

TYNE & WEAR  
**museums**

# Annual Report

2007-2008

Supporting Information

# Friends & Associates

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## Friends of the Shipley Art Gallery

2007 has been an exciting year! In April, after seven years of dedicated support of the Gallery, the majority of the Friends Committee stood down and seven new Friends agreed to take up the challenge. This was followed by a very successful first year.

The highlight of the year was the Guest Speaker Programme with talks each month from an excellent range of speakers including several makers, a gallery curator and a local historian. These events are free to members and are always well attended.

The Friends Newsletter has been redesigned and expanded and is sent out to 250 Friends each Spring and Autumn. A Friends website has been developed ([www.shipleyfriends.co.uk](http://www.shipleyfriends.co.uk)), which provides information about the Friends and events, as well as a direct link to the Shipley's website. There will be a membership drive in 2008 along with an exciting programme of speakers.

## Associates of Discovery Museum

The Associates continued to support science activities at the Museum including the Science Works event for schools, events run in association with National Science Week and the Northumberland Schools Design and Technology Competition run by Hexham and Ponteland Rotary Clubs. Support ranged from fronting activities and acting as hosts for participating schools, to assistance with judging and donating prize money.

A new corporate member, BAE Land Systems was welcomed, and will be providing graduate trainees and apprentices to assist with future science activities.

Finally, Dr. John Grant's three year stint as Chairman ended and Professor Kel Fidler, Vice Chancellor at the University of Northumbria, will take on the role.

## Friends of the Laing Art Gallery

The Friends of the Laing Art Gallery have enjoyed another busy year with numerous activities including seven supper lectures in the Gallery.

The Friends have supported the Gallery in numerous ways including funding for exhibitions, the conservation of works in the permanent collection and a number of significant acquisitions. Two works by contemporary artist Gordon Cheung, *Lightning* and *Lightning 2* were acquired outright and a watercolour by Myles Birket Foster of 'The Black Gate & St. Nicholas's Cathedral, Newcastle' was purchased in memory of Charles Warrick a former member of the Friends. An 18th century Newcastle silver sauce boat made by David Crawford was also purchased in memory of Margery Stevenson, a founder member of the Friends. The Friends have also supported *Land and Sea: Charles Napier Hemy and his Brothers* exhibition.

The Friends continue to provide guided tours for the general public and pre-booked groups and staff a welcome desk in the gallery.

## Friends of Segedunum

It has been another successful year for the Friends of Segedunum –membership is increasing, fees have been held at last year's level and the programme of speakers has proved popular – particularly when linked to special exhibitions at Segedunum. On average well over half the membership has attended the Saturday morning programme of talks which has been Practical assistance to the Museum has included supplying equipment for the conference room and providing guides at special events, thus achieving one of the Friends' main objectives.

## North Tyneside Steam Railway Association

The North Tyneside Steam Railway Association continues to play a critical role in the Museum through conservation work and advice as well as the running of the passenger train service. A highlight of the year was the Victorian Christmas Specials which ran over three weekends in December and again proved to be very popular. The group held an Open Weekend in April to showcase their work and encourage new members to join. The new portacabin has provided much-improved facilities including an office and mess room.

## Friends of South Shields Museum & Arbeia Roman Fort

This year the Society has again enjoyed a wide variety of speakers both in the Library, temporarily, and at the museum. They covered local characters, important events and were witty, informative and serious.

In May the Friends were also represented at the Local History Fair in the Museum while the Christmas Fayre again provided a very successful fund raising exercise to support us.

## Friends of Sunderland Museums (FOSUMS)

The Friends of Sunderland Museums held regular monthly meetings, on subjects as diverse as local history, Antarctica, Canada, and the Sunderland to Saigon journey. They had a guided tour of the Art Store, and another at Monkwearmouth Station Museum when it re-opened. Members attended a BAFM event at Dilston, and had a very interesting day. Fosums had a stand at local history fairs in Durham, South Shields, Gateshead and in Sunderland library foyer. In July 2007 they visited Woodhorn Colliery Museum and Country Park.

Donations were made towards the Lowry project and the Public Catalogue Foundation.

Fosums bought a display case for their Guardians Book which is now on display in Museum Street. It is hoped this will encourage further donations.

Fosums members appreciate the assistance given willingly by Museum staff.

## Doxford Engine Friends' Association

Visits this year included the group's first international event, a trip to Copenhagen to see the acclaimed DieselHouse Museum. The Doxford engine preserved at the Regional Museums Store continues to benefit from the attention given by members, and over 420 hours' voluntary work was committed during the year. Guided tours of the engine were also put on for visitors.