



British Ecological Society

**30<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
and Awards Ceremony**

# Agenda

**The AGM and Awards Ceremony will be held at 17:10 on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2010 in the Auditorium, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT, United Kingdom.**

**The agenda for the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the British Ecological Society is as follows:**

## **Review of the past year**

1. Acceptance of the minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> AGM held in the Auditorium, University of Hertfordshire, Dehavilland Campus, Hatfield on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009, and published in the December 2009 *Bulletin* **40 (4)**: 10-11.
2. Charles Darwin House – to receive an update of the position
3. Centenary celebrations – to receive an update of the position
4. The Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2009 (as published in the August 2010 *Bulletin* **40 (3)** and summarized in the Annual Report).
5. The reports of the Treasurer and the Auditors.
6. The reports of the Council Secretary and the Hon. Chairpersons of the Committees.
7. The reports of the Editors.

# Agenda

## Forth coming year

### 8. To elect Officers of Council of the Society

Present Officers		Retiring Date	Council Nominees
President:	C. Godfray	2011	
Past President:	M. Press	2010	
President Elect:		2011	G. Mace
Vice President:	M. Begon	2011	
Vice President:	C. Lessells	2010	W. Sutherland
Council Secretary:	G. Masters	2010	D. Hodgson
Honorary Treasurer:	C. Dytham	2010	D. Purves

Honorary Chairpersons of Committees		Retiring Date	Council Nominees
Meetings:	T. Jones	2010	A. Beckerman
Publications:	S. Hartley	2010	A. Gray
Public and Policy:	D. Osborn	2010	J. Vickery
Education, Training and Careers:	E. John	2012	

### 9. To elect Ordinary Members of Council

Present Members	Retiring Date	Nominees for election
P. Carey	2010	M. Crockatt
M. Palmer	2010	E. Goldberg
D. Hodgson	2010	W. Gosling
L. Batty	2011	M. Heard
D. Thompson	2011	R. Mitchell
T. Rotheray	2011	
J. Bale	2012	
T. Blackburn	2012	
A. Vanbergen	2012	
D. Coombes	2013	
R. Hails	2013	
T. Ezard (Early Career Rep.)	2013	

10. The appointment of the Auditors for 2010.

11. Auditor's remuneration.

12. Any other business.

- To be tabled in writing to the Council Secretary at least three weeks before the AGM.

# Awards Ceremony

<b>Awards to be made are:</b>	
Honorary Membership	Sir David Attenborough Professor Jane Lubchenco
Founders Prize	Dr Owen Lewis
BES Award	Professor Mike Hassell
Ecological Engagement Award	Dr Jenifer Owen
The Marsh Award for Ecology	Professor Jeremy Thomas
The Marsh Award for Climate Change Research	Professor Ian Woodward
The Marsh Book of the Year Award	Dr Michael Angilleta
Best Paper by a Young Author Prizes: Harper Prize ( <i>Journal of Ecology</i> ) Elton Prize ( <i>Journal of Animal Ecology</i> ) Southwood Prize ( <i>Journal of Applied Ecology</i> ) Haldane Prize ( <i>Functional Ecology</i> )	Dr Nina Wurzburger Dr Michael Sheriff Dr Christian Keribiriou Dr Cassie Majetic
Annual Meeting Prizes: Anne Keymer Prize Best Poster Prize	To be announced To be announced

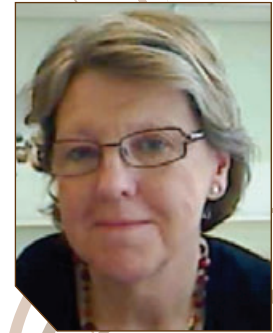
(The Annual Report has been available as a PDF on the website from 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2010. The minutes will be published in the December Bulletin)

# Nominations for BES Council

## President Elect

Georgina Mace - Imperial College London

Georgina Mace is Professor of Conservation Science at Imperial College London. Her research interests are in the assessment of extinction risk and measuring the trends and consequences of biodiversity loss. She led the process to develop, test and document criteria for listing species on IUCN's Red List of threatened species, and subsequently worked on the biodiversity elements of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and in the technical development of measures for the CBD 2010 target. She is now working on the UK National Ecosystem Assessment. From 2000 to 2006 she was Director of Science at the Zoological Society of London. In 2006 she moved to Imperial College London as Director of the NERC Centre for Population. She was awarded a CBE in 2007, elected FRS in 2002, and was the 2007 winner of the international Cosmos prize. She has been Vice President of the British Ecological Society (2001-2004), President of the Society for Conservation Biology (2007-2009) and Vice Chair of the international programme on biodiversity science DIVERSITAS (2007-2010).



