



The countryside charity
Oxfordshire

Campaigning to protect our rural county

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A company limited by guarantee. Registered in England
number 04443278. Registered charity number 1093081.

Papers for the 2023 Annual General Meeting

2.30pm, Saturday 24 June 2023

Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall
White Horse, Uffington, Faringdon SN7 7SE



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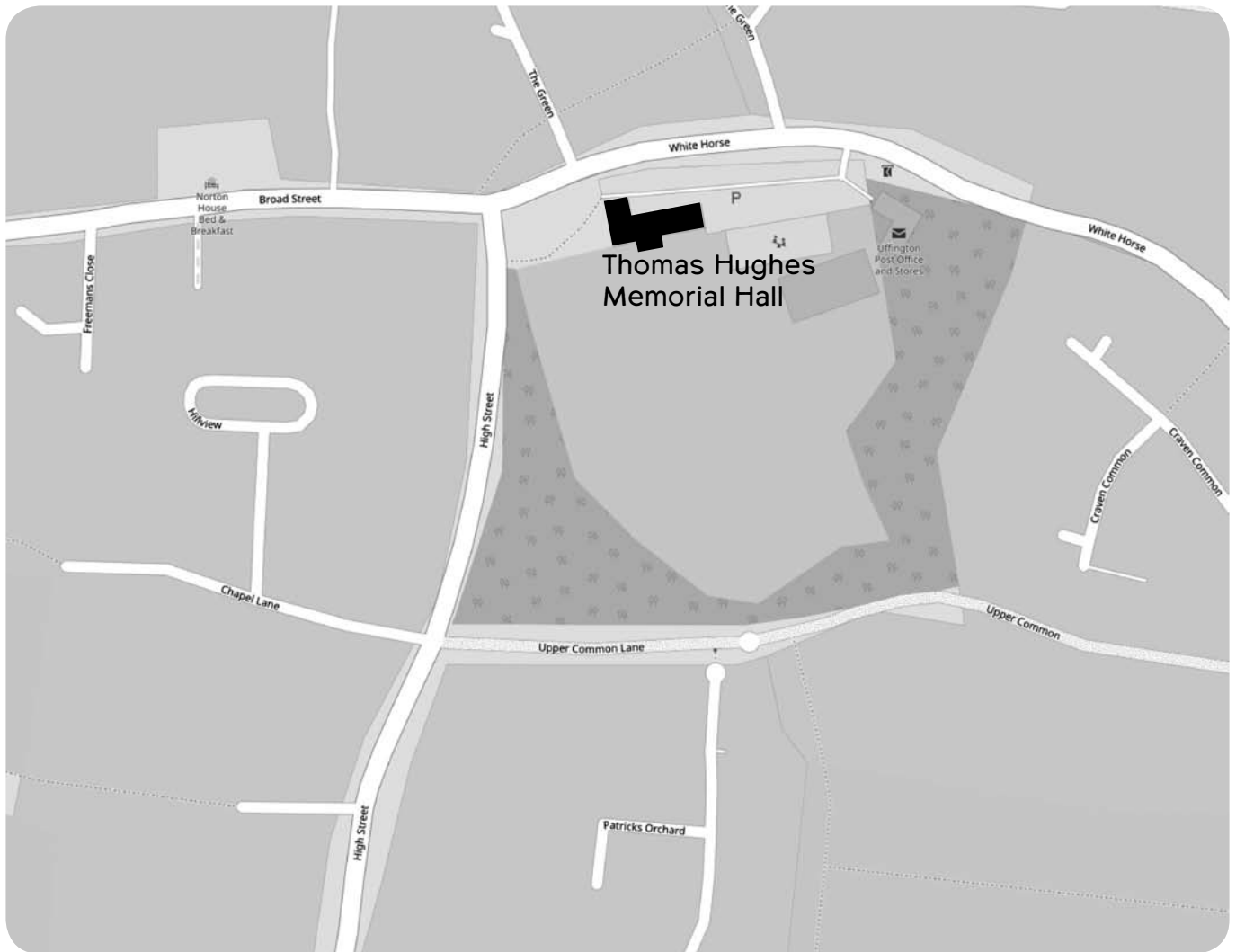
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Directions to Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall

Google maps directions: tinyurl.com/n89cbaxu

Unfortunately there is no public transport directly to Uffington. There is good parking available at the hall but we encourage members to share use of cars wherever possible.

