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Inspired by the leadership of 20th century polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton, the Shackleton Foundation provides seed funding to social entrepreneurs wishing to make a difference to the lives of disadvantaged young people in the UK. Should you wish to support the Shackleton Foundation, you can donate by clicking [here](#).

**Our thirteenth newsletter  
 Showcases our charitable  
 work in 2021/2022.**

## CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

# Staying on the right Tack

**It doesn't feel appropriate to publish our annual newsletter without acknowledging and reflecting on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. We are reminded of the many qualities she possessed, including bravery, resilience, and commitment, all of which we look for in those who apply to us for seed-funding.**

Since last September we have added another four Leaders, having reviewed applications from 45, who join an alumnus of 59. There is more detail in the newsletter about these impressive individuals and their solutions to issues affecting young people experiencing disadvantage in the UK today. Whilst this falls short of our annual target, we are confident in our application process which remains rigorous in maintaining a high standard of entry, ensuring we only provide funds to those initiatives that meet our strict criteria.

I'd like to extend a big shout out to fellow Trustee, Plum Lomax, for compiling all the information for our Impact Report. Due out in the Autumn, we publish this report every three years and it is an intensely rewarding reflection and evidence of what The Shackleton Foundation achieves so I hope you will find it an interesting read. It reminds us of our unique position and the risk we take in providing support at such an early stage, helping to turn these concepts into reality when many social entrepreneurs find it challenging to secure funding without a proven track record.

We particularly want to thank the Oak Foundation, The Bernard Sunley Foundation, and The Saints and Sinners Club for continuing to support us, as well as the many individuals who have been so generous with their donations and attended our fundraising event courtesy

of Philip and Catherine Mould. We rely on this philanthropy and hope to see you at our next event in Spring 2023.

The Annual Leaders' Forum, brilliantly curated by Trustee Karen Kwong, not only led to much peer-to-peer discussion but gave us a chance to consider our own approach to the topical subject of inclusion and diversity, and we have captured our position on this important subject which you can read later.

We also felt it was appropriate to spend some time as a board to 'health check' our strategy and purpose. It proved to be a valuable exercise to ensure that we continue to be relevant and effective today, leading to a refresh of our Vision and Mission, and the introduction of a Theory of Change.

The Shackleton Foundation wouldn't operate without the immense contribution of all its Trustees and our administrator, Emmie Whitehead, and I would like to thank them for their dedication. Earlier this year, Bill Shipton stepped down as a Trustee. It is impossible to fittingly thank him for his contribution as he has been the driving force for the Foundation since it began in 2007, and although no longer involved in the detail, he will remain connected for life. Difficult shoes to fill but if you are interested in becoming a Trustee, please do write to us for more information at [info@shackletonfoundation.org](mailto:info@shackletonfoundation.org)

*Onwards,  
 Charlotte*

**Charlotte Hatfield, Chair**

Since the last newsletter was published in Autumn 2021, the Trustees have appointed four new Leaders, taking the total to 59.



**Hana Brierley** (£10,000 Grant)  
**[Hana is the Founder and CEO of Cut The Mustard Club, a not-for-profit CIC that offers inclusive outdoor experiences for children.](#)**

Cut the Mustard Club inspires disadvantaged and socially marginalised young people to find their spark by inviting them to take part in outdoor extra-curricular activities. It has been proven that green environments reduce levels of depression and anxiety and enhance our quality of life. However, access to green spaces varies depending on socioeconomic background. The poorest families have fewer opportunities to reap the benefits of time spent outdoors and this is contributing to rising levels of mental and physical health problems in young people.

The Shackleton Award will enable Cut The Mustard Club to pay for start-up costs associated with renting land and purchasing gardening equipment. Participants will learn more about nature through a series of bespoke workshops enabling them to discover, grow and achieve.

**Christy Acton** (£10,000 Grant)  
**[Christy is the Founder and CEO of Standing Tall, a not-for-profit that matches people who have been through homelessness into stable jobs and safe homes.](#)**

This year Standing Tall is helping 20 people in Birmingham to start and sustain a stable job with local responsible businesses to move away from the streets for good. Alongside a stable job, Standing Tall ensures the person has a safe home through their 'Amici' hosting service. 85% of the people Standing Tall helps are still off the streets and in the same job one year later. The Shackleton Leadership Award is helping Christy to consolidate delivery in Birmingham and start operations in two new cities in 2022.

