As Sir Winston Churchill’s national memorial, we carry forward his legacy by funding British citizens from all walks of life to travel overseas, to bring back knowledge and best practice for the benefit of others in their UK professions and communities.

Since 1965 more than 4,800 Fellowships have been awarded to applicants from all areas of society, and the following examples illustrate not only the diversity of projects carried out by Churchill Fellows in a wide range of fields in the UK, but also the benefits that their findings bring to others.

Margaret Harrison CBE (1973)
Running and effect of Home-Start programmes

“My Fellowship gave me a way of life”, says Margaret Harrison, reflecting on the profound consequences of her travels to the USA in 1973. As a voluntary worker in what was then the Children’s Department of the City of Leicester, Margaret had a growing sense that the families of vulnerable children required intensive help and support. She went on to volunteer in other settings such as playgroups, schools and a Family Service Unit, where her discussions with the health, education and social work professionals she met convinced her that a new approach was needed.

Inspired by the methods and results she observed during her Fellowship, Margaret returned home to Leicester to establish Home-Start. Forty years later, Home-Start UK is the nation’s leading family support organisation, with nearly 16,000 volunteers helping more than 32,000 families every year – giving over one million hours of time. Home-Start now operates in twenty two countries and on five continents across the world. Margaret is still involved as a Life President and in 2003 was awarded a CBE in recognition of her work for the community. Following her retirement, she served on the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Advisory Council.

Ann Pascoe (2012)
Early dementia symptoms & carer stress detection training for lay people

Ann Pascoe, and her husband Andrew, retired to the beautiful Highlands of Scotland, neither realising the challenges that lay ahead. When Andrew developed vascular dementia, Ann discovered at first hand just how little support or information was available to rural carers. Seeking solutions, Ann applied for a Churchill Fellowship. She was intrigued by Dr Amit Dias’s idea of using ordinary people to detect early symptoms of dementia and carer stress, and travelled to India to investigate his grass roots home care project.

Upon her return to Scotland, Ann established a local social enterprise, Dementia Friendly Communities (DFC), with a single aim: to recognise and embrace the challenges that a life with dementia presents to the families affected. In less than a year DFC has won widespread support, and is succeeding in raising the profile of dementia in Scotland and beyond. Ann has recently been invited to join the Prime Minister’s task group on rural dementia friendly communities. She is also part of the Scottish Government Dementia Strategy working group, in partnership with NHS Highland and Alzheimer Scotland.

Travel to make a difference www.wcmt.org.uk
Alan Newell MBE (1976)
Communication aids for the disabled

Alan Newell MBE had already developed the ‘Talking Brooch’ - an early example of this type of technology - when he undertook his Fellowship in 1976. Alan travelled to the US and Canada, touring universities and research institutions leading developments in the AAC field. His Fellowship substantially raised his profile, and he went on to form one of the world’s largest groups of academics and experts developing ground-breaking computer technology for older and disabled people. The group has since developed systems for hearing impaired people (including the first to be used in the House of Commons). They also built systems for live television subtitling, for non-speaking people, and for those with dyslexia and dementia. In his book ‘Design and the Digital Divide’, Alan says... “I credit my Fellowship as a very important stepping stone on my professional path”. Amongst his many achievements, Alan is Professor Emeritus and Founder of the School of Computing at the University of Dundee. He was awarded an MBE in 2000.

Nassara Bostan (2011)
Exploring the role of women’s leadership in the Muslim world

Nassara Bostan was fed up hearing that Muslim women are ‘oppressed’ and how being a Muslim hinders their progress in society. Her 2011 Fellowship took her to Indonesia and Malaysia, where she was able to explore ways in which these two progressive, mainly Muslim nations have empowered and advanced Muslim women. Nassara encountered Muslim women leaders, activists and politicians from a wide spectrum of communities and traditions. She discovered that they worked closely together to build up a substantial body of resources for public education, and to empower and encourage others to challenge inequality and to demand equal rights. Nassara’s Fellowship has given her the confidence to become a role model for others in her inherently patriarchal Muslim community in Bradford. She has shared her findings with The Joseph Rowntree Foundation, The Muslim Women’s Council, and The Christian and Muslim Women’s Forum. She continues to seek ways to increase the representation and seniority of Muslim women in their organisations, for the wider benefit of economic, cultural and civic life.

Youth motivation projects

Darren Way left school in London having achieved little, but, through his Fellowship experience in 2000 he discovered a talent for leadership. Darren toured the east coast of America, studying cutting edge approaches to youth work, community safety, and teenage gang problems. He went on to set up Streets of Growth, an innovative youth leadership organisation working with disaffected young people in Tower Hamlets, one of East London’s most deprived communities. Darren’s ground-breaking work has enabled many young people to avoid crime and move forward with their lives. He has won many accolades, including (most recently) a 2013 Leaders in Community Award for ‘Positive Role Model and Outstanding Contribution’.

Becky Rogerson (2011)
Legal and community responses to domestic violence in the Americas

Middlesbrough-based charity My Sister’s Place is a one-stop-shop for women experiencing domestic violence. Trustee Becky Rogerson embarked upon her Fellowship to the Americas in 2011 to learn more about how other countries tackle the problem. In an ambitious tour, she visited Minneapolis, Duluth and Houston in the US before heading south to Belize, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru and Brazil. Becky’s chosen locations enabled her to experience a fascinating variety of approaches within different cultural and political contexts. These included cutting-edge collaboration between criminal justice and third sector organisations in North America, church groups in Peru and an internationally-acclaimed prevention scheme in Brazil. Becky discovered new methods to empower victims to help themselves - for example, breaking the cycle of abuse by educating and raising awareness in children. She also identified effective ways of intervening with perpetrators in order to change their behaviour. On her return, Becky attracted wide publicity, including a front page article in the ‘Benchmark’ (Judicial) newsletter. My Sister’s Place has since won a prestigious National Award for Innovation and Commitment to Best Practice and has secured funding from sources including the Home Office, Northern Rock Foundation and the BIG Lottery for new initiatives aimed at transforming service provision. In August 2013 the charity won the National Lottery Good Causes Award for Best Voluntary/Charity Project.