

2022-23



*Our mission is to welcome
and connect people to the past,
present and future of the
North East through stories,
shared spaces and experiences.*

We will help people understand and act
on local and global challenges:



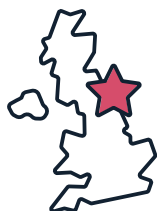
Equality – we will provide a warm welcome to everyone, break down barriers caused by inequality and discrimination and share diverse stories



Wellbeing – we will use our spaces and services to support people's physical and mental health



Social mobility – we will deliver learning experiences, volunteering opportunities and pathways for personal development for people of all ages and backgrounds



Place – we will celebrate North East England, inspire local pride and use our resources to support research, innovation and economic regeneration



Climate – we will raise awareness about the environment and encourage people to act for a sustainable future.



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CHAIR’S WELCOME

*Rt Hon Baroness Joyce Quin,
Chair, Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums
Strategic Board*

Reflecting on 2022-23 I have wonderful memories of a year filled with events celebrating North East England’s amazing art, heritage and culture.

The eagerly awaited return of the **Lindisfarne Gospels** to its North East roots did not disappoint, thanks to a spectacular exhibition at the Laing Art Gallery. The complementary community exhibition **These Are Our Treasures** was also captivating, featuring emotive stories about people’s personal treasures gathered during community workshops at libraries across the region. The programme did not end at the walls of the Laing Art Gallery – it inspired over 100 exhibitions and events at cultural venues from Berwick to Hartlepool as a catalyst for a region-wide celebration of our heritage engaging an audience of over 370,000 people.

We also saw hundreds of events take place across the North East to celebrate the 1900th anniversary of the beginning of the construction of Hadrian’s Wall, including at three of our venues. Collectively over 250,000 people visited the Great North Museum: Hancock, Segedunum Roman Fort and Arbeia, South Shields Roman Fort during the year-long festival and many of the exhibits have become permanent features of the museums, leaving a lasting legacy.

What both events demonstrate is Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums’ talent in forging highly successful partnerships. As you read this report, time and time again, you will find evidence of partnership work – bringing together the cultural sector with businesses, educational institutions, the public sector, funders and communities to deliver amazing programmes and services.

I was delighted that the impact of our work and commitment of our staff and volunteers was recognised with three award wins and three shortlists including two awards for our partnership work.

I wish my successor as Chair, Chris Mullin, a happy and productive term in office and I personally will look forward to seeing how our ambitious plans develop.



DIRECTOR’S INTRODUCTION

*Keith Merrin, Director, Tyne & Wear
Archives & Museums*

This year we refreshed our mission and committed to ensuring our work responds to local and global challenges connected to equality, wellbeing, social mobility, place and climate. These five pillars permeate all of our activity and programmes and we have reflected this in the way we have structured this year’s report.

Highlights of our **equality** work included the Exchange project at Discovery Museum working with Caribbean and African diaspora communities and the Multaka volunteering programme for refugees and asylum seekers. We have learned a huge amount from the participants which is informing changes to our policies and practice.

Our targeted community programmes are rooted in improving **wellbeing**. This year we supported older people with dementia, people in clinical settings in mental health recovery, people in recovery from addiction and in the criminal justice system.

To support **social mobility** we expanded our volunteering programme to offer supported opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers, young people who are not in education, employment or training, people living in social isolation and people who are economically disadvantaged.

We engaged over 150,000 children and young people in our learning programmes helping to boost their confidence and aspirations. We also developed plans for providing more work experience opportunities for young people.

Our venues and programmes have a positive impact on **place**. The **Lindisfarne Gospels** programme and the Hadrian’s Wall 1900 Festival brought the region benefits including national profile and significant economic impact.

We have accelerated our work to reduce the environmental impact of running our venues and begun planning for exhibitions and events to raise awareness of how everyone can respond to the **climate** crisis.

We have exciting plans to fulfil our five commitments for the year ahead which I look forward to sharing with you.



In 2022–23 we achieved...



697,497

visits to our venues

351



loan boxes

used by

21,929

children, young people, teachers and adults

generating

£25,237

1,203,849



visits to our website

Over

6,111

engagements through our adult community engagement programmes

including

565



creative sessions co-designed with community and healthcare professionals and participants

150,887

children and young people took part in activities and visits across our venues

231,497



up 41%

followers on social media



26,858



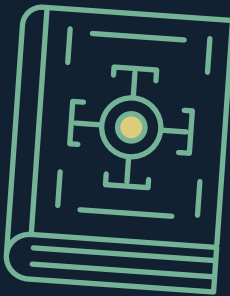
subscribers to our Must-see Museums membership scheme

18,113

visits to The Late Shows – Newcastle and Gateshead’s annual culture crawl



56,784



visits to the Laing Art Gallery for the Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition

34,756

collection records were updated



4,825

images added to our collections database

£12,696

raised in The Big Give Christmas appeal



19,563

volunteer hours

559

from

volunteers

HIGHLIGHTS



Artist Bob Olley with some of his paintings that featured in the *Pushing the Boat Out* exhibition at South Shields Museum & Art Gallery



South Tyneside Council

Arbeia, South Shields Roman Fort

19,988 visits
over 12 months

Artist Rachel Brook was commissioned by South Tyneside Cultural Partnership Group to work with Students from South Tyneside College English as a Second or Other Language (ESOL) department, school children and members of the public to explore the diverse stories of the people who would have been stationed at Arbeia. The result was the ***Re-imagining Regina: Past & Present*** display which explored memory, memorial and ritual and featured Roman pottery of the type used in funeral ceremonies, artworks inspired by the project and two films.

South Shields Museum & Art Gallery

82,184 visits
over 12 months

The long and proud story of shipbuilding and repair in South Tyneside was the focus of the ***Pushing the Boat Out: Shipbuilding and Ship Repair in South Tyneside*** exhibition. Featuring ship models, shipyard workers' tools, nostalgic photos and recordings with former shipyard workers, as well as a new series of artworks by South Shields artist Bob Olley, the exhibition attracted over 45,000 visits.



Inner coffin of Seshepenmehyt, on loan from the British Museum



**Great North Museum:
Hancock**

213,497 visits
over 12 months

Visitors to the museum had a rare opportunity to see the inner coffin of **Seshepenmehyt**, an Ancient Egyptian woman who lived between 664-332 BC. The loan of the wonderfully preserved coffin was arranged to reciprocate the loan of the cartonnage of Baktenhor to the British Museum for its exhibition *Hieroglyphs: Unlocking Ancient Egypt*.

