



Forte

Charitable Foundation

Trustee Biographies



The Hon Mrs Olga Polizzi, Lady Shawcross CBE

Chairman

Olga Polizzi is Director of Design at Rocco Forte Hotels and Deputy Chairman of the company. She has her own independent hotel group, The Polizzi Collection, with two hotels in the West Country; Hotel Tresanton in Cornwall and Hotel Endsleigh in Devon and The Star in Alfriston, East Sussex.

Olga is currently on the Board of the Landau Forte Academies; Board of Fellowship & Honorary Degrees at King's College London; Trustee of The Italian Medical Charity; Trustee of St. Mary's School Ascot; Trustee Lord Forte Foundation, and is President of The British Italian Society. Olga is also a director of Miller's Bespoke Bakery, which she and her daughter Alex Polizzi helped to establish in 1997.

Olga was a Westminster Councillor from 1989 to 1994 and is married to the author William Shawcross. She has two daughters, as well as a step-son and step-daughter.



Nick Acland

Chair of the Grants Committee

Nick Acland retired from the Henry Smith Charity where he was the Director from 2012 to 2022, prior to which he spent five years as a Trustee. His earlier career was in the manufacturing sector where he ran two speciality papermaking businesses and more recently his own business designing and manufacturing fabric structures for the events and 'glamping' industries. He has a degree in Engineering from Oxford and an MBA from INSEAD.

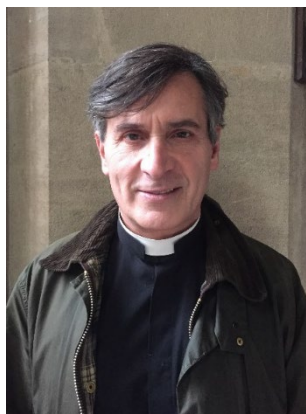


Patrick Reeve

Chair of the Finance Committee

Patrick qualified as a Chartered Accountant and worked in the City, primarily in venture capital. He spent 20 years at Close Brothers, where he founded the venture capital division, which he took independent in 2009 and which is now named Albion Capital. Albion has £1 billion under management, split between venture investment, including early stage projects in partnership with universities, and the management of quoted portfolios, principally on behalf of charities.

Patrick is a trustee of Girdlers Company Charitable Trust, he has been a mentor with the Princes Trust for 12 years, and is a member of the Audit Committee of University College London.



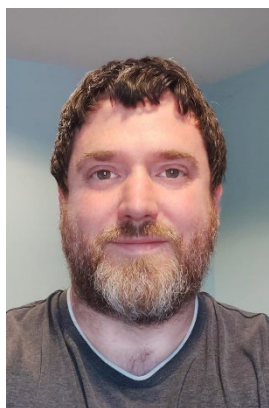
Reverend Paul Gismondi

Grants Committee & Finance Committee

Reverend Paul Gismondi is Priest in Charge at All Hallows on-the-Wall in the City of London, formerly Domestic Chaplain in Ordinary to the Marquess of Salisbury, at Hatfield House in Hertfordshire. He previously ministered in the parish of Holy Trinity Sloane Square, London and the benefice of Sandringham, Norfolk, having been ordained in 2016. From 1990-2014, he was a Director and Partner of Lazard LLC, one of the world's leading financial advisory and asset management firms, where he was responsible for the company's international Capital Markets Advisory practice. Prior to that he had executive roles at Manufacturers Hanover Limited and The Bank of New York.

He has served on a number of public and private corporation boards as a non-executive director and has many years of experience as a Trustee of philanthropic and educational organisations.

He received degrees from Trinity Hall, Cambridge and Williams College, Massachusetts, USA and is currently studying at Blackfriars Hall, Oxford.



Harry Naylor

Grants Committee

Harry Naylor is Chief Executive at Karis Neighbour Scheme, a charity which has been serving communities in inner-city Birmingham for the past 24 years. Karis works with its communities to reduce social isolation and provide neighbourly help to people who may otherwise be marginalised.

Harry has worked in the community he grew up in for the past 18 years, primarily in a number of roles at Karis, including community development and most recently leadership roles. However, he has also worked closely with and supported a number of other charities and community groups through volunteering and as part of partnerships and networks in the city.



Carole Milner MBE

Grants Committee

Carole has occupied various senior management and independent roles in training and education, cultural heritage conservation and international development.

