

NORTHUMBERLAND LIGHTS FESTIVAL 2007

FACT SHEET

Northumberland Lights 2007 is set against some of the county's most dramatic locations, taking in the fantastic Blyth Quayside, the magical Cragside House, Gardens and Estate, the mysterious Warkworth Castle and the dramatic Walltown.

Please be aware that all events are outdoor and audiences are expected to dress appropriately for the weather at the time of year. Due to the nature and location of these events we regret they are not fully accessible to people with restrictive movement or access limitations, please contact each event for details. If weather conditions are extreme and prevent events taking place notification will be posted on the appropriate event page of www.northumberlandlights.com.

Refreshments will be available at each event.

For information about where to stay in Northumberland if you are visiting an event from outside the area please contact Northumberland Tourism at www.visitnorthumberland.com.

Blyth

Blyth in a New Light 2007

Ridley Park and Quayside, Blyth, Northumberland

Sunday 4th November

Free event

Starting at **10am** a **continental market** will tantalize your taste buds and offer you a great opportunity to start your festive shopping.

On both Saturday 3rd November and Sunday 4th November from **11am** you can 'Get your skates on' in Ridley Park, at Blyth's very own **ice rink from 10.30am – 6.30pm**. An hour long ticket can be purchased in advance or on the day, the rink will have limited spaces, so don't delay and book your chance to skate with Peter the Penguin now. The ice rink will **close at 7pm**.

An **outdoor theatre** will be created by **Fidget Feet** in Ridley Park from **4pm**, providing entertainment for families and children, including stilt walking and an opportunity for you to 'hang around' in their famous Cocoons.

At **6pm** Fidget Feet, Ireland's leading aerial company, will then be performing their aerial show '**Wired and Free**' suspended from a huge crane above the park and crowds, a sight to see to be truly believed.

As the entertainment and daylight fades in the park a parade will move through the illuminated buildings of Blyth old town and Bath Terrace, superbly lit by **Phil Supple and White Light**, to reveal the Quayside finale where once again **The World Famous** fireworkers will present a show along the river and East Pier.

For further information please contact the Blyth Valley Borough Council **Your Link contact centre**

Tel: 01670 542542

Email: yourlink@blythvalley.gov.uk

www.northumberlandlights.com

Cragside House, Gardens and Estate

The Electric Forest

Cragside Estate, Rothbury, Northumberland

Friday 16th - Sunday 18th November

Adults £4.00

Concessions £2.00

Home of Lord Armstrong, inventor, innovator and landscape genius, the house was said to have 'the first proper installation' of electric lighting in the world.

This year's walk will reveal Armstrong's magical landscape by night, with light and natural sculptures appearing through the valley, garden and woodland.

Walks are ticketed to ensure safety in numbers and so that walkers can experience the magic of the darkness.

Walks will start at 20 minute slots from 4.30pm with the last walk starting at approx 7.00pm, each walk will last approx 45 minutes. Sturdy shoes and outdoor clothing will be required.

Tickets will be available from:

Cragside Estate shop, Cragside Estate, Rothbury
Available on site only

National Park Information Centre, Church Street, Rothbury

Tel: 01669 620887

Email: tic.rothbury@nnpa.org.uk

Alnwick Tourist Information Centre, The Shambles, Alnwick

Telephone: 01665 511333

Email: alnwicktic@alnwick.gov.uk

For further information please contact the National Trust on 01669 622003

www.northumberlandlights.com

Warkworth Castle

Warkworth Voices

Warkworth Castle, Warkworth, Northumberland

Friday 23rd - Sun 25th November

Adults £6.00

Concessions £4.00

Children £3.00

The ruined buildings and the towers of the castle will be lit with layers of saturated colour and textured light, accentuating their rugged beauty, which provides a dramatic backdrop for audiences to explore story telling, music and choral performances.

Visitors are invited to immerse themselves in the stories of Warkworth Castle as they wander around the Outer Bailey. At your chosen ticket time you will be requested to join a guide at the stairs to The Keep where the story will continue including music and song enveloping the space around you.

Each evening the 'Voices' will start at 4.30pm with timed slots for The Keep taking place every 30 minutes until 8.00pm. The complete experience will last approximately an hour and a half.

Tickets will be available from:

Warkworth Castle

Tel: 01665 711423
Email: warkworth.castle@english-heritage.org.uk

www.english-heritage.org.uk/warkworthcastle

Alnwick Tourist Information Centre, The Shambles, Alnwick
Tel: 01665 511333
Email: alnwicktic@alnwick.gov.uk

For more information please contact English Heritage on 01665 711423
www.northumberlandlights.com

Walltown, Hadrian's Wall

Stone

Walltown, Nr Haltwhistle, Northumberland
Saturday 1st December

Adults £6.00
Concessions £4.00

In a former Whinstone Quarry, Walltown has now been reclaimed as a recreation site and is managed by Northumberland National Park Authority.

