

# art map

Gateshead Council

# Contents

The map on page 17 shows the public artworks in Central Gateshead.  
The numbers within the coloured circles indicate a walk which starts at Gateshead Civic Centre.

	PAGE	MAP REFERENCE		PAGE	MAP REFERENCE
Public Art in Gateshead	3		Blaydon Races	19	33
Angel of the North	4	27	Saltwell Willowherb	20	28
Opening Line	5	7	Ribbon Railings	21	26
Acceleration	6	10	Watermark	22	34
Counterpoise	7	11	Ascenda	23	35
Lookout	8	31	Penny Circus	24	2
Tyne Wave	9	32	Entrance Features	25	24 30
Beacons	10	12 14	James Hill Monument	26	13
Ribbon of Colour	11	15	Rise and Fall	27	17
Star Ceiling	12	16	Street Theatre & Temporary	28	
Wind Vane	13	8	Selected additional artworks	29	5 29 6
Threshold	14	3	in Gateshead		25 1
Subways	15	4 9	Selected additional artworks	30	19 21 18
ARTMAP	16 - 17		in The Riverside Park		22 23
Thornbird Railings	18	20	Contacts	31	

# Public Art in Gateshead

---

## Town Centre Public Art Strategy and Regeneration Programme.

Gateshead Council first became involved with art in the environment in the early 1980s. By 1986 a Public Art Programme had been established, which has since gained national and international recognition, receiving a succession of prestigious awards. During the programme's 25-year history, Gateshead Council has commissioned over 80 works of art ranging from artist-designed railings to one of the most well known public artworks in Britain, 'Angel of the North', by Antony Gormley.

The development of Gateshead Quays and the ongoing regeneration of Gateshead Town Centre has enabled Public Art to be integrated into new buildings and the surrounding environment. This has created an emphasis on social spaces between developments whilst also providing links between the two major cultural facilities on Gateshead Quays; BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art and The Sage Gateshead, a world class venue for world wide music.

Public Art has become an integral part of the development and regeneration of Gateshead, encouraging investment and creating a strong identity and a sense of pride throughout the region.

This guide features easily accessible public artworks commissioned since the Angel of the North in 1998 and helps residents and visitors locate the impressive range of commissions in the area. Each artwork has been individually designed for its specific site, and most incorporate references to the local history and the culture of Gateshead.

The commitment to using Public Art to improve the environment is complemented by the contribution of the lead artist, a programme of artists' residencies and educational initiatives, linking professional artists with the community. Workshops by Kate Maestri at The Sage Gateshead, Christine Constant at The MetroCentre, Lulu Quinn throughout Gateshead, and the annual Family Sculpture Day in Saltwell Park (run for over twenty years) have all introduced local people to art, successfully bridging the gap between the commissioning procedures, creative processes and the finished artwork.

Much of the work commissioned has been made possible by forming successful partnerships with local business and industry, funding from Arts Council England (Lottery), One North East through The Single Regeneration Budget, The Town Centre Partnership and the East Gateshead Partnership.

# Angel of the North

Antony Gormley (1998)

27

The Angel of the North is an iconic sculpture recognised nationally and internationally. It marked a new phase in the regeneration of Gateshead and took seven years from the planning stages to realisation. The Angel is made from cor-ten steel and is 20 metres high with a 54 metre wingspan. Gateshead Council commissioned it as a landmark sculpture to mark the approach to Gateshead and the site of the former Teams Colliery. The Angel is situated on the A1 and is seen by over 90,000 people every day. The sculpture features daily in the media and has become a symbol of the North East.

Commissioned by Gateshead Council funded by Arts Council Lottery Fund, European Regional Development Fund and Northern Arts.

Sponsorship was received from Ove Arup and Partners, The Express Group, Silverscreen plc and GMB.

