

75th AGM Agenda

Meeting Date: Tuesday 7 September 2021
Time: 12:15pm – 1:00pm
Meeting Number: 75
Location: Register via: www.soils.org.uk/news/annual-conference-and-agm-soil-health/ or complete the [proxy form](#)
Chair: Bruce Lascelles

	Agenda Item
1.	Welcome and Apologies
2.	Minutes of the 74 th AGM held on 8 October 2020 and Matters Arising
3.	Executive Officer's Report
4.	President's Report
5.	Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2020 – <i>see accompanying paper</i>
6.	Appointment of Auditors for the Ensuing Year – HSA & Co.
7.	Update to Society Memorandum and Articles of Association – <i>see attached paper and accompanying document</i>
8.	Update to the Society Bye-Laws – <i>see attached paper and accompanying document</i>
9.	Election of Board and Council Members – 2022 – <i>see attached paper</i>
a)	Finance Trustee
b)	Governance Trustee
c)	Confirmation of Trustees
d)	Early Careers Chair
e)	Education Committee Chair
f)	Grants and Awards Committee Chair
g)	Midlands Soil Discussion Group Chair
h)	Ordinary Council Member
i)	Confirmation of Council Members
10.	Honorary Membership – <i>see attached paper</i>
11.	Any Other Business

Future Meetings and Events

- Wed 6 October – Zoom into Soil in partnership with the Institute of Environmental Sciences
- Wed 3 November – Zoom into Soil: topic tbc
- Wed 1 December – Zoom into Soil: topic tbc
- 31 July – 5 August 2022 – World Congress of Soil Science – [Find out More](#)

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Agenda Item	7.
Paper	Update to Society Memorandum and Articles of Association
1.	<p>Introduction</p> <p>In 2020, the Society was unable to gather a quorum of members to hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 3 September 2020. As a result, the AGM was postponed until 8 October 2020 when a quorum was achieved.</p> <p>As members' votes are required for the Society to transact its formal business, there is a risk that in future, the Society's business will be unable to take place, forcing the Society into a challenging position with the Charity Commission, Companies House and HMRC.</p> <p>At the same time as making changes to the quorum, it is proposed that the Memorandum and Articles of Association is updated to remove reference to the merger between the Institute of Professional Soil Scientists (IPSS) and the Society, which took place 12 years ago and to ensure a clear tenure for Society trustees.</p>
2.	<p>Proposed Changes to the Memorandum and Articles of Association</p> <p>A document showing the proposed changes has been distributed with the agenda and members should note that the following changes have been proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove points 3.1 and 3.2, which refer to the merger between IPSS and the Society • Remove points 12.2 and 12.3, which refer to the merger between IPSS and the Society • Remove points 22.2 and 22.3 and update 22.4, which relate to the retirement of trustees. The trustee terms are set out in the proposed revisions to the Bye-Laws (at Bye-Law 4) • Points 32 and 38.2.4 updated from one tenth of membership, to 5% of membership required to make a quorum.
Action	The Society Board suggests that members vote in favour of the special resolution.

Agenda Item	8.
Paper	Update to Society Bye-Laws
1.	<p>Introduction</p> <p>It is several years since the Society Bye-Laws have been updated and as a result, the document does not reflect how the Society Board and Council have agreed to work in practice.</p> <p>The proposed changes span all sections of the document, and the revised Bye-Laws have been distributed with the agenda.</p>
2.	<p>Proposed Changes to the Bye-Laws</p> <p>A proposed updated document has been distributed with the agenda and the major thematic changes are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing clarity over the election process for the Presidential team (Bye-Laws 3 and 11) • Confirming the election process and tenure for Trustees (Bye-Law 4) • Defining the standing committees of the Board and their responsibilities (Bye-Laws 5, 6 and 8) • The process for voting at General Meetings (Bye-Laws 12.6 and 12.7) • New sections Membership (Bye-Law 13) and Membership Fees (Bye-Law 14) setting out the Society's categories for membership and how individuals and organisations can become members of the Society.
Action	The Society Board suggests that members vote in favour of the special resolution.