We may be able to offer lifts from Wantage, which is served by the Stagecoach S9 bus from Oxford (via Botley, Cumnor, East Hanney & Grove).

If you would like assistance to attend, please contact the Branch Office and we will do our best to help.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England, Oxfordshire (CPRE Oxfordshire Branch)

Trustees' annual report for the year end 31 December 2022 (Incorporating the Directors' Report)

This information is extracted from the Full Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts for the year end 31 December 2022, copies of which are available via the Branch Office T: 01491 612079 E: administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk

Activities in 2022

Our countryside continues to face many challenges. In Oxfordshire, CPRE has been incredibly busy responding to threats from proposed solar farms, warehouse developments, a holiday park and the Abingdon reservoir to mention just a few. In addition, we have the development of the next round of Local Plans (with Oxford City and Cherwell leading the charge). I would like to acknowledge the incredible work the staff team has been doing and the dedication of the volunteers who respond to these issues. Prioritising our limited resources is a huge challenge.

We have had some successes in the last year, notably the proposed revisions to the NPPF (the National Planning Policy Framework), which include the dropping of the iniquitous 5-year housing land supply rule. Overall we were sad to see the abandoning of the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan but glad to see the back of the excessive housing growth forecasts it contained and are pleased to see a trend towards more realistic house building plans from some of the Districts (although Oxford City and Cherwell's ambitions remain worrying).

The proliferation of speculative solar farm applications continues, including the massive West Botley proposal. In January 2023 we approved our position paper on renewable energy which confirms our support for renewables but opposes the development of large solar arrays on greenfield sites in landscape sensitive areas, such as Green Belt and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We do support the development of solar on rooftops and believe this could provide the majority of County's solar energy needs. We have seen success in the refusal of permission for a solar farm near Burcot, South Oxfordshire, on the grounds it was in the Green Belt, but, unfortunately, the permission was narrowly granted for a similar development up the road at Nineveh Farm. We continue to campaign against this development, which is clearly in contravention of South Oxfordshire District Council's Local Plan policy.

We are calling for a strategic land use policy which balances the needs of energy production with the need to produce food and improve and protect nature. There are encouraging signs that the Future Oxfordshire Partnership (the old Growth Board) will be taking this on board. We will be pushing for genuine public engagement in the development of such a plan.

In March 2022 we hosted George Eustace (the then Environment Secretary) to a celebration of our hedgerow project in Watlington. National CPRE has been campaigning to extend and protect our hedgerows – which are an important refuge for wildlife and a potent carbon sink – culminating in a launch of a report in the House of Lords in the summer. Since then, the Government has announced a target of creating 30,000

miles of new and restored hedgerows by 2037 and included hedgerows in the new ELMs funding scheme. This just shows the influence we can have.

Our finances always need careful consideration. We are in the lucky position of having some reserves – a result of some past donations and some careful investments. We are currently spending more than our income and eating into our reserves. This is fine provided this resource is well spent but in the longer term we will have to cut our cloth accordingly or find new sources of income. Many charities are struggling at present with the combined pressures of rising costs and falling income. CPRE is not immune; thankfully in Oxfordshire our fall in membership has been limited but this remains a concern. Given the pressures on the countryside we need to increase our support base. I hope we can do this in the coming year with events and campaigns to help us all to continue to protect the countryside.

We will be seeing some changes in the coming year. Two trustees, Peter Emery and Dorian Grier, are leaving us (and many thanks to them) and we are actively recruiting replacements. Also, unfortunately, Judy Crockett is stepping down as events organiser. Our events are not only really rewarding but a good way of getting to know our supporters and encouraging new members. I hope the Districts will pick up the baton. I must finish by thanking our staff, Helen, Becky, Julia and Lynda, our Trustees, volunteers and many supporters for their unstinting work in the past year. Our countryside is changing and CPRE is having a strong voice in how it should look in the future.

Professor Richard Harding, Chairman

Financial Review

There was a net excess of expenditure over income before gains/losses on investments on unrestricted funds of £26,123 (net income of £4,880 in 2021) and net expenditure of £35,062 on restricted funds (net income of £40,877 in 2021). After adjustments for transfers between funds and the unrealised increase in value of investments, there was a net loss in unrestricted funds of £81,162 (net gain of £56,014 in 2021) and a net loss of £32,515 in restricted funds (net gain of £40,057 in 2021). Total unrestricted funds as at 31 December were £374,086 (£455,248 in 2021) and restricted funds were £94,212 (£126,727 in 2021). Total funds were represented by investments and bank and building society accounts and other assets totalled £468,298 (£581,975 in 2021).