For further information: [www.gateshead.gov.uk](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk)  
(see Angel of the North information pack)



Photograph: Doug Hall i2i

# Opening Line

Danny Lane (2004)

7

Opening Line is one of the most dramatic public artworks to have been created in Britain. The glasswork is sited in Gateshead's public transport interchange between two of the main bus lanes. Composed of 19 elements made from steel and glass, the sculpture runs for over 90 metres, rising to a height of over five metres. The artwork incorporates a broad range of images - including a bird, a musical instrument and the prow of a ship - reflecting the diverse culture and history of Gateshead. The sculpture acts as a safety barrier for this busy route, whilst providing an interesting focal point for those waiting for a bus.

Commissioned and funded by Nexus with support from the Town Centre Partnership Public Art Programme.



Photograph: Andrew Heptinstall

# Acceleration

John Creed (2005)

10



Acceleration is situated opposite Gateshead Old Town Hall and marks a route between Gateshead Town Centre and Gateshead Quays. The design concept uses the strong slope of the site and refers to the Victorian architecture of the Old Town Hall. Acceleration provides a physical separation between the car park and Town Hall Square, which features street furniture designed by the same artist. The sculpture takes the form of a repeat ring motif acknowledging the past but heading into the future. The wheel symbolises the industrial history

of Gateshead, with particular reference to the former railway engineering works in the historic quarter.

The artwork is seven metres long and is constructed from cor-ten steel with angled, stainless steel paddles. The colour of the piece links to the surrounding railway viaduct made of St. Bees sandstone.

Commissioned by Gateshead Council through the Town Centre Partnership Public Art Programme.

Photograph: Mark Pinder

# Counterpoise

John Creed (2005)

11

Counterpoise is a graceful stainless steel sculpture which combines delicate line with convex and concave shapes. The discs represent satellite communication; with the coloured spheres symbolising messages moving around in space. The artwork is adjacent to the Gateshead International Business Centre within an outdoor seating area. The work is seven metres high.

It has reflective components and visually connects to a number of specific features within the landscape, including The Sage Gateshead, Gateshead Old Town Hall and Acceleration.

Commissioned by Gateshead Council through the Town Centre Partnership Public Art Programme.



Photograph: Mark Pinder

# Lookout

Cate Watkinson (2004)

31

Lookout is a landmark feature located on top of MetroCentre's Debenhams store. It is inspired by the enjoyment of shopping and old fashioned 'sweetie jars', taking the form of a glass and metal basket filled with five metal spheres, each measuring two metres in diameter. One of the spheres contains a time capsule created by local schoolchildren. The artwork provides a memorable navigation point into the MetroCentre's Red Mall. It is 6.5 metres high and is illuminated at night creating sequenced washes of colour.

Funded by Capital Shopping Centres with support from Gateshead Council.



Photograph: Cate Watkinson



# Tyne Wave

Christine Constant (2004)

32

Tyne Wave is one of a series of vibrant mosaic ceramic panels depicting scenes from the North East. The artist worked closely with over 700 local people giving them the opportunity to design a ceramic tile based on what they enjoy about the North East. These tiles provided the inspiration for the artwork; many of them included the bridges across the Tyne, the Angel of the North and the MetroLand indoor theme park at MetroCentre. The River Tyne provides the continual theme

throughout the main panel, depicting the rolling and sweeping waves decorated with colourful fish. Tyne Wave is 11.2 metres long and 2.4 metres high and enhances the entrance to the Red Mall from the 3rd floor of the multi-storey car park.

Funded by Capital Shopping Centres with support from Gateshead Council.



Photograph: Phil Snow

# Beacons

David Pearl (2004)

12

14

David Pearl's architectural Beacons act as colourful visual markers designed to delineate the Gateshead Quays. The Blue Beacon marks the pedestrian route along Hillgate to The Sage Gateshead and BALTIC. The Amber Beacon in Oakwellgate links the Gateshead Quays to the Town Centre and the motorists' route to BALTIC. The Beacons are six metres high with different steel bases and bright,

translucent acrylic tips. They are illuminated at night and have been designed to complement the surroundings and echo the materials used in the immediate environment of the Gateshead Quays.

