA and UK leadership teams. He has strong financial, risk, governance, advisory and strategic experience. He also holds roles in Mohara, a technology provider and LQID, a prospective bank and provides executive coaching. A keen birder all his life, he is determined to visit many of the Reserves across the UK that he does not know.



Professor Colin Galbraith, Chair, Committee for Scotland (Oct 2018-23, 2nd term)

Colin runs an environmental consultancy working in Scotland and globally. Former Director of Policy and Advice at Scottish Natural Heritage; previously involved with United Nations, the Convention on Migratory Species (Chairman and Vice Chairman of its Scientific Council), and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Has chaired and led high profile nature conservation issues internationally, including new agreements to assist the conservation of birds of prey and albatross. Also involved in reviewing the impact of climate change on the ecology of threatened species. Has an Honorary Professorship in Conservation Science at the University of Stirling and lives in Edinburgh.



Professor Rosie Hails MBE (Oct 2017-22)

Rosie is the Director of Nature & Science at the National Trust, a post which she took up in July 2018. Her role will be to develop the Trust's research portfolio, and develop the science evidence base upon which decisions are made. Formerly she was the Director of Biodiversity & Ecosystem Science at the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology. Rosie is chair of the DEFRA Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE), Vice President of the British Ecological Society and co-founded the Natural Capital Initiative in collaboration with the BES and The Royal Society of Biology. In 2015 Rosie became a member of the NERC Science Board. She is a visiting professor at Exeter University. In June 2000, she was awarded an MBE for services to environmental research.



Clive Mellon, Chair, Committee for Northern Ireland (Oct 2015-2020)

Clive graduated in law from Queen's University Belfast, where he completed a thesis on nature conservation legislation in Northern Ireland. He then embarked on a career in the voluntary environment sector with Ulster Wildlife, National Trust and RSPB Northern Ireland, where he worked for 13 years as Conservation Manager and Acting Director.

Now a Director of an environmental consultancy, Clive is also a member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and was previously a Board member of the Ulster Wildlife Trust. He lives in Belfast but enjoys spending time with his family studying butterflies and moths at their cottage in the Fermanagh hills.



Viscount Chris Mills (Oct 2017-22)

Chris started his career with the Salmon Research Trust of Ireland and the National Rivers Authority from 1980 to 1995 before moving to the Environment Agency where he was influential in shaping the Environment Bill, establishing the role and powers of the Environment Agency. Chris went on, in 2003, to become Head of Wildlife, Recreation and Marine and set up the EA's first Marine Policy Unit which produced the EA's first Marine Strategy and State of the Marine Environment Report. Chris became Director Wales for EA in 2006, where he helped to manage the transition from the Environment Agency Wales' to Natural Resources Wales (NRW). In 2014, he was appointed Director of Resource Efficiency, Northern Ireland EA where he led the regulation of major industry, waste and water in Northern Ireland.

Chris is currently a Director of the Angling Trust and a member of the RSPB Country Advisory Committee for Wales.



Stephen Moss (Oct 2015-20)

Stephen is one of Britain's leading wildlife writers, broadcasters and natural history television producers, specialising in British birds and wildlife. He was one of the founding producers of the BAFTA-award-winning Springwatch, and his other TV credits include Birding with Bill Oddie, The Nature of Britain and Birds Britannia. He has written many books, including Wild Hares and Hummingbirds, Wild Kingdom and Mrs Moreau's Warbler: How Birds Got Their Names, and he also writes the Guardian's regular monthly 'Birdwatch' column. He is currently Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at Bath Spa University. An RSPB (and YOC) member since his childhood in London, he now lives with his family on the Somerset Levels, where he is President of the Somerset Wildlife Trust.



