

Dorset CAN Election Details for AGM 2025 - Trustees and Other Positions

Trustees:

Vicki Elcoate - Appointed 30th Aug 2023 (Chair)

Sandra Reeve - Appointed 9th May 2024

Tracee Cossey - Appointed 9th May 2024

Giles Watts - Appointed 30th Aug 2023

Belinda Bawden - Appointed 30th Aug 2023

Sam Wilberforce - Appointed 30th Aug 2023

Helen Sumbler - Appointed 30th Aug 2023

Henry Lovegrove - Appointed 30th Aug 2023 (Treasurer)

Jenny Morrisetti - Appointed 30th Aug 2023

Colin Tracy - Appointed 9th May 2024

All trustees appointed on 30th August 2023 have been asked if any of them wish to retire (as trustees retire in order of whom has stood the longest), no-one chose to retire at this stage.

This was then followed by a 'lot' of all trustees appointed on the 30th Aug 23 (names drawn from a hat) to make up numbers to 3.

Once chosen, they can choose to be re-elected at the AGM and remain as a trustee starting a new 3 year term, or retire. Chosen by 'lot' on 01/05/25 were:

Giles Watts - Restanding

Belinda Bawden - Restanding

Jenny Morrisetti - Retiring

Giles Watts – Restanding for a term of 3 years

Giles Watts

I came to eco-activism late in my career having worked for many years as a geophysicist in the Energy Industry. The science is completely clear and the impacts of global warming on biodiversity loss and climate change are having a brutal impact on the whole world. It is now up to all of us to do what we can, however small, to address the issues - especially at a local level. I have been working with Dorset CAN now for almost 5 years. Initially I collaborated with the late Michael Dower in the Advocacy Team, before leading the Dorset Deserves Better Team campaign and the engagement with Dorset Council. I am also co-chair of the Energy Team, am the contact for the Transport Team and have been a coordinator for the Action Team twice. In my spare time I am also Secretary of the Dorchester Transport Action Group, trustee for Sustainable Dorset and on the advisory board for Zero Carbon Dorset.

Belinda Bawden – Restanding for a term of 3 years

One of the original co-founders of Dorset CAN, my professional background was in transport policy, marketing in trans-national business and then in education. I have travelled widely and lived overseas before moving to the South West to bring up my daughters. As a geographer, I have always been interested in how we interact with our natural environment but became so concerned about the lack of political will to tackle the climate and ecological crises that I joined my local town council in 2019 then was elected to Dorset Council in a by-election in 2022 and re-elected in 2024. I have the Foundation Certificate in Environmental Management, am a member of IEMA and a certified Carbon Literacy facilitator, enabling DCAN to offer Carbon Literacy training for town and parish councils and community groups and gain Silver level accreditation as a Carbon Literate Organisation. I'm convinced that community action, supported by Dorset Council and proactive town and parish councils, can and should be engaging everyone to share ideas and action for a cleaner, greener, fairer future in Dorset and beyond.

Jenny Morrisetti - Retiring

We give our heartfelt thanks to Jenny who has seen DorsetCAN grow over the years, and as a founding trustee of DorsetCAN also helped us through a period of change as we became a charity. We wish Jenny all the best with her many other endeavours and work. Jenny remains a member of our Action Team.

New People Standing:

Nicola Harris – Standing

I believe that community-driven climate action is one of the most powerful tools we have to drive change, whether that be shifting individual behaviour or influencing policies at the local, national and international levels.

For over 20 years, I've worked as a community organiser on climate justice, environmental protection, animal advocacy, and peace. I am a cofounder and Vice President of the Plant Based Treaty initiative, which has been signed by 40 cities worldwide to call for a global treaty as a companion to the Paris Agreement, to address a third of greenhouse gas emissions from the food system. Our advocacy has helped secure ambitious municipal food strategies that increase access to healthy, sustainable, plant-based options. I also co-authored the Safe and Just report, presented at COP28, which is now being used by councils to shape climate-friendly food policies.

I studied Psychology and Computing at Bournemouth University, where I developed a strong foundation in human behaviour, information design and effective communication. I bring this skillset into all my advocacy work—from strategy and messaging to visual communication. In my free time, I serve on the advisory board of Project Phoenix (a CIC focused on movement-building for animal freedom) and volunteer my graphic design skills to various non-profits.

John West - Standing

I have long been passionate about environmental issues. In our twenties, my wife Sarah and I formed South Dorset Friends of the Earth. The Group achieved nationally recognised campaign success. Eleven years ago, we moved to Bridport, where I became an active member of Sustainable Bridport and West Dorset Friends of the Earth. I am also a member of the Dorset Wildlife Trust and a shareholder in several community energy schemes.

For the last nine years, I have worked to establish the West Bay Discovery Centre. While the Centre focuses on heritage, it also engages visitors on climate change, marine pollution and wildlife conservation. Currently, I am a trustee of two local charities, the Friends of West Bay Discovery Centre and the Bridport Area Development Trust.

My professional background includes Local Government and the NHS, with experience in finance, business change, and programme and project management. I also served as a District Councillor in Weymouth for six years, during which I chaired the Planning Committee. I believe in seeking to influence policy direction and change at both national and local government levels and in practical initiatives like the Great Big Dorset Hedge, which engage the local community.

Max Griffith - Standing

I've lived in Cerne Abbas since 2011 having retired in 2008. I'm a member of Sustainable Cerne Valley and DCAN where I'm attempting to form an action group which may be called Dorset WIT (Waste Innovation Team).

I created 4RFuture.org (Reduce, Reuse, Repair, then Recycle), a free to use non copyright tool. Fundamentally, I'm an inventor and designer, but have had a career in the hospitality industry where I led teams which built large hotels and carried out major refurbishments throughout the UK and western europe (Intercontinental Hotel Group). Later, as a consultant, I was responsible for hotel design and cost modelling for Whitbread and for special projects. I helped them to enter the FTSE4GOOD Index. During this period I invented 'CoolFire' which combines bedroom cooling with fire suppression using a single pipe network instead of two thereby saving around 20% in cost and installation time.

I represented IHG at the 'International Hotels Environmental Initiative' set up by HRH Prince Charles in the 1990's.

Although I have no experience as a Trustee I may be able to contribute some project management, cost control and perhaps innovation should these be required along with an interest in the environment which first started when I designed a CHP (combined heat and power unit) for my first home in 1971. Unfortunately, at the time, it was unaffordable!

Chair

Victoria Elcoate will be standing down as chair at the AGM. Vicki will continue as a Trustee, she welcomes anyone who is interested in becoming a trustee to contact her to learn more about the role - email dorsetcan@gmail.com

Giles Watts will be standing to be elected as Chair (bio above)

New Trustees

Holding the position of Trustee is both Interesting and rewarding, we welcome any of our members who wish to stand for election as a Trustee to put themselves forward. You can do this by emailing dorsetcan@gmail.com by the end of Thursday 22nd May including a brief Bio and description of your relevant experience. Anyone wishing to learn more about the role is welcome to contact Vicki Elcoate to arrange a chat about the role on the same email.