Meet Dorset Wildlife Trust’s Board of Trustees:

Jo Davies, MBE - Chair

Jo Davies, who became the Chair of DWT in March 2018, has been engaged in the voluntary sector all her life, starting up charities involved in education and disability. Until recently Jo was Chair of Green Island Holiday Trust founded in 1991 and for which she received a MBE in 2002 and has been a Trustee of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Endowment Trust. She has been involved with Dorset Wildlife Trust for many years having been brought in by DWT’s late President Helen Brotherton to run the fundraising for the purchase of Brooklands Farm, DWT’s headquarters. She has sat on various committees during that time and is currently a member of the Corporate Board, Finance & Property Panel, Fundraising & Marketing Panel, and the Brownsea Development Group. Jo has a particular interest in the financial governance of DWT and the development of visitor centres. She is passionate about the natural world with a special interest in birds. Her hobbies include cooking, gardening, walking, birdwatching and music. Jo is also kept busy with 10 grandchildren.

Jim White, MBE, BSc – Vice Chair

Jim is a keen naturalist and has been a DWT member since moving to Dorset in 1979. He has always been passionate about nature and worked his entire professional career in nature conservation. He started on research after his first degree in botany, followed by posts in Field Studies Council, at Slapton Ley; being the first employed conservation officer for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust; Hampshire County Council’s Recreation Dept; and conservation officer for the Nature Conservancy Council in Dorset. With NCC he had direct responsibility for the identification and designation of the full range of special sites across Dorset, and for devising and ensuring implementation of suitable management measures. He played a major role in the identification and formulation of the strategy that led to the successful acquisition by DWT of the former Kingcombe Farm in 1986/7. After the reorganization of the NCC into country agencies he served 13 years as the Dorset team manager for English Nature. He retired in 2006 and since then has served on DWT’s Council. Jim currently chairs the Trust’s Conservation and SNCI Panels and was appointed as a Vice Chair of Council in 2018; he is also Chair of the Dorset AONB Partnership Board. He was made an MBE in 2008 for services to nature conservation in Dorset.
Professor Mark Kibblewhite, PhD, MBA, CChem, FRSC, CEnv, FIAgrE – Vice Chair

Mark returned to the beloved Dorset landscape of his childhood and family in 2013 and lives in Beaminster. Mark became a trustee of DWT in 2016 and was appointed as a Vice Chair in 2018. He graduated in chemistry at York and has a PhD in soil science from Aberdeen and an MBA from Cranfield. Initially, he worked in the water industry and the civil service on water treatment and quality, agricultural and food resources, air quality and contaminated land. After being a Divisional MD at Hyder Consulting (now Arcadis), he was Head of Land Quality at the Environment Agency before being appointed Director of the National Soil Resources Institute at Cranfield University, where he is now an Emeritus Professor. He researches soil systems at scales from the very small to the global and how these support ecosystems and natural capital. He was chair of the European Soil Bureau Network (the European Commission’s technical panel for soil) and is a Past President of the Institution of Agricultural Engineers, a Council Member of the Society for the Environment, an Emeritus Research Associate of Landcare Research New Zealand and a trustee of the Douglas Bomford Trust. Mark is a Quaker and a member of Bridport Meeting. His passions are the natural world, sailing and music.

Tony Bates, MBE, BSc, CEng, MIMM – Trustee

Tony Bates is also President of the Dorset Wildlife Trust, which he joined in the early 1970s. His career was as a materials scientist in the engineering industry in the UK, Europe and Australia. Tony has had a lifelong passion for wildlife and his concern for conservation issues led to volunteering for many years. He became a Council member of the Dorset Wildlife Trust in 1991 and was appointed Chairman in 1999, the position he held until 2010. From 2002 until 2006 he served as a Council member of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts representing the South West Wildlife Trusts. He is an experienced natural history photographer and lecturer. Tony was appointed an MBE in 2015 for services to conservation of wildlife in Dorset.
Professor Nigel Webb, BSc, PhD, DSc, C Biol FRSB

Nigel read zoology at the University of Wales followed by postgraduate research in Denmark into the invertebrate fauna of heathland soils. He was appointed to the staff of the Nature Conservancy’s Furzebrook Research Station in Dorset in 1967 and retired as Deputy Director of the Station in 2002. An internationally known ecologist, he is best known as an authority on the ecology and conservation of European heathlands. He has also worked extensively in soil biology especially in the high Arctic. He has written or edited seven books, the best known being his volume in the Collins New Naturalist series entitled Heathlands. He has held honorary professorships at the Universities of Liverpool and Bournemouth. Nigel has served on the Council of the British Ecological Society and was Editor of the Journal of Applied Ecology. He served the Royal Society of Biology as Chairman of the Environment Committee and as the Vice-President in charge of science policy. He joined the Dorset Wildlife Trust in 1970 and has served as Chairman of the Conservation Panel from 1980, Vice Chairman of the Council from 1998-2010 and Chairman of the Council from 2010 to 2018.

