

Notice of the 80th Annual General Meeting

The 80th Annual General Meeting of the British Trust for Ornithology will be held at 6pm on Saturday 7 December 2019 during the BTO Annual Conference at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick.

The agenda and supporting papers are available to view and download at www.bto.org/about-bto/governance. Paper copies may be obtained by telephoning 01842 750050.

By order of the Board
Mr A Scott
Secretary

Agenda

1. Chair

Mr F R Gardner OBE TD VR FRGS, having been duly appointed by the Board as President under Article 6b of the Articles of Association, will take the chair.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Minutes

To approve the minutes of the 79th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 8 December 2018. Copies are available online at www.bto.org/about-bto/governance or on request to the Secretary.

4. Annual Report & Accounts

To receive the 85th Annual Report and Accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2019.

Prof Gill will introduce the Trustees' Annual Report and Mr Packer will introduce the Accounts.

Copies are available online at www.bto.org/about-bto/governance or on request to the Secretary.

5. Elections

The terms of office of Mr D Jardine and Lt Col R C Dickey expire this year.

Following an open recruitment exercise undertaken by the Governance and Nominations Committee the Board proposes that Ms S Guy and Mr S Marquis be elected to serve as Ordinary Members of the Board until 31 December 2023. Candidate statements are given below.

6. Appointment of Auditors

The Board proposes that Ensors Chartered Accountants be re-appointed as auditors of the Trust.

7. Any Other Business

Please notify the Secretary of any business to be raised under this item by 4:30pm on the day of the meeting.

After the formal business of the meeting has concluded, the Officers and senior staff will be available to answer any questions that have not arisen during the formal business.

Biographies of Board members may be viewed on the Governance and Accounts page of the BTO web site www.bto.org/about-bto/governance

Sophie Guy

Sophie was raised in a small town called Westgate-on-sea on the Kent coast. It was there that her love of the natural world and bird watching began. Her weekends as a young girl were spent crabbing at Pegwell Bay or spotting different types of gulls in Ramsgate harbour. She did a degree in social sciences and psychology at the University of Kent, and it was there that she explored the psychological and mental health benefits of incorporating nature into our daily lives.

Upon leaving university, Sophie pursued her dream of becoming an editor, and went to work at Oxford University Press in their education department. In 2014, she began work as a development editor at children's publisher, IglooBooks, writing and publishing books for DreamWorks, Postman Pat, JCB and Little Tikes. Working in a converted barn next to a reservoir, it was then that her love of the natural world developed further and she continued to use animals and wildlife in her published work. Sophie took up a new role as communications editor at Volkswagen Financial Services in 2016 and promoted new ways in which to engage audiences with complex financial information. In 2018, she started a new role as editor at Macmillan Cancer Support, specialising in taking complex clinical information and editing it for readability.

In 2017, Sophie decided to use her professional skills to pursue her passion for British wildlife and had the privilege of being appointed as a trustee for the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. In her role, she primarily provides insight and advice on aspects of social media and communications in relation to the society.

She continues to encourage others to take an interest in wildlife, and has recently been asked to present her garden at her town's open garden event, as an example of 'nature in a new build'. Although living in a new build house in a suburban estate, she has pheasants, bullfinches, hedgehogs and woodpeckers as regular visitors. She often fosters hedgehogs over winter and regularly helps out at her local hedgehog rescue, providing administration support when organising their first charity ball.

She has undertaken several courses at the Open University in Ecology, and is extremely proactive in furthering her ornithological knowledge. Her areas of expertise are in communicating complex information to a variety of audiences, and inspiring an interest in ornithology and wildlife across all ages and backgrounds.

Simon Marquis

Simon was brought up in Hertfordshire and now lives in Cornwall and London. He spent over 40 years working in the advertising and marketing industry. He was editorial director of a number of marketing magazines and later became CEO of one of the UK's biggest media agencies before taking on a range of advisory and non-executive roles in, amongst others, a FTSE 250 printing company, PR agency, research business, events and publishing company and the government's communications agency the COI. He was also, until 2017, a director of the Isles of Scilly Steamship Company. Recently he has helped a new digital agency specialising in Influencer Marketing develop its website, marketing credentials and new business presentations. He has also chaired a fund-raising committee for the advertising industry's charity NABS.

He was educated at Lancing College and has a history degree from Cambridge University. He has had an interest in and love of birds since childhood and became a trustee of the RSPB in the 1990's and chaired its Education and Membership committee. He was also on the panel responsible for the appointment of a new chief executive. Now that he spends much of his time in Cornwall, he is involved with the local birdwatching society and has edited its quarterly newsletter for 13 years.