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**Trustee Biographies**

**The Hon Mrs Olga Polizzi**

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.

A person smiling for the camera

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**Philippa Hardwick**

Vice Chair and also on Finance Committee

Philippa is a barrister and holds a portfolio of appointments (legal and non-legal) focusing on regulation, standards, professional discipline, public health, governance and risk.

Philippa practiced as a Commercial Barrister (as Philippa Hamilton) from Fountain Court Chambers. Before her legal career she worked as an economics analyst for Unilever plc. She currently sits on the Management Board and Audit and Risk Committee of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate and in a regulatory capacity on the Financial Reporting Council’s Advisory Panel and. In a quasi-judicial capacity she serves on the Cabinet Office’s Security Vetting Appeals Panel, a role she has held since 2015. She is also a Director and Trustee of the London Clinic and chairs its Financial Audit Committee.

Philippa has recent experience of serving on senior boards and trusts, in particular dealing with governance, regulatory processes, audit committees, investment committees, adjudication panels, and case management processes. As a commercial barrister, she handled a broad range of advisory and representative work, litigation, arbitration and mediation.

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**Crispian Collins MBE**

Chair of the Grants Committee

After a history degree from Oxford University, Crispian was an investment manager in the City of London for over thirty years. First with Phillips & Drew (where he was chairman) and later with Union Bank of Switzerland. His focus was originally on equity and, in particular, property investment, and subsequently on managing teams of investment professionals. His clients were pension funds and charities. More recently he has served on company boards, chairing two quoted property companies, and governing boards for private and academy schools.

Crispian has had a long association with the not-for-profit sector, overseas through a children’s charity in Thailand and in the UK with the Salvation Army and a City educational charity. With Trusthouse his principal aim is to ensure that the foundation’s grants achieve the best possible outcomes for the local communities they serve.

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**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.

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**Nick Acland**

Grants Committee & Finance Committee

Nick Acland has recently 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.

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**Reverend Paul Gismondi**

Grants Committee & Finance Committee

Reverend Paul Gismondi is the Domestic Chaplain in Ordinary to the Marquess of Salisbury, based 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.

A person posing for a picture

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**Nicholas Melhuish**

Finance Committee

Nick Melhuish became Bursar of Corpus Christi College, Oxford in 2018 after spending 27 years as a Portfolio Manager, latterly as UK Equity CIO and Head of Global Equities at the European asset manager Amundi SA. He graduated from New College, Oxford in 1991 with a first class degree in Modern History. During his career, he has worked in Geneva, Singapore and the USA.

Nick serves as a Director of both the JP Morgan Claverhouse Investment Trust PLC and Murray International PLC. He also lectures on Asset Management at the Saïd business School. He has three daughters and his interests include reading, sailing, skiing, walking and his garden.

A person in a suit and tie

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**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 & Crafts during Covid-19.

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**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.

A person with a beard

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**Charlotte Polizzi Peyton (Charlie)**

Grants Committee

Charlie Polizzi has worked in the retail sector for the last 25years, with a small independent business and most recently a 3yr 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.

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**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.

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**Sharon Rich**

Grants Committee

Sharon is the 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.