## Monthly roundup | Investment companies

## March 2017

## Winners and losers in February

Best performing funds in price terms in February: Worst performing funds in price terms in February:

|  | $(\%)$ |  |
| :--- | ---: | :--- |
| Industrial Multi Property | +34.9 | Infrastructure India |
| Prospect Japan | +13.8 | Polo Resources |
| Alpha Real Trust | +13.8 | Juridica |
| Worldwide Healthcare | +11.2 | LMS Capital |
| Lindsell Train | +10.8 | Africa Opportunity |
| LXB Retail Properties | +10.7 | Dolphin Capital |
| Candover Investments | +10.4 | Strategic Equity Capital |
| Independent | +10.0 | BlackRock Commodities Income |
| Baker Steel Resources | +9.7 | BP Marsh |
| Damille 2 | +9.6 | Dragon Ukraine Properties |

Source: Morningstar, Marten \& Co
Source Morningstar, Marten \& Co
Best performing funds in NAV terms in February:

## Worst performing funds in NAV terms in February:

|  | (\%) | (\%) |  |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- |
| British \& American | +10.2 | Geiger Counter | -5.7 |
| International Biotechnology | +8.6 | JPMorgan Russian | -4.3 |
| Biotech Growth | +8.2 | Globalworth Real Estate | -4.1 |
| India Capital Growth | +7.7 | City Natural Resources | -3.1 |
| Aberdeen New India | +7.5 | BlackRock Commodities Income | -2.6 |
| Worldwide Healthcare | +7.2 | Polo Resources | -2.4 |
| Polar Capital Global Healthcare | +7.1 | Juridica | -2.2 |
| JPMorgan American | +6.6 | Marwyn Value Investors | -2.0 |
| JPMorgan Brazil | +6.6 | Candover Investments | -1.5 |
| UIL | +6.4 | Baker Steel Resources | -1.4 |

Source: Morningstar, Marten \& Co
Source Morningstar, Marten \& Co

The two best performing funds in price terms are both the subject of bids. Alpha Real Trust, which is a big investor in Industrial Multi Property is not happy about Hansteen's bid for the latter fund. The bid has boosted Alpha Real's NAV but this has not been factored into Morningstar's NAV estimate for Alpha Real yet, hence it does not appear in the best performing (NAV) table - it should probably top this. Two themes stand out - biotech and India. Biotech continues to claw back the losses it made in the run up to the US election. India's Q4 GDP growth surprised on the upside, suggesting the impact of demonetisation is not as bad as feared. The US market hit new highs in the month, benefitting JPMorgan American.

Infrastructure India bucked the trend of rising Indian markets by announcing disappointing news on its logistics business. Resources funds gave up some of the gains they have been making recently and this affected many of the funds in the table including Polo Resources and Geiger Counter. Both Juridica and Dolphin Capital's share prices have been volatile recently - they lost gains made in January. Africa Opportunity made a $\$ 5 \mathrm{~m}$ provision after arbitration in a dispute over a purchase of shares it made went against them. Strategic Equity Capital's manager resigned. BP Marsh released a relatively upbeat trading statement, it is not obvious why its share price fell.

## Significant moves in discounts and premiums

## More expensive relative to NAV (notable changes)

The bids for Industrial Multi Property and Prospect Japan have eliminated / narrowed their discounts. As we explained above, Alpha Real's NAV is probably understated by Morningstar. Syncona seems set to enter the Mid 250 Index, attracting buying from index trackers. Lindsell Train's premium is climbing again despite Nick Train's clear warning that the fund was overvalued. Lindsell Train's share price dived from 900p to 691p over the course of January on the back of this warning. The shares bounced sharply but have been coming off again since 9 February.

## Cheaper relative to NAV (notable changes)

British \& American's premium became detached from reality some time ago but the NAV was boosted, once again, by an improvement in the value of Geron. Juridica and Strategic Equity Capital were mentioned above. There has been no new news on LMS Capital since the end of January. Polo Resources announced a jv to produce lithium carbonate and external funding for its Blackham Resources gold mining investment. The widening discount seems to reflect market sentiment towards resources companies rather than anything specific to Polo.


Baillie Gifford has been managing investments since 1909. Our success has been built on finding good investment opportunities for clients through extensive independent research. Our fundamental analysis and judgement over the years have helped us to become one of the UK's largest independent investment management groups with over $£ 145$ billion of funds under management and advice as at 31 December 2016*

## BAILLIE GIFFORD

Baillie Gifford is one of the largest investment trust managers in the UK with a range of seven trusts. We also have an extensive range of OEIC sub-funds and manage investments globally for pension funds, institutions and charities.