Commissioned by Gateshead Council through the East Gateshead Partnership & the Gateshead Quays Public Art Programme.

Photograph: Mark Pinder



# Ribbon of Colour

Kate Maestri (2004)

15

Ribbon of Colour is a spectacular 200 metre curved glass balustrade, designed by architectural glass artist Kate Maestri to complement the dramatic architecture of The Sage Gateshead by architects Foster and Partners. The artwork is a vibrant focal point and extends outside into the public squares at either end of the building. The continuous handrail provides a visual and physical enticement that leads you to and from the squares into the building, creating continuity with the coloured glass. The balustrade comprises of 101 panels in total. The internal panels have been individually and precisely screen printed and curved into shape. No two panels are the same length, which results in abstract blocks of colour integrating seamlessly with the design of the building. This has created an urban living room for the North East.

Ribbon of Colour was designed in response to the curved roof of The Sage Gateshead and river frontage whilst mirroring the composition of an abstract piece of music.

Commissioned by Gateshead Council through East Gateshead Partnership & Gateshead Quays Public Art Programme. Funded by The National Lottery through the Arts Council of England.

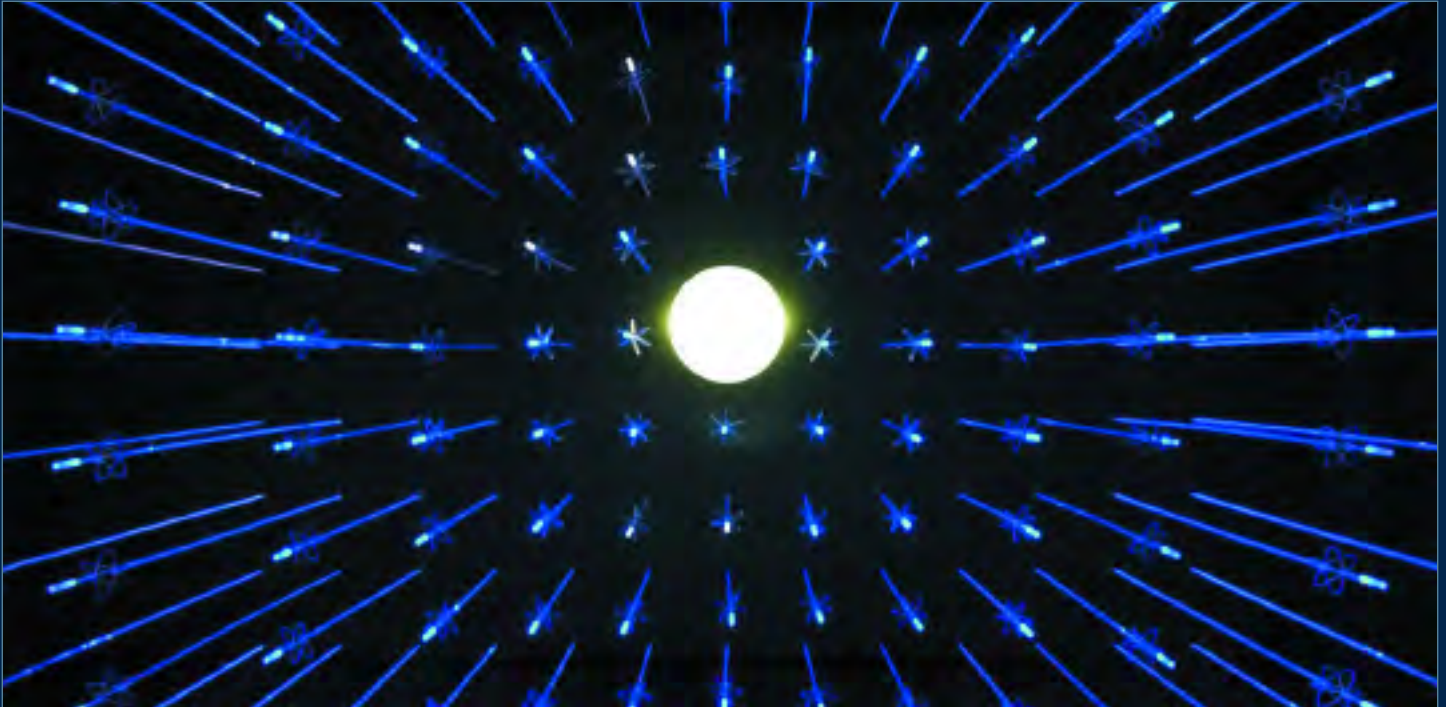
Photograph: Philip Vile



# Star Ceiling

Jo Fairfax (2004)

16



Photograph: Andrew Heptinstall

This lightwork is installed in the lift area of the car park behind The Sage Gateshead and is designed to create a visual surprise and interest for visitors. Star Ceiling can be glimpsed through a 60 cm glass lens in the floor. The artwork represents the night sky and consists of a collection of fibre optic cables housed within clear tubing. When looking up from the ground floor, 116 tails of changing coloured

light can be seen animating the area. Hung in a grid format, the fibre optics are pre-programmed to change colour, resulting in a flow of sparkling light and visual performance.

Commissioned by Gateshead Council through the East Gateshead Partnership & Gateshead Quays Public Art Programme.

# Wind Vane

Richard Wood (2001)

8

This ten metre high steel sculpture is situated in Windmill Hills Town Park, a small landscaped area behind Greenesfield Business Centre, near the Borough Arms pub. The artist worked closely with local schoolchildren and their design formed the inspiration for the work. The sculpture is constructed from stainless steel and incorporates a rotating section. This contemporary wind vane commemorates the windmills that once stood in the area and the sculpture can be seen from other vantage points over the river. Wonderful views of the Tyne gorge can be accessed from the viewing platform.