**Anna Wardley** (£10,000 Grant)  
**[Anna is the Founder and CEO of the Luna Foundation, a not-for-profit on a mission to improve the support for children and young people after a parent or primary caregiver dies by suicide.](#)**

Motivated by the loss of her own dad to suicide when she was nine, Anna has raised significant funds and awareness for suicide-related charities and is dedicated to breaking the chain of poor mental health and increased suicide risk for those who lose a parent to suicide in childhood.

The Shackleton Leadership Award is helping Anna to create firm foundations, which will deliver suicide bereavement training for people working with children and young people across the UK. In addition to the provision of evidence-informed training, Luna will provide

a hub for research, resources, and campaigning around the impact of suicide on young people.

**Laura Harte** (£10,000 Grant)  
**[The Oxfordshire Discovery College was founded by Laura, to bring a new and innovative mental health service to Oxfordshire.](#)**

The Discovery College model supports children and young people through psychoeducation, working in the space between clinical support, education, and youth work. Programmes on mental health topics are designed and delivered by Facilitators who together have both lived and learned subject knowledge and expertise.

This way of working creates a space where children and young people can ask tricky questions about mental health, find lived experience role models, develop their own coping strategies and life skills, and regain control of their wellbeing journey: helping them find their agency in a tumultuous time. The first dedicated Discovery College working with 4–25-year-olds in the UK; the support of the Shackleton Foundation will enable the service to grow its ground-breaking work across the county.

**Pictured: above/left-right Hana Brierley, Christy Acton, Anna Wardley & Laura Harte**

## LEADERS' NEWS

**Hey Girls** started with CEO **Celia Hodson** and her daughters Kate and Bec having a conversation about their experiences with period poverty.

Since then, the Hey Girls team have donated over 25,000,000 products and are finalists in the Social Enterprise UK Awards 2022 in not one, not two, but three categories.

We cannot wait for the Awards Ceremony in December and wish them the very best of luck.

**Fat Macy's** exists to get Londoners out of hostels and into their own homes. It has been a long journey for **Meg Doherty** since she started in 2016 as a pop-up supper club to becoming

a catering company to setting up her own restaurant **Sohaila in Shoreditch**.

Why not pay them a visit for delicious food, great service, and a fantastic cause for social good.

**Anna Alexander** has achieved Newly Qualified Teacher status after her first year on the Teach First programme. As co-founder of **Split Banana** – a social enterprise which delivers Relationship Health and Sex Education workshops for young people and training for teachers – this means that she is now in the opportune place to understand the RSHE needs of all stakeholders within a school.

If you are interested in finding out how Split Banana can support your school or charity get in touch at [hello@splitbanana.co.uk](mailto:hello@splitbanana.co.uk)

**Robin Chu** is stepping down after nine years as Founder and CEO of **CoachBright**. He will be handing over to Joe McGinn currently Head of School Partnerships at ImpactEd.

Having grown CoachBright from a classroom of 12 pupils to a national social mobility charity – the coaching organisation supports over 4000 young people annually and crucially enables those from disadvantaged backgrounds to become more independent and resilient so they can challenge for university and high-level occupations.

## Fundraising Drinks at the Philip Mould Gallery



**On Wednesday 17th November 2021 the Foundation held a Fundraising Drinks Party at the Philip Mould Gallery in Pall Mall, generously hosted by Philip & Catherine Mould.**

It was the first time such an event had been able to take place due to the restrictions of Covid and it didn't disappoint. A truly wonderful venue with the added bonus for guests being able to walk around the gallery and see the beautiful artwork on display.

Philip welcomed the guests and introduced our speakers for the night, Rich Grahame and Sabrina Jones [pictured; inset left and right] both spoke movingly about what our support had done to kick start their social enterprises and improve the lives of disadvantaged young people.



## A SENSE OF BELONGING

**The Shackleton Foundation’s Vision is for a society where young people can thrive and flourish.**

We recognise that we have the capacity to intervene and change practices that are learned, which applies to many including Justice, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (JED&I).