# Nominations for BES Council

## Vice President

Bill Sutherland - University of Cambridge

Bill Sutherland has been a member of the BES since about the late Palaeolithic. For most of his career his research interests largely involve predicting the consequences of environmental change. He wrote *The Conservation Handbook*, the snappily titled *From Individual Behaviour to Population Biology* and was an author of *Bee conservation: evidence for the effectiveness of interventions*. He edited *Managing Habitats for Conservation, Ecological Census Techniques, Behaviour and Conservation, Conservation Science and Action and Bird Ecology and Conservation: a Handbook of Techniques*. He edits the *Techniques in Ecology and Conservation* series. These all make perfect birthday presents. He is an Editor in Chief for *Conservation letters*, an editor for *Conservation Evidence* and on the editorial board of *Behavioural Ecology*. He set up the Gratis book scheme to provide free conservation books to developing countries (over four thousand sent so far).

He is currently determined to change global conservation practice. This entails using horizon scanning to decrease the risk of being insufficiently prepared and evidence based conservation through the website [conservationevidence.com](http://conservationevidence.com) to enable practitioners to learn from existing science and the experience of others. He holds the Miriam Rothschild chair of Conservation Biology in the Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge.



# Nominations for BES Council

## Council Secretary

Dave Hodgson - University of Exeter

Dave Hodgson is a population ecologist, with key interests in the maintenance of biological diversity and in empirical modelling of population dynamics. He is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Exeter's Cornwall Campus. He has published research on a wide range of organisms and systems, including mathematical tools for population modelling, phenotypic diversity in baculoviruses, evolution of diversity in bacterial microcosms, maintenance of diversity in plant defence chemistry, transient population dynamics, consequences of feminisation in wild fish, the evolutionary ecology of lizards, host-pathogen evolutionary dynamics, growth and dispersal dynamics in aphids, migration decisions in wild geese, sexual conflict, and how to measure fitness. Dr Hodgson lectures undergraduate modules on UK Natural History, and postgraduate Statistical Methods. He was a Member of Council of the British Ecological Society 2008-2010, is a member of the advisory board of the Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, and sits on the Biodiversity Action Plan Committee for Cornwall. He is an Associate Editor for *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, and for *Endangered Species Research*. Dr Hodgson also engages in media work, including presenting a family wildlife documentary

“Wild Thing” in 2008, and supporting an amateur science project for Radio 4's *Material World* in 2010. In his spare time Dr Hodgson hosts three parasites (two human and one canine), sings for Warblefly (see them at a BES Annual General Meeting near you), and is chairman of a local Cornish conservation charity, the Carn Marth Trust.



# Nominations for BES Council

## Honorary Treasurer

Drew Purves - Microsoft, Cambridge

Drew Purves is head of the Computational Ecology and Environmental Science (CEES) group at Microsoft Research Cambridge, UK. The general goal of CEES is to develop the methods and tools necessary to predict the behaviour of ecological systems at a variety of spatial and temporal scales, with a current focus on modelling the role of the biosphere (especially forests) in the global carbon-climate feedback, and on modelling the response of ecosystems to anthropogenic perturbations. Microsoft is an unusual home for a research ecologist, but one that suits Purves, in part because of his developmental history: as a child, Purves was exposed much more to electronics and computers than he was to nature, and quickly became interested in science in general, maths, programming, and 'artificial life'. But thanks to a series of inspirational teachers – most importantly his A-level ecology teacher Mr Heppel who provided a copy of Begon Harper & Townsend at just the right time! – Purves became steadily more interested in the amazing realities of actual life, and eventually decided to focus on plant ecology for his BA at Cambridge. He completed his PhD with Richard Law at the University of York, followed by a 5-year postdoc with Steve Pacala at Princeton, before taking up his current position in

2007. Purves research has focussed on modelling plant communities, with a focus on bridging the gap between theory and data, to produce useful, accurate models that really help us to understand nature. Rather predictably, Purves enjoys walks in the country, gardening, growing food, and keeping an aquarium, but spends the vast majority of his non-work time looking after his two small children and his one small house.



