



TECH  
LONDON  
ADVOCATES

**BLOCKCHAIN**

# TLA BLOCKCHAIN NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 03 • JANUARY 2021



## OUR OBJECTIVES

- To promote understanding of distributed ledger technologies and their capabilities;
- To become a hub of talented multi-disciplinary blockchain experts;
- To promote the active involvement of all stakeholders in the development and proliferation of distributed ledger technologies; and
- To provide a platform for active learning, knowledge sharing, debate and engagement, leading to more impactful and useful blockchain initiatives and solutions.

## FEATURED THIS MONTH

Into • P. 2

Russ Shaw CBE • P. 3

CEO - Unblocked • P. 4

Eterna Capital • P. 5

Contact Us • P. 6

# TLA BLOCKCHAIN NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 03 • JANUARY 2021

Welcome to the January 2021 edition of the TLA Blockchain monthly newsletter.

Happy New Year! We are certainly glad to see the back of 2020, though the first few weeks of 2021 have been equally challenging. New variants, lockdowns and political unrest have conspired to maintain a certain sense of doom and gloom. Against this backdrop however, there is hope. As vaccination programmes roll-out, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit will be central to the global economic and societal recovery – many of our members will be at the very heart of this.

In this newsletter we hear from Russ Shaw CBE, Founder of Tech London Advocates and Global Tech Advocates, who gives an overview of these fantastic communities and plans for 2021 – please join us in congratulating him on his CBE for services to technology and to business in London. We also profile two of our fantastic members: Helen Disney, a leading blockchain educator, thought leader and innovator; and Andrea Bonaceto, a London-based venture capitalist backing the UK's most exciting blockchain businesses.

Tech London Advocates is the UK's largest networking group for technology professionals. To join, please fill out the form [here](#). Membership is free and we'd love to have you – you'll get access to our exclusive events, communications and offers through 2021 and beyond.

If you would like to feature in future newsletters, please get in touch with our Chair, Tom Grogan, using the details below.

From all of us, Happy New Year and here's to an exciting 2021.



Tech London Advocates (TLA) is the UK's leading independent tech network, championing the key issues impacting London's technology sector with the aim of enhancing the status of the city as a world-leading innovation hub.

Founded in 2013, TLA was founded to ensure an independent voice for the technology sector was heard, but with a focus on the private sector. The network is made up of an unrivalled collection of tech leaders, experts, investors, entrepreneurs, academics and policymakers – all of which support the group in a voluntary capacity. Over the years, TLA has expanded to encompass over 50 working groups focusing on specific verticals, geographies and issues – including Immigration, Education, Fintech and HealthTech. The two largest groups are TLA Women in Tech and TLA Black Women in Tech, both of which have enabled TLA to have a nearly 50/50 gender balance across the community.

TLA has campaigned to address some of the biggest challenges facing tech companies including diversity & inclusion, digital skills, immigration, infrastructure and access to funding. Its major achievements include successfully campaigning for the introduction of a Chief Digital Officer for London and placing digital jobs on the UK Shortage Occupation List for the first time. It is also a founding partner of London Tech Week, which takes place in September each year.

TLA is one of 18 'sibling' networks that make up Global Tech Advocates (GTA), an umbrella organisation with presence across the rest of the UK, Europe, the Americas and Asia. GTA aims to connect global tech hubs to boost international collaboration and trade.

After reaching the milestone of 10,000 members at the end of last year, TLA has big plans for 2021, with circumstances around Covid-19 permitting. These start in the Spring with DebateTech, the only tech hustings for London's Mayoral election, before TLA's third Investor Showcase in the Summer. After the inaugural GTA Summit in 2019, co-hosted with Tech China Advocates, the year will conclude with the second iteration of the event for which we hope to return to China. In the context of the UK hosting COP26 in November, sustainability, circular economy and GreenTech will be central campaigning themes.

### **Russ Shaw CBE**

Founder, Tech London Advocates & Global Tech Advocates

Follow @RussShaw1

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russ".



# MEMBER FEATURE

HELEN DISNEY

## How did you get into blockchain?

I first discovered blockchain and cryptocurrency in late 2013. I was commissioned to work on an event called Bitcoin 2014, which was at the time Europe's largest ever bitcoin conference assembling 1000 people from all over the world. As a total newcomer, I was intrigued by what was bringing together such a diverse group of technologists, investors and entrepreneurs who all seemed so passionate about changing the world. As I discovered more about how blockchain and distributed ledgers worked, I decided I wanted to bring my communications, business development and event creation skills to the industry so that more people could go on the same journey that I had and learn how to harness these technologies to transform their businesses too. I gave up my past career in public policy and launched Unblocked in 2016 so I could focus solely on blockchain education.