Agenda Item	9.
Paper	Election of Board and Council Members - 2022
1.	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Applications have been received from a number of candidates to join the Society's Board and Council. Details of the uncontested applications received are set out below:</p>
2.	<p>Finance Trustee</p> <p>The following application has been received from Anirban Sarkar:</p> <p>I am writing to apply for the position of Treasurer Trustee with British Society of Soil Science. I am a finance professional with over 16 years of experience in financial services across strategy, planning, reporting and analytics.</p> <p>In my current position as Head of Strategic Analysis in HSBC I am responsible for driving financial analysis supporting Group Strategic Plan and driving an organisation wide project to transform planning and forecasting making these more real-time, dynamic by leveraging modern technologies. Recently I also cleared a Treasury qualification (CertBALM) recognised across the banking industry.</p> <p>In my current and previous roles, I have had regular interactions with senior executives and exposure to board level papers/proposals. As a result, I possess excellent written and verbal communication skills. I take pride in running a successful network and developing relationships not just in UK but internationally too.</p> <p>Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change are topics close to my heart. In my job like most other organisations these are embedded into the strategy and discussed on a regular basis. However, I am looking for an opportunity to be able to contribute more directly. The opportunity with British Society of Soil Science is of specific interest to me. As a child I used to regularly help my grandfather grow his own vegetables. Together we would explore different type of insects and earthworms under the surface. Later on in my school days I took a keen interest in studying about soils in India. Hence I feel this particular role would help me leverage my finance skills to contribute more directly towards environment/sustainability combined with a childhood passion.</p>
3.	<p>Governance Trustee</p> <p>The following application has been received from Brian Westbury:</p> <p>I would like to be considered for the Trustee vacancy at the British Society of Soil Science. I have read the Role of a Trustee that was available.</p> <p>Although I have not been involved with Soil, the post does sound interesting and I have been a Trustee for other organisations.</p> <p>My current position as Academic Dean at the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine was partially in an area I had not been familiar with before taking the post. I am very experienced on the "Legal" side but had no knowledge of the "Forensic" side, other than that gained from Agatha Christie. I believe I was quickly able to bring myself up to speed and have tackled the job with some enjoyment.</p>

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	<p>The Deanery is for a set three years and finishes in May 2122. It is part time and unremunerated. If accepted to your Trust, there would be a short overlap but quite easily coped with.</p> <p>You will see from my CV that I have a spread of knowledge with Dental, Law, and Psychology qualifications.</p> <p>As a School Governor, I was involved in Governance especially at the Sixth Form College. At the Deanery I am part of the Senior Leadership Team, and on the Board. At Dental Protection I ran the High-Risk programme with hundreds of members in our scheme to reduce their risk profiles.</p> <p>I would be happy to work with you on governing documents, policies, and procedures.</p>
4.	<p>Early Careers Committee Chair</p> <p>The following application has been received from Kirsty Elliott:</p> <p>I got into soil science when I was studying for my undergraduate masters at Bangor University thanks to my enthusiastic lecturers! I completed my undergraduate project on nutrient losses in runoff during rainfall events after manure application to agricultural land. After graduating in 2015, I worked for a wastewater consultancy for 2 years where I learned a lot about working for a consultancy and in industry but missed the interesting world of soil science.</p> <p>In 2017 I returned to academia to study for a PhD in soils science, looking at biosolid soil interactions under different land management practices at the university of Sheffield. I joined BSSS shortly after starting my PhD and have been an active member of the society ever since and have been on the EC committee since 2018. During my time on the committee I helped to organise the EC conference in 2019 which was attended by our society patron, and have helped drive the committee deliver it's aims. In 2021 I joined the WCSS Working Group to represent EC members of BSSS as well as worldwide EC soil scientists.</p> <p>Having handed in my PhD thesis in March 2021 I have since started a role as a soil science consultant working in industry.</p> <p>My experience on the committee and in both academia and industry, put me in a unique position to represent a wide range of our EC members. I will also be able to provide experience and consistency to help the committee continue to deliver its aims and represent our members at both council and for the WCSS.</p>
5.	<p>Education Committee Chair</p> <p>The following application has been received from Lois Phillips:</p> <p>Lois Philipps <i>F.I. Soil Sci.</i></p> <p>Research Career I have had long career in providing advice and training based on practical research and fertiliser trials dating back to the mid 1980s. My work has included improving fertiliser efficiency on grassland farms for both dairy and beef/sheep systems, silvo pastoral agroforestry systems. The work was carried out at Grassland Research Institute Hurley, Berkshire and North Wyke Research, Okehampton Devon.</p> <p>Work in the organic sector 1989-2006 worked for the Organic Research Centre – Elm Farm Principle areas of research were on was into nutrient management (nutrient supply, demand, nutrient budgeting, and minimising losses) to providing information and advice for organic farmers and growers. Ran the soil analysis and advice service for organic farmers providing nutrient recommendations and management practices in line with organic standards.</p>

