



THE THOUGHTFUL INVESTOR

Castlefield INSIGHTS



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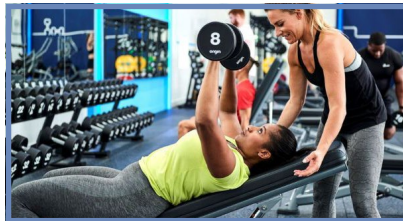
RETAINING GOLD-STANDARD STEWARDSHIP

Castlefield has retained its signatory status to the FRC's Stewardship Code, reflecting our commitment to high standards. - p.2



STRENGTHENING SAFETY AT THE GYM GROUP

We discuss our engagement with The Gym Group on enhancing gym safety and supporting the 'Ask for Angela' initiative. - p.5



CLIENT CORNER - CHARMIAN KENNER

Author Charmian Kenner discusses her book Revolutionary Partners and her path to ethical investing and fossil fuel activism. - p.6



WELCOME TO OUR AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



We hope you enjoyed the summer and a few drier, brighter days.

In this latest

edition, you'll see that engagement is a common feature. We've included a few recent case examples of some of our active engagement work with investee companies. These cover issues such as increasing safety for women within a gym environment, financial inclusion and how they can use their influence to encourage the green transition.

Alongside this, we're delighted to have retained our status as members of the UK Stewardship Code, following the strict requirements of the Financial Reporting Council. It's seen as a gold standard in

the industry, and demonstrates that we take stewardship and engagement seriously, so we're pleased to have retained membership.

One common interest that most Castlefield clients share is using their money to do good. Our latest Client Corner piece, features a thoughtful investor and published author, who combines her passion for helping the environment with a drive for enabling change, by campaigning against fossil fuels.

My colleague Pooja Shah has recently become a mother. As many parents do, she's reflected on her own upbringing and has put together five helpful lessons to improve your child's financial independence.

Alongside this we share some of the recent coverage our co-owners have achieved in the financial press, including which sectors and stocks may benefit from a Bank of England interest rate cut, the value of an external investment advisory board, and whether the advice industry needs to consider a move away from an 'anti-tax' culture.

As ever, we'd be delighted to hear from you if you would like to provide feedback or if you have any suggestions for future pieces. We hope you enjoy this Autumn issue.



Nathan Cameron,
Marketing Manager

CASTLEFIELD NEWS

RETAINING GOLD-STANDARD STEWARDSHIP

We take our role as stewards of our clients' investments seriously, so we're delighted to share that our application to the FRC's Stewardship Code was successful and Castlefield will retain its signatory status.

The voluntary code is seen as a gold standard for stewardship and sets out high stewardship standards that we aim to demonstrate our ongoing adherence to through the publication of our Annual Stewardship Report.



CLICK TO READ

SHORTLISTED FOR MONEY MARKETING 'BEST ESG PROVIDER'

We're delighted to say that Castlefield has been shortlisted at the Money Marketing Awards 2024 in the 'Best ESG Provider' category. At the time of writing the winners hadn't been announced (there's a celebratory presentation evening to be held in London where winners will be announced shortly).

<https://moneymarketingawards.co.uk/2024/en/page/shortlist-2024>



NORTHERN SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

Castlefield adviser Olivia Bowen recently featured as an expert speaker on the Good Business panel, at the Northern Sustainability Summit. The event, staged by Elevate, was held at the Manchester Central venue and brought together over 800 people with the common goal of making sustainability work for businesses. Sessions covered topics such as attracting eco-conscious consumers, accessing finance, reporting and offsetting, the role of infrastructure, and the green industrial revolution.

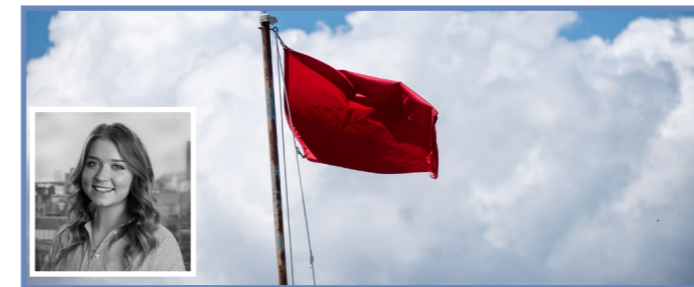
IN THE NEWS

As sustainable investment specialists, we're regularly approached to provide comment to the press about various environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues. Below are a few articles which Castlefield co-owners have recently contributed towards.