Hatton Gallery

19,797 visits
over 12 months

Hatton's year began with *The Ignorant Art School* (curated by Cooper Gallery, Dundee), which questioned what art education is and whom it serves. Newcastle University's *Master of Fine Art Degree Show* showcased the artistic talents of recent graduates. *Modern Pictures* spotlighted 20th century works from the collection including works by Francis Bacon, Victor Pasmore and Rita Donagh. The year closed with *Wilhelmina Barns-Graham: Paths to Abstraction* (in collaboration with the Wilhelmina Barns-Graham Trust) celebrating the Scottish artist.

“ **Stunning modern art collections in a beautiful building. Attended an end of year review showcasing student works which was stimulating, very different, and perhaps showcasing a future Master...** ”

Visitor, Hatton Gallery



The Inner Sanctum, *Lindisfarne Gospels* exhibition



Laing Art Gallery

119,411 visits
over 12 months

The *Lindisfarne Gospels*, the most spectacular surviving manuscript from early medieval Britain took centre stage in an exhibition exploring its relationship with themes of personal, regional, and national identity (on loan from the British Library). The exhibition opened with an immersive digital experience which took visitors back to Lindisfarne during the 8th century. A selection of early medieval treasures gave context to the Gospels and a number of paintings, drawings and photographs reflected how artists throughout history have represented the spiritual state of their time.

A new film by Turner Prize-winning artist Jeremy Deller, also an artistic advisor for the show, explored the journey of the Lindisfarne Gospels from London to Newcastle upon Tyne.

Discovery Museum

160,945 visits
over 12 months

Stories of Service told stories of women and people from the British Empire and the role they played on Tyneside supporting the war effort. The exhibition was part of the *Second World War and Holocaust Partnership Project*, led by Imperial War Museums. A further display, *From Petticoats to the Front Line*, looked at the role of women in the Light Dragoons, from the first woman to join the regiment in the 1780s to recent recruits.

“ **Really enjoyed it, donated an entry fee, lovely staff and a great museum, informative, diverse and fun.** ”

Visitor, Discovery Museum



Shipley Art Gallery

21,009 visits
over 12 months

The Shipley delivered a packed programme of events including an interactive performance about the legacies of European colonialism as part of the Gateshead International Festival of Theatre, dance performances by Dance City MA students, adult photography classes, family arts festival holiday events and a very successful Christmas market. It also held the annual Henry Rothschild Memorial Lecture featuring ceramics artist and researcher Dr Neil Brownsword.



Segedunum Roman Fort

35,915 visits
over 12 months

Segedunum hosted a special beacon lighting ceremony to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. It included a free programme of live music, family entertainment, food stalls, pipers and buglers, a firework display and a giant screen of images from other ceremonies across Britain and the Commonwealth. The 101st Regiment Royal Artillery fired a gun to announce the start of formal proceedings. Seven beacons, including a steel brazier standing four meters high, were lit as part of a line of beacons along the 73-mile length of Hadrian’s Wall.



Visitor at Stephenson Steam Railway

Stephenson Steam Railway

24,891 visits
over 12 months

A grant was awarded from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to support the creation of a Woodland Walk transforming two acres of unused scrub land on the museum site into a nature sanctuary where flora, fauna and wildlife can thrive. The project will include community and volunteer engagement, a heritage objects trail and a covered outdoor classroom.



Souvenir menu for the coronation of Elizabeth II. Fenwick Ltd Archive (dt.fen.4.5.5.11)

Tyne & Wear Archives

Tyne & Wear Archives cares for the Fenwick Ltd collection and supported them with the development of an exhibition to celebrate their 140th anniversary. Our staff worked with Fenwick colleagues to co-ordinate research, digitisation, conservation and loans of collections for the exhibition.

“Tyne and Wear Archives is a great place to visit for people who are studying and require some hard evidence about specific topics relating to that region.”

Visitor, Tyne & Wear Archives

Digital

Jesters: Forgotten Stories of North East Comedy podcast series explored the stories of past performers and comics, as told through the lens of contemporary comedians.

Style Stories included a film focusing on women in war service during the Second World War and the clothes they wore, and an exhibition on Google Arts and Culture looking at the stories of eight women working on Tyneside in industry and in the forces.



Colleagues from Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums and Nexus collecting the Not for Profit North East Marketing Award. Image © Mike Tulip Photography

Awards

Our partnership with Tyne and Wear Metro promoting free days out for families, won Best Arts and Business Partnership at the North East Culture awards and the Not for Profit Marketing Award at the North East Marketing Awards. It was also shortlisted for Partnership of the Year at the national Museum + Heritage Awards.

Volunteers from the North Tyneside Steam Railway Association won the North East Volunteers for Museum Learning, Marsh Trust Award.

Discovery Museum was shortlisted for the national Kids in Museums Family Friendly Museum Award.

We were awarded Silver in the Innovation and Resilience category at the North East Tourism Awards.



EQUALITY

Providing a warm welcome to everyone, breaking down barriers caused by inequality and discrimination and sharing diverse stories.



Equality

Warm Welcome

At the peak of the cost-of-living crisis we introduced our Warm Welcome programme which promoted free entry and facilities, warm spaces and free sociable events for adults – especially older people and people feeling socially isolated.

We also continued our multi award-winning partnership with Nexus promoting free and low-cost family events and free travel on the Tyne and Wear Metro and Shields Ferry for under 11s. Many of our venues also provided food and refreshments for families in school holidays, funded by the Holiday Activity Fund via local authorities, to support children in receipt of free school meals.



Museums of Sanctuary

We began working towards all nine of our venues achieving **Museums of Sanctuary Awards** and continued to work with partners D6 and Curious Monkey to bring organisations together as a City of Sanctuary to find ways to work together to welcome new arrivals to the region. This has included:

Staff training delivered by the West End Refugee Service and GEM (The Group for Education in Museums) around anti-racist practice.

The **Great North Museum: Hancock** worked with schools who have achieved School of Sanctuary status (for welcoming refugees). The Wave of Support project involved asking visitors to write a message of hope and peace to communities who need our support – the messages written on paper hand shapes were displayed in the World Cultures gallery.

The museum also ran a four-week pilot programme of activities supporting teenage Ukrainian refugees.

Multaka (which means ‘meeting point’ in Arabic), our Esmée Fairbairn Foundation funded project **supporting refugees and asylum seekers**, recruited new members and developed resources to support new arrivals to the area.

The group worked with ‘English for All (EfA)’, an organisation providing provision in English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) to develop a welcome handling box featuring museum collections and resources to be used in ESOL sessions. They also created short digital stories about objects at the Great North Museum: Hancock in both English and their own language and developed a family event for Refugee Week at Discovery Museum.

Belonging, a community exhibition curated by Melissa Maida as part of her PhD exploring themes of migration and belonging through photography, working with Refugee and Asylum seeker support organisation, the Comfrey Project, was displayed at Discovery Museum.

We also worked with the Comfrey Project to bring ten refugee families to the **Shipley Art Gallery** to enjoy creative activities. The Hatton Gallery also continued its weekly creative sessions for refugees and asylum seekers.