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	<p>Consultancy and training career</p> <p>Provision of advice and training as a sub-contractor for various Countryside Stewardship Schemes, including “Soils4Profit”, soil nutrient management advice and soil husbandry advice under the Catchment Sensitive Farming Scheme programme.</p> <p>Undertaken Agricultural Land Classification surveys (ALC) for green energy companies seeking planning to installing solar panels.</p> <p>Whilst with British Grassland Society I worked with Duchy College to deliver the Nutrient Wise Demonstration Programme under the RDPE SWARM- Hub initiative. This project produced the book “Soil Smart Nutrient Wise - a guide for on farm practice”.</p> <p>Developed my own programme of courses and talks on soils, composting and green manuring for garden clubs and horticultural societies.</p> <p>Educational Work and Experience</p> <p>15 years’ experience as an educational leader with the John Simonds Trust (JST) providing countryside educational visits for children from Thames Valley and West London schools, ranging in age from Reception to Key stage 4, and of all abilities including SEND. Teaching linked to the school curriculum specialising in Food and farming, River studies, habitats and ecology. The programme for KS2 and above visits includes soil, soil type, characteristics and importance in agriculture.</p> <p>Current work includes agricultural apprenticeship trainer with Berkshire College of Agriculture. I trained as a Bright Crop STEM adviser.</p> <p>Committee Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the Organic Farmer and Growers Impartial Certification Committee specialising in soil and compost standards • President of the village WI for 4 terms of office • Served as a Parish Clerk and Parish Councillor • Former Trustee of British Grassland Society prior to taking up the position of Director. • Served two terms on the North Wessex Downs AONB Council of Partners • I have served as a school governor for the last 15 years. • Member of the Newbury and District Agricultural Society Education committee.
6.	<p>Grants and Awards Committee Chair</p> <p>The following application has been received from Sacha Mooney:</p> <p>Professor Sacha Mooney was President of the Society from 2019 – 2020 and remains on its Trustee Board as Past President in 2021 – 2022. He is a member of the Society’s Council, Chairs the Publications Committee and is a member of the World Congress of Soil Science Working Group, and Education Committee.</p> <p>Sacha is Professor (2012-) in Soil Physics at the University of Nottingham having previously been Reader (2010-2012), Associate Professor (2006-2010) and Lecturer (2000-2006). Sacha’s research is focused on utilising information on the structural geometry of porous media to understand and predict its behaviour and subsequent function. Given this rather general theme, his interests have considerable overlap across many disciplines and as such he works with many varied groups of researchers from engineers to mathematicians to geographers to biologists. One of Sacha’s current interests is utilising imaging techniques such as X-ray Computed Tomography, and the University of Nottingham have recently won funds to establish a new facility (The Hounsfield Facility) that houses three CT scanners capable of visualising materials from the nano scale to the metre scale.</p>