Kelvyn Derrick, OBE, BSc, MSc (Econ)

Kelvyn has extensive international business experience and until 2007 was the Chief Executive of the Poole-based company Hamworthy plc. He has held many non-executive Director roles with organizations such as South West Regional Development Agency, the Society of Maritime Industries, Regen SW, and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. He is deeply interested in environmental challenges serving as a Trustee of the DWT since 2012 and chairing its Commercial Board. He is also a Trustee of Forum for the Future, a charity working globally with business, government and other organizations to solve complex sustainability challenges. Kelvyn was awarded an OBE for services to engineering and international trade in 2009.
**John Gaye**

John first developed his passion for conservation and wildlife during his twenty years in the Army, serving with the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. Then, on attending the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester, he learnt so much more about biodiversity and habitat management while training in agricultural and estate management. John went on to become a land agent, then farmer and businessman. He is now retired. He has been a member of DWT since 1983 and a Trustee since 1997. He was Chairman of the Dogs Trust and is currently a trustee of the Worldwide Veterinary Service. He chairs the DWT Marketing Panel and the DWT Sherborne Regional Members’ Group.

**John Raymond DL**

John qualified as a solicitor in 1970 and joined the then firm of Luff Raymond & Williams in Wimborne. He was the third generation of his family to be a partner in the firm. In 1981 he left and, with David Steele, formed the firm of Steele Raymond in Bournemouth. In 1987 that firm merged with Luff Raymond and Williams thus reuniting him with his legal roots. He retired from practice in November 2006. He served in the Territorial Army Queen’s Own Dorset and West Somerset Yeomanry. He was a governor of Talbot Heath School and of Dumpton School where he was also Chairman. He has a wide experience as a trustee or president of a number of local charities and organizations and became a DWT Trustee in 2007. He is a Deputy Lieutenant of Dorset and was High Sheriff of Dorset 2008/09.
Anne Wheatcroft, BA, MSc

Anne became a Trustee in 2003, when she retired to Dorset. She trained as a statistician and spent the first part of her career in the Government Statistical Service, finally as the Chief Statistician in the Department of Employment responsible for the unemployment figures. She then moved into finance and management roles in DE, was Director of Personnel at HSE between 1994-1998 and then, until her retirement, Director of Business Services on the Board of the Valuation Office Agency. Anne became interested in wildlife through visiting wild places, particularly the Arctic, climbing and sea kayaking. Her primary interest is birds, but she aspires to be a competent all-round naturalist. She travels widely in search of wildlife in this country and abroad. Anne currently chairs the Personnel and Remuneration Panel of DWT and is also chair of the DWT West Dorset Local Area Group. She serves on several other panels.

Alick Simmons, BVMS, MSc, MRCVS

Alick Simmons is a veterinarian, naturalist and photographer. After a period in private practice, he followed a 35-year career as a Government veterinarian, latterly as the UK Government's Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer. Alick's lifelong passion is wildlife; he volunteers for the RPSB in Somerset, is deputy chair of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare and a member of the Wild Animal Welfare Committee and Oxford University's Animal Care and Ethical Review committee. A particular interest of Alick's is the ethics of wild animal management and welfare. Alick was appointed as a trustee of DWT in 2016 and is Chair of the Health & Safety Committee.
Jeremy read Zoology at Corpus Christi College Cambridge and studied for a PhD on Hairstreak butterflies at the Nature Conservancy’s Monks Wood laboratory. He transferred to Furzebrook Research Station in 1974 to study the large blue butterfly and its dependency on ants, and has led international research teams across Europe ever since. His aim has been to understand the ecology and drivers of change in insect populations well enough to reverse their declines, and to apply and test emerging results through large-scale conservation projects, exemplified by the recovery in the UK of the Adonis blue, black hairstreak and silver-spotted skipper and the restoration of the large blue butterflies. He also co-devised the UK’s Butterfly Monitoring and Mapping Schemes. Jeremy has written or edited 9 books, including the Wildlife Trusts’ RSNC Guide to Butterflies of the British Isles (now Philips Guide...), Butterflies of the British Isles, and Butterflies of Dorset. In 2003-07, he was Director of the Natural Environment Research Council’s Dorset Laboratory at Winfrith (the merged Furzebrook & East Stoke River labs) before becoming the Professor of Ecology at the University of Oxford (’07-’14). Recent service as a trustee includes New College, Oxford (Governing Body ’07-’14) and The Royal Entomological Society, of which he was President in ’12-’14 and the current chairman of its conservation committee.
Giles qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Price Waterhouse in 1992 and has over 19 years’ experience of working at Finance Director level in the charitable, education and health sectors. He has, within these roles, been the Chair of a number of specialist finance member bodies and is currently both the Deputy Director of Education/Finance Director of the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education and Chief Operating Officer of the Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust. He has a keen interest in nature and conservation and has been a member of DWT since moving to Dorset with his wife and 2 daughters 14 years ago. He was appointed as a trustee of DWT in 2017 and serves on the Finance & Property Panel.