Commissioned by Gateshead Council.



Photograph: Gateshead Council

# Threshold

Lulu Quinn (2003)

3



This unique, interactive sound sculpture takes the form of a large-scale stainless steel doorway which frames the pathway and punctuates the High Street. When passing through, you 'open the door' to experience the sounds, songs and stories from 300 local people, including local schoolchildren and animals from Bill Quay Farm! Movement sensors in the frame trigger the voices and recordings to play at random. The artwork is five metres high and is situated at the top of Gateshead High Street. Threshold is illuminated at night using LED lights and received a prestigious Civic Trust Award in 2004.

Commissioned by Gateshead Council through the Town Centre Partnership Public Art Programme with support from High Point Estates.

'Lean on me'

'Does anyone like homemade soup?'

'One should never be seen coming out of a door'

'What we have here is unique!'

'Can the yellow superstars tip-toe next door?'

# Subways

David Goard (2004/05)

4

9



Two subways in the centre of Gateshead were redesigned and restored using digital images of local people printed onto ceramic tiles. The Blue Subway, Hopper Street and The Orpheus Subway in Barns Close incorporated surface treatments and sequenced lighting to enhance the design. During the planning stages of the project the artist worked with local people, whose digitised portraits featured in the final design. The work was the result of a collaboration between the artist and engineers in the Highways and Construction Section at Gateshead Council.

Commissioned by Gateshead Council through the Town Centre Partnership Public Art Programme.

Photograph: David Goard



# art map



- Post Angel
- Pre Angel
- Angel
- Visitor Centre - under development



To MetroCentre

To Central Library & TIC, Leisure Centre, Shipley Art Gallery & Saltwell Park

A167 to Angel of the North  
A1 south

# Thornbird Railings

Marcela Livingston (2005)

20

The Thornbird Railings consist of 25 panels featuring a repetitive pattern, representative of falling leaves or a winged bird. They mark a new path built along the riverside to give a better view of the Tyne and the other artworks in the area. Each carved section is designed to change according to where the sun lies adding another dimension to the piece. The panels are made from malleable iron, providing the flexibility for the carved detail. The railings are 60 metres long and were designed to stand out from the landscape, whilst enhancing the surrounding environment.