Professor Ritu Katakya, featured in *We Are Here: Inspirational Women* trail

Representing communities

One of the highlights of our community work in 2022-23 was the **Exchange Project at Discovery Museum**. As part of a partnership with National Museums Scotland and National Maritime Museum, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the project centred around work with Caribbean and African diaspora communities to explore collections along the themes of migration, Empire and life in the UK.

The project was hugely rewarding for both staff and the community participants and has informed new practices and approaches for our organisation. Public programme outputs included a new trail ***We Are Here: Inspirational Women***, showcasing women of colour who have made a difference to Tyneside in the fields of science, academia, health care and community activism. The trail has since toured to more venues in Tyneside. A talk about relationships between the descendants of Indian Indentured migrants to the Caribbean and shipbuilding in the North East was another outcome of the project.

Tyne & Wear Archives worked with members of the Jewish community and Newcastle Libraries to preserve and celebrate the rich history of the Jewish community and increase access to records and archival collections. This work has been achieved via two Jewish heritage partnerships projects - the **Lahav Jewish Heritage Project** and **Unlocking North East Jewish Heritage**.

To mark **Holocaust Memorial Day** Tyne & Wear Archives held a series of events including talks by Marta Josephs, who told her father’s moving story as a Holocaust survivor.

In **LGBTQ History Month** Discovery Museum and Curious Arts held an event about how we can preserve LGBTQIA+ history, including items like leaflets, badges, t-shirts and other objects that form a part of personal and wider social history. We also launched two podcasts, featuring Richard Bliss and guests discussing same-sex relationships in the Roman Empire, including the love stories of the Emperor Hadrian and Antinous, and the cavalryman Numerianus and his servant Victor.

Discovery Museum hosted Teakisi’s multi-cultural family party, Sherehe (Swahili for ‘party’) for **Black History Month**. The aim of the event was to celebrate cultural diversity with the hope of creating awareness amongst the various communities of Newcastle.

“

Unbelievable that this excellent museum is funded totally by external sources and free admission. So many exhibits from local as well as international sources. We spent an hour and half and still need to go back and do it again as we missed things and had to catch a bus. Thank you for a great visit.”

Visitor, Great North Museum: Hancock

We delivered a range of projects and events to support people with additional needs.

Shipleigh Art Gallery staff worked with Gateshead Learning Skills to support young people with additional needs on the Travel and Tourism course. This included developing their understanding of careers in the museum and gallery sector via training sessions and volunteering opportunities.

During Autism Acceptance Week the **Shipleigh Art Gallery** supported Bradburn Films to present a series of films showcasing Gateshead autistic artists.

Virtual Visionaries at the **Great North Museum: Hancock** was a large-scale immersive video art experience created with Beacon Films CIC and 20 students with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities and other complex needs. Visitors were encouraged to interact with the immersive art by moving across the floor projection and physically touching the wall projection.

South Shields Museum & Art Gallery continued to develop its **Sensory Stories** resources and workshops for children with special educational needs and disabilities. Sensory Journeys story-telling sessions support participants to create the sights, sounds, smells, touch, and tastes to bring the stories to life.

WELLBEING

Using our spaces and services to support people’s physical and mental health.



Wellbeing

We work with health and care professionals, local authorities, universities, charities and support services to devise community programmes focused on improving wellbeing, targeting areas of need in our region. In 2022-23 we delivered over 6,111 engagements through our adult community wellbeing programmes.



Community group visit to Segedunum Roman Fort

The Platinum programme for over 55s

Activity focused on work with older people in care homes and dementia units, using the Museums, Health and Social Care resources and handling boxes. Slow Museums, events for people who need more time on a visit, were held across our venues to welcome people with dementia and other conditions. Our staff have also been trained to help provide an extra welcome for people with such conditions.

A wide range of charities and support services for older people have partnered with us to offer their clients workshops and events at our venues or in care settings, ranging from dance classes to art sessions to using our resources for sensory or reminiscence workshops.

An example of this is the the Creative Age Dementia group, organised by Equal Arts, which holds weekly art sessions at the Hatton Gallery.

Newcastle University staff from the Biomedical, Nutritional and Sport Sciences department used museum handling objects to promote healthy eating with dementia patients.

The Wellbeing programme for promoting positive mental health recovery and general wellbeing

Our long running Heritage Programme in partnership with Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust and St. Nicholas Hospital included work with two wards this year.

Patients on Bede Ward worked with an artist to design a mural for the reception, to make the ward seem less austere and more welcoming, using images and objects from museum collections as inspiration.

Creative sessions on the Willow View ward used the Museums, Health and Social Care Resource and handling boxes. Patients also visited Discovery Museum and the Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition at the Laing Art Gallery.

In partnership with Arts4Wellbeing and the National Trust we worked with community groups to create artwork inspired by Arbeia and Souter Lighthouse. The work will be displayed at South Shields Museum & Art Gallery.



Women from the South Tyneside Bangladeshi community at South Shields Museum & Art Gallery

The Network programme for community development in targeted locations

We worked with members of the Bangladeshi Community in South Tyneside connected to the Ocean Road restaurant trade to collect oral histories and personal narratives to be included in the upcoming SCRAN: A history of Food & Drink in South Tyneside exhibition at South Shields Museum & Art Gallery.

We also worked with Bangladeshi Women from CREST (Compact for Race Equality South Tyneside) to collect their stories of what food and drink means to them, including some of their recipes, which will be included in the exhibition.

A map promoting cycle routes linking our three venues with Roman collections, was launched to coincide with the Hadrian's Wall 1900 celebrations and encourage communities based near to these venues to get active and enjoy the wellbeing benefits of visiting a museum.

The Recovery programme for people in addiction recovery and/or people working with the Criminal Justice System

Museum staff ran weekly arts-based sessions with members of Oaktrees Addiction Recovery Service to support participants in their recovery journey. Sessions included visits to museums, a historical walking tour of Newcastle Quayside, and using museum object boxes.

Work began to develop an employability training programme and supported volunteering opportunities for people in addiction recovery.

Partnering with Recovery Connections, a peer-led substance use recovery organisation, weekly creative sessions inspired by the ceramics collection have been held at the Shipley Art Gallery. Participants engaged with creative techniques in watercolours, printmaking, drawing and use of oil pastels.



Participant at These Are Our Treasures library workshop

These Are Our Treasures

Over 2,000 people engaged in the Lindisfarne Gospels community programme. **These Are Our Treasures** curated by artist Ruth Ewan, was central to this and involved workshops in libraries across the North East asking people to share stories of their personal treasures.

The outcome was an emotive exhibition featuring a selection of the objects and stories which were displayed at the Laing Art Gallery to complement the Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition.

