

RIVER STOUR TRUST COUNCIL

CANDIDATE ELECTION STATEMENTS 2026

RE-ELECTION (retired by rotation and offer themselves for re-election)

KEVIN TAYLOR

My Boating experience started from a young age at Shotley with sailing, racing and fishing. Later the Broads beckoned with many holidays there.

Moved onto the canals and inland waterways with part ownership of a canal boat, I have probably covered at least 60% of the canal network, but have now sold my boat share.

I joined RST 12 years ago and soon got involved the DVB committee taking on the role for our skipper training. We developed a programme that this year is expected to provide us with 12 new qualified skippers.

I took on the role of managing the relationship with the Talbooth Restaurant, which now provides a significant income for us regarding weddings, events and charters.

I was significantly involved with Dedham Mill in order to negotiate our lease on the lock.

I became a trustee when taking on the installation role for the Dedham Lock project.

ALAN RYAN

As chairperson of the Dedham Vale Boating Group, I see my role as bringing all the strengths of our very talented team together, and to educate as many as possible about the great area, which is the Stour Valley and, of course, the river which runs through it. We do this mainly by our boat trips and talks given by our volunteers. I enjoy being a Skipper and meeting as many other Skippers as possible. It's amazing what we can learn from each other while working on our boats.

I liaise with various statutory bodies like the National Trust, especially now when water levels are such an issue. I am working with Kevin Taylor to ensure we have a base at the Boatyard restaurant in Dedham and, to this end, have produced a draft contract for their agreement. The other main project I am heavily involved in is trying to establish an agreement on the barn where we store our boats. Hopefully that gives you a flavour of what my aims are.

JANE ROGERS

I have been a member of the Trust for several years, and have contributed in a number of roles over this time. Some of you may have seen me bankside at Flatford, or in the tea room at the Granary, and even in the office at one time to cover Cat's maternity leave. My service has also included two spells as a Trustee, and time as Company Secretary. S2C has been a particular favourite, even if not actually on the river. I hope that this experience, together with skills learned in my working life, will enable me to be a useful team member of Council and the Trust as a whole.

Since my re-appointment as a Trustee in 2020, I have continued to do my best to support the Trust in all its activities and will happily continue to do so, if it is your wish. Now in 2026, I would be very happy to serve as a Trustee for the Trust, and to continue to serve as Company Secretary for a further period.

NOMINATED FOR ELECTION (nominated/co-opted and offer themselves for election)

CAROL SHAKESPEARE

I am standing for the role as Treasurer. I am a fully qualified accountant (CIMA) and since retirement I have actively 'kept my hand in' by being the Auditor and Accountant for a few local organisations.

I feel that I can add value to the Trust with regards budgeting, planning, resolving general day to day accounting queries and being actively involved in the finalisation of the year end accounts. I can offer an alternative and broader prospective based on my time in Industry.

I have been a skipper on the lower river for the past 8 years, so I am familiar with the day to day operations on the river. I like working and helping people!