In this piece for investment platform interactive investor, Castlefield fund manager Callum Wells shares his views on how investors can take advantage of a return to form for funds focusing on smaller company shares.

<https://moneymarketingawards.co.uk/2024/en/page/shortlist-2024>



Castlefield Investment analyst Eleanor Walley features in this Next Generation series for PA Future, where they ask junior members of ESG & sustainability teams to answer questions on their career paths, red flags and personal passions.

<https://future.portfolio-adviser.com/next-generation-with-castlefields-walley-distinguishing-between-the-credibility-of-climate-targets-can-be-challenging/>



In this interview for Professional Adviser, Isobel Baxter asks: "Should the advice industry move away from an 'anti-tax' culture?" Castlefield's Olivia Bowen suggests that advisers may need to consider a "tax proud culture".

<https://www.professionaladviser.com/interview/4344097/advice-industry-away-anti-tax-culture>



Castlefield fund manager Callum Wells shares his views alongside other UK fund managers on which sectors and stocks they expect to benefit from Bank of England interest rate cuts in this piece for Trustnet.

<https://trustnet.com/news/13419427/the-sectors-to-own-if-the-bank-of-england-cuts-rates>



In this piece for Portfolio Adviser, Castlefield's Ita McMahon explains the main functions – and added value – of an experienced advisory committee, and how they represent the voice of investors.

<https://future.portfolio-adviser.com/the-value-of-an-external-advisory-committee/>

THOUGHTFUL INVESTING

FEATURED HOLDINGS

Our featured stock pieces help to demonstrate how our active, authentic investment approach works in practice. We've included a couple of example holdings here, although there are more available at our website which show how holdings align to our positive investment themes. You can find them at this link:

<https://www.castlefield.com/home/thoughtful-investor/featured-stocks-and-positive-themes/>



PAYPOINT

As the number of high street banks has dwindled, people who deal mainly with cash have been left with fewer options. David Gorman looks at the inclusive essential in-store payment services provider, PayPoint Group - held in the CFP Castlefield Sustainable UK Smaller Companies Fund.

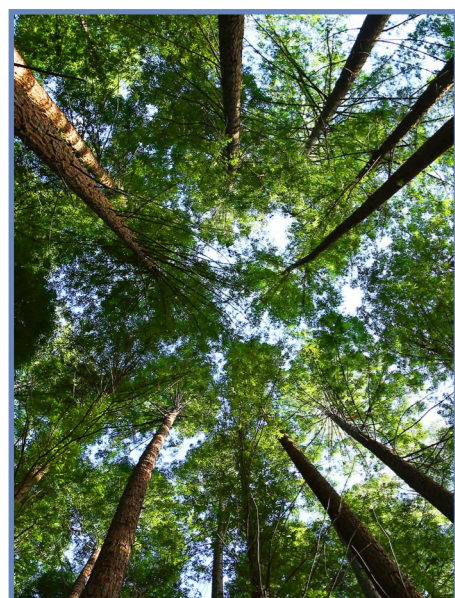
<https://www.castlefield.com/home/media/blog/castlefield-stock-story-paypoint/>



GOOD ENERGY

Castlefield Investment Analyst David Gorman introduces Good Energy - the utility supplier specialising in the provision of carbon free electricity and gas - held in our AIM portfolios.

<https://www.castlefield.com/home/media/blog/castlefield-aim-stock-story-good-energy/>



SUSTAINABILITY AT CASTLEFIELD

Sustainable investing has increased in importance over recent years, as more people become aware of environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues, and whether their investments are helping to combat these - or if they may actually be contributing towards them.

We've put together some helpful guidance to explain what we mean when we talk about sustainable investing and how we evidence our approach to sustainability at Castlefield.

<https://www.castlefield.com/home/sustainability-at-castlefield/>

CASTLEFIELD RESPOND TO THE FCA NEW REGULATION CONSULTATION

We recently submitted a short response to the FCA's consultation on extending the Sustainable Disclosure Requirements (SDR) regime to portfolio managers. In the interests of transparency, we published our full response on our website.

