



AACT AGM Executive Committee Elections Candidate Statements

Our Constitution calls for an Executive Committee to be elected at each AGM. There are seven elected positions on the Executive Committee. Nominations were due by 16th November, and we received six nominations. At the AGM the meeting chair will move to elect all nominees in a single vote.

These are the nominees for the 2020/21 AACT Executive Committee (listed in alphabetical order). You can read their candidate statements below.

- Stuart Buchanan
- Maggie Carson
- Mike Hall
- Tim Orr
- Sara Stevenson

Stuart Buchanan

(Nominated by Julia Bouvy and Nanjika Nasiiro)

I have been a member of the AACT for a number of years as a member of the Steering Group and now Executive Committee. I helped organize the Visioning Exercise in 2018 at the Eric Liddell Centre.

For the last year I have been Convener of the AACT Executive Committee, organizing and chairing meetings of the Executive. I have been particularly active in the Feasibility Study and Governance sub-committees. I also manage the AACT website and occasionally put together the monthly Member's Update.

I was brought up near the Astley Ainslie and now live nearby with my family. My children enjoy exploring the greenspace. Both they and I value it immensely and strongly believe that it should remain a community resource in keeping with the intent of David Ainslie.

I have a background in software engineering and program management and try to use these skills to help the AACT.

Maggie Carson

(Nominated by Rev Clephane Hume and Ms Enid Forsyth)

Since joining the AACT Executive Committee in 2020 I have been actively campaigning to promote and protect the wonderful trees in the hospital's grounds.

I am running an ongoing tree befriending campaign to encourage everyone who values this green space to befriend their favourite tree. This has proved popular. Recently, with the support of several retired Occupational Therapists, we obtained permission from the NHS to erect two tree plaques to commemorate the significant role the hospital has played in the development of Occupational Therapy Education in Scotland.

In terms of media coverage I have worked to increase the profile of AACT locally by writing for 'Edinburgh Life' magazine and the 'Edinburgh Reporter'. I am indebted to the Guardian for responding to my request for a national article on the need to protect the Astley Ainslie's green space.

I have networked extensively both at in person and online events and via my own Twitter account to ensure AACT is recognised as a community group with a clear purpose and strong voice. I have been rewarded with offers of practical support and interest from a wide range of local and national organisations and invitations to attend events such as the launch of Edinburgh's Million Trees City Project. I was also pleased to be invited to give an illustrated talk on the trees in Astley Ainslie as part of the London Urban Tree Festival in March 2021.

With regards to fundraising, I am happy to report that I have been awarded an Edinburgh University green micro-grant for our tree project. I also devised a tree quiz and have distributed almost 500 copies. Thank you to everyone who has bought and/or sold these.

I hope you will consider re-electing me as there is much that still needs to be done to safeguard the trees.

Mike Hall

(Nominated by Ian Ross and Jonathan Silvertown)

I have served as an Executive Committee member and also as Treasurer of AACT since summer 2019 and am happy to continue if re-elected. I have contributed to the development of AACT and to its activities in a variety of ways, and am keen to do so in the future. My profile is shown on the AACT website.

Tim Orr

(Nominated by Julia Bouvy and Stuart Buchanan)

The green spaces of Edinburgh are special, an integral part of this unique and beautiful city. Astley Ainslie is part of that uniqueness, hosting a wealth of natural diversity, open spaces and historical interest, and one we should not lose to over development. Astley Ainslie should be sympathetically developed, retained and enhanced to provide a place that everyone can benefit from and enjoy. This is particularly important as the Covid-19 pandemic has brought into focus the importance of community, wellbeing and the environment.

I have been involved with the Astley Ainslie Community Trust since 2018, when ran communications workshops to develop AACT's vision, purpose and mission. I also helped with generating a campaign plan and developing the campaign messaging.

Since July 2020, I have been co-opted onto the AACT Exec Committee to head up the Communications Sub-Committee and was voted on to the Exec Committee in December 2020. This year we have been focusing on increasing the membership, improving out communications to our important stakeholders, developing our social media platforms. Improving the AACT website, increasing web traffic and putting on a number of community engagement events. This is in addition

to publishing out regular email updates and on-off communications to members, stakeholders and our wider community.

I have worked in brand and communications for over 30 years, holding senior roles in many large international companies, latterly holding the position of Head of Brand for Airbus. I now work as a branding and communications consultant.

Through my career I have gained extensive experience and skills in brand management, advertising, exhibitions, events, campaign management, media relations and crisis management. I am married with three grown up children and have lived in Marchmont and Morningside for 35 years and am a keen local walker (with the dog!) and nature lover.

Sara Stevenson

(Nominated by Neil Roger and Bernadette Roger)

I am very interested in the natural aspects of the site – both existing and potential – which should be improved as a key part of the green corridor out of the city.

I have been responsible for the journal, Leaves. I have good historical knowledge and am good at writing and public speaking, so can assist the extension of public awareness and knowledge of the Astley Ainslie.