



SHARED INTEREST

INVESTING IN A FAIRER WORLD

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2020

Venue

The Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, South Shore Road, Gateshead NE8 3BA

Programme

Arrival at 10am

- 10.30 Welcome from Mary Coyle, Chair
- 10.35 Guest speaker: Erinch Sahan, CEO, World Fair Trade Organization
- 11.05 Guest speaker: Mike Gidney CEO, Fairtrade Foundation
- 11.35 Overview of achievements, Patricia Alexander, MD
- 12.00 Guest speakers: Lupe Lanao and Gastón Vizcarra of Candela, a Peruvian Brazil nut producer
- 12.30 Guest speaker: Pastor Habimana Japhet, Executive Secretary of Cocagi, a Rwandan coffee co-operative
- 13.00 Lunch and end of open meeting

- 13.30 Member registration
- 13.45 Annual General Meeting (for members and their guests)
- 15.00 AGM ends

To help us organise the event we would be grateful if you could let us know if you are able to attend by **completing the voting card enclosed**. If you cannot attend the AGM in person, you can still take part in the democratic working of the Society by appointing the Chair or another member as a proxy on your behalf.

The voting card also includes a postal ballot section for the election of Directors and Council Members as this **will not be voted on at the AGM**.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The thirtieth Annual General Meeting of Shared Interest Society Limited will be held from 13.45 on Friday 13 March 2020 at the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, South Shore Road, Gateshead NE8 3BA for the following purposes:

1. to receive the Society's accounts for the year ended 30 September 2019 and the reports of the Directors and the Auditor;
2. to receive the Society's Social Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2019 and the report of the Social Audit Panel;
3. to increase the remuneration for the Non-Executive Directors from £3,204 to £3,420 and for the Chair of the Board from £5,046 to £5,400 with effect from 1 October 2019;
4. to indicate satisfaction with the arrangements for determining the pay of Executive Directors that are the subject of the report by the Remuneration Committee in the Directors' report;
5. to re-appoint the firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Auditor of the Society and to authorise the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditor for the year ending 30 September 2020;
6. to receive a report from the Council;
7. to receive public declarations of support for the Society's Object from all candidates for election;
8. to receive the results of the postal ballot for the election of the following members of the Society as Directors: Martin Kyndt, Cristina Talens and Yvonne Gale;
9. to receive the results of the postal ballot for the election of the following members of the Society as members of Council: Geoff Shearn, Shelagh Baird-Smith, Anjum Misbahuddin and Katherine Wyatt.

By order of the Board
T D Morgan, Secretary
18 December 2019

Registered Office:
Pearl Assurance House
7 New Bridge Street West
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 8AQ

NOTES TO RESOLUTIONS

Note to Resolution 3

The Society periodically reviews the remuneration of the Non-Executive Directors and Chair and these were last changed with effect from 1 October 2016. The Management team makes a recommendation to the Board, with appropriate evidence, in regards to the fees payable to Non-Executive Directors and the Remuneration Committee (minus the Chair of the Board) is specifically tasked with making recommendation in regard to the fee payable to the Chair of the Board.

Note to Resolution 4

Executive Directors' pay and conditions are set, within policies agreed by the whole Board, by a Remuneration Committee comprising three Non-Executive Directors, Pauline Radcliffe (Chair), Martin Kyndt and Mary Coyle (Board Chair). It is good practice to ask members at the AGM to indicate whether they are happy with the arrangements for making decisions about executive pay and the results of those decisions as set out in the Notes to the Accounts. This vote is not binding on the Directors but provides an indication of members' views, so that those views can be reflected in future policy and decisions.

Note to Resolutions 8 & 9

Directors have decided, as provided for in Rule 34 and 36G, that the election of Directors and Council members will be conducted by postal ballot. The results of the ballot will be announced at the AGM. The elections for Directors are not contested. The Society operates a system of rotation (Rules 36 and 38) so that one third of eligible Directors and Council members stand for re-election each year. Martin Kyndt is retiring as a Director but standing for re-election under Rule 38 as explained on page 5 of the Directors' Report and Financial Statements. Cristina Talens and Yvonne Gale were co-opted to the Board on the 18 December and must retire at this AGM but are eligible for election by the members.

Geoff Shearn, a randomly-chosen member of Council, is retiring by rotation and seeking re-election. This election is not contested. There are three candidates for the two non-randomly chosen Council members, Shelagh Baird-Smith, Anjum Misbahuddin and Katherine Wyatt. This is a contested election.

