



# RENAISSANCE NORTH WEST museums for changing lives

Renaissance  
explained

Collections  
for the Future

The Lasting  
Legacy of  
Slavery  
in the  
North West

Museums  
and Galleries  
Month 2007

# Welcome to the first Renaissance North West newsletter



Claire Wood

## What is Renaissance?

“Renaissance is about long-term change in England’s museums – building their capacity to transform how they work with each other and interact with visitors.”

Sue Wilkinson, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Museums, Libraries and Archives Council

‘World-class, sustainable museums across England’ is the vision behind Renaissance in the Regions – a £150 million development programme from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

Managed by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council through a network of nine museum ‘hubs’, Renaissance funds the work of the hub venues, strategic partnerships and initiatives at regional level. It is also supporting the Museum Development Fund, Subject Specialist Networks, the Designation Challenge Fund and Strategic Commissioning.

Increasing visitor numbers to England’s museums is one of the main aims of Renaissance – and we need to sustain those increased levels by improving access to our collections and encouraging user participation. We are increasing access by developing our organisations and workforces. We are making better use of our collections through care and interpretation.



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## What is Renaissance North West?

### The North West Hub is made up of

- ★ Manchester City Galleries, Hub Lead
- ★ Bolton Museum and Art Gallery
- ★ Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery, Carlisle
- ★ Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Preston
- ★ Manchester Museum, University of Manchester
- ★ Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester

Renaissance North West is delivering a programme of investment through the hub venues and their strategic partners, as well as initiatives that are impacting across the region.

Every one of the 160 registered museums in the North West has a stake in Renaissance. The project has already been enthusiastically received in many parts of the region, but there is much more to do – and you can get involved. Museums can work in partnership with Renaissance North West to develop and improve services and put users at the heart of everything we do.

Through Renaissance North West, we have a unique opportunity to improve the relevance, impact, profile and quality of museum services and assets, which will diversify and increase the number of people who enjoy and learn from the region’s collections.

“The North West has remarkable cultural and heritage assets. Renaissance North West is about working in new ways to use and develop these assets, and to maximise the contribution our museum services can make to the region’s economic, social and cultural development.”  
Virginia Tandy, Director, Manchester City Galleries

Last year 79,000 children  
visited Hub

museums & galleries

## COLLECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Renaissance North West is using the Museum Association’s *Collections for the Future* to inform the development of the region’s museums, by investing in three themes:

### Engagement

The hub research programme is looking at

- ★ the impact of community engagement on museums’ practice
- ★ using galleries as space for creative learning

- ★ the impact of innovative museum education on children’s achievements at school.

### Dynamic Collection

- ★ the Collections’ Care Liaison Officer, a regional post based at Lancashire County Conservation

Studios, will work to increase access to collections and raise standards of stewardship

- ★ the Collections for the Future Development Officer: Roman Heritage, a regional post based at Manchester Museum, is setting up partnerships to revitalise important aspects of the region’s cultural heritage
- ★ later in 2007, Renaissance North West and the University of Manchester will stage a conference exploring the curatorial role in the 21st century.

# The Lasting Legacy of Slavery in the North West

Did you know that the economic rise of Manchester and the North West during the 18th and 19th centuries is intrinsically linked with the slave trade?

A series of fascinating, interactive exhibitions and events across Greater Manchester, during this bicentenary year, seeks to uncover the region's involvement in the slave trade, as well as its contribution to slavery's ultimate abolition.

Until now, Greater Manchester's historical involvement in the slave trade has been largely unexplored, compared to Britain's port cities, such as Liverpool and Bristol.

Revealing Histories will explore and commemorate the

lasting legacy of the slave trade. Funding from Renaissance North West, plus substantial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, has allowed eight museums and galleries across the region to join forces for this unique project.

To find out how you can get involved, visit [www.revealinghistories.org.uk](http://www.revealinghistories.org.uk) or call **0161 238 4540** for an events programme.

“ *Revealing Histories takes a fresh look at the collections of these museums and galleries and the buildings they are housed in, revealing hidden histories of the region's involvement in the slave trade.* ”

Emma Walker, Chair of the Revealing Histories Marketing Group

## WHAT'S ON: Training and Development Opportunities

**Renaissance North West runs a programme of free workshops that examine key issues facing museums.**

Since 2005, there have been five themed workshops:

- ★ audiences and collections
- ★ working with schools
- ★ family learning
- ★ income generation and media relations
- ★ community engagement.

