

NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday 4 February 2009

Cultural Programme 2009 unveiled

- Roman re-enactments, a shipyard spectacular and illuminated icons as North East England is once again animated throughout the year

The 2009 cultural programme, packed with unique world-class events and festivals across NewcastleGateshead and North East England, is launched today.

Curated by culture¹⁰, since 2004, the latest in the annual programme of exceptional cultural events has been unveiled, including a new theme and focus for the year.

In 2009, both local people and visitors to the region will be invited to rediscover and explore its roots, with a whole programme of exciting, newly commissioned events that celebrate the area's spectacular landscape and rich heritage. Highlights of this groundbreaking **Landscape and Heritage** programme include the **Living Frontier**: in May 2009 the Romans will march again in Northumberland and Cumbria when World Heritage Site Hadrian's Wall is garrisoned for the first time in nearly 1,600 years. In July A&P Tyne, a fully working shipyard in Hebburn on the mouth of the Tyne, will form the unusual venue and extraordinary backdrop for **The Beautiful Journey**, a large scale promenade performance from Cornish company Wildworks, which promises to be visually stunning. And in October, **Odin's Glow** will highlight the dramatic landscape of Redcar and Cleveland using light and performance to transform local landmark Roseberry Topping into an artwork. Combined with major celebrations of

LANDSCAPE & HERITAGE

Landscape and Heritage is the theme for key elements in NewcastleGateshead's world-class programme of festivals and events in 2009, inspired by major regional events including the opening of Great North Museum and Hadrian's Wall celebrations. The programme, developed by culture¹⁰, also supports a range of projects which raise the profile of North East England's natural and built assets, exploring the effect of landscape and heritage on the development of the region as well as the impact of people today on our landscape and heritage.

HADRIAN'S WALL – THE LIVING FRONTIER – 2,000 YEARS OF HISTORY BROUGHT TO LIFE

28-31 May

History comes to life in vivid and spectacular detail with a programme of events along one of the world's most famous frontiers: Hadrian's Wall. Dramatic re-enactments will bring the frontier story to life all along the wall, with a living cast of Romans, Border Reivers, Civil War troopers and modern soldiers. There will be two marches to launch the event, followed by three days of living history at sites along the wall, culminating with a large-scale pageant finale in historic Corbridge bringing together all the re-enactors and their stories of the frontier.

- This is the weekend after the second May Bank Holiday weekend and is the latter half of the schools half term holiday
- Working closely with the Ermin Street Guard, HWHL is recruiting re-enactors for all over Europe to create a full Roman Century – the first time this would have been seen on Hadrians Wall for over 1600 years. This Roman Century and other re enactors will recreate marches on Newcastle (the Keep to the Great North Museum) and Carlisle (Carlisle castle) on Thursday 28th May
- Re-enactors from other significant periods of history on the Wall such as the English Civil War and the Border Reivers - will also be represented.
- The key Roman sites along Hadrians Wall will be used as venue for the re-enactors displays and performances from Friday 29th – Sunday 31st May.
Segedunum – Vikings, Corbridge – Romans,
Chesters – Equestrian & ancient Olympic sports, Carlisle Castle – Sealed Knot
Vindolanda & The Roman Army Museum - Roman Living history,
Housesteads – Contemporary installation/performance, Birdoswald – Border Reivers,
- The showcase event is at Corbrige – Tynedale Rugby ground on Saturday 30th May and will be in the form of an Historical Pageant. An approx ninety minute show in the 'Corbridge Coliseum' [working title] for an audience of up to 7500 is planned.
- Tickets for the Corbridge event will be £10 for adults and £5 for concessions – this event ticket will also entitle the bearer to discounts at other events that weekend.

Illuminating Hadrian's Wall **Sat 7 Nov - Mon 14 Dec**

This winter will celebrate the stunning landscape and exciting heritage of Hadrian's Wall via a series of lighting experiences and events, **Illuminating Hadrian's Wall** is a collaborative project by Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd, Culture10, Northumberland Lights and Kendal Arts International.