VOTING / PROXY CARD VOTING

To vote in the election of Directors and Council members please use the voting card supplied in the post or online. **There will be no opportunity to vote in the election of Directors and Council members at the AGM.**

This form also allows you to tell us whether you will be at the AGM. If you expect to attend in person, please mark the attendance box, complete your details and sign the registration card before sending it back to us in the Freepost envelope.

You can also complete the form online using the member portal. If you have not registered to use the member portal, and would like to do so, please contact our membership team on 0191 2339102 or membership@shared-interest.com.

If you cannot attend the AGM in person, you can appoint another member or the Chair to vote for you (on resolutions that are not elections) as proxy on the enclosed card. You can only appoint the Chair as proxy on your behalf if you give specific directions to vote for or against each resolution. Any votes you indicate on the card do not bind you if you attend the meeting in person.

In the case of joint holders the vote of the senior who tenders a vote, whether in person or by proxy, shall be accepted to the exclusion of the votes of the other joint holders. Seniority shall be determined by the order in which the names of the holders stand in the register of members. While only one among joint members has the formal right to attend other than as a proxy, the others will be welcome as guests.

A member, being a Society or company, may appoint a representative. For the AGM to be valid, votes must be registered in person or by proxy by a quorum of at least 100 members, so please do return the proxy card with your votes if you cannot attend.

Latest date for votes or receipt of proxies

If you wish to vote or to appoint a proxy, we must receive your card in our registered office **not later than 11.00am on Wednesday 11 March 2020.**

STATEMENTS OF THE CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION

Board

Martin Kyndt



Martin has worked in international development for over 30 years. Following time with Sightsavers, managing their programmes in Asia, Pacific and the Caribbean, he joined Christian Aid as the Deputy International Director before taking up a Director role to lead Christian Aid's Strategy and People Management function. Before leaving Christian Aid in 2018, he took on a new role as Director of Programme Innovation & Funding to lead the development of programmatic work supported by funding from international institutions, governments, private sector, trusts, foundations and major donors. Martin is currently the Chair of FitzRoy Support, a charity supporting people with learning difficulties and autism. He has also held Non-Executive roles at Sightsavers and was previously the Chair of ECLOF International (global micro-finance NGO based in Geneva), Chair of Health Poverty Action and Treasurer of BOND (network of UK based development organisations).

Dr Yvonne Gale



Yvonne is a specialist in improving access to finance for small businesses to address economic inequality. She is the CEO of NEL Fund Managers an economic development impact investor who accelerate the growth of small businesses by providing loans and growth capital. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and an Associate Member of the Institute of Economic Development. She holds a masters and doctorate in business, IOD Certificate and Diploma in Company Direction and is a Financial Conduct Authority registered approved person. Dr Gale's area of research is investment decision making. She is a member of the MBA Advisory Board at Durham University, a member of the Advisory and Decision Committee for the UAE Ministry of Finance-backed, Mohammed bin Rashid AED 2 billion Innovation Fund and a Non-Executive Director of the UK government Office of the Small Business Commissioner. Yvonne is a trustee and chair of the investment committee for the Millfield House Foundation, a charity who promote social change with the aim of reducing poverty and inequality.

Cristina Talens



Cristina Talens is Founder and Director of Source Climate Change Coffee, and has been working with coffee, cocoa and tea farmers around the globe for over 15 years. Cristina started her coffee journey as Ethical Trading Manager at Taylors of Harrogate and today, as well as running her coffee company, she works with the Wilberforce Institute at the University of Hull, to support companies to meet the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act. Cristina has indepth experience of working with smallholder farmers through her work with Taylors and alongside the Lorna Young Foundation where she helped launch Farmer Voice. A radio extension training programme for smallholder farmers to provide information on their crops, yields and commodity markets. She has helped to set up radio programmes in the DRC, Kenya, Ghana and Tanzania. She speaks Spanish, French and Catalan fluently.

STATEMENTS OF THE CANDIDATES (continued)

Council

Geoff Shearn



Geoff Shearn has a broad and varied career, beginning as a Geography teacher in Northampton before setting up an activity holiday business in the Peak District. In between these two roles, Geoff wrote a book about his travels through Asia, as well as spending time as a Town Planner and Youth Worker.

For the past 23 years Geoff has been working as an English teacher in the Czech Republic, travelling back to the UK for Council meetings. With a keen interest in international development, he became a member

of Shared Interest in 1998.

