



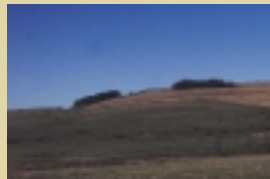
Arbela - South Shields



Corbridge Roman Site

Reading along the Line directly refers to the connection of the three venues - Newcastle, Hexham and Carlisle - to Hadrian's Wall, and obliquely to the activity of reading texts.

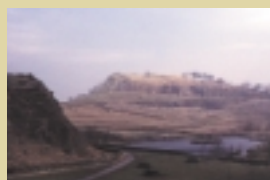
INTRODUCTION



Hotbank Crags



Defence Ditch



Wall Town



Milecastle 42, Cawfield Crags

The readings are the third set of public events for Writing on the Wall, the International Writing and Public Art Project for the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site.

Reading along the Line also links to the bases of the writers - Tyne & Wear, Northumberland and Cumbria and the places where they have been running creative writing workshops - Wallsend, South Shields, Byker, Hexham, Carlisle and Maryport.

Writing on the Wall continues to support new writing about the World Heritage Site by organising creative writing workshops for education and community groups and commissioning professional writers to create new poems and prose that explore the complexity and diversity of the urban and rural contexts of Hadrian's Wall.

PROJECT UPDATE

Over the past 12 months Writing on the Wall has developed and delivered a range of creative writing projects and public events.

In Spring 2002 readings took place at Carville First School, Wallsend; Hadrian Primary School, South Shields; Heddon on the Wall St Andrews CE Primary School; Waberthwaite CE Primary School and the English Heritage Corbridge Roman Site.

Three international writers also engaged with local people and groups. Hafsa Bekri- Lamrani from Morocco studied the area of Bowness-on-Solway and Burgh by Sands; Denisa Comanescu from Romania examined the areas of Birdoswald, Gilsland and the central section of the Wall; Iraqi writer Hashem Shafiq looked at Wallsend and South Shields.

As well as these specific places, which are connected specifically to where the original Auxiliary Troops were stationed, the writers also saw the entire length of Hadrian's Wall to gain a fuller understanding of its contexts and geography.

Hafsa, Denisa and Hashem have produced new writings that include the subject of the cats at Vindolanda (seen only now as paw prints in clay tiles); Reflections on Hadrian, conquest, 'Barbarians' and the natural world; Bowness-on-Solway, its people, the view looking across the 'old border' and the Solway Firth to Scotland.

Strong links have also been formed with Visiting Arts. Writing on the Wall has been included in its web-site information about international projects (www.visitingarts.org.uk), and officially introduced to the British Council Offices of the 21 countries in North Africa; Middle East; Eastern, Central and Western Europe, from which the original troops and auxiliaries who served on Hadrian's Wall were recruited.



Reading at Hadrian School



Reading at Waberthwaite School



Reading at Carville School



Hashem (left) talking to an Arab American visitor at Birdoswald



Denisa at Chesters Museum



Hafsa at Vindolanda

HADRIAN'S WALL
WORLD HERITAGE SITE

HADRIAN'S WALL
TOURISM PARTNERSHIP



ARTS UK
LIMITED

More information about Writing on the Wall can be found at:
www.writingonthewall.uk.com

If you wish to be placed on the postal or emailing information mailing list please contact:

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T: 0191 2649474
E: email@arts-uk.com
W: www.arts-uk.com

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Tourism Partnership.

Writing on the Wall is part of Hadrian's Wall Tourism Partnership's Enrichment and Enterprise Scheme, a five year initiative funded by One NorthEast and other partners.

Hadrian's Wall Tourism Partnership is a public and private sector partnership developing sustainable Arts, Business, Community, Education, Tourism and Transport around the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site.

Writing on the Wall is an ARTS UK originated concept, which it is delivering on behalf of the Partnership by working closely with other public, private, voluntary and independent agencies in a series of educational and community based residencies and workshops.

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WRITING
ON THE
WALL

READING ALONG THE LINE

3 Poetry Readings for
Writing on the Wall

Penny Grennan

Bill Herbert

Angela Locke

Ellen Phethean

Jacob Polley



Hexham Creative Writing Workshop
Photograph: Penny Grennan

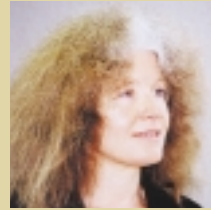
HADRIAN'S WALL
WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Cogito Bookshop
Saturday 29th March, 7.30pm
Admission free

No 5, St. Mary's Chare (Back Street)
Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 1NQ

T: 01434 602555
E: alan.grint@btinternet.com

Please note that places are limited and you should book directly with Cogito Bookshop



Penny Grennan

HEXHAM

Penny Grennan

Penny is an experienced writer and creative writing tutor, with a background in Archaeology, who writes both poetry and prose. She has been leading community based creative writing workshops in Hexham.

The writing group comprises 9 people all of whom are experienced writers. The aim of the workshops has been to allow for freedom of ideas based on structured activities, which has resulted in historical writing, monologues, reports and contemporary poetry being produced.