ADVERTISMENT

## Money raised and returned in February

| Money raised in February | Money returned in February |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | ---: | :---: |
|  | $£ m$ |  | $£ \mathbf{m}$ |  |
| LXi REIT | 138.1 | SVG Capital | 300.0 |  |
| GCP Student Living | 80.6 | Alliance Trust | 46.6 |  |
| John Laing Environmental Assets | 55.0 | AXA Property | 18.4 |  |
| Scottish Mortgage | 35.5 | CVC Credit Partners European Opps. | 14.4 |  |
| Personal Assets | 7.7 | Impax Environmental Markets | 12.2 |  |

Source: Morningstar, Marten \& Co
Source Morningstar, Marten \& Co

LXi REIT was the latest fund to be launched. It focuses on UK property let on long, index-linked rents to institutional grade tenants. Placings for GCP Student Living and John Laing Environmental Assets raised $£ 81 \mathrm{~m}$ and $£ 55 \mathrm{~m}$ respectively. Scottish Mortgage remains in high demand. It has just qualified for inclusion in the 100 Index which could spark buying by index-tracking funds. Personal Assets, F\&C Global Smaller Companies, MedicX, Finsbury Growth \& Income and Miton UK Microcap all raised at least $£ 5 \mathrm{~m}$ from investors.

SVG Capital conducted the second of its $£ 300 \mathrm{~m}$ tenders. These were initiated following the sale of SVG's assets. Alliance Trust continued to buy back shares at a furious pace at it tried to maintain its discount around the level that it has offered to Elliott Advisers. That deal has now been approved by shareholders and so the fund will soon shrink much faster. AXA Property, which has been winding down its activities for some time, returned $£ 18.4 \mathrm{~m}$ to shareholders via a compulsory redemption of shares ( 44.76 shares for every 100 held). CVC Credit Partners European Opportunities returned $£ 14.4 \mathrm{~m}$ as a result of the tender offer it conducted in December. It is changing how these work in future. Impax Environmental Markets seems out of favour at the moment. It is trading on a $12.3 \%$ discount (in line with its long-term average). Its performance over the past year has been quite strong (NAV up 43.5\%).

JPMorgan American is another fund that has been performing well, as US markets hit new highs. It may be that investors are taking profits. Other funds returning $£ 5 \mathrm{~m}$ or more included British Empire, NB Distressed Debt, VinaCapital Vietnam Opportunities, Herald, Templeton Emerging Markets, Vinaland, Mercantile, JPMorgan Emerging Markets and Witan.

## | February's major news stories - from our website

## Portfolio Developments

- ICG Longbow lent money to clients of BMO Real Estate
- Africa Opportunity had a setback in its Shoprite legal dispute
- Dunedin Enterprise sold Steeper
- Foresight Solar bought plants in Flintshire and Wiltshire
- Electra sold Audiotronix, OAG
- BlackRock World Mining wrote up the value of Avanco Royalty
- Crystal Amber increased its stake in GI Dynamics
- Infrastructure India revealed problems with its logistics investment
- BP Marsh bought a stake in CBC

Epiris, managers of Electra, announced that AXIO had sold OAG, the world's leading provider of flight information, raising $£ 104 m$ for Electra


## Corporate News

- Polar Capital Global Healthcare said it was considering its future
- Aberdeen Diversified Income \& Growth outlined its discount control policy
- NB Private Equity considering premium listing
- Hansteen bid for Industrial Multi Property
- Strategic Equity Capital said discussions have been taking place between shareholders and Harwood Capital
- Alliance Trust tried to clarify Willis Towers Watson's role in its strategic review
- Menhaden is delisting from the Social Stock Exchange
- CVC Credit Partners European said it would change its tender terms to favour long term investors
- Scottish Mortgage was promoted to the 100 index


## Property News

- Intu confirmed it was planning to buy Xanadu shopping centre in Madrid
- Picton sold a property in Oldham
- UK Commercial Property bought a warehouse in Burton-on-Trent
- Custodian REIT sold a Wetherspoon in Southsea
- McKay Securities sold Pinehurst Park in Farnborough
- LondonMetric bought two warehouses
- Tritax Big Box REIT forward funding distribution centre for Hachette
- Standard Life Property Income makes investment in Sutherland
- Regional REIT bought a portfolio from Conygar
- Land Securities sold The Printworks
- British Land said it was thinking of selling The Leadenhall Building


