

Press Release

Paul Kirkman appointed as Director of the National Railway Museum

The National Railway Museum has today announced the appointment of its new Director: Paul Kirkman, who brings with him an impressive track record and a wealth of experience of the museum, Government and cultural sectors.

Paul joined the Museum as Acting Director on 5 November 2012 on a year-long secondment as part of his position of Head of Arts and Creative Industries at the Department for Culture Media and Sport.

The full time Director role was advertised as the end of his secondment approached and, after a selection process that whittled down the initial 51 applicants, including senior figures from the cultural sector, Paul has been chosen to lead the Museum.

Professor Sir Howard Newby, chair of the National Railway Museum Advisory Board, said:

“The ideal candidate had to have an awareness of the history and importance of the world’s railways that was tempered by the broader understanding of how to reach new audiences to ensure that the National Railway Museum not only retains its place as the world’s greatest railway museum but grows in its scale, ambition and reach.

“Paul was without doubt the best placed candidate to deliver that. He impressed us all with his vision of where the Museum should go next, through his development of a master plan.

Given the backdrop of a decline in grant in aid, and the renewed focus on the Science Museum Group’s role in showcasing the best of science and engineering to inspire the next generation, his track record and his experience of the wider cultural sector mean that we have every confidence that he will take the Museum to new heights.”

Paul Kirkman said:

"It is a great honour to have been entrusted with the care of the National Railway Museum at this very exciting time in its development, given its key role in preserving our heritage, its huge importance when it comes to reminding everyone of how the UK is the home of engineering and innovation, and its critical role in tourism and the economy of Yorkshire and, through the Shildon site, Durham too.

"I look forward to leading the National Railway Museum team during this new golden age of rail, and to show how rail travel is more relevant today than ever before."

Ends

For more information contact: Catherine Farrell, Senior Press Officer on 01904 686281

Notes to Editors

- Paul Kirkman's Biography

Paul Kirkman joined the NRM as Acting Director on 5 November 2012 on a yearlong secondment as part of his position of Head of Arts and Creative Industries at the Department for Culture Media and Sport.

Paul joined the Department in September 2005 as Head of Museums & Libraries. Previously, Paul studied Philosophy at Edinburgh University before joining HM Treasury. In between three spells at the Treasury he was Private Secretary to the Director General of the Confederation of British Industry, studied for an MA in Art History at Goldsmiths College and was Head of Policy & Planning at the Natural History Museum.

- The National Railway Museum in York has the largest collection of railway objects in the world and attracts over 700,000 visitors per year.
- Locomotion, the National Railway Museum at Shildon is a joint venture between the National Railway Museum and Durham County Council. Locomotion is home to over 60 vehicles from the national collection and attracts over 200,000 visitors per year.
- Admission to the National Railway Museum is free.
- For more information visit nrm.org.uk.
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