

# Reflections from our Chairman

Since the inception of the Partnership in 1929, the importance of trading ethically and sustainably has been at the heart of our business.

Our refreshed Purpose - 'Working in Partnership for a Happier World' - reinforces the criticality of Ethics & Sustainability for the Partnership, committing us to doing all we can to improve the wellbeing of society, protect and restore nature, and create a more sustainable future for generations to come.

Our Purpose must act as our guide and drive our decisions. It is because of our commitment to our Purpose that we must be a positive force for change in the natural world.

The latest update from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change makes for disturbing reading. It warns that human actions are causing dangerous disruption in nature and affecting billions of people, despite society's efforts to reduce the risks.

We are stepping up to the challenge. Later this year we intend to provide further information on how, through our strategy, we will help protect and restore nature. Whether by farming with nature, sourcing, recycling, repairing and reusing raw materials, or driving species recovery.

We can only do this by working together with our suppliers, employees (who are Partners in our business), non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the communities in which we operate.

In November, I attended COP26 in Glasgow as a guest of HRH The Prince of Wales as part of his Sustainable Markets Initiative to host a discussion on how businesses can help customers make more sustainable decisions. I was encouraged by the determination of business leaders to help customers on the journey to more sustainable living.

As part of our commitment to a more sustainable future, we launched our £1 million Circular Future Fund, inviting entrepreneurs with creative ideas that accelerate the shift to a circular economy to bid for funding. We received over 240 applications, testament to the level of innovation in this area. The winners will be announced in May 2022.



Waitrose has committed to the WWF Retailers' Commitment for Nature, requiring us to take action linked to climate, deforestation, alternative protein and nature. For example, we will work closely with farmer suppliers to reduce the environmental impact of the food we sell.

Collaboration and sharing will be key to our success. To help our farmers work in more environmentally friendly ways, our Leckford Estate farm in Hampshire is becoming a centre of excellence for farming with nature.

Leckford's transformation kicks off with tree planting for the Queen's Green Canopy. In celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we are planting an avenue of mature trees on the Estate, along with over one thousand additional trees of different species to boost biodiversity.

These are just a few highlights of our work to help address the climate emergency and limit global temperature rises. We have a long way to go, but I hope our commitment is clear.

The contents of this report are thanks to the hard work of many of our Partners and our suppliers. I'm grateful for all they are doing to help us live up to our Purpose and contribute to a 'happier world'.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon White'.

**SHARON WHITE**  
Partner & Chairman