North West residents scoop 12 prestigious Churchill Travelling Fellowships

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The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust has awarded 150 travelling Fellowships across the UK.

12 of these grants, totalling almost £75,935 have been awarded to people in the North West. The Fellows will travel to seven countries between them, across four continents, where they will carry out a wide range of projects. The average length of a Fellowship is six weeks.

This year's **North West** Fellows are:

- **Clare Law**, from **Lytham St Annes**, and Development Manager at the Centre for Early Child Development, who will be travelling to Australia and the USA to investigate approaches to mitigating early childhood trauma.
- **Sarah Walters**, from **Stockport**, and a Development Manager at Shelter, who will be travelling to Canada and the USA to research re-housing solutions for vulnerable homeless women.
- **Dr Kat Taylor**, a Clinical Psychologist and researcher from **Lancaster**, who will be travelling to Finland and the USA to study initiatives embedding the arts in health care.
- **Angela Samata**, an Arts and Mental Health Practitioner from **Birkenhead**, who will be travelling to Japan and the USA to investigate attitudes to artists with diagnosed mental health conditions.
- **Geraldine Esdaille**, an Executive Director from **Manchester**, who will be travelling to the USA to research culturally appropriate services for black women with multiple complex needs.
- **Matt Dugdale**, a paramedic from **Clitheroe, Lancashire**, who will be travelling to Australia, Canada and New Zealand to study Community First Responder schemes.
- **Lucy Morton**, a trainee clinical pharmaceutical scientist from **Bolton**, who will be travelling to the USA to study methods of monitoring and preventing microbiological contamination in aseptic processing.
- **Dr Laura Walton-Williams**, Forensic Investigation Course Leader at **Staffordshire** University, who will be travelling to Canada and the USA to study best practice in sexual offence examinations.
- **Rachel Brennan**, from **Manchester**, and Homeless Team Leader for Urban Village Medical Practice, who will be travelling to Norway and the USA to investigate practices aimed at improving access to high quality health care for homeless people.
- **David Jay**, a Trainee Clinical Scientist in Audiology from **Manchester**, who will be travelling to the USA to study new video technology for diagnosing strokes.
- **Alan Finnegan**, a Professor of Nursing and Military Mental Health from **Chester**, who will be travelling to the USA to study approaches to preparing nurses to care for military personnel.
- **Paula Dyce**, an Advanced Nurse Practitioner from **Liverpool**, who will be travelling to the USA to research best practice in treatment for patients with Cystic Fibrosis Related Diabetes.

Since its inception in February 1965, 5,400 ordinary men and women have been awarded Churchill Fellowships, from over 100,000 applicants. The ethos remains the same five decades on – for individuals to visit different parts of the world in pursuit of new and better ways of tackling a wide range of social, environmental, medical and scientific issues. The new approaches and innovative ideas with which they return are shared to benefit their local and regional communities, and, in many cases, the nation.

Before his death in 1965, Sir Winston was adamant that he did not wish to have another statue as his memorial, so he approved the setting up of The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust (www.wcmt.org.uk) as his national memorial and living legacy, for the benefit of future generations. Millions of grateful people gave personal contributions to the public appeal.

"Churchill Fellows are motivated and talented individuals who travel globally and return with innovative ideas and a commitment to share their findings to help others in the UK," says Julia Weston, Chief Executive of The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust.

Churchill Fellows come from all over the UK and from many different backgrounds. They must be UK citizens aged 18 or over, but no qualifications are required. What Fellows share is a passion to make a difference and a desire to share their passion to inspire others.

Notes to Editors:

In total 150 Fellowships have been awarded across the UK in 2017, an investment of over £1,400,000 in UK citizens. The Fellows will be travelling to 49 countries between them, across 6 continents. The categories for the 2018 Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowships will be announced on 09 May 2017.

See www.wcmt.org.uk for more details.

We have many examples of Fellows' stories of achievement from 1965 to the present day. If you would like one from a particular year or location, or would like to interview a Fellow, please contact The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Press Office on 020 7799 1660, or email press@wcmt.org.uk

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Company Contact:

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Winston Churchill Memorial Trust

T. 02077991660
E. press@wcmt.org.uk
W. https://www.wcmt.org.uk/

Additional Contact(s):
office@wcmt.org.uk

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