# Nominations for BES Council

## Meetings Committee Chair

Andrew Beckerman - University of Sheffield

Andrew Beckerman grew up in Rockville, MD, USA (don't go back there). After a first degree at Tufts University in Boston and a few years teaching environmental education to inner city children and spoiled brats from the suburbs of New York and LA, he gained a Masters of Forest Science and then a PhD in Ecology from Yale University, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Building on his PhD work on terrestrial trophic cascades, tri-trophic interactions and community ecology, he moved to the UK in 1999 for a NERC PDRA position with Tim Benton at the University of Stirling. Research here focused on experimental, stochastic population dynamics. This was followed by a NERC fellowship, at the University of Sheffield, focused on the ecology, evolution and dynamics of predation risk (boo!), work that continues today. His current research is centred on the genomic basis and population consequences of predator induced phenotypic plasticity and the role of foraging biology in food webs. Andrew is currently a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Animal and Plant Sciences at Sheffield. His post docs and PhD students are supported by NERC, BBSRC, Marie Curie, CONYCIT (Chile) and the Swedish Government. CASE partners include the World Parrot Trust, Microsoft Research and the Freshwater

Biological Association. He was a BES Council Member from 2007-2010 and received great tutoring in Meetings Management from the esteemed Dr. Hefin Jones and Prof. Malcolm Press. Andrew rides an Orange P7 down hills quite fast (he thinks), likes computers that are also associated with fruit, plays bass in the band warblefly ([www.myspace.com/warblefly](http://www.myspace.com/warblefly)) and has two children and a wife.



# Nominations for BES Council

## Publications Committee Chair

### Alan Gray

Aside from some teaching and working on farms as a boy in Lincolnshire Alan Gray has had only one job. Following a PhD on genetic variation in the saltmarsh *Aster tripolium* he joined in 1968 the (then) Nature Conservancy (at Merlewood), an organisation which during his career became ITE and finally CEH. Alan retired in 2003 as Director of CEH Dorset, having been Head of ITE Furzebrook. Alan's research has followed the theme of genetic variation in plant populations, especially in zoned environments and, with some very talented students and colleagues, has published extensively on saltmarshes, population genetic structure, invasive species and gene flow. This last interest, in part, led to his occupancy in 1999 of what the media called "the hottest seat in science", Chairmanship of ACRE, the committee advising government on the release of genetically modified organisms. His lifelong interest in grasses led to his most recent publication, with Tom Cope, 'Grasses of the British Isles'. Alan's long association with the BES includes, among other things, being a Vice President, Chairing the Ecological Affairs and the Publications committees and, with Malcolm Cherret, being architect of the Society's first Strategic Plan. He and wife Sue have recently astonished many friends by leaving their beachside house in Swanage, where they brought up four children, to live in a city centre apartment.



# Nominations for BES Council

## Public and Policy Committee Chair

Juliet Vickery - Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Sandy

Juliet Vickery really only 'discovered' ornithology as an undergraduate at Oxford, when she studied swifts nesting in the University Museum Tower (made famous by David Lack's work at the same colony in 1950s). She remained at Oxford for a DPhil on Dippers on waterways in south west Scotland, working with Professor Chris Perrins, and then moved to the University of East Anglia for a post doc on Brent geese, working with Professor Bill Sutherland. Juliet then moved to Scotland where she worked for Scottish Natural Heritage before taking up a lectureship at the University of Edinburgh. Here she began research on the ecology of migrant passerines on their wintering grounds in the Sahel - an interest she has returned to in recent years. In 1997 she moved back south to take up the post of Head of Terrestrial Ecology Unit at the British Trust for Ornithology BTO working on the ecology and conservation of farmland birds; very much policy driven work, particularly with respect to providing an evidence base for agri-environment scheme options that would benefit farmland birds. After a hugely rewarding 11 years at the BTO Juliet moved to RSPB as Head of the International Research Section within the Conservation Directorate of the RSPB. She

now manages a team undertaking work on the conservation of globally threatened species and sites such as Gyps vultures in Asia, Altyn Dala steppe grassland in Kazakhstan and Sundaic rainforest in Indonesia, as well as broader ecological issues such as the impact of invasive species, and the conservation of Afro-Palaeartic migrants on their wintering grounds.

Though the work has a strong international focus she maintains a keen interest in the conservation issues in the UK, particularly farmland birds. On her days off she is a bit of a sport-addict and competes nationally, and sometimes internationally, in triathlon in between accommodating her young daughters social life!



# Nominations for BES Council

## Ordinary Member of Council

Martha Crockatt - Earthwatch Institute, Oxford

I completed my PhD at Cardiff University in 2008, preceded by a BSc and succeeded by a postdoc at the same institution. My PhD investigated the ecology of four rare wood-decay fungi in the UK, and my postdoc, looking at ecology and biochemistry of plants and soil invertebrates around a closed landfill site, was also in woodlands.

