

Supporting Information

# Friends & Associates

2010/11

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### Friends of the Shipley Art Gallery

The Friends provided another successful season of monthly public talks at the Gallery, focusing on leading designers from the region including Jessamy Kelly (glass designer), Fiona Rutherford (textile artist), Nick James (furniture maker) and Simon Griffiths (ceramicist). The first talk in the series is given by a

- representative of one of the national support organisations - the Art Fund in 2010 and the Contemporary Art Society in 2011. A celebrity lecture by John Benjamin on the history of jewellery attracted over 100 people.

- In addition the Friends arranged several members' outings including a guided tour of public art projects in

- Gateshead and a visit to Belsay to see the acclaimed exhibition Extraordinary Measures.

- The Friends continue to give financial support to assist with new acquisitions, and have initiated an annual Rothschild Memorial Lecture on ceramics and a volunteer guide service, two members having received induction training for the purpose.

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### Associates of Discovery Museum

This has been a challenging year of mixed fortunes for the Associates of Discovery Museum, with a number of the most active committee members (including the secretary) stepping down due to pressure of other work. Despite this, the Associates have been able to contribute to several activities, including the

- Young Engineer, Designer and Technologist Competition and the Big Bang Regional Fair. In addition, Committee Members have also given advice on the Science and Society project and participated in the Museum's revisioning exercise.

- The Committee has also seized the opportunity (occasioned by this last item and the churn of its membership) to redefine

- its Mission and formulate a strategy for future activity. Reporting in the near future, it is hoped that this will provide a broader approach to supporting Discovery Museum through a programme of talks, visits and other activities of interest to a wider spectrum of the community, ever conscious of its avowed intent to raise the profile of Engineering in the North East.

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### Friends of the Laing Art Gallery (FLAG)

We have been proud to make a financial contribution towards the magnificent new Northern Spirit Gallery, and the setting up of the John Martin exhibition, in what has been a very special year for the Laing.

- Members were also actively involved in producing interpretation for the Northern Spirit gallery, giving guided tours of the John Martin exhibition, and attending the Previews.

- Our active programme of supper lectures, talks, outings

- to galleries and other places raises money for the Gallery as well as giving pleasure to our members. We are now looking at additional ways of raising money, and a recent raffle of an original painting generously donated by a local artist has been very successful.

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### Friends of Segedunum

I can report another successful year for our Friends Group - our membership continues to increase and we maintained our excellent attendance at meetings.

We have had a mixture of new speakers and "old stalwarts". We continue to be fascinated with the story of the excavations at Arbeia with Graeme Stobbs as a regular speaker and we have

- welcomed John Derry twice – who gave us enthralling talks about Constantine and Collingwood. Despite a setback in January caused by the Wallsend blizzard which caused a postponement we were entertained later by Lindsay Allason Jones who told us about Roman Security. We are also continuing to forge links with Burnside School and support their work in establishing links in China.

- We have been prepared to travel afar. For our annual July trip, we ventured south of the river to Piercebridge and returned safely, thanks to Bill Griffiths' excellent hosting. We have also continued our strong links with Wallsend LHS with joint meetings and several Friends joined the LHS trip to Bowness in September.

- Mike Halsey  
• Chair  
• Friends of Segedunum

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### North Tyneside Steam Railway Association

The Association has continued to support the maintenance and conservation of the railway vehicles housed at the Stephenson Railway Museum. In addition the volunteers are responsible for operating the train services at weekends and of course our very popular and enjoyable Santa Specials each December.

The main achievement this year has seen the welcome return of the Peckett Steam Locomotive "Jackie Milburn" This loco has had a considerable amount spent on it to bring it back into service. Funding came from the Heritage Lottery Fund, TWAM and public and private donations.

Volunteers worked tirelessly to reconstruct the loco and repaint it in its apple green Livery with primrose coloured lining. At its re-launch in November 2010 Jack Milburn, Jackie's Son, unveiled the locomotive's name plate. The event was also attended by Linda Arkley, the Mayor of North Tyneside and Senior Officers from TWAM, plus volunteers. It was a very successful day.

Jackie Milburn can now be seen operating the passenger service at the Stephenson Railway Museum throughout this season.

Other activities have included carriage re-painting to maintain our fleet of Mark 1 1950's Coaches, assisting with track repairs and general maintenance of rolling stock.

Another successful project to report was the completion of the 1904 20 Ton Coal Hopper wagon which is now an exhibit at the National Railway Museum at Shildon in County Durham. Volunteers who have worked on this restoration have been very proud to see it there in its original grey livery with white lettering all completed in our workshops at the Stephenson Railway Museum.