Commissioned by Gateshead Council through the Town Centre Partnership Public Art Programme.



Photograph: Andrew Heptinstall

# Blaydon Races

Dick Ward (2004)

33

Blaydon Races is a large-scale painting on canvas located in Blaydon Shopping Precinct. This celebratory work depicts the characters from the popular song "The Blaydon Races" by Geordie Ridley and is 12 metres long and 3.6 metres high. The mural is painted in acrylics and depicts each verse of the song from the start at Balmbra's dance hall in Newcastle, illustrating the lively journey along Scotswood Road, to the arrival at the

Blaydon Races. Popular characters such as Jackie Broon, Coffy Johnny and of course Geordie Ridley himself feature in the painting.

Commissioned by Gateshead Council through the Town Centre Partnership Public Art Programme and Blaydon Races Festival Committee.



Photograph: Mark Pinder

# Saltwell Willowherb

Bridget Jones (2004)

28



This artwork consists of architectural glass screens surrounding the central stairwell of Saltwell Towers in Saltwell Park. The building itself dates back to the 1850s and was reopened in the summer of 2004 after being restored and rebuilt during the extensive refurbishment of Saltwell Park. The curved glass screens form the core of the building, rising from the floor of the ground level to the ceiling of the first floor. The outside of the curve

has been fired with bands of blue, grey and green and sandblasted stripes of ash and willowherb. On the inside, Saltwell Willowherb is acid etched with the falling leaf stalks of ash and the rising spikes of willow herb, reflecting the natural forms and colours of the surrounding park.

Commissioned by Gateshead Council & funded by Heritage Lottery Fund.

Photograph: David Williams

# Ribbon Railings (2002)

26

The Ribbon Railings form a colourful boundary along Askew Road, a major route into Gateshead Town Centre. The work is the result of collaboration between Gateshead Council's landscape architects and Alan Dawson Associates. The artwork was inspired by ribbons floating in the wind, a continuation of the theme used in the nearby

Windmill Hills Town Park. Visually, the ribbon flows through the planting whilst physically forming a barrier along the top of the wall. The railings are made from galvanised steel and rise to a height of 1.4 metres.

Commissioned by Gateshead Council through the Town Centre Partnership Public Art Programme.



Photograph: Phil Snow

# Watermark

Daniel Clahane (2004/05)

34

Daniel Clahane has created a series of sculptures, benches and signage for the Watermark and Keel Row office development at Derwenthaugh waterfront, near Gateshead MetroCentre. These artworks were hand carved using a combination of polished slate, limestone and marble. The work has links with the surrounding architecture and the fabric of the buildings. The series of sculptural features continue into the weather garden of the Tyne Tees TV offices.

Funded by City & Northern with support from Commissions North and Gateshead Council.



# Ascenda

Martin Richman (2004)

35

Ascenda was commissioned by Marks & Spencer for their Lifestore in MetroCentre's Retail Park, a space now occupied by ILVA Furniture Ltd.

The work, which takes the form of a ladder, is 6.5 metres high and was conceived to complement the minimal architectural style of John Pawson who designed the original building. The lightwork has illuminated glass rungs that are clear within their face, but are etched within their lower and upper edges. The artwork, and the light emitted, changes when viewed from different angles.

Funded by Marks & Spencer plc.



Photograph: Dominic Berning

# Penny Circus

Matthew Blackman (2006)

2

Penny Circus was produced as a collaboration between artist Matthew Blackman and the children of St Joseph's RC Primary School. Following his six-month residency at the school in 2004/05, the artist created a series of enamel and concrete discs with the pupils. Fourteen colourful, vitreous enamel discs were mounted onto the school fence and a series of circular designs were inserted into the pavement. Common themes link the enamel panels and the pavement inlays, cast in shallow relief.