He is also an investor in the Cochabamba Forest Project in Bolivia and a co-operative owner of the New Internationalist.

Shelagh Baird-Smith



I am a long-standing and active member of Shared Interest, opening a joint account with my husband in 1996 and my own individual account in 2008. I have been an Ambassador for many years and enjoy talking about Shared Interest whenever I get the chance.

Although I trained as a primary school teacher, most of my working life has been as a volunteer in various fields.

I have been actively involved in supporting fair trade through personal buying, joining campaigns, supporting Fairtrade Fortnight and helping to manage a charity shop selling fair trade goods.

From 2004-2010, I was World Development Adviser for my local Anglican diocese and worked to attain Fairtrade Diocese status. During that time I was Chair of the Nottingham Fairtrade Working group for several years, which gave opportunities to publicise the work of Shared Interest as well as promoting fair trade in general.

Visits to East Africa have given me the opportunity to visit the Shared Interest offices in Nairobi as well as some Kenyan Fairtrade producer groups. I have also been fortunate to be able to visit Fairtrade tea growers in Uganda and Quinoa farmers in Bolivia.

Two years living and volunteering in northern Uganda (2011-13) have given me a deep understanding of the difficulties of life in developing countries and the difference fair trade can make to the lives of ordinary people.

I believe I have useful skills and experience and if elected I will be an active and committed member of Council.

Dr Anjum Misbahuddin



I would love to be elected to the Council of Shared Interest, as I am passionate about facilitating people around the world earning a fair living rather than relying on charity, and promoting inequality reduction, fairness in trade and sustainable development.

I have held a Shared Interest account for a number of years, however I do not have a background in business or finance – I have been a Consultant Neurologist working solely for the NHS for over a decade. So, I work in an organisation with too much business and not enough

finance if that counts! I have also been clinical lead for Neurology for the last 4 years at my large financially challenged hospital. I am therefore used to working hard, chairing meetings, meeting deadlines, managing staff and introducing innovations to try and help more patients in a timely manner in addition to maintaining a high quality personal practice, despite all the difficulties in the current NHS. I am also an Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer and undertake a lot of teaching to all levels of students and doctors.

In recent years, I have completed a BA degree in International Studies from the Open University focussing on International Development and international environmental policy. I am a volunteer and trustee for a charity supporting medical education in Palestine and a volunteer mentor for a charity providing financial support and mentorship for promising students in the developing world.

I am committed to being a useful, hardworking member of Council if elected.

Katherine Wyatt



Katherine (61) lives in Leeds; has been a Shared Interest investor for 30 years; was a Traidcraft fair-trader; volunteers in a fair trade shop; is a member of Leeds Fairtrade Steering group and until last year was a Shared Interest Ambassador.

She has been a Trustee of Leeds Asylum-seeker network for 6 years, and runs a weekly refugees women's befriending group.

A mixed experience of 4 months volunteering in Malawi (2011) highlighted for her the complexity of reaching out to overseas communities: the perils of 'well-meaning' initiatives, often failing through lack of proper planning and consultation.

Shared Interest on the other hand has a tried and tested model, which both reaches out effectively to overseas businesses as partners, and to its UK investors as a Community Benefit Society.

In these times of polarized politics, economic slowdown and narrow nationalism, and with the acceleration of climate change (hitting the poorest hardest), she feels it is more vital than ever to act positively. Supporting Shared Interest is one way of doing this. The challenges are huge: ongoing upheavals in the fair-trade world mean the Society needs to continue thinking creatively and 'outside the box' so as evolve and remain a relevant key player.

Katherine would like the opportunity to contribute through representing Members' interests on Council. She feels she is a thoughtful team-player, a good communicator and experienced in participating in such groups. She would bring enthusiasm and commitment. If you feel she could make a useful contribution then please consider voting for her.

Venue

The Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, South Shore Road, Gateshead NE8 3BA



Directions

Located on Gateshead Quayside, the nearest metro station is Gateshead Interchange and from here you can catch the Quaylink Q1 bus to the venue. From Newcastle train station (Central Station), you can catch the Quaylink Q2 bus. Parking spaces are available in the Baltic Car Park. Follow Signage for 'Gateshead Quays' and 'Other Car Parks' until specific signage for Baltic Car Park becomes visible. Parking charges apply.

The Directors' Report and Financial Statements and the Social Accounts are available to download from our website.

Shared Interest Society Limited
is registered with the Registrar of Mutual Societies, number 27093R.

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