## Managers \& Fees

- Stuart Widdowson resigned as manager of Strategic Equity Capital
- JPMorgan Japan Smaller fees cut
- BlackRock North American said its manager is retiring
- Alan Kerr left the Blackstone/GSO team
- Witan appointed a new emerging markets manager
- SQN may become manager of a revamped SME Loan Fund
- JPMorgan European Smaller Companies introduced a stepped fee



## PICKING STOCKS WITH PRECISION.

Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust plays a 'long game' with a focused list of around 80 stocks. Our aim is to meticulously seek out truly innovative organisations (the obvious and the unexpected) and stick with them over the long-term. We believe this strategy gives us a strong competitive advantage in identifying companies with real potential for significant sales growthoften as a result of their intelligent deployment of transformational technology.

But don't just take our word for it. Over the last five years Scottish Mortgage, managed by Baillie Gifford, has delivered a total return of $191.3 \%^{*}$ compared to $103.4 \%^{*}$ for the index. And Scottish Mortgage is low-cost with an ongoing charges figure of just $0.45 \%$

Standardised past performance to 31 December each year*:

|  | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Scottish Mortgage | $30.1 \%$ | $39.8 \%$ | $21.4 \%$ | $13.3 \%$ | $16.5 \%$ |
| FTSE All-World Index | $12.0 \%$ | $21.0 \%$ | $11.3 \%$ | $4.0 \%$ | $29.6 \%$ |

Past performance is not a guide to future returns.
Please remember that changing stock market conditions and currency exchange rates will affect the value of your investment in the fund and any income from it. You may not get back the amount invested.

## BAILLIE GIFFORD

Long-term investment partners

[^0]
## | Income

Investment Companies announcing their full year dividends in February

| Fund | Year ended | Dividend <br> (pence) | Change over <br> year (\%) | Revenue / <br> earnings <br> (pence) | Cover |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |

a) The Board's current target is to declare quarterly dividends of at least 1.00 pence in the year to November 2017, making a total of at least 4.00 pence for the year as a whole.
b) The Company aims to deliver a full year dividend for the year ending 31 December 2017 of 6.32 pence per share
c) The company does not separate income and capital gains in its accounts - this reflects the combined figure
d) For the 2017 financial year, the Company is targeting an aggregate dividend of 6.40 p per share to be paid in four quarterly instalments. This target dividend represents an increase of $2.4 \%$, consistent with UK inflation
e) Targeting total dividends of 6.49 pence per share with respect to 2017 (increased in line with December 2016 RPI).
f) Based on annualising 7.775 p dividends paid for 15 month period
g) 52.36 p plus a $52 p$ special dividend. Dividend increase and dividend cover relate to the ordinary dividend
h) 30 p plus 22.5 p special dividend. Dividend increase and dividend cover relate to the ordinary dividend. The current and prior year figures are not strictly comparable because Rights \& Issues amended its capital structure during the year.
i) $32 p$ dividend planned for 2017

Visit www.quoteddata.com for more on these and other stories plus in-depth research on some funds, the chance to compare similar funds and basic information, key documents and regulatory news announcements on every investment company quoted in London

## Research



On 3 February, we published a note on three of Fidelity's closed end funds - Fidelity Asian Values, Fidelity Japanese Values and Fidelity Special Values.

In this note we focused on Fidelity Special Values in particular.

On 22 February, we published an update note on Standard Life Private Equity (formerly Standard Life European Private equity). The note, Dividend doubled to $4.0 \%$, covered the changes that shareholders approved recently to the workings of the fund.


On 6 March, we published an update note on Aberdeen Frontier Markets, Direct investing, which described how that fund is planning to switch from investing predominantly via funds to investing in equities directly.

Aberdeen Frontier Markets


## QuotedData

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[^0]:    *Source: Morningstar, share price, total return as at 31.12 .16 . ${ }^{\text {tOnggoing charges as at } 31.03 .16 \text {. Your call may be recorded for training or monitoring purposes. Scottish }}$ Mortgage Investment Trust PLC is available through the Baillie Gifford Investment Trust Share Plan and the Investment Trust ISA, which are managed by Baillie Gifford Savings Management Limited (BGSM). BGSM is an affiliate of Baillie Gifford \& Co Limited, which is the manager and secretary of Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust PLC.