Commissioned by Gateshead Council through the Town Centre Partnership Public Art Programme.



Photograph: Phil Snow



# Entrance Features

Graeme Hopper (2005/06)

24

30

Artist Graeme Hopper has worked with local schoolchildren in the development of two entrance features.

## Rose Street - The Teams

The artworks sited adjacent to the Riverside Park consist of an entrance feature, railings and seating area made from mild steel. The pieces enhance an open space designed to encourage community use and ownership. Inspiration has been taken from a sea theme. The seat takes the form of a crab's claw and depicts a large crab and boat.



## St. James' Boulevard - East Gateshead

The boulevard provides a direct cycle and footpath link between Gateshead Stadium Metro Station and the Gateshead International Stadium. These panels and railings take their influences from the river and its surroundings. The six sails from viking ships used in the design represent Gateshead as seen through the eyes of schoolchildren from two local schools. Their thoughts and ideas were transformed into images depicting life in the form of tall ships, a market stall, the Great North Run and 'under a mackerel sky'.

Commissioned by Gateshead Council through the East Gateshead Partnership.



Photographs: Phil Snow

# James Hill Monument

Peter Coates (2006)

13

This artwork is a celebration of the life of James Hill, a 19th Century fiddle player who lived in Gateshead for most of his life. The sculpture is built and carved from Blaxter stone - the same stone used to build the Tyne Bridge wall abutment. Bronze elements are also incorporated into the design.

The artwork includes a fiddle 'leaning' against the wall, an inscription and a carved seat. It is sited on Bottle Bank where Hill used to live and overlooks the High Level and Swing Bridge featured in the 'High Level Hornpipe'.

Commissioned by Gateshead Council through the East Gateshead Partnership with support from Collingwood Developments and Friends of James Hill.



Photograph: Phil Snow

# Rise and Fall

Lulu Quinn (2007)

17

Rise and Fall is a major landmark which highlights the entrance point to the riverside area. The artwork takes the form of a large glass and stainless steel arch designed to create a meeting point and dynamic viewing platform. It is six metres high and animated with white light.

The arch references the nearby industrial heritage, the explosion of new engineering and architectural developments along the river Tyne.

With the aid of over 10,000 low energy, white LED lights sometimes it seems to tip, wobble or even fall and then it rebuilds itself, only to fall again. Rise and Fall combines artistic thought with contemporary electrical and structural engineering. It is the result of a unique production team combining a variety of skills and imagination in order to create the unexpected.

Rise and Fall was conceived by artist Lulu Quinn, technical design by Richard Cuthbert, Global Design Solutions Ltd and steel construction at Mayflower Engineering Ltd.

Commissioned by Gateshead Council through the Town Centre Partnership Public Art Programme.



Photograph: Joe Clark

# Street Theatre & Temporary Events

---

Gateshead Council also commissions temporary public art projects and events as part of the Town Centre Public Art Strategy. Central Gateshead has hosted a number of temporary artworks ranging

from sequential firework displays from the top of the car park, thematic billboards involving community groups, text based artwork and street theatre.



Natural Theatre Company, Photograph: Mark Pinder

## Selected additional artworks in Central Gateshead

### 5 Sports Day - Mike Winstone

This prominent sculpture is a well-known feature in Gateshead Town Centre. It represents the excitement, fun and enjoyment of taking part in sport and makes reference to Aesop's fable of the race between the tortoise and the hare. The theme was also based on school sports days, with the figure taking part in the sack race.

### 29 Komatsu Ceramic Mural - Christine Constant and Jane Hufton

Local people played an important role in the ideas for this mural. It was designed by local ceramicists Christine Constant and Jane Hufton, as part of a three-year exchange programme with Japanese potters Junko Tokuda and Shuhei Koshita. The two panels can be seen in the foyers at Gateshead Central Library and Gateshead Leisure Centre.

