

# AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CHURCHILL FELLOWSHIP

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# What we'll cover today

- **Information** on who we are
- **What** a Churchill Fellowship is and **who** can apply
- Our **current** programmes available
- A look back at our previous **Rural Communities** programme
- Highlighting what our Fellows are getting up to

# Who are we?

- The Churchill Fellowship is an organisation that enables UK citizens from all walks of life to travel internationally, learn from world leaders in their fields, and bring back ideas to create change at home. Since 1965, almost 5,800 Fellows have been appointed, driving impact across every sector and community.
- **Our team makes this possible by:**
  - Managing Fellowship operations and events.
  - Overseeing Fellow selection and providing tailored support.
  - Developing topical programmes that address urgent challenges.
  - Promoting Fellows' work through communications, media, and partnerships.
  - Maintaining the organisation's systems, HR and culture.



# What is a Churchill Fellowship?

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn from leading practitioners, innovators and experts overseas and then to use that learning to create change in the UK.

Projects must address a UK issue, require international learning, and have the potential to benefit UK society at a local, regional, national or sector level.

We're interested in individuals and their ideas to create change in the UK through learning from overseas, whatever those ideas may be.

Our Fellows remain part of our community for life, benefitting from the support of our staff, Trustees, Advisory Council and other Fellows.





**Keith Ruffles, CF 2023**  
Can migration strengthen rural communities?

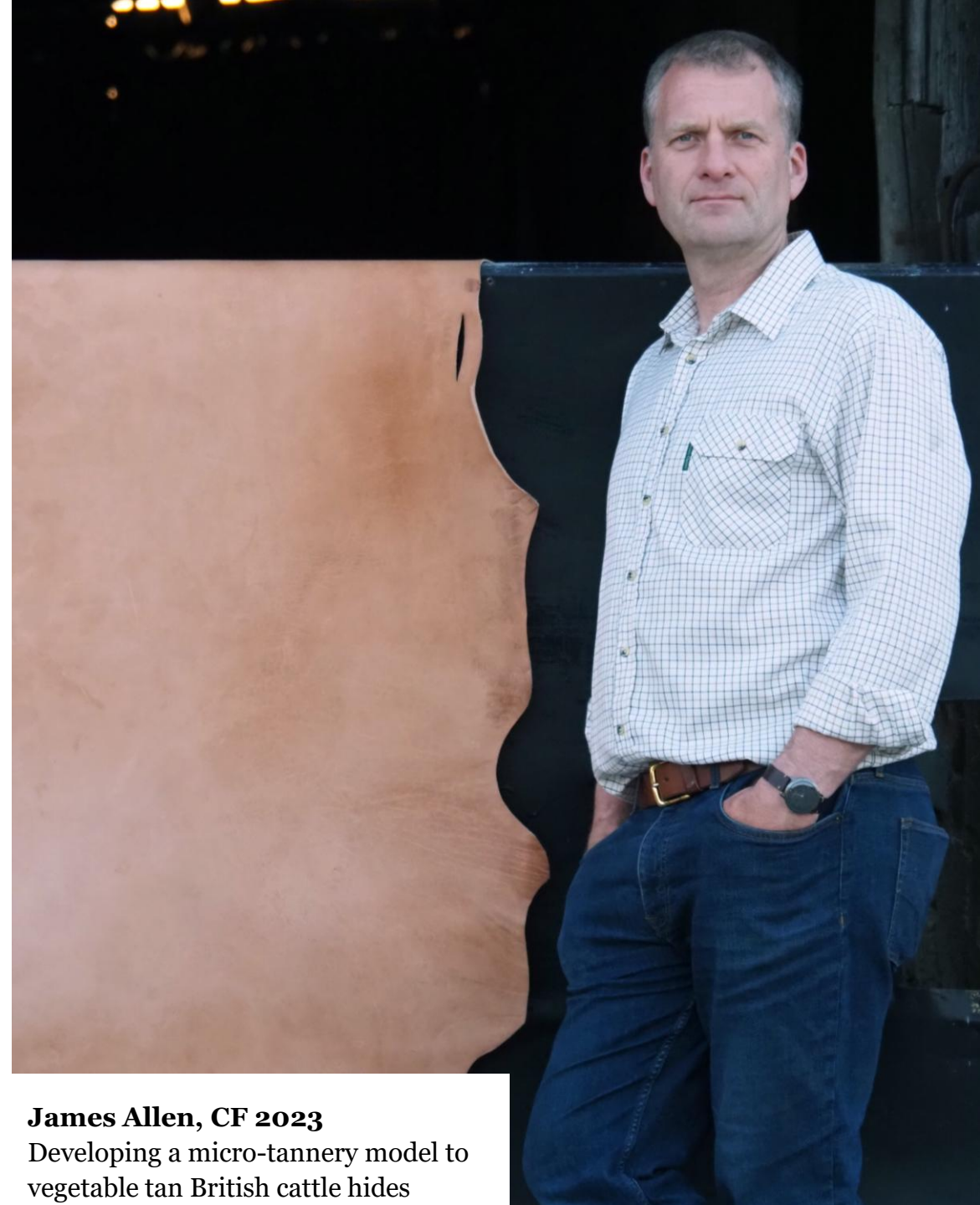
# How does it work?

- Fellowship learning takes place over a period of **4 to 8 weeks** between August to September.
- You can learn by travelling overseas (beyond the UK) or online, or a mix of the two
- Choose the Fellowship model that works best for you and your project

# Who can apply?

We welcome applicants from all backgrounds, professions, ages and levels of experience who meet our eligibility criteria:

- A current **UK Citizen** with proof of citizenship, or an Irish Citizen born in Northern Ireland with proof of citizenship
- Resident in the UK, including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man
- Aged **18 or over** by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.



**James Allen, CF 2023**

Developing a micro-tannery model to vegetable tan British cattle hides



**Tom Cannon, CF 2019**  
From the global hazelnut sector to the garden of England

# Who we fund

- **No qualifications or leadership experience needed**
- **Passion** for an idea that benefits the UK
- Some experience or knowledge of the issue
- Priority for those with **limited** overseas opportunities
- 110 Fellowships across 11 programmes in 2026

# Rural Communities

- Programme ran **2019–2023**
- Addressed housing, transport, economic resilience, health, wellbeing, education, and more
- Fellows learned from **international examples** and brought solutions back home
- **Issues in rural areas intersect across all current Fellowship programmes**

# Learnings from the programme

## Care farming: international best practice

**Mary Smith (CF 2019)** introduced therapeutic farming practices, supporting mental health and wellbeing in rural areas.

## Place-based rural development for communities with high cultural capital

**Lois Mansfield (CF 2019)** promoted sustainable hill farming techniques, enhancing productivity and stewardship.

## Community land in trust – powering rural community opportunity

**Rima Berry (CF 2019)** and her research led to the establishment of community land trusts, providing affordable housing solutions in rural areas.



**Sepideh Mojabi, CF 2020**  
Refugee resettlement in rural areas

# Current programmes



Building a Society that Cares



Building Prosperous and Resilient Communities



Caring for our Natural Environment



Climate Change



Making Space for the Arts



Promoting Lifelong Health



Supporting Engagement in Education



Tech for All



Open

Please choose the programme that is most relevant to your idea and what you want to achieve with your Fellowship.

We will move the project to another programme if we feel it fits better there.

If your project does not fit within any specific programmes, please choose the Open category.



**Fozia Irfan, CF 2020**

Addressing inequality through a diversity,  
equity and inclusion framework

“ If you have an itch which keeps telling you things can be different, and a sense of 'there must be more out there', do consider applying to the Fellowship ”