The Trustees have determined that the level of unrestricted reserves should be set at the equivalent of around six months annualised expenditure (£45,000). The Trustees have set out a future Branch Strategy and designated funds will be set up as appropriate to fund key priorities identified as part of the Strategy. In addition, the trustees are anticipating that current unrestricted reserves will be required to meet costs arising from as yet unidentified challenges and threats to the Oxfordshire Countryside. Trustees have produced a future finance plan and are anticipating that current reserves will be required to fulfil future identified shortfalls in resources to enable it to support its current activities.

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 December 2022

(including Income and Expenditure Account)

Notes	Restricted Fund 2022 £	Unrestricted Fund 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Restricted Fund 2021 £	Unrestricted Fund 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies						
National subscriptions - branch share	-	24,599	24,599	-	25,934	25,934
Donations grants and local support	21,846	18,079	39,925	89,818	49,405	139,223
Other Trading Activities						
Sale of books	-	1,308	1,308	-	2,376	2,376
Sundry	-	800	800	-	1,749	1,749
Investments						
Dividends COIFCharities	-	11,554	11,554	-	11,391	11,391
Investment Funds - Income Units	-	11,554	11,554	-	11,391	11,391
Bank Deposit interest	-	509	509	-	238	238
Total income	21,846	56,848	78,694	89,818	91,093	180,911
Expenditure on:						
Raising Funds	-	-	-	-	0	0
Direct Costs of Fundraising	-	301	301	-	612	612
Indirect Costs	-	826	826	-	1,572	1,572
Charitable Activities	1	56,908	138,752	48,941	84,029	132,970
Total expenditure	56,908	82,971	139,879	48,941	86,213	135,154
Net gains(losses) on investments	-	(52,492)	(52,492)	-	50,314	50,314
Net Income/(expenditure)	(35,062)	(78,615)	(113,677)	40,877	55,194	96,071
Transfers between funds	2,547	(2,547)	0	(820)	820	0
Net Movement in Funds	(32,514)	(81,162)	(113,677)	40,057	56,014	96,071
Reconciliation of funds:						
Fund balances at 2020	126,727	455,248	581,975	86,670	399,234	485,904
Fund balances at 31 December 2021	94,212	374,086	468,298	126,727	455,248	581,975

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Balance Sheet

as at 31 December 2022

		Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Investments at valuation			
COIF Charities Investment Fund	370,245		422,737
COIF Charities Deposit Accounts	54,992		42,954
		425,237	465,691
Current assets			
Barclays Bank - Branch	39,153		106,324
Banks & Building Societies - Districts	1,698		4,420
Debtors	6,449		7,295
Less : Creditors	(4,239)		(1,755)
Net current assets		43,061	116,284
		468,298	581,975
Total net assets		468,298	581,975
Total Funds			
Unrestricted Fund	139,130		167,800
Revaluation Reserve	234,956		287,448
		374,086	455,248
Restricted Funds			
Need not Greed	9,575		8,469
GARD	28,000		53,000
Donation in Memory of Margot Collins	51,450		62,500
CDWA	2,547		-
Vale District	2,640		2,758
		94,212	126,727
		468,298	581,975

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Note 1: Expenditure on charitable activities

	Restricted 2022 £	Unrestricted 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Restricted 2021 £	Unrestricted 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Campaign Costs						
Staff Salaries	8,483	59,778	68,260	-	57,277	57,277
Projects	4,888	3,870	8,758	-	5,434	5,434
Subscriptions and donations	25,000	535	25,535	18,761	1,490	20,251
Bank Charges	-	218	218	-	260	260
Travel/Expenses	57	951	1,008	-	274	274
Telephone/Internet	47	1,378	1,425	-	1,109	1,109
Stationary/Office Expenses	13	1,562	1,576	-	1,147	1,147
Web/Email Expenses	-	55	55	-	3,667	3,667
Rent Insurance	-	5,320	5,320	-	5,295	5,295
Sundry	-	850	850	-	1,290	1,290
Contractors Costs	18,359	-	18,359	30,180	-	30,180
Events/ Meeting Expenses*	-	665	665	-	60	60
	56,847	75,181	132,028	48,941	77,303	126,244
Allocated to expenditure on raising funds	-	(826)	(826)	-	(1,572)	(1,572)
	56,847	74,355	131,202	48,941	75,731	124,672
Members newsletters*	-	5,954	5,954	-	7,323	7,323
Governance						
AGM and Annual Report*	61	635	696	-	75	75
Independent Examination Fees	-	900	900	-	900	900
	61	1,535	1,596	-	975	975
Total Expenditure on charitable activities	56,908	81,844	138,752	48,941	84,029	132,970

* 2021 figures comparatives have been re-presented for areas of expenditure shown.

