

## Women at the Top Leadership Research

Started in 2017, this research project is about leadership from the perspective of women at the top. Always curious, I am fascinated by the potential for women at the top to inspire upcoming women essentially by sharing broader, different, surprising maybe even similar perspectives. Influencing, and encouraging the realisation that we are all role models, inspiring teachers, brave trailblazers.

How are those doors opened, glass ceilings dissolved, seemingly insurmountable cliffs scaled, limitations challenged, assumptions overturned? One courageous or foolhardy person or a combination of many making those ripples spread way beyond what might be thought possible?

What women at the top are thinking about leadership gives women the courage to say if that is possible, if she did that so can I.

Thank you for being one of those inspirational women.

As a result, I have invited women at the top to share their thoughts regarding leadership and create this series of interviews. I began with five questions and as the first interview was nearly finished two more questions were determined to be asked: What question would you like to have been asked? And who would you like to be interviewed or suggest that I interview?

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**Michelle Michael MBE**

**Director Grand Pier Weston super Mare & Director AGM Holdings Ltd**

**fourteenth in the series – interviewed on 9 May 2022 by Halina Jaroszewska**

**You have no doubt inspired a lot of aspiring leaders – from where (or from whom) do you draw your inspiration?**

It's interesting where people draw their inspiration from, and I can honestly say, that mine comes from all walks of life.

I was recently lucky enough to visit someone that I have known all my life in Cyprus. She's in her 90's and is still using a 200 plus year old loom to make silk comforters and household items; artesian crafts really inspire me – the generational hand me down of knowledge that one day will be no longer.

I get inspired when I see a young person bursting with energy, ideas and drive, and wonder what they will become. And I'm inspired by those around me who see community in their lives as important as their careers. This is something that has been instilled in us as children as being part of what we do and who we are.

And nothing better than a pandemic to see this rise in my community to the forefront of what we do. The last two years have been a journey of rediscovering what is important.

Finally, I'm inspired by anyone who goes the extra mile, whether it be in service, in their profession or just in their welcome. In a fast-paced world, attention to someone or something is wonderful!

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### **What would you say have been the biggest developments in leadership that you have witnessed in your years as a leader?**

I think for me is the realisation that it is as good to find good people who have no formal training and have progressed through the ranks as it is those with formal education in the sector specialisms. The practical experience has now triumphed over the formal education such that quick businesses are interested in how quickly you can hit the ground running; the other is the realisation that now, people move employment much more rapidly so if you get good people, expect them to move on quickly, as they climb their ladder. No longer is the CV short but based on a project-by-project experience.

### **What do you think today's leaders should be doing to keep moving leadership to a new level?**

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Listening and learning are the two things that go hand in hand when you are leading a team of people in business. If you stop learning your business stagnates and you are closed to opportunities. It's that simple for me.

### **What advice would you give to young aspiring leaders?**

I think there is no substitute for doing the groundwork in any business. Learn what you do to perfection and always keep an eye on the numbers - they don't lie!

### **What question would you like to have been asked?**

What do you need to get you to the next level?

### **Who would you like to have / recommend be interviewed?**

Judi Driscoll – Chair of Trustees, Weston Hospicecare.

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#### **Details of previous interviews in Series One**

1. Fiona Jordan – Associate Dean [External Engagement], Faculty of Business and Law UWE (03.02.17)
2. Michele Crossman – Senior Leader in Defence (24.03.17)
3. Katharine Finn – Regional Leader, PwC West and Wales; Assurance Partner (15.03.17)
4. Laura Stambouleh – Partner, Public Sector Advisory – UK Consulting, Cushman & Wakefield (09.05.17)
5. Isla Baliszewska – UK Director Smart Coaching Training Ltd (26.06.17)
6. Fleur Bothwick, OBE – Director of Diversity & Inclusive Leadership, EMEIA Ernst & Young LLP (15.10.17)
7. Donna Whitehead – Pro Vice Chancellor and Executive Dean, Faculty of Business and Law UWE (15.10.17)
8. Sarah Pullen – Commercial Director - Regionals, Reach plc (30.06.17)

#### **Details of previous interviews in Series Two**

9. Vicky Gardner – Director, ZiaBia Events Consultancy (01.09.21)
10. Patricia Patilla Sanchez – Technical Service Representative, Rolls Royce plc (23.09.21)
11. Kate Redshaw – Senior Associate, Burges Salmon LLP (09.11.21)

#### **Details of previous interviews in Series Three**

12. Heledd Wyn – Director and Head of Private Client & Long Term Care at GL Law (25.02.22)
13. Tracey Burleigh – MPWR Business Club Founder & CEO (04.03.22)

Check them all out at [Women at the Top - Halina Jaroszevska](#)

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**To discuss how Halina Jaroszevska can help  
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Compassionately Ruthless Executive Coach  
Chosen by High-Potential Leaders and Teams to Deliver Remarkable Results  
Inspires Change ~ Be Halina'd

Halina helps fast track and aspiring leaders, also key teams, to turn uncertainty into a powerful tool for exponential growth. Her aim is to enable clients to switch surviving into thriving, take business and personal performance to the next level and maximise their potential during challenging times.