



## Election of directors of FSA: 2019

**THIS INFORMATION WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL FSA MEMBERS**  
**Application to become a Director and Trustee of the Forest School Association**

Full Name: ...Matthew Harder.....

Organisation/Freelance: .....Bluebell Bushcraft (Founder/Owner).....  
 (If you are involved with any organisation – please state the name of the organisation and position held).

Sector Experience/Skills (please rate, with X, each from 0 to 3: 0 = no experience, 1 = general background/experience, 2 = Strong relevant experience, 3 = direct relevant experience):

<b>Sector Experience</b>	0	1	2	3
Early Years Forest School				X
Primary Years Forest School				X
Secondary Years Forest School				X
Special Needs Forest School			X	
Play Sector	X			
Environmental Organisations involvement with Forest School	X			
County Council Forest School		X		
Academic Research for Forest School/Higher Education			X	
Outdoor learning			X	
Forest/Woodland management		X		
Forest School Training			X	
Other (please specify)				
<b>Skills</b>				
Media/Communications including social media			X	
Business/Marketing			X	
Fundraising			X	
Events			X	
Public Speaking			X	
Business Acumen		X		
Other (please specify)				



## Election of directors of FSA: 2019

Please indicate which role you would like to apply – job descriptions for the Treasurer and Company Secretary are attached.

<b>Directors</b>	
<b>Post</b>	<b>I would like to apply for this post on the FSA Board (please tick)</b>
Director - Company Secretary	
Director - Treasurer	
Director - Fundraising	
Director – Without Portfolio	✓

**Please tell us a bit about yourself (max 500 words), including;**

- Why you are standing for FSA directorship?
- 

Having been involved in running outdoor learning and Forest School at the primary school where I am currently a part-time teacher, and having started my own Forest School and Bushcraft business about 4 years ago, I now wish to give something back to the industry that has allowed me to pursue my passions and interests in outdoor education.

- Your Forest School experience (and this is not necessarily a pre requisite but you will need to have some basic working knowledge of Forest School)

I have extensive practical and theoretical knowledge of the Forest School ethos and its influencers in pedagogy. I work with four primary schools, planning and leading Forest School sessions; two of these are within curriculum time, one as an after school club, and one as both. I also work with a secondary school, delivering Forest School sessions to learners from years 7-10, all of whom have additional learning, social or behavioural needs. Prior to this year, I also ran Forest School sessions for a Montessori pre-school for two years, though lack of funding led to this contract ending.

I also run birthday parties, holiday clubs and bushcraft training sessions, which, while they do not fulfil the Forest School ethos completely due to lack of enough repeated sessions, I facilitate with a holistic and learner driven ethos, mirroring some of the key elements of Forest School. I work with West Sussex County Council, providing bushcraft sessions for children with attachment difficulties, through the Adoption and Guardianship department, in which I again adopt many key elements of the Forest School ethos.

- How you personally can benefit the FSA.

I can offer many skills to the benefit of the FSA, primarily through my on-going employment within the state education system. I believe having “feet on the ground” is vitally important for maintaining the usefulness of any education-based organisation and leadership. I am also a confident public speaker, and have led presentations to parents extolling the benefits of Forest School within schools and preschools.

Forest School Association Ltd

Registered Office: Warwick Mill Business Centre, Warwick Bridge, Carlisle, Cumbria CA4 8RR

Registered in England & Wales – Company No. 08164851



## **Election of directors of FSA: 2019**

I have good social media and marketing skills, which I use for my own business. In terms of fundraising events, I have organised fundraising events for a youth group in my home village. Although I have limited experience dealing with different funding channels, I would be willing to learn, and contribute in any way I can to fundraising event organisation, and developing awareness of the FSA as an organisation both nationally and internationally.

- Please declare any special interests or affiliations with other organisations in the Forest School sector including commercial, public sector or voluntary.

Personal business – Bluebell Bushcraft

Your information will form the basis for the members to vote in advance of the AGM – and your personal commitment to your role as a Director and Trustee of the Forest School Association.

Forest School Association Ltd

Registered Office: Warwick Mill Business Centre, Warwick Bridge, Carlisle, Cumbria CA4 8RR

Registered in England & Wales – Company No. 08164851