

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025



**Worcestershire  
Wildlife Trust**

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Lower Smite Farm on Saturday 11 October 2025 at 2:00 pm

## AGENDA

1. Apologies.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16 October 2024 (see: [www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/about-us/how](http://www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/about-us/how) we are run).
3. Matters arising from the Minutes.
4. To receive and adopt the Report of Council.
5. To receive and adopt the Report of the Honorary Treasurer.
6. To elect Members of Council. The following members have retired by rotation and are standing for re-election; John Blakiston, Lyndon Bracewell, Gail Devries, Bob Gillmor and Chris Greensmith.
7. To appoint Auditors.
8. Any other business.

Bob Gillmor (Honorary Secretary)

After the formal business of the meeting the Chair will present awards made by the Trust for service to wildlife conservation.

The awards will be followed by talks from Trust staff.

## VOTING

Members only are allowed to vote at the AGM. Each standard membership is issued with one special green membership card which should be used for voting at the AGM.

## PROXY VOTING

If you cannot attend the AGM but would like to vote, you can obtain a form to appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf. These forms are available on request from the Director at Lower Smite Farm.

## Details supplied by members standing for election to Council at 2025 AGM

### CHRIS GREENSMITH

I am a keen nature lover with a particular passion for otters and an enthusiasm for exploring the Scottish highlands and islands – two interests which, fortunately, can often be combined. I join the Trust's roving volunteers when I can and I'm the volunteer reserve warden for the Trust's Hardwick Green Meadows, a rare floodplain nature reserve in the south of the county. Previously I was a practising solicitor; in 2018 I completed a degree in Ecology and Environmental Science at the University of Worcester, followed by a Masters by Research (MRes) in River Science.

### BOB GILLMOR

I am retired after 23 years in international transport with a large manufacturing company, ten with my own company and a third career, self-employed as a driving instructor.

Joining the Trust in the late 1980s, I first volunteered in Tiddesley Wood work parties and became closely involved with the SE Worcestershire Local Group, helping to lead Tiddesley Wood Open Day and log sales.

First elected to Council in 2001, I served as Honorary Secretary between 2011 and 2016, civic duties in Pershore causing me to step back before picking it up again in 2023. I am also privileged to serve as a trustee of Vale Landscape Heritage Trust and the Friends of Avon Meadows CIO. My natural history interests focus mainly on moths and wetland species but spiders are a fascinating diversion. Health and Safety remains a long-term key interest and I bring a range of business skills to Council and the wide-ranging Secretary role. I strongly believe in the continuing strength of this Trust's partnership between trustees, staff and volunteers.

*Protecting wildlife where we live*

## JOHN BLAKISTON

I have been a member of the Trust for over 25 years and am passionate about wildlife in my local area. At the start of 2017 I was co-opted to Council and elected to the role of Honorary Treasurer. While I had little experience of working with charities before the Trust, I have gained over 15 years' experience working in senior management teams in industry, mainly in the packaging and automotive sectors. I have now been working for eight years as a self-employed finance director working for a number of smaller businesses and the experience I have gained is giving me very relevant experience to bring to the Trust. I am a qualified chartered management accountant and trained with Coopers and Lybrand in Birmingham.

## GAIL DEVRIES

I am a former charity chief executive and board director, having been the lead person in several social welfare charities in London and the southeast. My skills, knowledge and experience include business development, organisational strategy, planning, income generation, HR, services and project management, marketing and communications. I have had experience of dealing with the Charity Commission, preparing the annual report and accounts, and have worked with a range of grant funding bodies.

I have had a great interest in nature and wildlife since I was a child growing up in Warwickshire. After leaving university I moved to Bexley for work and met my husband, a fellow nature lover and wildlife photographer. We joined Kent Wildlife Trust and explored wildlife via many trips in the UK and abroad.

In late 2016 we moved north of Kidderminster and joined WWT; we manage our large garden organically and aim to help wildlife thrive there. I am a member of the Trust's Wyre Forest Local Group, an active member of Wyre Forest U3a and a volunteer gardener at Arley Arboretum. I also volunteer with the Alpine Garden Society and organise an annual alpine flower show and several open garden days at their demonstration garden in Pershore.

I understand the trustee role very well, having been a trustee previously for Relate Severn and Wye and the Alpine Garden Society. In 2024 I stepped down from these roles to join WWT as a co-opted trustee. I recognise the importance of good governance and believe I can make a valuable contribution to WWT by using the skills, knowledge and experience I have gained throughout my paid career and my voluntary roles.

## LYNDON BRACEWELL

Soon after moving to Worcester in 2003 I became a member and volunteer of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust including as a committee member for Worcester Local Group. I greatly admire the organisation's success as the leading environmental charity in the county and strongly believe that WWT can and will have an important role to play in ensuring Worcestershire's nature recovery.

I have been a geography teacher, town planner and economic regeneration officer. Although always working in the public sector I have considerable experience of successfully working in partnership with a range of private and third sector organisations. Now retired, I am keen to apply the skills and knowledge I have gained to help support the organisation's future development.

My experience has provided me with the following broad areas of expertise that could prove useful as a Worcestershire Wildlife Trust trustee:

- Business skills: regularly involved in supporting businesses and assessing business suitability and viability for public sector grant and loan support
- Funding and contracts: successfully bidding for grant funding and contracts and directly managed substantial funding programmes
- Partnership working: worked within and led multi-agency partnerships, developing an ability to work effectively and collaboratively with a wide range of stakeholders
- Public sector: sound understanding of internal processes and political environment in which councils and other public sector organisations have to operate
- Planning: work experience may be relevant to the Trust's work in influencing planning decisions to maximise benefits for nature
- Management/HR: considerable experience in recruiting and managing large and successful teams whilst ensuring fair employment practices
- Charity: volunteer director for five years with CTC Cycling Holidays and Tours Ltd (a wholly owned trading subsidiary of the Cycling UK charity), gaining an understanding of charitable status and its implications for any trading company