Neal Ransome (Oct 2014-19)

Neal qualified as a chartered accountant and corporate financier with PwC and as a partner led their Pharmaceutical & Healthcare Corporate Finance business. He was also Chief Operating Officer of PwC's Advisory Services division, a business with 5,000 staff and revenues of £1 billion, and a member of the firm's Corporate Sustainability Governance Board. He left PwC in 2013 and is now a non-executive chairman and director of three investment trusts focused on healthcare and early stage companies. With a keen interest in birds and environmental conservation, Neal has volunteered for both the RSPB and London Wildlife Trust, and is a member of the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust and Surrey Bird Club. He lives in London, is a fellow of the RSA, and is currently taking a course in social anthropology.



Martin Saunders (Oct 2017-22)

Martin joined international law firm, Clifford Chance as a trainee in 1989, qualified as a solicitor in 1991 and was a partner in the firm from 2001 until 2016. During his career there he advised businesses, public authorities and individuals on commercial litigation, regulatory investigations and risks relating to white collar crime. He set up and led a pro bono relationship providing free legal advice to the RSPB. In that capacity he worked on a range of legal and reputational issues covering the Society's work in the UK and overseas and also supported its fundraising activities.

Martin has always been interested in wildlife and conservation. He first joined the RSPB as a teenager and has continued to support the Society throughout his adult life. Martin now divides his time between London and the wildlife rich High Weald AONB in East Sussex. Over the last year he has volunteered with conservation work parties on the RSPB's reserves at Fore Wood and Tudeley Woods and has completed a training course in bird survey techniques.



Matt Taylor (Oct 2018-23)

Matt leads the engagement with portfolio companies in Generation Investment's Growth Equity group. Generation were founded in 2004 to back sustainable businesses, and in their Growth Equity group they invest in companies which are helping accelerate the move to a smart, low carbon economy. Prior to working with Generation, Matt was a Partner with Bain & Co., the global management consultancy, where he focused on strategy development and organisational design.

Matt has been a lifelong member of the RSPB and the YOC. He is married to Katie, and has two sons, Jamie and Alex.



Kerry ten Kate (Oct 2018-23)

Kerry is the Director of the Biodiversity Initiative at conservation charity Forest Trends, advising governments and companies on law, policy and strategy for ensuring conservation in the context of development. She founded and directs the Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme (BBOP): 80 companies, banks, government agencies and NGOs working for 'Biodiversity Net Gain' through avoidance and minimisation of impacts, and finally compensation. Formerly a barrister in London, Kerry served on the Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 (the 'Rio Earth Summit'). She was policy adviser and head of the CBD Unit at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Director of Investor Responsibility at asset manager Insight Investment. Kerry is a member of IUCN's Species Survival Commission, the Aldersgate Group and Conservation Fellow at the Zoological Society of London.



Jennifer Ullman (Oct 2014-19)

Jennifer's career has focused on the management of public landscapes, including parks, commons and historic gardens. Previously Chief Parks Officer for Wandsworth Borough Council, she was responsible for more than 40 public spaces with c.22 million visitors a year. Jennifer has a strong interest in charity governance, having served as a trustee of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, where she chaired the Audit and Risk Committee. She also has a strong interest in funding for the charitable sector having previously been a member of the London Committee of the Heritage Lottery Fund giving out grants across the London region. Jennifer splits her time between Surrey where she is a member of the RSPB's Guildford Local Group, and Hampshire, where she volunteers for the Chichester Harbour Conservancy.



Prof Sir Adrian Webb, Chair Committee for Wales (Oct 2017-22)

Adrian has had two contemporaneous careers: academic and public service. He was a lecturer at London School of Economics, Professor and then Deputy Vice Chancellor at Loughborough University, and Vice Chancellor Glamorgan University. He was in public service in Whitehall, including Department for Education, Department of Health and Social Services, the Lord Chancellor's Department, and HM Treasury. He was also NED on Welsh Government Board, Commissioner UK Employment and Skills Board and Welsh Chair, Member Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council, and served on numerous committees/enquiries. Currently, he is a member of Big Lottery Fund UK board and Chair in Wales, and Chair of the Ministerial Advisory Board on the Welsh Economy. Adrian has contributed significantly to the work of the RSPB during his time on the Committee for Wales and his expertise and familiarity with public policy and the Welsh political context will be particularly valuable to Council in this post Brexit period.

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