

News story: Prime Minister appoints new Tate Trustee

Michael Lynton is the Chairman of Snap Inc and the CEO of Sony Entertainment, where he has overseen Sony's global entertainment businesses, including Sony Music Entertainment, Sony/ATV Music Publishing and Sony Pictures Entertainment. As Chairman and CEO of Sony Pictures Entertainment (SPE) he has managed the studio's overall global operations, which include motion picture, television and digital content production and distribution, home entertainment acquisition and distribution, operation of studio facilities, and the development of new entertainment products, services and technologies. Prior to joining Sony Pictures, Michael worked for Time Warner and served as CEO of AOL Europe, President of AOL International and President of Time Warner International. From 1996 to 2000, he served as Chairman and CEO of Pearson plc's Penguin Group, where he oversaw the acquisition of Putnam, Inc. and extended the Penguin brand to music and the Internet. Michael joined The Walt Disney Company in 1987 and started Disney Publishing, serving as its President. From 1992 to 1996, he served as President of Disney's Hollywood Pictures. Michael is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and serves on the boards of the American Film Institute, the Smithsonian Board of Regents, the Harvard Board of Overseers, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, J. Paul Getty Trust, USC School of Cinematic Arts and the RAND Corporation. In addition, he sits on the board of directors of Snapchat and Ares Management, L.P

The role is not remunerated and this appointment has been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Under the Code, any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years must be declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation, or candidature for election. Michael Lynton has declared no political activity.

News story: Prime Minister appoints National Gallery Trustee

Sir John Kingman has been appointed by the Prime Minister as Trustee of the National Gallery, for four years until 2 April 2021.

Sir John Kingman is Group Chairman of Legal and General plc. He is also the first non-executive Chair of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), a UK government body established to oversee the strategic direction of science and innovation funding in the UK. He was previously Second Permanent Secretary to

the Treasury, with particular responsibility for its economics ministry functions; for policy relating to business, financial services and infrastructure. Prior to that, he was Global Co-Head of the Financial Institutions Group at Rothschild. Sir John previously held a number of senior roles at the Treasury, and was very involved with the first phase of the response to the global financial crisis: he led the resolution process following the run on Northern Rock in 2007; he led negotiations with RBS, Lloyds and HBOS on their £37bn recapitalisation in 2008; and he was the first Chief Executive of UK Financial Investments (UKFI). He was also Director of the Enterprise & Growth Unit and Press Secretary to the Chancellor. Prior to that he spent two years as a 'Lex' columnist for the Financial Times and worked in the Group Chief Executive's office at BP. Sir John is a Trustee of the Royal Opera House and is a member of the Global Advisory Board of the Centre for Corporate Reputation, Oxford University". He is also a World Fellow of Yale University. From 2003-6 he was a main board Director of the European Investment Bank.

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News story: Roman treasures found on A1

Archaeologists have uncovered Roman shoes and keys, a rare amber figurine and the most northerly example of coin production as part of Highways England's £380 million Highways England Leeming to Barton scheme

These finds are shedding new light on Roman life in Northern England. They hint at a far more sophisticated industrial and administrative centre in Yorkshire than had previously been known about. They also point to wealthy citizens having lived in the area.

Neil Redfern, Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England said:

The sheer amount of exceptional objects found on this road scheme has been extraordinary. Through them we are learning more and more about life here in the Roman period. This project has given us a unique opportunity to understand how the Romans conducted their military expansion into Northern England and how civil life changed under their control.

We discovered these treasures as part of our work to upgrade the existing dual carriageway between Leeming and Barton with a new 3 lane motorway. The upgrade is part of the government's £15 billion investment in motorways and strategic A roads.

Nearly 2,000 years ago the Romans used the very latest technological innovations to construct the original A1 as a major road of strategic importance – just as Highways England is doing today.

The extensive excavations have been carried out by Northern Archaeological Associates, on the advice of Historic England's experts.

Top recent discoveries

Amber carving

The figure of a toga-clad actor carved from a block of amber was recently found at Scotch Corner. Thought to have been made in Italy during the 1st century AD, a similar example was also found at Pompeii. Nothing like this has ever before been found in the UK. Its presence at Scotch Corner, along with a large number of other high status imported items suggests this was an early site furnished with the finest Roman goods.

Coin Workshops

Workshops for making gold, silver and copper coins found near Scotch Corner represent the most northerly example of coin production ever found in Europe. They demonstrate that the Romans were carrying out significant industrial activity in this part of England and potentially producing coins of high value.

Roman shoes

A number of well-preserved Roman leather shoes have been found in Catterick, a town south of Scotch Corner known by the Romans as Cataractonium. Large sheets of leather have also been found in the town, perhaps used for producing clothes. This indicates that the town was an important leatherworking centre, possibly supporting the Roman military.

