

March 2012

The Prime Minister has reappointed Howard Covington, Professor Averil Macdonald, Dr Gillian Samuels CBE, Janet Street-Porter and Chris Swinson OBE as Trustees of the National Museum of Science and Industry (NMSI) for second terms of four years from 7 April 2012.

Biographical Notes

Howard Covington

Howard Covington had a career in investment banking and asset management, having been a director of SG Warburg, the investment banking predecessor of UBS, chief executive of the European investment banking business of Wasserstein Perella and a founder shareholder and chief executive of New Star Asset Management. He is the chairman of the management committee, and an Honorary Fellow, of the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences, the UK's national mathematical sciences research institute, a trustee of the Royal Institution and a Fellow of the Institute of Physics.

Professor Averil Macdonald

Professor Averil Macdonald is holder of the Chair of Science Communication at the University of Reading. She is internationally acknowledged for innovative science communication, for establishing dialogue with hard to reach audiences, and for introducing innovative teaching methodologies in science education at national level. She has an international reputation in research in Raman spectroscopy. In 1999 she was awarded the International Bragg Medal for contributions to Physics Education, in 2007 she was awarded the UK Woman of Outstanding Achievement in Science and in 2010 was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of York for her distinguished contribution to science communication and supporting women in science. Professor Macdonald currently chairs the Expert Group for Women in Science feeding into the governance of the national BIS-funded projects on Diversity in Science and Engineering and has recently been invited to sit on the European Physical Society's Forum for Physics in Society. She is also an elected member of the Governing Council of the Institute of Physics Chair of the Institute of Physics External Engagement Committee and a member of the Institute of Physics Diversity Committee. Throughout her career she has focused on encouraging and supporting women in science and is now a member of the national Athena SWAN Steering Committee and on the judging panel for Athena SWAN awards which recognise good employment practice in universities for supporting the career progression of women in science. As a former Physics teacher Averil maintains an interest in school level science education, frequently visiting schools to give inspirational science talks. She has co-authored over 20 school texts, promoted science on several TV and radio programmes and contributed to the development of the National Curriculum for Science Scheme of Work for the QCA.

Dr Gillian Samuels CBE

Dr Gill Samuels is a physiologist and neuropharmacologist by training, and is the recipient of a number of national awards and honours. After a long career in the research limb of Pfizer, during which she contributed to the discovery and development of a number of medicines, now marketed, she has continued her interest in education, international health policy and practice, women's careers, and public enfranchisement in science. She was Director of Cardiovascular Biology at Pfizer, and before her retirement in 2005, Executive Director of Science Policy for Europe. She has served on a number of Research Council Boards (MRC, BBSRC) and Government Initiatives (Human Genetics Commission, Commission on Intellectual Property Rights, Biosciences Futures Forum, Medicines Foresight Panel, and SETFair, on women's careers in science), and continues as a special advisor to the British Council, and the WHO. Until recently she chaired the Foundation Council of the Global Forum for Health Research, and was a member of the board of the NGO DNDI. She was a founder member of the Rosemary Franklin Award of the Royal Society, and of the Athena Programme for the advancement of women in academia. She was the Chair of the Cheltenham Science Festival, which now, after 10 years, is arguably the best science festival in Europe, and is now a trustee of the Science Museum. She is a member of Council of University College, London, and of its business board, the current chairman of the University Women's Club in London, and was recently elected to the Board of the Karachi Education Initiative (KEI UK) Awards include Queen's Guide, CBE (Commander of the British Empire), First Woman of Science Award from the CBI (Confederation of British Industry), Honorary DSc from Sheffield University, Honorary Fellowship from Cardiff University, Lifetime Fellow of the Royal Institution, and now, much to her amusement, no 6 on the 2011 Reuter's list of Baby Boomer Achievers.

Janet Street-Porter

Janet Street Porter was a Fleet Street columnist and fashion writer for the Daily Mail by the age of 21. Her career in broadcasting started in 1973 when she hosted a daily show on Britain's first commercial radio station. As a producer, she won a BAFTA award for creating the Network Seven series for Channel Four using ground-breaking graphics and editing techniques. Janet joined the BBC in 1987 to head the new Youth and Entertainment department. She created a host of new formats for young people and was responsible for around 35 series. In 1994 she joined the Mirror Group and set up Live TV, building the UK's first digital television studios. Since 1996 she has presented a wide range of television series on subjects ranging from the countryside and architecture to the environment and food industry. She regularly appears on political programmes and presents a regular slot on GMTV. She was Editor of the Independent on Sunday for two years, and is currently Editor at Large. She has conducted hundreds of interviews for Bloomberg Television, transmitted in over 20 countries. Janet Street Porter was formerly Chair of the Edinburgh Television Festival, and is currently Vice President of the Ramblers Association, a Fellow of the Royal Television Society and an Associate Fellow of The RIBA.

Chris Swinson OBE

Chris Swinson started his career at PriceWaterhouse. He then spent nearly 15 years at BDO Binder Hamlyn, becoming National Managing Partner in 1981. He joined BDO Stoy Hayward in 1993 and was appointed Senior Partner in 1997. Since the end of this appointment, in 2004, he has developed his own practice as an expert witness and mediator. Mr. Swinson was formerly President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, and Member of the Auditing Practices Committee. He is currently Auditor General of The States of Jersey, Senior Independent Director at The Pensions Regulator and Non Executive Director at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory. He was Chairman of the Audit Committee at HM Treasury for 4 years, and a Commissioner of the Audit Commission.

Notes to editors

1. NMSI is the world's pre-eminent museum group holding the national collections of science, technology, medicine, transport and media. It comprises: Science Museum, London; National Railway Museum, York; National Media Museum, Bradford; Locomotion, Shildon and the Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester.
2. The posts are not remunerated. Reasonable expenses can be claimed.
3. The reappointments have been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Howard Covington, Professor Averil Macdonald, Dr Gillian Samuels CBE, Janet Street-Porter and Chris Swinson OBE have not undertaken any significant political activity during the past five years.