Resources

As well as delivering programmes for community participants, we also provided training and resources to support health and care professionals.

Working in partnership with Northumbria University and Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust, we delivered our pioneering placement programme for Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Adult Nursing students to foster stronger future relationships across the cultural and health sectors. We also presented at the Royal College of Occupational Therapists conference about the placement programme.

We received two funding awards. A grant from the Peter Sowerby Foundation will enable us to create new resources and training opportunities for Health and Care professionals. Funding from the Baring Foundation will support a new toolkit for the cultural sector reflecting on our experience delivering cultural activity in clinical settings with participants experiencing poor mental health and in addiction recovery.

SOCIAL MOBILITY

Delivering learning experiences, volunteering opportunities and pathways for personal development for people of all ages and backgrounds.



Social mobility

Volunteering

In 2022-23, volunteers contributed 19,563 hours to support our museums and archives through research, caring for collections and helping with learning activities and events. 96 volunteers supported the Lindisfarne Gospels programme at the Laing Art Gallery.

One of the highlights of the year was volunteers from the North Tyneside Steam Railway Association winning the North East Volunteers for Museum Learning, Marsh Trust Award 2021 at a prestigious event at the British Museum. We entered the volunteers for the award for their invaluable work in maintaining and delivering the heritage railway service at Stephenson Steam Railway.

An exciting volunteering partnership project with NewcastleGateshead Cultural Venues (NGCV) and funded by Arts Council England was launched. ‘Volunteer Here’ is a two-year programme to create and deliver volunteering programmes across the 10 partner organisations to attract a diverse volunteer base, explore inclusive volunteering practice and deliver digital volunteering opportunities. The project is also supported by Children North East and StreetGames to establish new ways of reaching diverse communities. Volunteer recruitment is focused on young people, refugees and asylum seekers, people living in social isolation, people who are economically disadvantaged and ethnically minoritised communities.



“Thank you so much for allowing our pupils to attend the Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition. The pupils loved seeing the artwork and were blown away with the Gospels.”

Teacher following a visit to the Lindisfarne Gospels at the Laing Art Gallery

Inspiring children and young people

In 2022–23, 150,887 children and young people took part in activities and visits, a 65% increase compared to 2021-22 as more schools and families returned to our venues following the pandemic.

Learning programme highlights

The Laing’s Lindisfarne Gospels learning programme achieved over 25,000 engagements with children and young people via assemblies, workshops and visits to the exhibition. It also involved complementary workshops at other venues including Discovery Museum and Newcastle Cathedral.

Two STEM events at Discovery Museum as part of the museum’s Stemtastic and Science Works events saw 800 Key Stage 2/3 children from multiple schools enjoying science related sessions.

Pupils at Kelvin Grove Primary School, Larkspur Community Primary School, and Kingsmeadow Community School in Gateshead worked with the Shipley Art Gallery and New Writing North to write their own stories inspired by the Saltwell collection. Their work was shown in a pop-up display at the gallery.

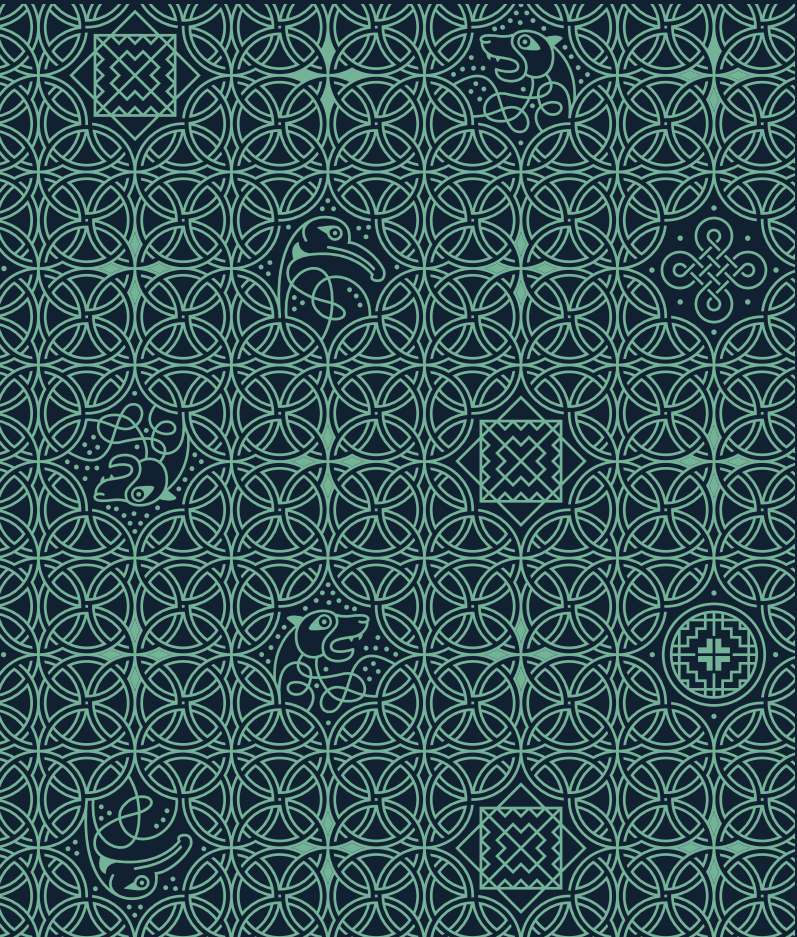
The Great North Museum: Hancock hosted the Town Moor School for children of workers from the Hoppings Fair which comes to Newcastle every June. The children spent time doing work set by their ‘home’ schools, sports activities and museum activities.

As part of the Hadrian’s Wall 1900 Festival ‘Frontier Voices’ project, Arbeia, South Shields Roman Fort, Segedunum Roman Fort and the Great North Museum: Hancock worked with artist Karen MacDougall on creative projects with school children. Children from Hadrian Primary School explored the lives of people who lived and worked at Arbeia and created felt ‘face-pots’ reflecting their own identity. Children from Denbigh Primary School explored how to emboss metal foil at Segedunum. Children at the Great North Museum: Hancock created identity tags. Artworks were displayed at the museums before going on display at The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre alongside art pieces from other venues along the Hadrian’s Wall frontier.

As part of the South Tyneside Cultural Education Partnership Creative Enquiry Project the South Tyneside learning team worked with other local cultural partners to provide ‘buddy’ support to South Tyneside schools. Schools were offered access to the venues, collections and resources to help develop pupils’ creative enquiry skills.

Art kits and downloadable resources based on the Hatton Gallery collection were developed by freelance artists and makers. The kits were distributed to vulnerable groups including: the West End Youth Enquiry Service (Children North East); Peace of Mind refugee group, Gateshead; Alnwood Mental Health Unit for Young People; and Ferndene Unit, a service for young people with disabilities and mental health issues.