Contributors from all over the country have shared experiences – good and bad – about programmes they have

developed, partnerships they have formed and how the projects have impacted on their organisation and audiences.

Renaissance North West is working with the North West Federation of Museums and Group for Education in Museums to organise a calendar of events between April and June 2007. For details of future events and summary reports of past workshops, please visit [www.mlanorthwest.org.uk](http://www.mlanorthwest.org.uk)

“ *There were lots of practical things that I could start doing from tomorrow.* ”  
Delegate

### Strengthening the Sector

- ★ the Development Officer (Renaissance), based at MLA NW in Warrington, is working to strengthen the sustainability of small to medium sized museums, through advice on planning and business support and workforce development
- ★ the Development Officer (Standards), also based at MLA NW, is delivering training opportunities to support accreditation for all regional museums.



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### Events and Training

**30 April Learning Links Showcase FREE**

Harris Conference Centre, Fulwood, Preston. Contact Jackie Fletcher, [Jackie.Fletcher@mlanorthwest.org.uk](mailto:Jackie.Fletcher@mlanorthwest.org.uk)

**10 May North West Federation of Museums and Galleries: Shout From the Rooftops**

Rex Theatre, Liverpool. Contact Emma Varnam [emma.varnam@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:emma.varnam@tameside.gov.uk) or visit [www.nwfed.org.uk](http://www.nwfed.org.uk)

**12 June Initial Teacher Training and Museums and Galleries FREE**

Whitworth Art Gallery. Contact Julie Howes [julie.howes@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:julie.howes@manchester.ac.uk)

**12 June Extended Schools and Cultural Organisations in Cumbria: a day of information and exploration FREE**

CREA Conference Centre, Redhills, Penrith. Contact Jackie Fletcher, [Jackie.Fletcher@mlanorthwest.org.uk](mailto:Jackie.Fletcher@mlanorthwest.org.uk)

**18 June Live Interpretation FREE**

Museum of Science & Industry  
Contact Jennie Crawford  
[j.crawford@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:j.crawford@manchester.gov.uk)

**Basic Introduction to Collections Care: Getting you ready for accreditation: FREE**

**26 April** Silk Heritage Centre, Macclesfield

**10 May** Lancashire County Museum Service Conservation Studios, Preston

**23 May** Rheghed, Penrith

**27 June** Touchstones, Rochdale

Contact Brenda Smith,  
[brenda.smith@mus.lancscc.gov.uk](mailto:brenda.smith@mus.lancscc.gov.uk)  
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# Museums and Galleries Month 2007

## Communities on our Doorstep

**Building closer relationships with local communities is vital to the success of Renaissance.**

Local authorities, universities and large local employers – all make up the ‘communities on our doorstep’ as they employ staff that represent the local people our venues want to reach. These organisations have internal staff development programmes that could benefit from an imaginative, long-term partnership with a local museum or gallery.

Museums and galleries in Cumbria, Greater Manchester and Lancashire are set to establish lasting partnerships with their neighbours through a programme of events, tours, activities and outreach projects that will run throughout May.

After Museums and Galleries Month, we will develop and share a toolkit for other museums and galleries who want to champion this kind of advocacy and audience development work.

For more information contact:  
[j.crawford@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:j.crawford@manchester.gov.uk)

Visit: [www.mgm.org.uk](http://www.mgm.org.uk)

List your MGM events at:  
[www.24hourmuseum.org.uk](http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk)



## Profile: Jane Fletcher

**North West Hub Education Development Manager, based at Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery, Carlisle**



Taking on this role has given me the opportunity to be involved with some of the most innovative museum education work in the North West. In 2004, I helped develop the Education Programme Delivery Plan – building the evidence base that acted as the foundation for the plan. It is really exciting to now be involved in making it happen.

The next phase of the education plan is all about partnerships – we are connecting museums and external agencies in order to increase opportunities for children and young people in the North West. This is being done through three learning networks across Cumbria, the development of teaching resources for secondary schools based on museums and galleries in Greater Manchester, and the creation of a literacy offer for primary schools in Preston, as well as many other programmes.

Our research is already providing evidence that this is having an impact on children – the work of the Primary Consultant for Manchester primary schools has seen a 35% rise in average attainment over and above the norm. We will be building on this research as well as sharing practice through events across the region.



90 posts

will be funded by

**Renaissance North West**

in 2007-2008

### Contact us

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