Those Leaders to whom we award funds are, without exception, making positive change through their social enterprises. They often tackle systemic prejudice and inequality, and we support these solutions to improve the lives of the many who experience isolation, alienation, or exclusion.

Internally we are committed to developing a community and creating a culture that is inclusive. We work hard to embrace a variety of minds, skills and perspectives, and respecting other’s views. To allow us to build a world beyond the biases that we witness and live with today, we will do the following.

**1. Prioritise belonging – regularly ask ourselves if there is anyone who would not be made to feel welcome in our world.**

**2. Apply a lens of JED&I to all that we do – our behaviours, our voice, our working practices and processes and our decisions.**

**3. Ensure that the right voices are in the room with the creation of an advisory group of key stakeholders to review and assess how effective we are in fulfilling our commitment to JED&I.**

## OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

A theory of change is a helpful tool to ensure that we meet our objectives. It articulates how we believe change will happen, and as a result, how we plan to invest time and resources to contribute to that change.

**Excellent Leadership has the potential to transform lives. But many social entrepreneurs struggle to turn their concept into reality as securing funding without a proven track record is extremely challenging.**

### Our Activities

We raise funds from trusts, individuals, and companies

We invest catalytic seed capital in social entrepreneurs (Leaders) who embody the leadership spirit of Sir Ernest Shackleton

We provide Leaders with support (mentoring, expertise, introductions)

We build an alumni network of Leaders, to enable peer-to-peer learning, connections, and workshops from experts

We develop informal partnerships with organisations to help source Leaders and enable follow-on funding opportunities



### Our Outcomes

Social entrepreneurs have access to capital to launch and grow successful enterprises

Innovative solutions to social problems are developed and scaled

Social entrepreneurs have the confidence to kick-start a project

Organisations are more effective and sustainable

More funders are aware of the value of early-stage risk capital



**A society in which young people can thrive and flourish without social injustice or discrimination**

# THE SHACKLETON FOUNDATION LEADERS' FORUM

**This year, we held our eighth Leaders' Forum and as ever, it was as enlightening as anticipated.**

Our speaker, Letesia Gibson from Time for New Ways came and spoke to us in May, on 'How do we build an intentionally equitable, inclusive, and purposeful organisation?' The presentation was a well-balanced mix of presenting, as well as conversation between Letesia and the participants

and a lot of reflection time. Some of the questions that she asked were extremely challenging and thought-provoking. Having the ability to share thoughts, insights and questions really helped the group stretch themselves and their perspectives on where they were and where they wanted to be. What truly created value too, was that Letesia was not content to let the audience cruise. Boundaries were pushed, beliefs were

challenged, impactful action was demanded – all with the aim to help us create more consciously impactful and purposeful organisations.

**If you have any suggestion of speakers or interesting topics, or for further information about the Forum, please contact Karen Kwong:**

[leaders@shackletonfoundation.org](mailto:leaders@shackletonfoundation.org)

## About the Foundation

**Sir Ernest Shackleton is well-known as one of the most inspirational leaders of the last century. While he never achieved his personal dream of being the first to reach the South Pole, his reputation as a leader of men is based on a still greater success: the survival and safe return of all his team members, while overcoming almost unimaginable odds. Shackleton's name lives on as a beacon for courage, bravery, and most of all, leadership.**

Shackleton's era of heroic explorations has passed. However, the Shackleton Foundation believes that many challenges still exist where the rallying power and indomitable spirit of Shackleton are needed. We believe that strong leaders can provide inspiration to those around them,

and we wish to support these people. The Shackleton Foundation seeks to help disadvantaged and socially marginalised young people in the UK. It does this by providing seed-funding to social entrepreneurs who exemplify the spirit of Shackleton: inspirational leaders with fresh and innovative ideas striving to make a difference to the lives of disadvantaged young people.

Each grant recipient is reviewed by the Trustees to ensure that their ambitious projects really will make a significant difference. Founded by descendants of Shackleton's 1907-9 Nimrod Expedition, the Shackleton Foundation was established in 2007 to celebrate the legacy of the great man in a 21st century context. To date the Foundation has made 59 Leadership Awards totalling £578,837.

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## The Shackleton Foundation

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For more information, visit us at [www.shackletonfoundation.org](http://www.shackletonfoundation.org)

## OUR SUPPORTERS