New Key Stage 1 and Early Years Foundation Stage workshops were introduced at Stephenson Steam Railway, focusing on the variety of jobs linked to the railways, and on literacy.



Young people

New plans for supporting young people with careers information about working in the museum sector and work experience opportunities have been developed to be rolled out across venues in 2023.

As part of the National Portrait Gallery Skills Sharing Programme, an intern was appointed to work at the Laing Art Gallery to assist in the research, development and delivery of creative programmes for young people.

Members of the Laing and Hatton young people’s group, ‘L-INK’ selected portraits of Marcus Rashford and Josephine Baker from the National Portrait Gallery collection to be displayed at the Laing representing their perception of heroes, or icons.

The L-INK group also curated a display inspired by the Lindisfarne Gospels, choosing artworks from the Laing collection which they felt represented their personal perspectives and made connections between spirituality, society and nature.

We employed six young people across various departments as part of the government’s Kickstart Scheme, providing funding for jobs for 16 to 24-year-olds on Universal Credit who are at risk of long-term unemployment. All the young people have moved into employment with four of them continuing to work for Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums.

Under 5s

Our under-fives’ programmes engaged and inspired our youngest visitors, including Little Artists at the Laing Art Gallery, Museum Mice at the Great North Museum: Hancock and Tiny Sparks at Discovery Museum.

Family learning

Activities for families included both art and science themed school holiday clubs and a range of events to inspire children and their carers. **Ways to Play**, our free and low-cost family activities designed around the different ways that children play, ran in every school holiday. Venues also worked with local authorities, with funding via the Holiday Activity Fund, to provide activities, food and refreshments for children from low income families, who would otherwise miss out on out-of-school activities.

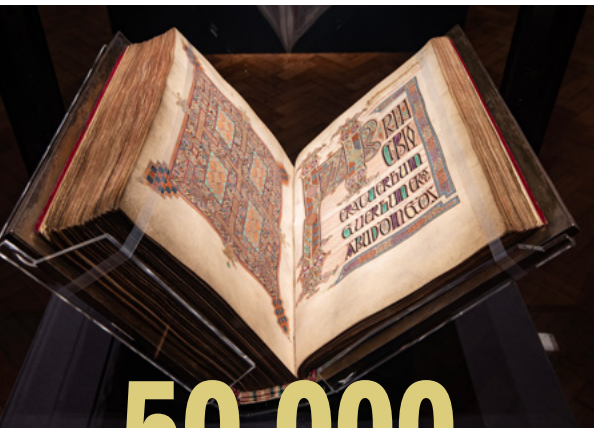
PLACE

*Celebrating North East England,
inspiring local pride and using our
resources to support research, innovation
and economic regeneration.*



Place

In 2022-23 we put a spotlight on North East England with must-see exhibitions and events that celebrated the culture and heritage of our region.



50,000

visits to the Laing during the Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition

370,000+

visits to the Lindisfarne Gospels 'inspired by' programme

250,000+

visits to our three Roman heritage venues during the Hadrian's Wall 1900 Festival



Off the scale as a manifestation of faith and personal reverence. It was a wonderful surprise that the exhibition wasn't restricted to only the Lindisfarne Gospels."

Visitor to the Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition at the Laing Art Gallery

18,000+

visits to 45 Newcastle and Gateshead venues for The Late Shows



It was an amazing evening! I really enjoyed visiting museums and galleries after working hours because it was a very unique experience. In addition, it was a pleasure to speak with some of the artists about how their art is born."

Late Shows Visitor

£25 million

economic impact of visitors to the local economy

Must-see events

The return of the *Lindisfarne Gospels* to its native North East, on loan from the British Library, was a major highlight of the year. It featured in a blockbuster exhibition at the Laing Art Gallery, supported by a region-wide community and learning programme and inspired over 100 exhibitions and events from Berwick to Hartlepool. The exhibition attracted over 50,000 visits to the Gallery and critical acclaim in the national press including the Times, Guardian, and Telegraph.

Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums was part of the steering group that delivered the *Hadrian's Wall 1900 Festival* to celebrate the 1900th anniversary of the beginning of the construction of the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Segedunum's main exhibit for the festival was *Building the Wall*, featuring ground-breaking research from the excavation of the section of Wall at Segedunum, revealing how water was supplied to the fort and bath house, and the original appearance of the fort's west gate.

Arbeia, South Shields Roman Fort shared tantalising evidence of a Hadrianic period fort in South Shields that predates the Antonine fort of Arbeia in *The Lost Fort* exhibition. It explored what we know and don't know about this 'lost' fort that controlled sea and river access to the Roman frontier.

In partnership with creative studio NOVAK, the Great North Museum: Hancock delivered *Wall in Motion*, a multi-interface projection which animated the Hadrian's Wall model at the museum and stunning drone footage of what remains of Hadrian's Wall in the urban landscape shown on a huge screen.

The Late Shows, Newcastle and Gateshead's annual culture crawl co-ordinated by Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums, returned following two years when we couldn't deliver it due to the pandemic. 45 venues took part across two nights providing a range of activities to give a taste of the best of the city's cultural scene including behind the scenes tours, crafts, discos, live music, exhibitions, food, drink and more.

Developing places

Our museums and galleries are important community hubs and tourism assets for the towns where they are situated. Plans for capital projects to maintain and upgrade our venues made progress, including:

A grant was awarded by the North of Tyne Combined Authority to carry out a feasibility study to explore future options for the development of both **Discovery Museum** and **Tyne & Wear Archives**. The feasibility work will consider how Discovery Museum can innovate, adapt to new audiences and technologies and play a pivotal role as a key visitor attraction for the city and wider area.

Work progressed on the redevelopment of **Segedunum Roman Fort** including community consultation with local residents and businesses, community groups and Roman heritage audiences. Local schools took part in *Design a Future Museum* workshops. Working with North Tyneside Council work began on planning for maintenance work with funding from the Museum Estate and Development Fund via Arts Council England.

Key elements of the vision include the reopening of the bath house with an exciting new visitor experience, new galleries, enhanced interpretation of the site and a standalone café.

Work moved forward on the refurbishment of the *Timequest* learning resource at **Arbeia, South Shields Roman Fort**. *Timequest* is an archaeological excavation experience for children and has been enduringly popular with schools. The space has been reconfigured and redecorated, and new interpretation will be installed. It is being funded through the Carol van Driel bequest in memory of her father.

A catalyst for research

We work closely with universities to provide access to our collections as source material and inspiration for a wide range of academic research. We have particularly significant relationships with Newcastle University and Northumbria University. Some examples of projects this year include:

The **Collections as Catalysts** event brought together museum staff and academics from Newcastle University for discussions and presentations to look for opportunities for collaboration around shared ambitions to tackle today's global challenges.