Walltown is to come alive once again with music, sounds, explosions and light bouncing around the quarry. As the crags come to life and begin to glow, strong patterns slowly move across the irregular rock surfaces.

After a short walk through mysterious sculptures, the quarry will open up in front of the audience where the strange sounds will call you to join others at the base of the whinstone crag.

This outdoor experience will last approximately one and a half hours and includes park and ride transport to the site. Park and ride will start at approx 5.15pm returning at approx 7.30pm, final details will be with ticket purchase. Only disabled parking will be allowed at Walltown.

Tickets will be available from:

Hexham Tourist Information Centre, Wentworth Car Park, Hexham
Tel: 01434 652220
Email: hexham.tic@tynedale.gov.uk.

Haltwhistle Tourist Information Centre, Railway Station, Haltwhistle
Tel: 01434 322002
Email: haltwhistle.tic@btconnect.com

Northumberland National Park, Once Brewed Visitor Centre, Military Road, Bardon Mill, Hexham
Tel: 01434 344396
Email: tic.oncebrewed@nnpa.org.uk

Park and Ride

Car parking will **only** be at Haltwhistle and Howsteads Visitor Centre - no parking on site other than for disabled visitors

At Haltwhistle car parking will be available at Hadrian Enterprise Park on the B6322 (follow local event signage) and general public car parks, pick up points will include Hadrian Enterprise Park car park and Haltwhistle train station.

Haltwhistle route bus transfers will take place between 5.15pm and 5.45pm so please ensure you turn up in plenty of time to get to your park and ride connection.

Train connections will also be met by buses (following information taken from Northern train timetable but please check www.northernrail.org for further details)

Carlisle	16:29	Newcastle	16:24
Haltwhistle	17:00	Hexham	17:02
		Haltwhistle	17:23
Haltwhistle	20:09		
Carlisle	20:42	Haltwhistle	20:01
		Hexham	20:19
		Newcastle	21:01

Housesteads Visitor Centre is located on the old military road B6318 to the east of Walltown Quarry. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-vh/w-visits/w-findaplace/w-hadrianswallandhousesteadsfort/w-hadrianswallandhousesteadsfort-gettingthere.htm

Housesteads route transfers will take place between 5.00pm and 5.30pm so please ensure that you turn up in plenty of time to get your park and ride connection.

All buses will return you to your car parking/train station by approx 7.30pm.

www.northumberlandlights.com

The Walltown recreation area sits within the North East's very own National Park, which covers 405 square miles from just south of Hadrian's Wall to the Cheviot Hills on the Border with Scotland and is officially the most tranquil place in England. For 100 years from mid-1800s, Walltown was quarried for hard rock from the Whin Sill underlying Hadrian's Wall, leaving a big hollow in the landscape surrounded by tall crags. Walltown crags is an excellent place to see how Hadrian's Wall was built on the natural scarp face of a great wave of volcanic rock, making it an awesome sight from the north. Today, Northumberland National Park has planted native woodland, developed lakes and meadows where wildlife flourishes, built a picnic area with a café and created paths that enable everyone to enjoy this space. Walltown, near the village of Greenhead, is next door to the Carvoran Roman Army Museum and is crossed by the Hadrian's Wall and Pennine Way National Trails (both marked with an acorn sign), and Hadrian's Cycleway (coast to coast) runs nearby. The Hadrian's Wall Bus stops at Walltown from March to the end of October each year. Here, parking is £2 all day and £1 for two hours, there are lock-ups for bikes and dogs under control are welcome. Download a free Walltown map-leaflet from www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/visiting.

Acknowledgements

Northumberland Lights is part of North East England's world-class programme of festivals and events, managed by culture ¹⁰ at NewcastleGateshead Initiative and is funded by One NorthEast, Northumberland Strategic Partnership and Arts Council England, North East. The regional programme also includes winter festivals at NewcastleGateshead and Sunderland, see www.NewcastleGateshead.com for details.

Northumberland Lights 2007 creative designer is artist Phil Supple, with support from White Light project manager Jack Thompson and NSP co-ordinator Zoë Bottrell. Collaborative artists include The World Famous fireworkers, Graeme Gilmour, 20,000 voices, Bit of a crack, John Kenny & Chris Wheeler.

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