Independent Examiner's Statement to the Trustees of the Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England for the year ended 31 December 2022

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England for the year ended 31 December 2022.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS STATEMENT

I have completed my examination. In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 130 of the Charities Act 2011 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kelvin Barnes FCCA
Barnes4Business Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
12 Murdock Road
Bicester
Oxfordshire
OX26 4PP

Date: 11 April 2023

NB: The accounts information presented here is a summarised version. This audit certificate is based on the audit of the full CPRE Oxfordshire 2022 accounts which are available via the CPRE Oxfordshire Branch Office.
T: 01491 612079 E: administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk

Annual General Meeting 2.30pm, Saturday 24 June 2023, Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington

Welcome by the Branch President, John Harwood DL

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM
3. Report by the Chairman of the Branch Executive Committee
4. Finance:

Treasurer's Report
Adoption of the Annual Report & Accounts 2022

5a. Election of Honorary Officers and Members of the Executive Committee:

President: John Harwood

Vice Presidents:

David Astor
Dr Peter Collins
Gordon Garraway
Elizabeth Gillespie
Gill Salway
Bruce Tremayne
Brian Wood

Chairman: Professor Richard Harding

Vice-Chairs: Olivia Field / Susie Mather

Treasurer: Nick Dolden

Secretary: TBC

Ordinary Members:

Lisa Buchan
Claudia Lusardi
Simon Warr

District Representatives:

Robin Oliver, CPRE Cherwell District Chair
David Marsh, CPRE Vale of White Horse District Secretary
Geoff Botting, CPRE South Oxfordshire District Chair
Philippa Phelan, CPRE West Oxfordshire District Chair

5b. Honorary Consultants (as appointed by the Branch Executive Committee)

Angus Dart: Farming
Jim Fletcher: Transport
Richard Harding: Water
Gordon Garraway/Nick Moon: Footpaths/ Rights of Way
George Lambrick: Archaeology and Historic Buildings
Martin Harris: Oxford Green Belt Network
Michael Tyce: Without Portfolio

5c. The following are employees of the Branch:

Director Helen Marshall
Administrator Becky Crockett
Communications Manager Julia Benning
Planning Co-ordinator Lynda Moore

6. Welcome to Roger Mortlock, new Chief Executive Officer, National CPRE

7. Any Other Business

Close of AGM, followed by:

The Ridgeway: The Future of Britain's Oldest Road – Sarah Wright & Mary-Ann Ochota

The Ridgeway is one of the UK's National Trails, a 'gold standard' long distance walking and riding route that runs 87 miles from Ivinghoe Beacon in Buckinghamshire, through the Chilterns, across Oxfordshire and the North Wessex Downs, eventually terminating at the Avebury World Heritage Site in Wiltshire. Parts of the route can be traced to prehistory, and it passes close to ancient tombs, vast earthworks and the Uffington White Horse. It connects SSSIs and Local Wildlife Sites surrounded by farmland and numerous rural settlements. It is also within close reach of large towns with nature-starved communities in need of fresh air and headspace. A prehistoric route in a 21st Century world - What stories does this trail tell? How do we help visitors, land managers and local communities get the most out of it? How do we tackle the challenges access brings? And what should its future hold?

Ridgeway National Trail Officer Sarah Wright and TV presenter and Anniversary Patron Mary-Ann Ochota will join us to explore the past, present and future of Britain's Oldest Road.

Followed by refreshments, kindly provided by the CPRE Vale of White Horse District.

CPRE Oxfordshire Branch: the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Enstone Parish Hall on Saturday 25th June 2022

CPRE Oxfordshire President, John Harwood, welcomed all members to this “real” meeting of CPRE Oxfordshire. As we had to meet by Zoom last year, he was delighted that we were now able to meet properly.