Working in partnership with Northumbria University, the Laing Art Gallery worked with two PhD students working on Collaborative Doctoral Research - Ella Nixon continued her work on **Gender in the Art Gallery** and Rachel Boyd began research into the gallery's recently acquired **Nerys Johnson archive and collection**. Nerys Johnson (1942–2001) was a Disabled artist and curator in the North East throughout the late twentieth century.

The Great North Museum: Hancock's Shefton Collection was the focus of a Capability for Collections funded AHRC project with Newcastle University's Dr Sally Waite (History, Classics and Archaeology) and Olivia Turner (a postdoctoral, practice-led researcher in Fine Art). **Shining a Light on Women and Children in Antiquity** explored a group of ten objects within the Shefton Ancient Greek collection which relate to the lives of women and children in antiquity.

The project resulted in two exhibitions: ***The Way My Body Feels*** which documented experimental workshops considering the links between objects, art, and medicine and ***You Echo Through Time*** which illuminated how the bodies of women have been silenced and controlled through legislation, medicine and religion.

The ***Being Human Festival*** was successfully delivered across our Newcastle and Gateshead venues in partnership with Northumbria University and with contributions from Newcastle University. A headline event at the Great North Museum: Hancock shared breakthrough research projects, including living buildings, fermentation in food production, feminism in ancient Greek mythology and the mystery of black holes – as well as the launch of the museum's very own historic beer.

Tyne & Wear Archives supported a Northern Bridge student placement, in partnership with Northumberland Archives and the Carr-Ellison family. The student researched collections which evidence the transnational networks of Newcastle merchants in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Tyne & Wear Archives also hosted four placement students from Newcastle University Humanities Research Institute who explored the intersections between bodies, environments and ideas through the history of sanitation.

We started working with Northumbria University to look at ways of measuring the social and environmental value of the work that we deliver, particularly in the areas of inclusion, social mobility, health and wellbeing, economic impact and the environment.

CLIMATE

Raising awareness about the environment and encouraging people to act for a sustainable future.



Climate

Our environmental sustainability strategy has three aspects: raising awareness amongst staff, stakeholders and audiences to encourage action; acquiring knowledge and collecting data to understand our impact; and implementing measures to reduce our carbon footprint.



Raising awareness

Two projects are in development to put a lens on environmental issues:

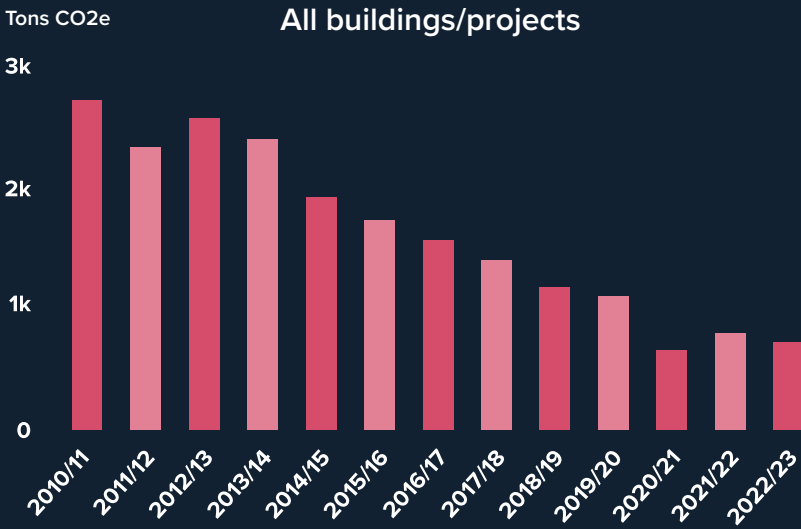
Steam to Green at Discovery Museum will tell the story of North East England’s role in the UK’s energy story, from the industrial revolution to the present day. The exhibition and events programme will be delivered in partnership with Newcastle University and businesses working in the renewable energy sector and has received generous funding from the Reece Foundation.

The Woodland Walk at Stephenson Steam Railway will transform two acres of unused scrub land into a nature sanctuary where flora, fauna and wildlife can thrive. The project is being led by volunteers from the North Tyneside Steam Railway Association and will provide the opportunity for people of all ages to enjoy the space. It is possible thanks to funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.



We encouraged staff to engage with our environmental objectives via a cross-organisation working group and regular information shared in a new environmental staff newsletter ‘Green Matters’.

We purchased a group ticket for the Green Museums Summit Virtual Conference so that all our staff had the opportunity to attend. We also took part in a ‘To NetZero’ course, funded by North of Tyne Combined Authority and Northumberland Business Service Ltd, and plans to develop a programme of Carbon Literacy training for all staff got underway.



Understanding our impact

Energy emissions at our museums and galleries 2010-2023.

Since we began monitoring our energy consumption, we have been able to implement changes to ensure a downward trend, as shown in the graph. This year we began monitoring our utilities data in even greater detail, with half-hourly consumption data being analysed. We then worked with our partners in each district to implement ways to reduce energy consumption, for example by adjusting timers on heating boilers.

In addition to this, we have also begun to expand our data collection and analysis into other areas (known as Scope 3 data) such as waste and travel. This will help us monitor our impact on the environment further in the coming years.

We worked with a cohort of organisations to help Julie’s Bicycle develop their new Creative Climate platform which will make it simpler for cultural organisations to record and assess their carbon footprint.

We analysed our retail offer and supply chain, to understand the environmental impact and identify changes we could introduce. An example of a more sustainable approach was partnering with a supplier who has launched a range of soft toys made from 100% recycled materials.



Letah Wood, ancient woodland site in Northumberland, monitored by ERIC North East

Making changes

To support our mission in tackling the Climate Crisis, we have revised and updated our Environmental Policy, identifying 7 priority areas we will focus on, in order to reduce our impact on the environment, as well as outlining our approach to Net Zero.

Discovery Museum underwent a major decarbonisation project including installation of district heating, secondary glazing, and replacement lighting to reduce the building's CO2 emissions.

PV solar panels have been installed at the Great North Museum: Hancock and are now producing power.

Planning also began with North Tyneside Council to deliver the Museum Estate and Development Fund work (funded via Arts Council) to maintain Segedunum Roman Fort's building, including making it more environmentally sustainable.

ERIC North East

Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums leads the Environmental Records Information Centre for the North East. We are responsible for collation and management of species and habitat data for the region and make this available for environmental decision making such as planning and development or wildlife conservation. ERIC North East currently holds 4.4 million species records for the region.