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	<p>Sacha currently teaches several modules related to soil science, image processing and project management. These include Soil and Water Science, Soil Science, Hydrogeochemistry, Environmental Science Fieldcourse, Research Methods B and MSci Research Project.</p> <p>Sacha's research is currently focused on exploring plant-soil interactions of which X-ray Computed Tomography is employed in most studies. Sacha's group also has several industrial and commercial projects and he is involved in 15 PhD research programmes. For further details on The Hounsfield Facility and current research projects, please visit http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/microCT.</p>
7.	<p>Midlands Soil Discussion Group Chair</p> <p>The following application has been received from Iain Gould:</p> <p>Dr Iain Gould is a Senior Lecturer in Soil Science at the University of Lincoln. His current research interests explore coastal agricultural systems and threats from salinity, and working alongside colleagues in Lincoln Agri-Robotics to explore novel technologies to monitor soils. Iain also delivers soils teaching on several BASIS courses, including Soil and Water Management and Quality of Soils. Prior to this role, Iain was awarded his PhD in plant-soil interaction at Lancaster University, and worked for two years in soil science consultancy.</p>
8.	<p>Ordinary Council Member</p> <p>The following application has been received from Mark Nason, Head of Eden Project Learning; Senior Lecturer in Land and Ecological Restoration as its new Ordinary Council Member.</p> <p>I am passionate about ecological restoration with a broad general knowledge of community and ecosystem ecology and a specialist understanding of the behaviour and properties of soils. I am fiercely dedicated to widening participation in HE, raising aspirations and providing socioecological education to improve social mobility and empower people to improve their world.</p> <p>I am proud to lead the further development of a growing group of 130 plant-soil science under- and postgraduate students, passionate about placing students at the centre of a refreshed vision for Eden Project 2.0, and dedicated to ensuring curriculum and quality exceeds the expectations of learners. The breadth of my experience has given me a unique understanding of education in the UK, and a strong track record of developing new curriculum and partnerships.</p> <p>I have worked in education and research for 20 years, during which time I have completed my PhD in soil organic matter formation, two post-doctoral research positions, and progressed from a newly qualified teacher to a senior college leader. In 2019 I made a conscious decision to return to my roots, refreshing and updating my subject knowledge with the specific aim of engendering optimism and equipping #GenerationRestoration with the skills and resilience they need to play a lead role in restoring ecosystems.</p> <p>As Head of Eden Project Learning I am establishing a new plant-soil science research group with research themes including restoration ecology, soil organic matter formation, and integrated pest management. I am winning external funding, most recently as Principal Investigator for Eden in a £2.5 million Interreg project – ReCon Soil, and developing productive relationships with new collaborators.</p> <p>I am a Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner and designed, lead, and contribute to teaching on the UK's first MSc programme specialising in applied ecological restoration.</p>
Action	The Society Board suggests that members vote in favour of all the proposed appointments.

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Agenda Item	10.
Paper	Honorary Membership

1.	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Honorary Membership is a discretionary award made by the Society to persons who have been a Full Member of the Society for at least 10 preceding consecutive years and/ or who have made an exceptional contribution to the objects of the Society.</p>
2.	<p>Keith Goulding</p> <p>Keith has been a member of the Society since 1978 according to his CV (the BSSS website says 2001), which, he thinks, dates from when he first attended a BSSS field visit - to North Wales and Anglesey. Keith was a Council member of the Society from 1995-1997 and a Member of the Council of the Institute of Professional Soil Scientists (IPSS) from 1996 to 2002. In recognition of his contribution to the professional work of the Society, Keith was elected Fellow of the Institute of Soil Science in 2002. Keith was again a member of BSSS Council from 2007 to 2012 when he was elected President of the Society, his Presidential term running from 2009 and 2010. During that time, and using his experience of membership of both BSSS and IPSS Councils, he oversaw the merger of BSSS and IPSS in 2010.</p> <p>As President, he also oversaw the appointment of the first full-time Executive Officer of the Society and the establishment of the office at Cranfield University. He was a speaker, representing the Society as President, at the 19th World Soil Science Congress, Brisbane, Australia, in 2010. Keith was an enthusiastic supporter of the Society's bid to be licensed by the Science Council to award the qualification of Chartered Scientist (CSci) to '...professional scientists to be recognised for their competence, ability and integrity and serving the public interest.' He has been a Chartered Scientist since the license was awarded to the Society in 2005, submitting CPD returns annually. He sees it as essential to his consultancy work. Other activities that reflect Keith's support for soil science are: membership of Defra's Soil Science Advisory Committee from 1998 to 2001; Block Assessor for the Earth Block of a new Environmental Sciences Course (S216) at the Open University in 2001; invited member of the review panels for the Royal Society's DfID Pan-Africa Capacity Building Initiative, 2013-16, the Royal Society's Challenge Grants in 2017, and Newton Advanced Fellowships in 2019. He was a co-convenor: 'Earth Under Pressure – Maximising the Value of Soils' at the 'Planet Under Pressure' conference, London, in March 2012. 'Publons' identifies Soil Use & Management (17 papers) and the European Journal of Soil Science (15 papers) as the top two journals in which Keith has published his research.</p> <p>Keith has showed leadership and made enormous contributions in the following areas of soil science: nutrient cycling, especially of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium; nutrient losses from agriculture, especially nitrate leaching and nitrous oxide emissions; farm system studies; acid rain and soil acidification. These were recognised when he was awarded Highly Cited Scientist status by Clarivate in 2018.</p> <p>A current full CV can be viewed and downloaded from Google Drive at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1REVmPgGp_yxdlBYa3EmMuamVj6SC1leF/view?usp=sharing</p> <p>An ORCID style CV is available at: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6465-1465 Publications (Including soil related research papers, science textbook or book chapters, key industry documents)</p>