The Association has also been on an educational visit to the Weardale Railway and Locomotion at Shildon. It was a worthwhile visit and an opportunity to learn about another preserved railway as well as view some of the national collection.

Malcolm Dunlavy  
Chairman NTSRA.

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### Friends of South Shields Museum & Arbeia Roman Fort

2010 was undoubtedly a momentous year for South Shields Museum. It is not every year that you celebrate 150 years. The Friends played an active part in supporting the celebrations particularly through the financial contribution towards the History in the Making exhibition.

2010 saw a welcomed increase in the number of casual visitors to the Friends' regular Tuesday talks, which again covered a wide variety of local subjects, no doubt reflecting the increased publicity associated with the 150 Years Programme of Events. In addition to the Tuesday talks the museum also held a series of well attended Thursday lunchtime talks based around the museum's collections.

Friends also contributed to the 'Make Your Mark' fundraising campaign which aimed to support the learning programme at South Shields Museum & Art Gallery.

Yet again throughout the year the museum staff have been highly supportive of the Friends and their assistance has been greatly appreciated.

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### The Arbeia Society

2010 saw the Arbeia Society publish the ninth volume of its Journal, including a major article, the civilian settlement (vicus) of the Roman Fort at South Shields and a study of the Roman architectural fragments from Corbridge.

Our annual conference, on the end of Roman administration

on Hadrian's Wall was as well attended as ever, with speakers from across the country bringing a variety of fresh perspectives to the topic.

In addition, our recent conference proceedings Understanding Hadrian's Wall, edited by Paul Bidwell, was reviewed in Britannia, the Journal of Romano-British studies.

The reviewer closes with the following: 'The Arbeia Society is to be congratulated in offering an outlet for such valuable research. The reviewer deems this an essential purchase for all those professing an interest in Roman frontier studies'.

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### Friends of Sunderland Museums (FOSUMS)

The Friends of Sunderland Museums (FOSUMS) held two special events to mark their 30th anniversary year. The first was a talk by John Grundy, Vice President, about the importance of museums and the need for Friends groups. Later in the year our President, Professor David Bellamy, gave a talk about

• Diving in the Indian Ocean; the corals he brought back, which he donated to Sunderland Museum, were on show. We also had guided tours of the Victoria Tunnel and the Mining Institute, both in Newcastle, as well as our regular monthly meetings at the Museum & Winter Gardens. At the end of October we organised a very successful Halloween Fun Day.

• Our memberships, and numbers attending our meetings, show a slight decline, possibly due to ageing membership, closure of the nearest car park, and withdrawal of evening bus services. We continue to attract excellent speakers for our monthly meetings.

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### Doxford Engine Friends' Association

The Association continues to flourish, and the membership total of 181, including 21 life members, has been maintained at around the level of previous years. This includes many people who are based outside the UK.

Our four meetings held in Sunderland each attracted an average attendance of 50, representing an encouraging level of participation by regionally-based members.

This year we enhanced our profile through the Sunderland History Fair, and we visited the marine laboratories and simulators at South Tyneside College. We also collaborated

• very successfully with two other groups and with Discovery Museum to attract, in March, a very large audience to the lecture Genesis of a Queen: RMS Queen Mary 2 by renowned naval architect Stephen Payne, who led the team which designed and built the world's newest ocean liner.

• The Doxford engine preserved at the Regional Museums Store (RMS) continues to benefit from the attention given by members, and many more hours voluntary work were committed during the year. One of our key objectives is to enable people to understand and appreciate the engine and, more generally, Wearside's maritime heritage. We have helped with visits and tours

• at the RMS, and we have produced and sold books, CDs, DVDs and T-shirts as well as running our much-visited website, [www.doxford-engine.com](http://www.doxford-engine.com).

• During the year members of the Association took part in a research project, led by Newcastle University's Institute for Ageing and Health, into how volunteering and participating in museums engenders a sense of wellbeing among older people. The results of this study demonstrated that, through the opportunities provided to members of the Association, TWAM really does fulfil its vision to make a difference to people's lives.

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## Friends of the Hatton Gallery

Friends of the Hatton (FOTH), formed in 1985, continue to support the Hatton Gallery, recently contributing financially to some of the conservation work taking place on the collections. We have successfully organised art groups, craft and print workshops, lectures, outings

and selling exhibitions for members to participate in. We now have a summer and a pre-Christmas small works exhibition. Both are fundraising initiatives in support of the gallery, the latter including an auction of postcards produced by FOTH.

In addition, we have supported the educational outreach

programme for disadvantaged school children, run by the Hatton learning officer.

A recent memorable event took a group through the Victoria tunnel under the city towards Spital Tongues. Other events have included a pastel day in Northumberland and a three day painting trip to Grasmere in the Lake District.