

## [News story: The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport Appoints David Blyth to the Board of the Theatres Trust](#)

The Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP has appointed David Blyth to the Theatres Trust Board for a three year term from 1 July 2017.

David Blyth has been involved in theatre and arts entertainment management for over thirty five years in both the commercialised and subsidised sectors. In 1987 David joined the management team of the local authority run Fairfield Hall Arts Complex in Croydon and over the next five years was Head of Operations. He joined The Ambassadors Woking as General Manager in 1992 and became Head of Operations for the Company in March 1997, while retaining the role of Chief Executive of the Ambassadors Woking. In February 2000 he joined the board of ATG as Operations Director. He subsequently relinquished the role as Chief Executive of Woking in September 2006 to concentrate on the expanded position of Operations and Buildings Development Director. In March 2011 he was appointed as Ambassador's Property Director, with responsibility for their portfolio of 39 venues across the UK, America and Australia. David retired from Ambassador Theatre Group in 2015. Since his retirement David has become the Chairman of the Marina Theatre Trust in Lowestoft.

Theatres Trust Trustees is not remunerated. These appointments have been made in accordance with the Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments. It is a requirement of the Code that political activity by those appointed is declared. David Blyth has declared that he has not carried out any political activity.

---

## [News story: Culture Secretary appoints new Historic Royal Palaces \(HRP\) Trustee](#)

Sue Wilkinson MBE has been appointed as a Trustee of HRP for three years from 1 August 2017.

Sue is Chief Executive of the Reading Agency. Before this she was Director of UK Academic and Government Alliances at Elsevier. She has held a number of

prominent roles within the arts and education. Sue read history at Clare College Cambridge, trained as a teacher and did a post-graduate course in museum education at the University of Leicester. As Director of Policy at the MLA she created the groundbreaking quality and impact framework, Inspiring Learning for All, which is now used in museums, archives and libraries all over the world. While at MLA she worked with public libraries and their partners to deliver a wide range of programmes, and with local museums to establish, and secure funding for the Renaissance in the Regions programme. She was awarded an MBE for services to museum education in 2014. Sue is also a trustee of the Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

The role is not remunerated. This appointment has been made in accordance with the Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments. The appointments process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. 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. Sue has declared no such political activity.

---

## **News story: UK extends training of Ukrainian Armed Forces**

The Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon has confirmed this will provide Ukrainian personnel with enhanced skills to protect themselves against these threats – a key cause of injuries and fatalities – now and into the future in the Donbas.

Since the beginning of the Donbas conflict in March 2014, 2,700 Ukrainian servicemen have been killed and a further 10,000 injured. 128 UAF have been killed this year alone.

Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon said:

We continue to stand side by side with our Ukrainian friends in the face of Russian belligerence and aggression. This training, defensive in nature, will help protect Ukrainian troops against the threats that they face on a daily basis. By stepping up our training programmes we are sending a clear message that we support the people of Ukraine and are firmly committed to its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

Last week, Sir Michael also announced that the UK has directly trained over 5,000 members of Ukraine's Armed Forces in 14 locations away from the Donbas.

Since 2015, over 1,300 British personnel have been deployed in support of Operation ORBITAL. Drawing from eleven different regiments, including two squadrons of reservists, they have been training the Ukrainian Armed Forces in a number of skills such as the identification of mines and IEDs, medical care and logistics. Last year, Sir Michael confirmed that the training mission will continue until at least early 2018.

The new training elements confirmed today will be rolled out later this year.

---

## **News story: David Davis' opening remarks at the start of second round of EU exit negotiations in Brussels**

It's good to be back in Brussels, to open the next formal round of the negotiations.

We made a good start last month, and as Michel says we are now getting into the substance of the matter.

As you've heard, it's four categories; the issue of citizens rights, the issue of finance, the issue of separation issues and of course, separately, Northern Ireland.

For us it is incredibly important that we now make good progress, that we negotiate through this and identify the differences so that we can deal with them, and identify the similarities so we can reinforce them.

And now, it's time to get down to work and make this a successful negotiation.

Thank you very much indeed.

---

## **Press release: Tech innovators urged to use their skills to tackle terror threat**

The UK is already renowned for its world-leading academics, researchers, engineers and technology developers, but today the Government is urging these

talented individuals to come together and further support our work to keep the public safe.

In his speech Security Minister Ben Wallace is expected to say:

“Society must come together to defeat terrorism which is why I am delighted to see representatives here from businesses from across the country who take seriously the need to protect the public.

“In light of the horrific attacks in London and Manchester, the Government has committed to review its counter-terror strategy and further to this I am announcing today that we are making up to £2 million available to fund research into cutting edge technology and behavioural science projects designed to keep people safe in crowds.

“The threat from terror does not stand still so neither will we, which is why we are calling on the best and the brightest from the science and technology sector to come forward with their ideas and proposals to support our ongoing work to keep people safe.”

The [competition](#) is being run in a partnership between the [Home Office](#) and [Defence and Security Accelerator](#) with support from the [Royal Society](#). The competition is seeking research proposals from the country’s brightest talents for innovative or novel ideas to reduce the threat from terrorist attacks using weapons or explosives.

This [competition](#) forms part of the science and technology programme within the Government’s current counter-terrorism strategy.

Head of the Defence and Security Accelerator, Lucy Mason, said:

“The terrible terrorist attacks in London and Manchester shocked and appalled all of us. Protecting people from terrorism is something we can all do, industry and academics and public servants.

“We don’t have all the answers. So we must bring together the brightest minds from the private sector, and academia to help find solutions to help keep our country and people safe and secure.

“The Defence and Security Accelerator exists to help government find and exploit game-changing ideas to help the security services and police stay one step ahead of those who threaten our safety. By funding and fast tracking the development of real solutions, we help to bring the innovation community together, rapidly.

“So today I reach out to our innovation community to be part of something bigger and show their support for their country. I’d encourage anyone who feels they have a great idea that can help keep our crowded areas safe to visit our website for more information on this competition.”

Vice-President of the Royal Society, Professor Alex Halliday, said:

“Research and innovation are key to improving lives in so many ways. That

includes finding new ways to fight terrorist threats.

“I am sure the ingenuity of the UK’s innovators will deliver new technologies that will help make us all safer.”