

Press Release

Friday 24th March

The Fore
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How the UK's "most powerful man you've never heard of", a former captain of the All Blacks, a CEO of Jane Austen's bank and Dido Harding are disrupting the charity sector.

They may seem an unlikely bunch but Rupert Harrison CBE (former Chief Economic Advisor to the Chancellor and named most powerful person you've never heard of in 2014)¹, Anton Oliver (Captain of the New Zealand rugby squad in 2001), Alexander Hoare (partner of C Hoare and Co and CEO 2001-2009) and Baroness Dido Harding are just four of the impressive individuals that are behind The Fore Trust which launches on the 27th March.

A bold new initiative, The Fore is creating connections with the business community to make sure talented social entrepreneurs in small charities across the UK, get the funding and advice they need to prosper.

More and more philanthropic giving in the UK is going to larger charities², leaving smaller organisations struggling to survive.³ **Chair of The Fore, Rupert Harrison** says, "I know from my own experience in government that the system favours established players. We aim to level the playing field."

The Fore has already won the attention of the Big Lottery Fund, the largest funder of community activity in the UK. Thanks to National Lottery players, The Fore's first grant recipients will benefit from £300,000 from the Big Lottery Fund.

The Fore's simple processes are designed to respect how precious time is for those working on the front line. The Fore's experienced assessors complete extensive due diligence before putting the best applicants forward to "dragons' den" style panels. Business members decide who gets funding and offer themselves as mentors, trustees or advisors.

"Being in a position to give away money is such an opportunity," says **Mary Rose Gunn, CEO of The Fore**, "but we had noticed that despite having large foundations, so many businesses weren't letting their staff enjoy the experience."

The Fore is a chance for businesses to meet great small charities, but it is so much more. Being a mentor to an inspirational founder or advising someone who is changing the lives of others, really does feel, as one of our Members put it, like electricity."

The Fore Trust
is a part of The Bulldog Trust Ltd.
Registered Charity No. 1123081.
Registered in England and Wales
under Company Number 6510777

Registered office:
Alexandra House, St John's Street
Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 2SB

¹ Telegraph, 2014. Ever wondered how George Osborne can be a part-time Chancellor?
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/>

² NCVO's UK Civil Society Almanac 2016 <https://www.ncvo.org.uk/>

³ Local Charity and Community Group Sustainability Report, 2016. <https://localgiving.org/>

By collaborating with the Big Lottery Fund the Fore will strengthen its connections with community foundations across England. This will extend the Fore's networks with the aim of benefiting more charities and social enterprises in the future.

James Harcourt, England Grant Making Director, Big Lottery Fund said: "This initiative combines the Fore's business network with our voluntary sector expertise and network. By working together we have a compelling opportunity to support a much wider range of organisations. This collaborative approach is one we're committed to developing, helping to maximise the impact funding raised by National Lottery players can have."

The Fore has been born out of the experience of the Bulldog Trust and the Golden Bottle Trust, two foundations related to C Hoare and Co, the private bank that counts Jane Austen as a former customer. Having spent the last four years piloting a funding model that has had huge success offering funding and business expertise to brilliant grassroots project, they decided to think bigger and help more small charities.

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Notes to editors

- The Fore funding process is based on the model piloted by founding funders, the Bulldog Trust and the Golden Bottle Trust from 2012-2016. The scheme experienced exceptional demand from charities for this style of funding and from funders for the strong pipeline of small organisations it created.
- The Fore Pilot Results:
 - 51 grants awarded
 - 90% average score for delivery against transformational targets
 - 77% connected with ongoing business expertise
 - 1,180 hours of strategic advice provided to applicants
 - 80% applications rated grant process 4 or 5 out of 5
 - 77% grantees gone on to access major funding
- The Fore is a partner of the Big Lottery Fund. The Big Lottery Fund is the largest funder of community activity in the UK. The Big Lottery Fund put people in the lead to improve their lives and communities, often through small, local projects. It is responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised by National Lottery players for good causes. Every year it awards around 12,000 grants across the UK for health, education, environment and charitable purposes. Since June 2004 the Big Lottery Fund have awarded over £8 billion to projects that change the lives of millions of people.
- The Fore Trust are delighted to name Fitch, the world's leading retail and brand consultancy and creators of The Fore's stunning identity, and C Hoare and Co as their first corporate partners.
- The Fore is based at the magnificent neo-gothic mansion, Two Temple Place on the Embankment in London. Owned by the Fore's parent charity Bulldog Trust, the Fore uses the house as a stunning convening space for all its partners.
- The Fore Trust is part of the Bulldog Trust, registered charity 1123081, and is overseen by an independent advisory board that combines the voices and experience of pioneering business people with those of leading small charities and social enterprises.

PATRONS:

- **Kenneth Olisa** OBE, FRSA, FBCS, HM Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, Lord Deputy Chair of the Institute of Directors, President of Thames Reach and Chair of the Shaw Trust.
- **Sir Thomas Hughes-Hallett** DL, Chair of the Marshall Institute for Philanthropy and Social Entrepreneurship at the LSE, Chair of Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, Director of the King's Fund, adjunct professor at the Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London and trustee of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

BOARD:

- **Rupert Harrison CBE**, Chair of The Fore, Portfolio Manager and Chief Macro Strategist in the Multi-Asset Strategies group at BlackRock. From 2010–2015, Chief of Staff to UK Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, and Chair of the UK's Council of Economic Advisors.
- **Rosaleen Blair CBE**, founder and CEO of Alexander Mann Solutions.
- **Mary Boakye**, Managing Director of Oriol Associates and former partner at Dentons LLP.
- **Lloyd Chamberlain**, founder and Managing Partner of Praxient Capital from 2007–2014.
- **Baroness Dido Harding**, Chief Executive of TalkTalk Telecom Group PLC. Trustee of Doteveryone and a member of the UK National Holocaust Foundation.
- **Alexander S Hoare**, Partner and Chief Executive of C. Hoare & Co. from 2001-2009. He is Chair of Project Snowball LLP.
- **Charles M R Hoare**, Chair of the Bulldog Trust, Head of European Healthcare at Stifel, Chair of Chariot Innovations Ltd, Non-Executive Director of Atlantic Healthcare plc and a Churchwarden of St. Dunstan-in-the-West
- **Danny Kruger**, Chairman and former Chief Executive of the West London Zone for Children and Young People.
- **Anton Oliver**, Head of Equities Business Management at M&G Investments. Former captain of the New Zealand national rugby team, ambassador for Cure Kids and the Shackleton Foundation.
- **Ginny Williams-Ellis**, founder and Chief Executive of Read Easy UK.