Since May 2010 I've been working at the citizen science charity Earthwatch, at its UK headquarters in Oxford. The project I work on is an international collaboration investigating how anthropogenically-disturbed forests may react to climate change, with a large element of experimental work being undertaken by volunteers from corporate partners. The move from academia to such a different environment has brought me new views of ecology and science, particularly the role that members of the public can play in science, and the importance of involving the public as well as local stakeholders in science. With these new ideas on board I'm looking forward to becoming more involved in BES and the work that it does, and hope that my participation and input will be of value.



# Nominations for BES Council

## Ordinary Member of Council

Emma Goldberg - Natural England, Peterborough

Emma is an ecologist who developed a healthy respect for trees and woodlands at an early age, and managed to follow this interest throughout her career. She has a BSc(Hons) in ecology from Edinburgh University and an MSc in Nature Conservation from University College London, where her thesis looked at woodland change in a National Nature Reserve over thirty-five years. She has been attending the Society meetings for over fifteen years, and is an active member of the Forest Ecology Group. She has been working for Natural England (and predecessors) for ten years as a Forestry and Woodland Specialist. Within Natural England, Emma works for the Evidence team, drawing on research from the ecological community and seeking its applications to conservation to ensure that Natural England's work is up-to-date and relevant to addressing our strategic outcomes. Emma believes that promoting ecological understanding to the public, policy makers and land managers is key to positive conservation outcomes.



# Nominations for BES Council

## Ordinary Member of Council

William Gosling - Open University, Milton Keynes

William is currently a Research Councils UK academic fellow in “Ecosystem Science” at The Open University and leads the Past Environmental Change research group. Having grown up on the edge of the Peak District William has a long standing love of the outdoors. His interest in the natural world led to a first degree in Physical Geography (Hull) and this experience stimulated a curiosity in change through time so William progressed to study an MPhil in Quaternary Science (Cambridge). His subsequent PhD, examining modern pollen-vegetation relationships in Amazonia (Leicester), was designed to improve understanding of the fossil pollen record. Since his PhD William’s research focus has remained in the tropics and linking modern ecological understanding and palaeo-ecological records continues to be a key research challenge.

William ran the BES Tropical Ecology group (2006-2009) and helped to instigate the now annual Early Career Researcher Meetings. In addition to research William is keen to communicate science with the wider world; he co-ordinated The Open University Science Faculty contribution to the Milton Keynes Science Festival for two years. William is keen to bring the skills he has developed to the BES Council to help facilitate communication both between ecologists and with the wider public.



# Nominations for BES Council

## Ordinary Member of Council

Matthew Heard - NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Wallingford

A passion for natural history and the outdoors led Matt to do a BSc in Botany and Zoology at the University of Wales. It was here his interests in ecology and plant–insect interactions were founded. His degree was followed by a PhD investigating the roles of invertebrate herbivory and plant competition in structuring grassland communities (Imperial College at Silwood Park). Matt joined the NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology in 1999 and is currently head of its Biodiversity Conservation and Management Group. The group aims to i) understand what the key drivers causing declines in wildlife are and ii) develop and evaluate actions to halt or reverse these declines. They study a range of taxa from plants, invertebrates to mammals and birds and tackle these questions using experimentation, monitoring, meta-analyses and modelling. They often work in applied systems and try to ensure their research is policy relevant. Matt's particular areas of research include: the effects of landscape on pollinators, the impacts of agri-environment schemes on farmland taxa, restoration ecology and the assessment of ecosystem service provision. He has been a BES member since 1995 and is keen on promoting ecological understanding to the public, policy makers and land managers.



# Nominations for BES Council

## Ordinary Member of Council

Ruth Mitchell - The Macaulay Institute, Aberdeen

I am an applied plant ecologist. I have a long standing interest in the impact of a wide range of pressures (grazing, pollution and land use change) on biodiversity, particularly lower and higher plants. I try to make the results of my research relevant to land management, conservation and policy. From an early age I had an interest in plants and birds which led to a strong interest in conservation and my desire to work on applied ecological issues. I currently work at the Macaulay Institute on changes in plant and soil communities as a result of land-use change. As well as working at research institutes (CEH and Macaulay) I also have experience of working for conservation organisations and environmental consultancy companies. I would bring to BES a keen interest in natural history and the environment and a desire to encourage others to understand more about the natural world around them, be that education for school children and the general public or scientific research to enhance our understanding of how ecosystems function.



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