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	<p>A full publications list, including book chapters, reports, etc., can be viewed and downloaded from Google Drive at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HmF6XnwRIewEQn94372Ligq-unD5aroL/view</p> <p>Refereed publications only, with citations, etc., can be viewed on Publons at: https://publons.com/researcher/2755260/keith-wt-goulding/publications/</p> <p>Keith retired in 2017 and main current and recent activities are:</p> <p>(i) Committee work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council member: International Fertiliser Society. • Member: Lowland Research Steering Committee of the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust. • Chair: Advisory Group of GCRF CEPHaS project, PI Prof Murray Lark, University of Nottingham. • Trustee and Deputy Chair: Ecological Continuity Trust. • Deputy Chair for Research: the Education Committee of the Worshipful Company of Farmers. • Invited Senior Adviser to the New Zealand – China Water Research Centre. <p>(ii) Recent consultancy work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrote and taught one-day Soil Biology course for NIAB's ARTIS training programme, 2016/17. • Reviewed draft syllabus of the BASIS training modules: 'Foundation in Soils, Level 4' and 'Quality of Soils, Level 6' in 2018. • Member of expert Group reviewing the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) Policy Report 36 'Opportunities for soil sustainability in Europe' to the EC in 2018. • Review of a Development and Technology and Knowledge Transfer Proposal 'Old plots, new hypotheses: Toward a revitalized AAFC long-term agroecosystem experiment (LTAE) network' for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 2019. • Invited member of the International Science Advisory Group reviewing New Zealand's Greenhouse Gas Research Programme, 5-14 April 2019. • Invited reviewer for the Royal Society's Newton Advanced Fellowships, January 2019. • Member: Policy and Strategic Development Committee of LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) to 2019. • Invited member of the Royal Society's Soils Evidence Synthesis workshop, 28 March and 11 July 2019. (Report published April 2020.) • Confidential professorial reviews, and reviews of output and impact statement assessments and general support in preparing for REF2021 for leading UK Universities, 2017-present.
3.	<p>Margaret Oliver</p> <p>Margaret Oliver has made outstanding contributions to soil survey through innovative sampling design, estimation and spatial prediction, especially in the application of geostatistical theory. She has provided new knowledge on radioactivity and pollutants in soil, and she comprehensively reviewed current knowledge on role of soil on human health. She has reported results in numerous refereed publications (see attached list). In addition to her teaching at Reading University, where she has been professor, she has lectured and taught widely elsewhere. The textbooks written with me are much read and cited. She has served</p>

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the British Society of Soil Science on its council for 10 years, as associate editor of its journals from 1990 to 1997, and as deputy editor and then editor-in-chief of the European Journal of Soil Science from 2011 to 2019.