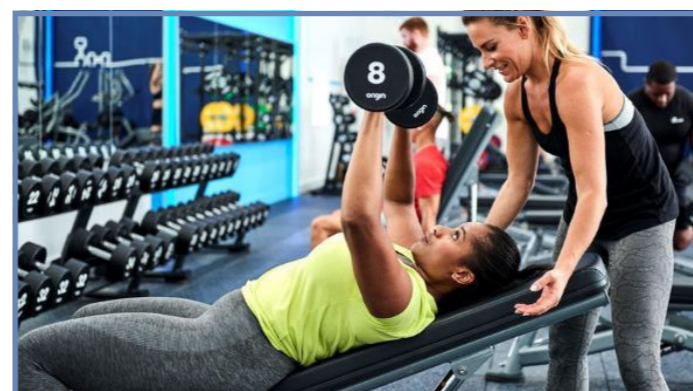
<https://www.castlefield.com/home/media/news/castlefield-respond-to-fca-consultation-on-extending-sdr-scheme-to-portfolio-management/>

ENGAGEMENT UPDATES

ENCOURAGING THE GREEN TRANSITION WITH UNICREDIT

Barney Timson explains how we recently engaged with UniCredit, an Italian listed, pan-European commercial bank (held within our CFP Castlefield Sustainable European fund), to better understand how it is using its influence to encourage the transition towards net zero and stop facilitating the expansion of fossil fuels.

<https://www.castlefield.com/home/media/blog/esg-engagement-with-unicredit/>



STRENGTHENING SAFETY AT THE GYM GROUP

Eleanor Walley outlines our engagement with The Gym Group on the topic of gym safety, discussing the policies and procedures in place to foster a safe environment for gym users. We also discussed ways in which this approach could be strengthened further - for example, supporting the 'Ask for Angela' initiative and improving public reporting on the topic of harassment.

<https://www.castlefield.com/home/media/blog/castlefield-stock-story-the-gym-group/>

FINANCIAL ADVICE



FIVE VALUABLE FINANCIAL LESSONS TO HELP YOUR CHILDREN'S FINANCIAL FUTURE

As parents, we teach our children to take care of their physical and emotional health. So, it only makes sense to teach them to take care of their financial health as well. Castlefield adviser Pooja Shah shares five helpful lessons to improve your child's financial independence and ensure they are prepared for the future.

<https://www.castlefield.com/home/media/blog/five-valuable-financial-lessons-to-help-your-children-s-financial-future/>

THE VALUE OF FINANCIAL ADVICE

Clients and their friends get in touch with us to help them with all manner of financial issues. From planning retirement and investing ethically, to growing a nest egg or protecting income against the unexpected.

Research shows that people receiving financial advice were on average £47,000 better off too!

Find out more:

<https://castlefield.com/media/htjiketh/castlefield-value-of-advice.pdf>





EO DAY CELEBRATIONS

Like many other employee-owned businesses, Castlefield celebrated EO Day in late June. Co-owners (we don't call each other employees) celebrated the day with a series of challenges. Divided into teams, each representing a different national football team, competitors tackled a life drawing contest – where Castlefield's founder John Eckersley was sketched, an intelligence quiz, and a physical challenge, culminating in a full-team assault course.

EO Day was introduced to raise awareness of employee ownership as a better way of doing businesses, and it showcases the impact employee ownership (EO) has on employees, business, the wider economy, communities, and the environment.



CLIENT CORNER

Charmian Kenner



CLIENT CORNER – CHARMIAN KENNER

In this Client Corner feature, we meet author and activist Charmian Kenner. Alongside her latest book, Revolutionary Partners, Castlefield's Olivia Bowen discusses the influences in her early years that helped her to become an ethical investor as well as her ongoing campaigning against fossil fuels.

<https://www.castlefield.com/home/media/our-core/client-corner-charmian-kenner/>

MAKING PHILANTHROPY EASIER

We've partnered with The Charity Service to launch our Philanthropy service, to help our clients give money to charity in an easier and more meaningful way.

The Castlefield IPA is a specific donor-advised fund available to Castlefield clients, offering a simple means of establishing and operating a charitable fund.