Born in Yorkshire, she worked in Italy and France for 22 years, culminating with appointment to the Louvre as a Conservator of Paintings. In 1994 she returned to a role at the Museums & Galleries Commission with national responsibility for standards in conservation across the UK's 2500 museums and galleries. After working abroad with the British Council and UNESCO, she then joined VSO (Voluntary Services Overseas), travelling extensively and working with many voluntary and third sector organisations both in the UK and overseas.

Carole has a strong interest in governance. She has been a committed Board member of numerous third sector organisations and has a particular interest in charitable giving and support. In 2011 she was instrumental in establishing a specialist network of over 25 funding organisations which she continues to convene. In 2005 Carole was proud to receive the Royal Warrant Holders Association Plowden Gold Medal for her work in uniting and advancing the conservation profession. In 2020 she was awarded an MBE for services to Heritage and Crafts during Covid-19.



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Sir Alastair King

Finance Committee

An Alderman of the City of London, Sir Alastair served as the 696th Lord Mayor of London (2024-25). He is the founder and Chairman of Naisbitt King Asset Management Limited - an independent, FCA-regulated fund management firm headquartered in London, specialising in global fixed income markets. As Lord Mayor he spearheaded the Mansion House Accord, a landmark pension reform and launched a series of City Belonging Networks for 12 active community groups. He is also Chair of Birkbeck, University of London; LiverUK (the UK's national liver charity); and The Drinking Fountain Association. He serves as a Trustee of the Royal Regiment of Scotland Trust and of charities connected with the City of London Corporation. He was knighted in 2026 for services to pensions reform, the promotion of international business and voluntary and charitable service. Sir Alastair began his career as a solicitor in the City and holds a Master's degree from the London Business School.



Charlotte Polizzi Peyton (Charlie)

Grants Committee

Charlie Polizzi has worked in the retail sector for the last 25 years, with a small independent business and most recently a 3-year consultancy with Next PLC. She is Director of The Polizzi Collection, an independent hotel group, with two hotels in the West Country: Hotel Tresanton and Hotel Endsleigh and The Star in Alfriston.

Charlie is a qualified yoga instructor, runs retreats and is a student of conscious breath work and mindfulness for stress.

Charlie is married to Oliver Peyton, owner of Exit Here funerals; she has three children.



Arabella Salwey

Finance Committee

After reading classics at Trinity College Cambridge, Arabella gained extensive experience as a solicitor and then an investment manager advising trusts, charities and private clients.

Married life took her to her husband's farm in Shropshire where she is actively involved in environmental initiatives and sustainable food production.

Arabella holds a wide range of local charitable roles, including fundraising for community initiatives and serving as trustee on charitable trusts, where she advises charities on investments, compliance, and long-term sustainability strategies. She has been Chair of the Foundation of Ludlow Sixth Form College since 2016, championing important initiatives for disadvantaged students. She has a deep commitment to community-focused charitable work offering her legal expertise, strategic insight, and understanding of rural social challenges.

**Sharon Rich**

Grants Committee

Sharon was the former Executive Director at Trelya, a charity working to tackle structural inequalities and barriers that fuel cycles of deprivation head on to enable positive change in West Cornwall's most under resourced community.

Sharon has worked in the voluntary and statutory sector over the past 25 years, both in service delivery and leadership roles. She is a registered Social Worker and a Governor with Cornwall Adult Education, she is passionate about improving outcomes for children, young people and families and creating a fairer future.

**Salma Shah**

Grants Committee

Salma Shah is a communications and public affairs consultant. Previously, Salma was Special Adviser to Sajid Javid. She served in the UK government from 2014 to 2019. Prior to this, Salma was a journalist at the BBC, producing the Today programme on Radio 4.

**Karen Brade**

Finance Committee

Karen Brade has served as a non-executive director and audit committee chair in a number of public and private companies. Karen previously chaired Keystone Positive Change Investment Trust plc and Aberdeen Japan Investment Trust plc, and has extensive experience in investment, financial governance and impact investing.

Earlier in her career, Karen was a Director at British International Investment (formerly CDC Group), where she worked on investments across Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. She subsequently advised a range of development-finance and impact-investment funds, including renewable-energy, SME and post-conflict initiatives.

Karen has longstanding charitable-sector experience. She was a trustee and finance committee member of World Child Cancer, and has held trustee, treasurer and governor roles with Meadow Arts, Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust and Moor Park Charitable Trust. She holds a degree in Business Studies from Trinity College Dublin.