Roman keys

Many keys have been found at Catterick, from small keys on rings to larger ones for lifting latches. The amount found is unusual for a northern suburb, suggesting people who lived in the town were conscious of protecting their valuable possessions.

Silver ring

A silver ring shaped like a snake which wraps around the finger has also been found in Catterick. This is a rare find and, like the amber figure, it hints at the great wealth of the people who lived here.

Pen and inkpot

A pewter inkpot and a number of “styli”, or Roman pens, have also been discovered at Catterick. This tells us that the town was a key administrative centre. The sheer amount of pens found suggests that a significant proportion of the population were able to read and write.

Lead plumb bob

A lead plumb bob from Cataractonium gives us evidence for construction methods used within the town and was perhaps even used in the construction of Dere Street and other roman roads at the site. This gives us a fantastic insight into the engineering technologies of the time.

Earlier date for Romans in Northern England

The excavations have also led to the unearthing of a major Roman settlement at Scotch Corner which pre-dates settlements in York and Carlisle by 10 years. This tells us that the Romans had a major presence and even possibly began their territorial expansion into northern England a decade earlier than previously thought. The settlement was unusually large for the north of England, stretching over 1.4km from north to south which is roughly the size of 13 football pitches positioned end to end. The finds uncovered at the site, from brooches to gaming counters, suggest the people who lived here, as at Catterick, were wealthy.

The settlement seems to have only been occupied for a short period, perhaps no more than 20-30 years. It probably became redundant as the Romans kept moving into the north. It's demise seems to coincide with the rise of Catterick, which we know was an administrative and economic centre in the north of England. The extensive archaeological finds discovered along the route – which will prove historically significant for future generations – will impact the scheme completion date.

Investigating and upgrading the A1

Works to upgrade the A1 through Yorkshire over the last 20 years have resulted in more than 60 miles of the road being investigated by archaeologists, from Ferrybridge near Leeds up to Piercebridge.

Since these excavations began in 2014, a team of around 60 archaeologists have discovered thousands of artefacts from a range of different periods, demonstrating that this area has been part of England's story for thousands of years.

Press release: PM call with Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau: 10 April 2017

The Prime Minister spoke to Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada last night to discuss events in Syria following the chemical weapons attack and the US airstrikes, and to look ahead to the G7 foreign ministers' meeting this week.

They agreed on their support for the US action, which we believe was an appropriate response to the barbaric chemical weapons attack launched by the Syrian regime.

And they discussed the importance of Russia using its influence to bring about a political settlement in Syria, and to work with the rest of the international community to ensure that the shocking events of the last week are never repeated.

They noted that the Foreign Secretary is working closely with his Canadian counterpart as part of diplomatic efforts to line up G7 and like-minded support for a clear international position on the way ahead, in support of the US Secretary of State's visit to Moscow.

And they agreed to continue this close cooperation as we build support for a political solution to end the conflict and bring lasting peace and stability to Syria.

News story: UK policing forum considers way ahead for international policing

The Joint International Policing Hub (JIPH) hosted a two day conference in Liverpool on 21-22 March 2017, bringing together participants from across UK policing to discuss the UK's role in supporting international policing efforts in fragile and conflict affected states, and beyond.

Brandon Lewis, Minister for Policing and the Fire Service, opened the event, underlining the importance of international policing:

"It is clear that collectively, more can be done to maximise the benefits from effective international policing – be they protecting our people at home and abroad; projecting our global influence; or promoting our policing capability.

UK policing has a strong reputation with international recognition of its professionalism and performance. Our policing expertise and skills are in demand across the globe. The knowledge contained in police forces across the UK – and in the law enforcement sector as a whole – is recognised as highly valuable by our international partners.

We can use international policing to promote UK prosperity and policing capability, with UK policing's brand used to export our policing expertise. Not only will this increase capability in overseas states and organisations, it will also increase the skills of our own officers, who will bring their experiences back to UK forces and benefit local communities."

Minister for Policing and Fire Service Brandon Lewis addresses UK police partners

Over 20 organisations participated in the event including the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Home Office, National Police Chiefs Council and the Association of Police & Crime Commissioners, as well as representatives from national constabularies, the National Crime Agency, academic institutions and other bodies. Participants discussed the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead in putting in place a cohesive and unified UK approach to international policing.

A significant element of UK international policing effort is in support of multilateral missions. Baroness Joyce Anelay, Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the United Nations , also addressed the conference and highlighted the value of UK policing abroad:

"I am proud of the UK's contribution to international policing. Our dedicated and professional personnel, often working in difficult conditions, set a high standard for others to follow. The UK Government is committed to making the international effort more effective and to strengthening the British contribution to international policing."

Joint International Policing Hub

The JIPH operates off of the Stabilisation Unit platform and works to ensure that the UK has an international policing capability which is able to identify, prioritise, develop and deliver upon non-operational international policing requirements and requests. The JIPH is working to establish itself as the recognised gateway into and out of UK international policing assistance structures for domestic and global partners.