<https://www.castlefield.com/home/our-services/philanthropy/>

CASTLEFIELD CHARITY ADVICE SERVICE

Our specialist Charity Investment Advice Service has been designed to benefit charities who have identified a specific need for one-off advice, by guiding them through the necessary steps and working with them to ensure their mission is supported for the long-term. This may include helping to understand what level of risk they're comfortable with, providing guidance on the investment duties and responsibilities of a charity trustee, or helping to define their objectives so they have clarity on their short- and medium-term priorities.

Find out more about this and our range of services here:

<https://www.castlefield.com/home/our-services/>

SUPPORTING WORTHWHILE CHARITIES

The Castlefield Charitable Fund (CCF) enables us to support worthwhile projects with a positive social and environmental impact, providing grants to registered charities with an annual expenditure of under £1million.

Find out more about CCF, its purpose and eligibility criteria here:

<https://www.castlefield.com/home/about-us/castlefield-charitable-fund-ccf/>

WE'RE HIRING

We're currently recruiting for a couple of roles at Castlefield. If you know someone who may be interested in joining our team and becoming part of an award-winning, employee-owned business, please get them to have a look at the roles available at this link:

<https://www.castlefield.com/home/about-us/careers/join-us/>



REFER A FRIEND AND RECEIVE A FREE GIFT!

We're delighted so many of our clients speak positively about Castlefield to their friends and family. If you know someone who may benefit from our services, please forward them this newsletter to give them a taste of what we're about. As a thank you, you'll receive a year's subscription to Ethical Consumer magazine if they subsequently become a client. Just tell them to provide your name as the source for how they heard about us.

Contact: enquiries@castlefield.com



STAY UP TO DATE

Follow us on our social media channels to get the latest news, updates and opinions from the Thoughtful Investor®.



OUR VIEWS AS THE THOUGHTFUL INVESTOR ® DON'T STOP HERE!

To learn more about Castlefield's range of services, please visit our website:

www.castlefield.com

Call us on:

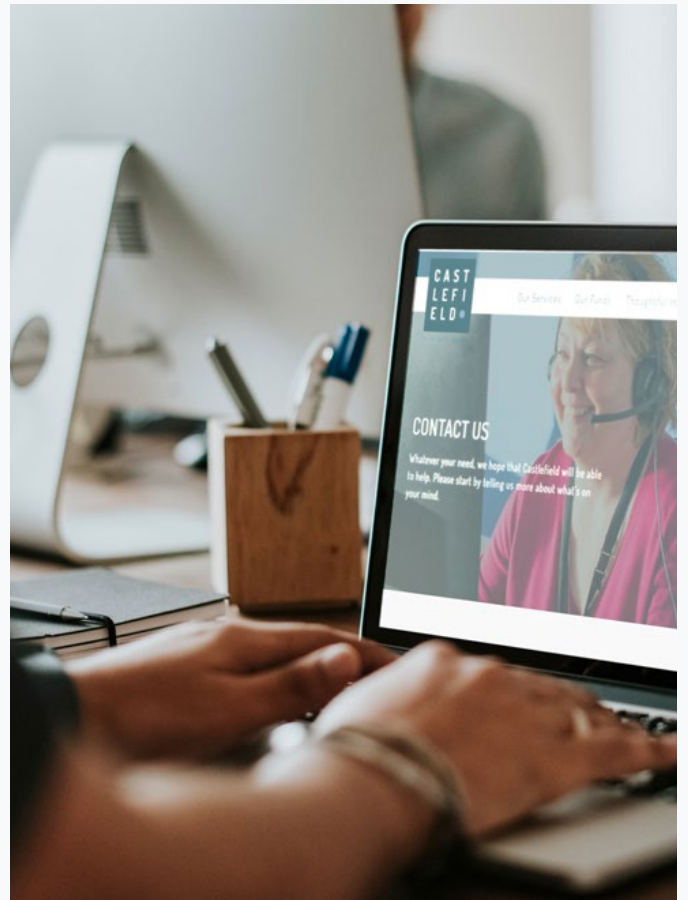
0161 233 4890

Visit our contact page here:

www.castlefield.com/contact-us/

Email us:

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