## What does Unblocked do?

Unblocked is a content, events and educational platform for people wanting to explore and implement Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technology. We offer educational courses, event management, ghost writing, PR and consulting services to businesses looking to explore these technologies for the first time, as well as those already in the industry wanting to communicate the benefits of blockchain to mainstream audiences. We bring together like-minded people to form partnerships which can bring forth the next waves of innovation.

## FOUNDER, UNBLOCKED

WWW.UN-BLOCKED.CO.UK

## How can people get in contact with you and Unblocked?

<https://un-blocked.co.uk>  
[helen@un-blocked.co.uk](mailto:helen@un-blocked.co.uk)  
[@Unblockedhub](https://www.linkedin.com/company/unblocked-events)

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/unblocked-events>

# MEMBER FEATURE

ANDREA BONACETO

## How did you get into blockchain?

Although I tried out mining years ago, I got professionally involved in blockchain only in 2016 when I started working on a bond trading system for SGX in Singapore. The idea was to use a more neutral system to encourage different stakeholders across multiple organizations to establish a fair, transparent and privacy-preserving market for the illiquid bond market. That was my first experience in witnessing the power of blockchain. I decided to go all in for it thereafter and have worked on various projects across the blockchain space, from technical development of infrastructure, to the ecosystem that safeguards the blockchain networks, and now incubating and investing in innovation and adoption of blockchain.



## What does Eterna Capital do?

Eterna Capital is an investment company backing innovative entrepreneurs who harness blockchain technology. Eterna Capital established its reputation very quickly in the industry to achieve a strong notoriety and become one of the key players in the space. In May 2018, Eterna Capital launched its first fund. This fund has been very successful and generated strong returns over a relatively short period of time. The team has now partnered with an established boutique investment firm based in London with ~\$300 million assets under management, to launch its new fully-regulated fund to target institutional players.

Eterna Capital together with Borderless Capital and Algorand also runs the Algorand Europe Accelerator - the first European start-up accelerator for developers and entrepreneurs building on the Algorand blockchain, a MIT based project. The accelerator funds and supports passionate founders building promising decentralized applications on the Algorand platform. The accelerator is supported by an exceptional team of mentors and partners from institutions such as IBM, Amazon Web Services, Generali Bank, Winklevoss Capital, Coinbase etc. More info at <https://www.algorand-europe-accelerator.com>.

# ETERNA CAPITAL

ETERNACAPITAL.COM

## How can people get in contact with you and Eterna Capital?

[www.eternacapital.com](http://www.eternacapital.com)

[contact@eternacapital.com](mailto:contact@eternacapital.com)

<https://twitter.com/AndreaBonaceto>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/andreabonaceto>

<https://medium.com/@eternacapital>



## CONTACT US

To stay up to date with the latest developments, please follow us on LinkedIn and Twitter. To join our community please sign up here.

Membership is free and provides you access to our exclusive events (details in next issue) and communications.

To feature in future editions of this monthly newsletter, please contact Tom Grogan.



**TOM GROGAN  
(CHAIR AND  
EDITOR)**

**SCOTT  
TROWBRIDGE  
(MARKETING  
DIRECTOR)**

**SIDDHI TRIVEDI  
(PARTNERSHIPS  
& EVENTS  
MANAGER)**

**ALEX TURNER  
(COMMUNITY  
MANAGER)**

HEAD OF  
MDRXTECH, PART  
OF THE MISHCON  
DE REYA GROUP.

COO AT  
BLOCKSWAP  
NETWORK.

CO-FOUNDER AT  
BEYOND IDENTITY  
AI

STRATEGIC  
ADVISORY  
CONSULTANT AT  
CBRE

[TOM.GROGAN@MISHCON.COM](mailto:TOM.GROGAN@MISHCON.COM)

[SCOTT@BLOCKSWAP.XYZ](mailto:SCOTT@BLOCKSWAP.XYZ)

[SIDDHI@BEYONDI.DENTITY.IO](mailto:SIDDHI@BEYONDI.DENTITY.IO)

[PROPTech.ALEX@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PROPTech.ALEX@GMAIL.COM)