### 6 Nocturnal Landscape - Keith Grant

These three mosaic panels on the concourse and platform area of Gateshead Metro Interchange were the first public artworks in Gateshead which paved the way for the ambitious 'Art on the Metro' scheme. One of the panels features snowy peaks lit by the moon and sparkling with reflected light.

### 25 Window - Colin Rose

This abstract sculpture on Bensham Bank suggests the experience of looking through an open window into a garden. The sculpture also explores the idea of windows as thresholds between interior and exterior spaces.

### 1 The Family - Gordon Young

These monumental stone carvings represent the three stages in life - infancy, maturity and old age and the changing relationships that sustain them. They are situated on the grassy area outside Gateshead Civic Centre, near to the Register Office for births, marriages and deaths and often form a background for wedding photographs. In celebration of Gateshead Council winning the RIBA Arts Council England Client of the Year Award the location was further enhanced by Cate Watkinsons glass seat (2007)

The Family by Gordon Young, Photograph: Mark Pinder



## Selected additional artworks in Riverside Park

---

### 19 Rolling Moon - Colin Rose (1990)

This elegant curved steel sculpture represents the moon's effect on the oceans' tides in relation to maritime history. The sculpture spans 27 metres and reaches a height of 11 metres at its peak. Visible at a distance from across the river, the sculpture nestles discreetly into the bankside and has become one of the most well known public artworks in Gateshead.



Rolling Moon by Colin Rose, Photograph: Gateshead Council

### 21 Goats - Sally Matthews (1992)

This lifelike series of goats is made from recycled materials and appear to be climbing and foraging in the vegetation.

### 18 Cone - Andy Goldsworthy (1992)

This artwork, hidden in the undergrowth, is assembled from layers of steel plate, reflecting the industrial history of Gateshead whilst referencing a natural form. Cone is one of a series made across the world.

### 22 Once Upon a Time... - Richard Deacon (1990)

Once Upon a Time was inspired by the architecture of the surrounding environment, making links with past industries along the Tyne. It is built onto the surviving abutment of the demolished Redheugh Bridge.

### 23 Phoenix Cobbles - Maggy Howarth (1994)

Revival is the theme of the pebble mosaic, which shows a phoenix rising from the flames, symbolising Gateshead's regeneration after a period of industrial decline.

# Contacts

---

## **Gateshead Council**

For further information and images visit

[www.gateshead.gov.uk](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk)

email: [enquiries@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@gateshead.gov.uk).

Tel: 0191 433 3000

Artworks in the countryside:

Countryside Projects Team,

Tel: 0191 433 3443 or

email: [countryside@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@gateshead.gov.uk).

Art in hospitals: Gateshead NHS Trust,

Tel: 0191 482 0000

---

## **Gateshead Information Service**

Gateshead Quays

Tel: 0191 478 4222

email: [tourism@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@gateshead.gov.uk)

---

## **The Gallery Gateshead Central Library and Tourist Information Centre**

Prince Consort Road

Gateshead

NE8 4LN

Tel: 0191 433 8400

[tic@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:tic@gateshead.gov.uk)

---

## **Shingley Art Gallery,**

Prince Consort Road,

Gateshead

NE8 4JB

[www.twmuseums.org.uk/shingley](http://www.twmuseums.org.uk/shingley)

0191 477 1495

---

## **BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art**

South Shore Road

Gateshead

NE8 3BA

[www.balticmill.com](http://www.balticmill.com)

0191 478 1810

---

## **The Sage Gateshead**

St Mary's Square

Gateshead Quays

NE8 2JR

[www.thesagegateshead.org](http://www.thesagegateshead.org)

0191 443 4666

---

## **Traveline**

Tel: 0870 608 2 608

Text phone 0870 241 2216 (for the hearing impaired)

[www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)

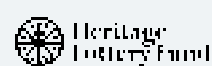
---



Annual Family Sculpture Day held in Saltwell Park, Gateshead

Photograph: Chris Hoggarth

© Copyright 2006 Gateshead Council.



Town Centre Partnership is supported by One NorthEast through the Single Regeneration Budget