



Community. Industry. Technology.

Newsletter | June 2019

Introducing a new philanthropic Foundation

The Alex Ferry Foundation aims to improve the lives of people who work or have worked in UK shipbuilding, engineering and related manufacturing industries, as well as their families and dependents. It will be a unique charity. Never before has such a significant sum been awarded by the lay members and for the benefit of lay members of trade unions and their communities.

The Foundation was created with the assets of a trust fund established in 1989 by a trade union federation, the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Trade Unions (CSEU). That fund was set up to provide financial support to workers in the UK related manufacturing industries who were then engaged in industrial action to secure a shorter working week. It is thought that approximately 200,000 trade union members contributed to the fund, with their contributions constituting the vast majority of

the assets donated. Following conclusion of the initial and successful campaign and industrial action, a surplus was left in the fund which over time has increased considerably with investment return. That sum of many millions will now provide the initial funding of the Alex Ferry Foundation.

The Alex Ferry Foundation was registered as a charity with the Charity Commission on 7 September 2018. The effective date for the commencement of activities by the Foundation was 24 December 2018. The first meeting of the Board was held in March 2019. The Foundation has been established with a substantial donation from the 35 Hour Week Campaign Fund of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

Ian Waddell was appointed Director in 2019. Ian is also the General secretary of the CSEU. Ngozi Ojike was appointed Finance Officer.

Who was Alex Ferry?

Alex was the long serving General Secretary of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions from 1978 to 1994.

Alex Ferry's great crusade was to reduce the hours in the engineering industry to 37 hours a week. He succeeded. On his death in 1994 his obituary writer Tam Dalyell MP wrote; "He did this (campaign for reduced hours) not because he was against genuine emergency overtime, but because he believed passionately that people ought to have the dignity of a proper wage not dependent on overtime and that people gave of their best if hours were reduced."

Alex was active in union politics and the Labour Party throughout his life. Tam Dalyell wrote of Alex Ferry; "For me and contemporaries, life will not be quite the same at conferences of the Scottish Labour Party, the Scottish TUC and the TUC and the Labour party National Conference without the rasping but ever mellower Clydeside tones of Alex Ferry". The Independent newspaper 25 July 1994.

The Foundation Board

The make-up of the Board is as follows...

35 Hour Week Support Fund Trustees

These two Trustees were appointed on 11 January 2018. They were appointed to oversee the election and appointment of the CSEU Members, the Lay Members and thereafter the Independent Member and Chair:

■ J F Rowse ■ H Scullion

CSEU Trustees

These three Trustees were appointed by the CSEU Executive in September and December 2018:

■ D M Holland ■ A J McDiarmid ■ R Murdoch

Lay Shop Steward Trustees

These five Trustees were elected by a Special Delegate Conference of lay delegates of the CSEU in London on 17 October 2018:

■ T Griffiths ■ S G Hibbert ■ R A Holmes
■ D S McPhee ■ C Stevenson

Independent member and Chair

■ Martyn Evans

Martyn Evans Independent Chair

Martyn is the independent Executive Chair of the Alex Ferry Foundation (AFF). Martyn was the CEO of the Carnegie UK Trust for a decade. He has been credited with making the Carnegie UK Trust “one of the most influential philanthropic organisations in the UK today”.



Martyn Evans

He has chaired successful and influential commissions and enquiries across the UK and Ireland in fields as diverse as welfare reform, library strategy, fairness, legal aid, citizenship and wellbeing. Martyn has led campaigning charities, consumer research public bodies, health quality regulator and policing oversight of the second largest police force in the UK. He was a visiting Professor of Law at the University of Strathclyde

Martyn said: “It is a great privilege to be appointed the independent Chair of this new Foundation. The Trustees and staff of the Foundation will work hard through 2019 to establish the internal policies, procedures, governance oversight and grants making priorities. All the Trustees are appointed for a four-year term to the end of 2022. Once we have put in place internal processes and policies of the Foundation we will publish a three-year strategic plan covering 2020–2022.”

“The launch of the Alex Ferry Foundation is a really welcome development. It’s a powerful example of the way in which the trades union movement – such a vital part of civil society – can use the tools of philanthropy to enable important and lasting change. The accumulation of a financial asset is too often seen as an opportunity for the already privileged to distribute funds. The formation of the Alex Ferry Foundation shows a new approach to philanthropy, amalgamating small gifts to create a fund that can genuinely support the next generation. That has the potential to be 21st century philanthropy at its best.”

Julia Unwin CBE Chair of the Independent Inquiry into the Future of Civil Society and former Director of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Foundation

Our priorities for 2019

- We will establish the policies and financial procedures for a well-run philanthropic foundation that meets and indeed exceeds the regulatory requirements of the Charity Commission.
- We will prioritise activity with and for workers and former workers and their families in the shipbuilding and engineering industries across the UK.
- We will work to bring the philanthropic Foundation sector closer to the trade union movement. Recognising both as key players in maintaining an effective and dynamic civil society.
- We will want to bring the beneficial civil society role of trade unions to greater public attention.

Our plans for 2020-22

The Board has agreed a draft ‘mission and approach’. This allows the Board to develop its attitude to a wide range of issue including is endowment investment approach, grant-making policies and research priorities. In short a mission statement helps set out the ‘attitude’ of the Foundation. We wish to direct the energy and resources of the Foundation to *improve people living well* (sometimes known as individual wellbeing) and *people living well together* (sometimes known as social wellbeing).



The Alex Ferry Foundation, 16 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0AF

Alex Ferry Foundation is the trading name of Alex Ferry Limited a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Registered charity number 1179847 and registered company number 11145243