He thanked the West Oxfordshire branch for arranging the hall and the tea with cakes, sitting enticingly as an incentive for a speedy and concise meeting before our speaker.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence:** Sue Bedwell, Julia Benning, Mike Breakell, Sara Bristow, John Broad, Peter Collins, Becky Crockett, Peter Finbow, David Gilmour, Hilary Haskell, Jeremy Hellens, Dr KN Robinson, Dr DC Sprigings, Patricia Toms, David Young

2. **Minutes of the 2021 AGM**, which was held by videoconference, were accepted as a correct record and signed.

3. **Report by the Chairman of the Branch Executive Committee:** As read in the Papers for the 2022 AGM

4. **Finance: Treasurer’s Report and Adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts 2021:**

Our Treasurer, Nick Dolden, expressed his thanks to Becky Crockett for her finance administration.

Accounts are covering the year to 31 December 2021 with submissions required for Companies House and the Charity Commission.

The full accounts now reflect recommended practice from SORP so are in a different format to previous years and Nick Dolden talked through the main changes, including the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA).

There had been an increase in funds of £96k over the year, including £56k unrestricted. This was a result of a £50k increase in the funds held in the COIF ethical fund and an increase in donations. The £14k rise in expenditure was mainly due to salaries and the new website. Contractor costs expenditure relates to Hedgerow Heroes work and was spent with our project partner Wild Oxfordshire.

The members agreed the reception of the Treasurer’s Report and the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts 2021.

5a. **Election of Honorary Officers and Members of the Executive Committee:**

(John Harwood handed over to Richard Harding). RH asked the members to agree the continued roles of our Honorary Officers (Presidents and Vice Presidents), to include the new appointment of Brian Wood as a Vice President.

President: John Harwood

Vice Presidents:

David Astor

Dr Peter Collins

Gordon Garraway

Gill Salway

Bruce Tremayne

Brian Wood

RH noted that our Vice Presidents are our memory and conscience of CPRE.

JH moved the appointment of the following:

Chairman: Professor Richard Harding

Vice Chairs Peter Emery/Olivia Field

Treasurer Nick Dolden

Secretary: Dorian Grier

Ordinary Members:

Lisa Buchan

Susie Mather

Simon Warr

District Chairmen:

Robin Oliver, CPRE Cherwell District

Heneage Legge-Bourke, CPRE Vale of White Horse District

Geoff Botting, CPRE South Oxfordshire District

Philippa Phelan, CPRE West Oxfordshire District

These were duly elected and appointed to the Branch executive Committee. JH thanked the above for taking on the most onerous of tasks.

5b. **Honorary Consultants** (as appointed by the Branch Executive Committee)

Angus Dart: Farming

Jim Fletcher: Transport

Richard Harding: Water

Gordon Garraway/Nick Moon: Footpaths/ Rights of Way

George Lambrick: Archaeology and Historic Buildings

Martin Harris: Oxford Green Belt Network

Michael Tyce: Without Portfolio

5c. The following are employees of the Branch:

Director Helen Marshall

Administrator Becky Crockett

Communications Manager Julia Benning

Planning Co-ordinator Lynda Moore

6. **Any Other Business:**

A question was asked regarding the status of the CPRE Oxford City branch. HM responded that we are actively looking for a Chair to lead this group and encouraged any City residents who were interested in participating in the group, to contact her.

The meeting concluded.

A talk by Roselle Chapman, Wild Oxfordshire on “Oxfordshire’s Hedgerow Heroes” followed. This was most enthusiastically received, and Roselle kindly answered many questions during the following afternoon tea.

JH gave thanks to Roselle and to all in attendance.

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CPRE Oxfordshire

Annual General Meeting 2023

24 June 2023 – Proxy notice

This form is for the use of members who are unable to attend the AGM and wish to nominate a proxy to vote on their behalf. Please complete and return the form by post to The Administrator, CPRE Oxfordshire, 20 High Street, Watlington, Oxfordshire OX49 5PY, or by email to administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk to arrive no later than Monday 19 June 2023.

Your name.....

Your address.....

.....

.....

I appoint the following as my proxy to vote on my behalf at the above meeting or any adjournment thereof as he/she sees fit (please select ONE of the options below):
the Chairman of the meeting

OR

the following person..... (name of your proxy)

Signed..... Date.....

