



ART NOT COAL

SHORT STORIES

21/03

Reborn

The county of Northumberland in the north-east of England, right on the border with Scotland, is a furious rebirth of the northern English coal and shipbuilding towns of Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead.

Deindustrialisation Tyne and Wear

More than thirty years ago, when English Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher declared war on the miners and the unions, and thus on the English coalfields, the two cities were on their knees. In 1950, over 150,000 people worked in the 182 mines in the region - today there is only one mine left, employing 360 people. Nor, as is well known, did Thatcher have much love for shipbuilding, which was the second major source of income for the region on Tyne and Wear. Unemployment climbed to over 55 percent in the late 1980s. The Tyne and Wear region was deindustrialised on a large scale.

"Around the River Tyne, cultural metropolises have sprung up over the years in Newcastle and Gateshead following the closure of the collieries ..."

- Mick Henry



Symbol of rebirth: *Angel Of The North, Gateshead*

Content in brief

- Change in the Northern English region of Tyne and Wear
- Deindustrialisation of coal and shipbuilding towns
- Bold strategy for the future by those responsible
- Rebirth through art instead of coal
- Art and culture as an economic factor



Millennium Bridge und The Sage Gateshead

Courageous strategy

Based on a new and common strategy, the region's leaders have dug deep into their pockets for culture in recent decades. The ambitious and courageous strategy has paid off.

Angel of the North

As a symbol of the rebirth of the old industrial region, the "Angel of the North" was erected in 1998 at a cost of over one million pounds. All motorists travelling on the A1 can see the Angel from a long distance near Gateshead. The 20-metre sculpture by Anthony Gormley, which was erected on a former coal pit, stands right on the motorway.

Millennium Bridge

For the year 2000, the "Millennium Bridge" crossing to Newcastle was built in Gateshead, at a cost of more than 22 million pounds. The Millennium Bridge is the first bridge to rotate around its longitudinal axis through its pivot points to allow ships to pass underneath. Seven bridges thus cross the River Tyne.

The Sage Gateshead

The Sage Gateshead opened in 2004. Built in Gateshead at a cost of £70 million lottery money, the concert hall, music and events centre is home to the Northern Sinfonia and Folkworks, among others. The Sage has an impressive vaulted glass and steel roof structure. The Sage Gateshead is located just metres from the Millennium Bridge. The property was sponsored by the software company Sage Group, Newcastle, which is the largest employer in the region and also the patron of the building.

Culture is the engine of the economy

"Culture," says Gateshead councillor Mick Henry, "first changed the physical face of our city. Now our economy is blossoming because of it."

Culture and the arts make people non-judgmental and flexible - and show how to get ahead with risk-taking and new ways of thinking.