Visitors and communities will have the opportunity to experience the once-in-a-lifetime spectacle of the 73 mile route of World Heritage Site Hadrian's Wall - from Wallsend to Bowness on Solway - illuminated through sensitive yet incredible light installations and events along the Frontier of the Roman Empire - transforming the Wall, surrounding areas and buildings into an iconic and inspiring piece of public art and a stirring finale to 2009's year of Landscape and Heritage

Programme details propose to include events in Carlisle, Hexham, & Segedunum as well as shows in rural areas in the central section and at the western end of the wall throughout November. With the Lighting the Wall acting as the finale – a project to delineate and highlight the 73 mile course of the World Heritage Site through alternative illumination in lighted urban areas , installations at milecastles, beacons and illumination of buildings and objects closely associated with the Wall

Environmental Impact Statement

Cultre10, NGI, and Creative Culture have no problem with the statement below. However Zoe is adapting her standard 'environmental impact statement and will add the other agencies supporting statements to it.

In appointing a company to manage these events HWHL has dictated strict environmental impact guidelines and has carefully examined the environmental credentials of all project bidders. In the case of the Illuminating Hadrian's Wall project, HWHL is working with Culture Creative which has strong track record in creating light installations in a way that is highly sensitive to the environment. This company has managed the Northumberland Lights project for 4 years, working closely with agencies such as the Northumberland National Park and Keilder Forest Park, The National Trust and English Heritage

Northumberland Lights develops solutions that will minimise environmental impact:

- Carefully controlled lighting to illuminate sections of the Wall, associated buildings and objects - not to light the sky.
- Lighting will be for short periods of time only. Maximum of 5 hours at any one time and never later than 10pm
- Where independent power supplies are required – recycled bio diesel fuel will be used.
- All materials used will be carefully assessed to ensure that those used have the least possible environmental impact.
- Sub contractors will be asked to provide their own environmental policy and comply with Northumberland Lights ways of working
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- Carbon off-setting proposals are being seriously considered as part of the overall environmental impact package not to discourage better ways of working

HWHL is funded by One NorthEast, the North West Development Agency, English Heritage and Natural England to protect and promote the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, the Hadrian's Wall National Trail and the landscape which it runs through in a sustainable way that will preserve this unique part of England for future generations.

Statement from culture10

“We understand the complexities of staging ambitious events in such a sensitive location as the World Heritage Site of Hadrian’s Wall. Therefore, we are working closely in partnership with Hadrian’s Wall Heritage Ltd. and Culture Creative to ensure the environmental impact is minimised whilst also exploring the opportunities to off-set any impact to the benefit of local communities.*

“Hadrian’s Wall is not only a source of immense local pride, but also helps to put us on the map around the world and brings tourists - and the associated economic benefits – to the region. It is for both these reasons that this year we are celebrating and animating Hadrian’s Wall, and other iconic places in the North East, as part of the ‘ Landscape and Heritage’ strand of our 2009 world-class festivals and events programme.

“Respecting this ancient site and its beautiful and often remote natural setting is at the heart of these celebrations. Previous events within our programme, such as Northumberland Lights, managed by our partners Culture Creative, strove to be as sensitive as possible to their setting, so that visitors had a magical experience that slowly unfolded as they explored our wonderful iconic landscape. This year, we will be working with all of our partners to ensure this is the case at Hadrian’s Wall.”

Stella Hall, creative director of culture10

ENDS

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Notes to Editors

1. Hadrian’s Wall Heritage Ltd is a not for profit company with responsibility for the coordination, protection, development and marketing of the Hadrian’s Wall World Heritage Site and the areas it passes through.
2. The organisation was set up in May 2006 in partnership with One NorthEast (One), the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA), Natural England and English Heritage.
3. Hadrian’s Wall Heritage works in partnership with a number of organisations. It brings together business and conservation, visitors and local communities in a uniquely focused way, with the overall aim of:
 - Creating jobs and enhancing the local economy
 - Attracting more visitors who will stay longer and spend more in the area
 - Creating a vibrant and sustainable visitor economy
 - Finding better ways to interpret and protect an internationally recognised monument
 - Making Hadrian’s Wall a truly world-class destination