

June 2012

British Museum appointments

The Prime Minister has appointed James Lupton CBE, Gavin Patterson and Ahdaf Soueif to the Board of the British Museum for a period of four years from 12 June 2012.

Biographical details

James Lupton CBE

James Lupton co-founded the London office of Greenhill & Co. in 1998 and is now Chairman of Greenhill Europe. Greenhill is an international corporate advisory firm listed on the New York Stock Exchange. James has advised UK and International corporations on major strategic issues and transactions for the last 30 years. James qualified as a UK solicitor in 1979, and worked at Baring Brothers for 17 years, where he became Deputy Chairman in 1995. Educated at Lincoln College, Oxford University, James was a Governor of Downe House School for 8 years until 2006, and was a Trustee of Dulwich Picture Gallery (England's oldest purpose-built public art gallery) from 1997-2011, serving as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the last 6 years. He has been on the Advisory Board of Grange Park Opera since its inception, and he has been a member of the International Advisory Board of Global Leadership Foundation (founded by F W de Klerk) since 2008.

James lists opera, skiing (when his knee works), shooting, collecting art, music and family as some of his interests. He married Béatrice, a French national, in 1983 and they have 3 daughters and a son. James was awarded a CBE in the 2012 New Year Honours for his service to the Arts and Philanthropy.

Gavin Patterson

Gavin Patterson has served on the BT Group plc board since 2008 as Chief Executive BT Retail. He joined BT in 2004 as Consumer Managing Director, having previously spent four years at Virgin Media, latterly as the consumer managing director. His early career was spent at Procter & Gamble, where he spent nine years in various UK and European marketing roles, rising to become European haircare marketing director. He is BT's corporate responsibility sponsor and represents the company on the EU Media Forum and CBI Climate Change Board. Gavin is a non-executive director of British Airways plc. He sits on the advisory board of the Cambridge Judge Business School, is a Fellow of the Marketing Society and is a member of The Thirty Club. In June 2011, Gavin was appointed President of the Advertising Association. Gavin graduated from Cambridge University with a degree in chemical engineering and is married with four children. His other love is Liverpool FC.

Ahdaf Soueif

Ahdaf Soueif is the author of the bestselling *The Map of Love* (shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1999 and translated into 28 languages), as well as the well-loved *In the Eye of the Sun* and the collection of short stories, *I Think of*



You. Ms Soueif is also a political and cultural commentator. A collection of her essays, *Mezzaterra: Fragments from the Common Ground*, was published in 2004, as was her translation (from Arabic into English) of Mourid Barghouti's *I Saw Ramallah*. She writes regularly for the Guardian in the UK and has a weekly column (in Arabic) in al-Shorouk in Egypt. In 2007 Ms Soueif founded Engaged Events, a UK based charity. Its first project is the Palestine Festival of Literature which takes place in the occupied cities of Palestine and in Gaza. Ms Soueif has recently edited *Reflections on Islamic Art* (BQFP: 2011). Her account of Egyptian events, *Cairo: my City, our Revolution*, was published by Bloomsbury in January 2012. Ms Soueif was recently named by the Guardian as "one of the 100 people with most influence on the English reading public", and by Arabian Business as "one of the 100 most powerful women in the Arab world today." Ms Soueif is a citizen of Egypt and the UK. She holds a BA from Cairo University and a PhD from the University of Lancaster, as well as three Honorary PhDs from the Universities of Lancaster, Exeter and London Metropolitan. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in the UK and the Lannan Foundation for Cultural Freedom in the US and a Patron of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and the Caine Prize for African Literature. In 2010 she became the first recipient of the Mahmoud Darwish Award (Ramallah) and in 2012 was awarded the Constantin Cavafis Prize (Cairo/Athens) and the Metropolis Bleu Award (Montreal).

Background

The British Museum was founded by Parliament in 1753 with the purpose of enabling citizens, of both Britain and the world, to understand the world. Since its foundation, the Museum has been governed by a Board of Trustees who hold for the benefit of humanity, present and future, a collection representative of all the world's cultures. They are responsible for ensuring that the collection is housed in safety and used for worldwide public benefit. The Trustees embody and represent the public interest within the Museum.

The posts are not remunerated. Reasonable expenses can be claimed.

The appointment process has followed the OCPA Code of Practice. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for political activity in the United Kingdom in the past five years to be made public. James Lupton has declared a recordable donation to the Conservative Party. No other political activity has been declared.