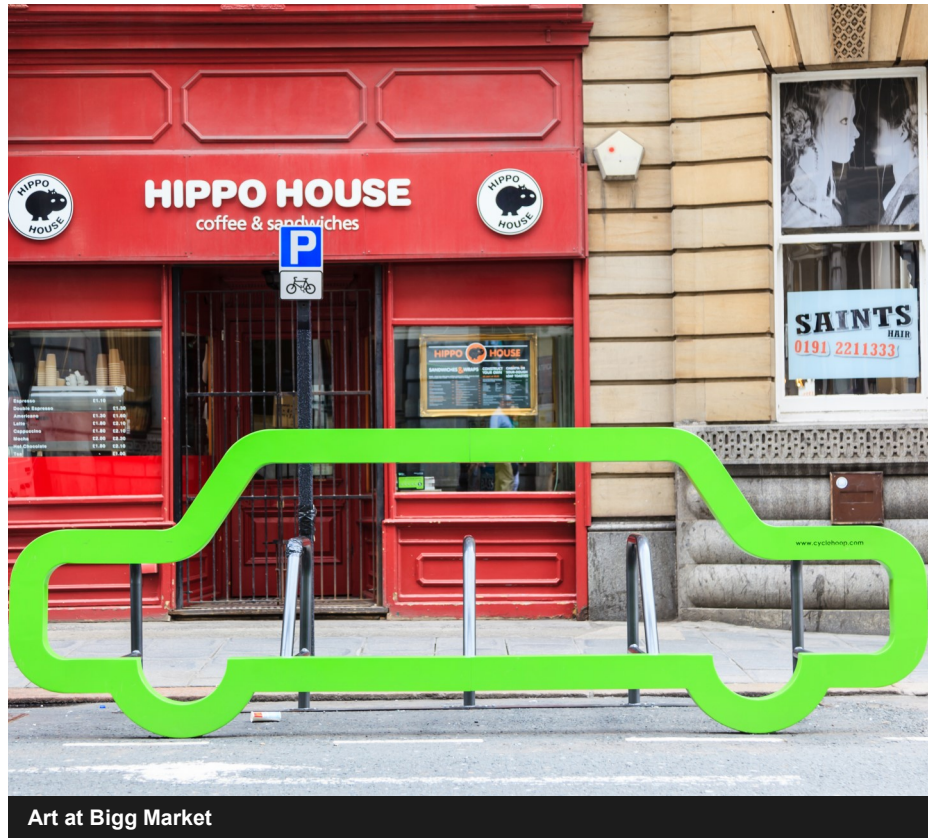
In this way, culture is paving the way for the new entrepreneurial culture: small businesses, the self-employed and service providers are now the foundation of the regional economy on the River Tyne.



Sculpture near Millennium Bridge

Successful structural change

The city fathers of Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead have ensured, through joint efforts and investment, that the two cities have successfully managed structural change through culture.



Baltic

Housed in a former grain silo and mill, the Centre for Contemporary Art (Baltic) is another cultural building near the Millennium Bridge.

A total of £50 million was invested in the transformation of the silo and mill in 2002. Approximately £33 million of this was provided by the Lotto Arts Fund.

The Baltic is the largest events centre in the region.



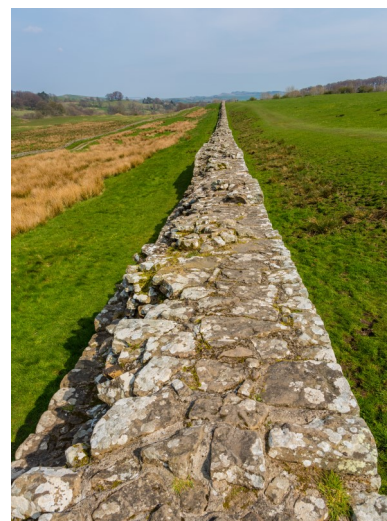
Art complements culture

Historic Durham, Northumberland with its picturesque coastline, castles and palaces, Cumbria with the Lake District and Hadrian's Wall are all within easy reach of Tyne and Wear, complementing efforts to boost tourism as an industry. Arts and culture have now become the most important economic sector in the North of England.

The castles and fortresses region of Northern England is the ideal holiday destination for walkers and active holidaymakers as well as for those seeking relaxation and culture.



Beamish Museum, County Durham



Hadrian's Wall, Housesteads

Hadrian's Wall

The Roman Emperor Hadrian ordered the construction of Hadrian's Wall from coast to coast around 122 AD. It was about 3 metres wide and 5 metres high, had 80 gates and was guarded by many camps and towers along the rampart.

Durham

Durham was founded in 995 and is known for its cathedral, castle and university. Together with the old town, Durham Cathedral and Durham Castle are perched on a towering cliff in a loop of the River Wear. The impressive 11th-century bishop's seat was described by travel writer Bill Bryson as the "Most Beautiful Cathedral on Earth". The University of Durham is the third oldest university in England after Oxford and Cambridge.

Durham is also home to England's largest open-air museum, Beamish, where a faithfully recreated town, a historic farm and a mine with original buildings illustrate the period before de-industrialisation.

Lake District

The county of Cumbria and the Lake District are among the most beautiful regions in Britain. The charming landscape beckons with 16 shimmering lakes, the highest mountains in England, green valleys and a salty breeze from the sea.

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