We have supported local and national government bodies with data services and responded to more than 1,200 requests to inform planning development. We have been working on a two-year project to improve the Ancient Woodland Inventory in partnership with Natural England and Woodland Trust. We have also supported the early development of four Local Nature Recovery Strategies in our area.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP



Working in partnership

We are an organisation steeped in partnership working, from our relationship with our local authority and university partners to our work across the region, from cultural or third sector organisations to schools and communities. We also maintain a commitment to supporting partnerships outside the delivery of our own programmes. Examples include:

Regionally

We collaborate with our Newcastle Gateshead Cultural Venues (NGCV) colleagues, including via our coordination of the Volunteer Here initiative, designed to improve volunteering opportunities across all partners.

We support the work of the North East Cultural Partnership and other regional forums such as the North East Historic Environment Forum, and local cultural forums in South Tyneside, Newcastle and Northumberland. We also support the Hadrian’s Wall partnership. Some of the regional programmes we lead include:

Culture Bridge North East

2022-23 saw the final year of Culture Bridge North East (CBNE), as the national Bridge programme drew to a close. Across the eight years of CBNE, we engaged with 55% of schools across the North East, through one-to-one support and our continuous professional development programmes. 24% of the region’s schools are registered for Artsmark, the creative quality standard for schools and education settings - this is the highest proportion of any region of England. We worked directly with 155 cultural organisations and 277 schools, creating opportunities for children and young people to access great arts and culture.

“

100% love the ethos of Culture Bridge and their advocacy for creativity.”

Teacher attending CPD session.

We have worked to ensure that the legacy of CBNE will continue for years to come, supporting the eight North East LCEPs (Local Cultural Education Partnerships) to develop sustainable governance models, so that they can continue to break down barriers to arts and culture for young people in their local area. A further four projects were funded through the CBNE Fund this year, in partnership with Community Foundation, Tyne and Wear and Northumberland, supporting organisations to plan arts and creative activities for young people. This fund will run in perpetuity and open for applications on an annual basis. We have also developed new multi-year cross-sector partnerships, to increase opportunities for the culture sector to work with the youth and health sectors to improve outcomes for the region’s children and young people.

The success of this work has been acknowledged by Arts Council England awarding Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums funding to continue with key elements of the regional co-ordination work from April 2023. This will focus on supporting the network of Local Cultural Education Partnerships, and the building of links with the Youth Work sector and the NHS.

Museum Development

Museum Development North East (one of nine regional Museum Development services in England funded by Arts Council England) supports museums across the region to be more sustainable, more creative, and to increase their engagement with audiences and communities. Our Recovery and Development Grant programme made 12 awards, with projects ranging from provision of new equipment allowing more flexible use of events space (Lady Waterford Hall, Northumberland), to new displays and volunteer training facilities (Aycliffe Bus Preservation Society, County Durham). In partnership with the Art Fund, we also offered three grants to museums in the region as part of a Museum Development North grant fund and supported the delivery of grants and activities by three museums through the Art Fund’s Wild Escape Scheme.

Our wider programme delivery included Accreditation training support sessions (seven delivered in collaboration with northern Museum Development partners), six Get Your House In Order strategic collections management sessions delivered in partnership with the Collections Trust, three training sessions with a specialist consultant to support museums to develop Apprenticeships, and participation in national support and training programmes around Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Carbon Literacy. Overall, we directly engaged 32 museums and we continue to evolve partnership working between Museum Development teams across the north of England to maximise the value of our support.

North East Family Arts Network

The network supports cultural organisations to provide high quality and inclusive experiences for families of all backgrounds. 18 cultural organisations representing over 50 venues were members of the network in 2022-23. Via the network’s Family Explorer’s initiative families are provided with information, advice and peer networks to help them access North East cultural attractions and events.

www.familyexplorers.co.uk

“

It's so great to hear from people who actually understand what you're looking for as a parent with a child on a day out.”

Member of Family Explorers facebook group

Portable Antiquities Scheme

In our role delivering the Portable Antiquities Scheme for the northern half of the region on behalf of the British Museum, the Finds Liaison Officer recorded 13 treasure cases featuring 73 objects. A further 165 non-treasure cases were recorded. The Finds Liaison Officer also featured on Channel 5’s ‘Digging for Treasure’.

Nationally

We work with many of the national museums and galleries and The National Archives. We have formal partnerships with the Natural History Museum, the Science Museum Group, the British Museum and the National Gallery. The Laing Art Gallery is one of twelve museums and galleries from across the UK taking part in a skills and knowledge sharing programme led by the National Portrait Gallery. The programme includes development opportunities for staff and the chance to co-produce displays and exhibitions at each venue. As part of the programme, Laing and Hatton staff along with Collaborative Doctoral Award students presented and led a series of discussions at an online seminar focussed on the challenges and pathways to diversifying collections with specific reference to the Hatton’s Uhlman Collection and the Laing’s Nerys Johnson Archive.

We are also closely engaged with the work of the English Civic Museums Group and the National Museum Directors’ Council.

Internationally

We hosted curators from Cambodia, Nepal and Sudan as part of the British Museum International Training Programme. We are a key partner in the Wall-to-Wall project linking the Great Wall of China to Hadrian’s Wall. This has included presenting and chairing sessions at an online conference on the topic. Along with Newcastle University we are partners in a ‘Bridging the North Sea’ project designed to explore the place of the North Sea as a connecting highway between regions in the Roman period. Overall, the project includes representatives from the UK, Netherlands, Belgium and France.

Friends and other organisations

Friends organisations, volunteer groups and learned societies play an invaluable role in supporting our nine museums and galleries. We are very grateful for their time, expertise and financial contributions.

Friends of the Hatton Gallery

Friends of the Laing Art Gallery

Friends of Segedunum

Natural History Society of Northumbria

North Tyneside Steam Railway Association

Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne

The Arbeia Society

The Light Dragoons Heritage Trust

SUPPORTERS



The Ferguson family, founders of Ad Gefrin Museum & Distillery, headline sponsor of the Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition

Fundraising

We are incredibly grateful for the support we receive from businesses, grant making bodies and individuals. Their support helps us to care for our region’s heritage, deliver programmes to entertain, engage and inspire our visitors and support our communities. This year, fundraising activity has included:

Grants, trusts and foundations

We received significant funding from 20 Trusts and Foundations who have supported our work with communities, children and young people and museum collections. £800,000 was raised to deliver the Lindisfarne Gospels programme which was generously supported by the North of Tyne Combined Authority, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Barbour Foundation, Garfield Weston, the Headley Trust and the Kirby Laing Foundation.

Our work with communities was a focus of fundraising and we received grants for the Volunteer Here programme from Arts Council England, and the next phase of our work with Diaspora communities in Newcastle and South Tyneside from the Museums Association Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund. We also received support for our work with older people from the Peter Sowerby Foundation, and our Recovery programme for people in addiction recovery and in the criminal justice system from the Baring Foundation.

