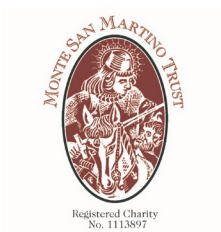




APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF THE BOARD

February 2024



Introduction

Letter from the Monte San Martino Trust Chair:

Dear Friends and Supporters,

After a great deal of thought and heart-searching, I have recently told my fellow trustees that, after 20 years in the job (and several more as a trustee before that), I felt that it was about time for me to stand down as Chair of the Monte San Martino Trust. I will stay on up to 31 December 2024, in order to give plenty of time for a successor to be found, and in order to assure an orderly handover.

I have loved every minute of my time as Chair of this wonderful organisation, and feel very sad about stepping down, but I have several other personal and charity projects on the go, or that I want to start, when I can carve out a little more time to do so.

I do also believe that it will be good for the Trust to have a change, and a fresh perspective on our work, building on the strength of our current position.

I have no intention of losing contact with an organisation that has meant so much to me over the years, and I hope to continue in some capacity as a volunteer and supporter - and anyway, I don't think the spirit of our founder would let me escape!

Working for the Trust has been a tremendous privilege, as it has enabled me to understand more about my father's wartime experiences, and to be able to start to repay my family's debt to the brave Italian people who helped him in his escape in 1943, and who most certainly saved his life.

I will remain ever-grateful for the support I have had from my fellow trustees and colleagues, and from all of our wonderful supporters and friends, throughout the 20 years, and for the good work we have done together - and the fun and excitement we have had along the way.

I hope to see you at the Lunch in November, so that I can say 'arrivederci e tante mille grazie' properly.

With very best wishes and renewed thanks for your friendship and support

Sir Nick Young



About the Monte San Martino Trust

At the heart of the Monte San Martino Trust (MSMT) lies a profound tribute to the resilience and generosity of the Italian people during a pivotal moment in history. Established in 1989 by the late Keith Killby and fellow Second World War veterans, MSMT stands as a lasting homage to the courageous Italians, especially those in rural communities, who aided Allied prisoners of war in escaping their confines after the 1943 Armistice.

Our commitment goes beyond the mere acknowledgment of gratitude. We grant bursaries in Britain to young Italians, some of whom are direct descendants or connected to those remarkable individuals who selflessly assisted Allied soldiers. In 2013, MSMT embraced a broader purpose, extending its mission to educate the public about the experiences of Allied prisoners of war in Italy and the extraordinary bravery of those Italians who came to their aid. To this end The Trust organises commemorative events and partners with relevant institutions to fund research into this period.

Our ultimate aim is to ensure that the sacrifices and risks taken by countless Italians for the Allied soldiers are never forgotten. The Monte San Martino Trust stands as a living testament to the enduring bond between nations.

What we do, how we work & who we are looking for

The Monte San Martino Trust is dedicated to providing annual bursaries to Italian students, enabling them to pursue a one-month English language study programme in London and Oxford. These grants, averaging 35 per year, are available to young Italians between the ages of 18 and 25, including the descendants of Italian families that aided Allied prisoners of war during Second World War. The Trust not only supports language education but also engages in impactful research collaborations with institutions such as the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington DC and the Istituto Parri in Milan. These research initiatives serve to reinforce the Trust's overarching mission—to preserve the memory of the experiences of Allied prisoners of war and to honour the significant sacrifices made by countless Italians in support of Allied soldiers. As we seek a new Trust Chair, we are looking for a dedicated individual who shares our commitment to ensuring that the invaluable contributions and risks taken by Italians during WWII are never forgotten.

Scope of work

The Chair of the Monte San Martino Trust plays a pivotal role in steering the organisation toward its mission of providing educational opportunities and preserving historical narratives. This leadership position involves overseeing the annual granting of bursaries to Italian students, fostering relationships with relevant institutions, and ensuring the Trust's commitment to honouring the contributions of Italians during Second World War.



Key Responsibilities:

Strategic Leadership and Governance:

- Lead the Board in regular planning, budgeting, and monitoring to define the Trust's mission, strategy, and direction.
- Accept accountability for the Trust's work, ensuring adherence to charity law, the Charity Commission's rules, and the vision of the Founder and first trustees.
- Safeguard tangible and intangible assets, managing risks, and ensuring sufficient resources for the Trust's activities.

Stakeholder Engagement and Ambassadorship:

- Act as an ambassador for the Trust, maintaining positive relations with stakeholders, including members, volunteers, funders, and students.
- Uphold the Trust's reputation and values, acting as a spokesperson and figurehead as needed.

Board Development and Governance:

- Ensure a diverse mix of skills and experiences within the Board and that members fulfil their roles effectively.
- Foster positive relations among Board members and other key stakeholders.
- Facilitate awareness of trustees' responsibilities and adherence to policies and procedures.

Meeting and Financial Management:

- Plan and prepare regular Board meetings and the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in collaboration with the Honorary Secretary.
- Support the Treasurer in financial management, including overseeing the preparation of the Trust's Report and Accounts.
- Chair meetings efficiently, ensuring timely decision-making, clear minutes, and proper implementation of decisions.

Fundraising and Financial Stewardship:

- Actively participate in fundraising efforts to secure financial support for the Trust's programmes and initiatives.
- Work closely with the Board to ensure sound financial management and compliance with regulatory requirements.

Supervision and Support:

- Lead regular strategy and budget review sessions.
- Provide support and supervision for any paid members of the Trust and other staff/volunteers engaged in the Trust's work.



We encourage applicants who may not feel they can cover all listed tasks to apply. We welcome discussions about individual time commitments and are open to tailoring responsibilities to accommodate varying capacities. Our goal is to build a diverse and dynamic team dedicated to the Trust's mission.

Location: Flexible with travel to Italy

Time commitment: 2 days per month (initially)

Qualifications and experience

- Demonstrated leadership experience, preferably in a charitable or educational setting.
- Strong understanding of the Trust's mission and a commitment to preserving historical legacies.
- Excellent communication and relationship-building skills.
- Experience in strategic planning, fundraising, and financial management.
- Tact, diplomacy, good judgement, emotional intelligence and powers of persuasion.

Desirable:

- Relevant knowledge, particularly about Second World War in Italy
- Proficiency in the Italian language.

Application procedure

If you are interested in this fantastic opportunity, please submit an application with the following:

- An up-to-date CV with the details of two referees (we will not contact them without your prior permission)
- A supporting statement, which addresses how you meet the criteria for the role and outlines your motivations for applying.

All applications and expressions of interest should be directed to our recruitment partner, Trustees Unlimited. Please send your application to applications@trustees-unlimited.co.uk

If you would like to have a confidential discussion about the role, please contact Melissa Baxter (of Trustees Unlimited & Russam) on 07789 985229 / melissa.baxter@russam.co.uk

Closing date for applications: Monday 8th April 2024