Present appointment: Visiting Professor in Spatial Analysis, The University of Reading

Education and qualifications:

1962 to 1965 University of Bristol: Geography – B.Sc. (Spec. Hons), Class - 2/1

Geology – Ordinary Degree Standard attained

1977 to 1984 University of Birmingham: Ph.D

(part-time) Thesis: *Soil Variation in the Wyre Forest: Its Elucidation and Measurement*

Previous employment:

1967 to 1977 Dudley College of Advanced Technology: part-time lecturer in Geography

1967 to 1970 Dudley College of Education: part-time tutor to B.Ed. students in Geography

1984 to 1993 School of Geography, University of Birmingham: Sessional Lecturer and Honorary Research Fellow

1993 to 1994 School of Geography, University of Birmingham: Research Fellow

1993 – 2000 University of Birmingham, Institute of Public and Environmental Health:

Honorary Research Fellow

1994 – 1999 Department of Soil Science, University of Reading: Lecturer

1999 – 2004 University of Reading, Department of Soil Science: Reader in Spatial Analysis

2005 – present Visiting professor University of Reading.

Special responsibilities:

Council Member of British Society of Soil Science (1989–1991; 1997–2000; 2015–2019)

- Associate Editor of the Journal of Soil Science (1990–1993)
- Associate Editor of the European Journal of Soil Science (1993–1997)
- Regional Coordinator of the National Soils Project (1990–1991)
- Governor of Haybridge High School, Hagley, West Midlands (1990–2003)
- Member of GISDATA (European Science Foundation Scientific Programme)
- Management Committee for Spatial Analysis and GIS (1993–1995)
- Representative on Midland Joint Advisory Council for Environmental Protection (1991–1994)
- Assistant Editor of Mathematical Geology (1997–2011)
- Editorial Board of Precision Agriculture (2000–2004; 2010–present)
- On an appointment committee at the Agricultural University of Uppsala, Sweden, to select a Professor in Environmental Assessment (1997)
- United Kingdom representative on the European Committee for Precision Agriculture (1999–present)
- Joint editor-in-chief for Precision Agriculture (2005–2010)
- Chairman of the awards committee for the Pedometrics Commission of the International Union of Soil Science (2006–2017)
- Deputy Editor of the European Journal of Soil Science (2011–2015)
- Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Soil Science (2015–2019)
- Book Series Editor for Springer for Precision Agriculture (2015–present)
- Editor-in-Chief of the revision and updating of the Encyclopedia of Soils in the Environment (2019–present)

PUBLICATIONS

Journal papers: Over 60 papers published, a full list is available in the CV available in Huddle.

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	<p>Books: Authored or edited</p> <p>Webster, R. and Oliver, M. A. 1990. <i>Statistical Methods in Soil and Land Resources Survey</i>. Oxford University Press, Oxford.</p> <p>Webster, R. and Oliver, M. A. 2001. <i>Geostatistics for Environmental Scientists</i>, John Wiley & Sons, Chichester.</p> <p>Webster, R. and Oliver, M. A. 2007. <i>Geostatistics for Environmental Scientists, Second Edition</i>. John Wiley & Sons, Chichester.</p> <p>Oliver, M. A. (Ed.) 2010. <i>Geostatistical Applications for Precision Agriculture</i>. Springer, Dordrecht.</p> <p>Oliver, M. A., Bishop, T. F. A., Marchant, B. (Eds.) 2013. <i>Precision Agriculture for Sustainability and Environmental Protection</i>. Routledge, London.</p> <p>Oliver, M. A. and Webster, R. (2015). <i>How to do the Basic Steps in Geostatistics: The Variogram and Kriging</i>. Springer, Dordrecht.</p> <p>Departmental Working Paper:</p> <p>Oliver, M. A. 1980. <i>Contrasting approaches to soil classification</i>. Department of Geography, University of Birmingham, Working Paper, No. 4.</p>
Action	The Society Council suggests that members vote in favour to elect Keith Goulding and Margaret Oliver as Honorary Members.

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