Our plans to deliver the Steam to Green exhibition and events programme at Discovery Museum to tell the story of energy production in the North East moved a step forward with a pledge of support from the Reece Foundation.

Sponsorship

It was a very good year for sponsorship with 20 partnerships developed, rounded off with three awards for our successful business partnerships. Our partnership with Nexus won Best Arts and Business Partnership at the North East Culture awards, won the Not for Profit Marketing Award at the North East Marketing Awards and was shortlisted for Partnership of the Year at the national Museum + Heritage Awards.

We secured 10 sponsors for the Lindisfarne Gospels programme including headline sponsor Ad Gefrin, Museum and Distillery in Wooler, Fergusons and the Royal Grammar School.

We also received in-kind sponsorship from LED Supply and Fit and Bon Bloemen.

Individual Giving

Visitor giving continued to grow following the pandemic as footfall improved in venues. Donations in venues were £133,953, 4% above the annual target.

The Annual Christmas Appeal run in conjunction with the Big Give was successful in increasing 2021’s £10,000 target to achieve over £12,000 - the total raised with Gift Aid was £12,695. The funds will support our Warm Welcome programme providing free events and programmes for refugees and asylum seekers, older people and families with young children.

Our Development Trust trustees played a significant role in supporting our fundraising and collectively raised over £30,000 via activities including a sponsored cycle ride, sponsored rowing event and a very successful gala dinner hosted at Fenwick Ltd.

We’re also grateful for the donation of paintings for auction by South Tyneside artist Bob Olley. We raised over £4,000 auctioning two paintings.

Fundraising figures



For more information on how you can support heritage and keep culture at the heart of the North East, email development@twmuseums.org.uk

With thanks to our business partners



With thanks to

Arnold Clark Community Fund	Peter Sowerby Foundation
Arts Council England	Royal Society of Chemistry
Carr-Ellison Family Charitable Trust	Sir James Knott Trust
Cycling UK	The Art Fund
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	The Barbour Foundation
Garfield Weston Foundation	The Headley Trust
Hadrian Trust	The John George Joicey Bequest
Museums Association	The Kirby Laing Foundation
National Lottery Heritage Fund	The Prince of Wales’s Charitable Foundation
Newcastle City Council	The Reece Foundation
North of Tyne Combined Authority	The Rothschild Hanadiv Foundation
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	Hanadiv Europe
	The Shears Foundation

ENTERPRISE



In 2022–23 we sold:

68,489
hot drinks



worth over
£140,000
in net sales

33,348
cakes, traybakes and scones

worth over
£80,000
in net sales



41,770
cold drinks



worth over
£49,000
in net sales

1,267
Children's toy swords

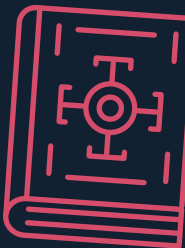


25,393
sandwiches and toasties



worth over
£68,000
in net sales

2,900
Lindisfarne Gospels
Guide Books



Our Trading arm, TWAM Enterprises had a successful year across all income streams.

Retail saw an 11% increase on last year's performance with the Lindisfarne Gospel's exhibition and the Hadrian's Wall 1900 events boosting sales.

Venue hire sales also improved, up 10% on 2021-22 and conference and banqueting was 15% up on target, supported by new partnerships with preferred suppliers.

Catering performance has continued to improve since the operation was taken in-house in 2021 with sales 37% ahead of target.



This place is very interesting and historical. The view from the viewing platform is fantastic giving a bird's eye view over the site and also the surroundings. Staff friendly and nice little gift shop."

Visitor, Segedunum Roman Fort

FINANCIAL RESULTS

£9.52M

Gross operating expenditure

£4.11M

Grants received from Arts Council England

£3.10M

Contributions from local authorities and Newcastle University

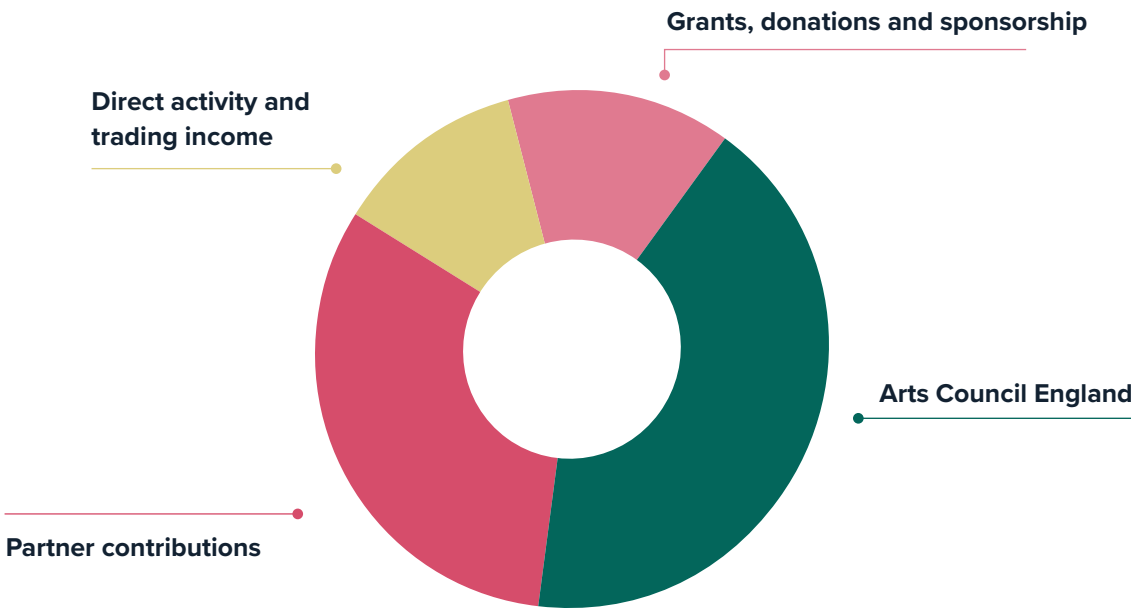
£1.21M

Direct activity and trading income

£1.33M

Grants, donations and sponsorship

Where the money comes from



What the money was spent on



Your support is vital in enabling us to keep art, culture and heritage at the heart of the North East.

Some of the ways you can support us:

- **Make a donation – at one of our venues or online**
- **Become a Supporter**
- **Leave a gift in your will**
- **Sponsor an event or exhibition**
- **Volunteer**

Thank you!



School visit to the Great North Museum: Hancock

twmuseums.org.uk

Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums (TWAM) is a major regional museum, art gallery and archives service. We manage a collection of nine museums and galleries across Tyneside and the Archives for Tyne and Wear.

We are supported by the five local authorities of the area and Newcastle University. TWAM is also a National Portfolio Organisation funded by Arts Council England and manages the North East Museum Development Programme supporting smaller museums across the region.