

2023 ELECTION STATEMENTS

In accordance with our Articles, these Council members have retired by rotation and offer themselves for re-election:

PAUL BREWERTON

I have been an active member of the Trust since 2014 and have been a member of Council since 2016. I am currently chairman of the Trust Council and arrange crews for midweek and weekend charters at the Sudbury end of the river. I am also a member and former chairman of SBOC (Sudbury Boat Operations Committee).

My passion however is for crewing the trip boats, and I love meeting our customers, whether locals or visitors to the area, and showing them our river and telling them something of its history. I believe I have done a good job as a Council member for the last seven years and as chairman since 2019. I was active alongside others in the negotiations to secure a lease for Dedham lock and have recently taken on the vacant role of treasurer. I would welcome the opportunity to continue to serve.

STEPHEN DURHAM

I've been a health and safety professional for over thirty years in the maritime ports and merchant shipping sector, with the last fourteen years of my career at Trinity House. I joined RST in 2018 and I'm a Trustee, DVB Committee member, Skipper and regularly help with the River Maintenance Group. I have strived to ensure RST meets the challenges it faces; adapts to change; and as is reasonably practicable, compliant with its health and safety and environmental legal requirements; advising Council and developing workable and affordable policies accordingly. I'm also a qualified skills assessor and have been instrumental in developing our boat operations CPD system to comply with IWA COBM standards.

The next few years will be challenging as we face ever increasing costs as we embark on the Dedham Lock restoration project and essential maintenance of our other assets. I stand for re-election as a Trustee, as I've always been impressed by the dedication of its volunteers and I'm committed to ensure RST a long and prosperous future.

JIM LUNN

I am offering myself for re-election to the Council of Trustees for the RST. I have attended Council meetings on a regular basis over the years, and I hope that I have shown due diligence towards my duties, including facilitating First Aid for all volunteers and holding the licence for the Granary Bar. Over the years, I have enjoyed being an active volunteer such as being on the boats and helping at events, training new boating recruits, digitising our photographic archive and giving talks about the river and its history.

I always have the best interest of the Trust at heart and will continue to support the Trust either as a Director or as a volunteer.

In accordance with our Articles, these members have been nominated and offer themselves for election:

GRAHAM GARDNER

I joined the RST in 2014, I am a skipper at both ends of the river and this year was appointed River Stour Trust Boat Operations Manager. I have a maritime and business background having sailed in the Merchant Navy as a cadet and for a short time a deck officer. I hold various RYA sailing qualifications and have been an MCA/RYA sea survival instructor. My business activities commenced with starting a yacht charter company which, because of a customer inquiry, turned itself into a marine safety company. I have held life raft and lifejacket servicing certificates for various manufacturers. The company still trades today.