Penny will be reading from work in progress and her poems will include those produced during creative writing workshops as well as commissioned pieces.



Workshop Session
Photograph: Penny Grennan



Workshop Session

The Cumberland Arms
Monday 31st March, 7.30pm
Admission free

Off Byker Bank
The Ouseburn
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE6 1LD

T: 0191 2656151



Ellen Phethean
Photograph: Snela Solanki



Bill Herbert
Photograph: Stephanie R Mickler

NEWCASTLE

Ellen Phethean

Ellen Phethean works as a sound artist and poet, playwright and editor. She lives close to the line of Hadrian's Wall and has previously featured the area in a Radio 4 commission *'Witnessing Westgate Hill'*. She is currently Writer in Residence for the Centre for the Children's Book and Writing On the Wall.

She has been organising workshops in Byker and running a writing group in the Cumberland Arms; all places close to the line of the Wall. Much of her work has focused in some way on people and place, featuring the themes and legacy of the Wall both Roman and modern. Arising from this she will be reading some new poems taken from a larger narrative, working title *'Wall'*, about a fictional family who live in Byker Wall; which examines how walls - real and metaphorical - can create barriers between people, and how they are overcome.



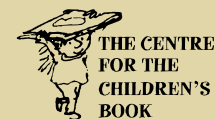
Cumberland Arms workshop

Bill Herbert

Bill Herbert lives and works in North Shields, overlooking the mouth of the River Tyne and South Shields. He lectures in Creative Writing and modern Scottish poetry at Newcastle University. He previously taught at Lancaster University, was Poetry Fellow for the Wordsworth Trust and worked on Sky-Lines, a writing and public art project in Cumbria. He has had a number of books published by Bloodaxe Books - his latest collection is *The Big Bumper Book of Troy*.

Earlier in 2002 he ran writing workshops at Hadrian Primary School, South Shields, and Carville First School, Wallsend.

Bill will be reading from *Over the Wall*, a sequence of poems which explores the landscape and language of the countryside of the Wall - past and present, north and south. Subjects range from the commuter's glimpses of wildlife on the A69 to the works of a fictitious Latin poet, and include bursts of dialect, the song of a paranoid border patrol, reflections on recovering a Roman fort, and radio reception inside the Tyne Tunnel.

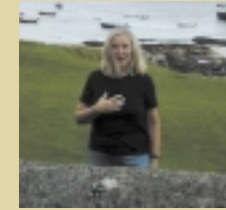


Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery
Thursday 3rd April, 8pm.
Admission £3 (£2.50 concessions).

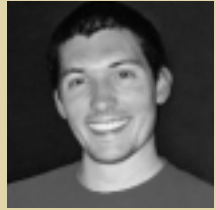
Castle Street, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA3 8TP

T: (Box office) 01228 534664
Tickets available in advance from the box office and on the door.

From 6.30pm Tullie House is serving a special pasta and vegetarian supper in the restaurant for £5 - book your reservation in advance and pay on the night. A selection of starters and sweets will also be available, plus coffee and a bar service.



Angela Locke
Photograph: Elizabeth Knowles



Jacob Polley
Photograph: Ian Fenton

CARLISLE

Angela Locke

Angela Locke has written widely about Cumbria, through books such as *Mr Mullett Owns a Cloud*, *Search Dog*, *Sam & Co* and *Hearing Dog*. She is Cumbria Life's regular walking columnist, and has worked extensively with Radio Cumbria and Border TV. Of her three poetry collections, *North Face* (Pleades Press) is particularly rooted in the Lake District and Border Country, while the latest, *Sacred Earth* has an environmental edge.

Angela has been the Writer-in-Residence for the Maryport stretch of the Wall defences since February. Her work with Ewanrigg School and a community writing group, which is also supported by Allerdale Borough Council and Cumbria Arts in Education, has not only focused on the Roman aspect of Hadrian's Wall, and the life of the *vicus* around it, but also explores the nature of walls, both visible and invisible; how they divide us; why they are there; what they hold back and how they protect us from harm. The need to breach walls in the invisible world has long been a theme of Angela's work, as she explores her awareness of the tangible and intangible landscapes that shape our sense of who we are.

Angela will be reading from existing work around these themes, and will be premiering the first of her poem cycle *"Walls at the World's End"* - a Writing on the Wall commission.

Jacob Polley

Jacob Polley was born in Carlisle and grew up in Bowness-on-Solway and Burgh by Sands. He was poet in residence at the News and Star and Cumberland News in 2002 and recently received the BBC Radio 4 'First Verse' award, and a major Eric Gregory Award from the Society of Authors. His pamphlet, *Salvage*, was published by Northern Lights in 2000, and his first full-length collection *The Brink* is to be published by Picador in September 2003.

Jacob is leading a creative writing workshop based at Tullie House that will use the Roman collection for the development of new poems and prose. Some of these works will then be displayed with the exhibits as a 21st Century interpretation. The project is being supported by Carlisle City Council.

Jacob will be reading from *The Brink*, which has been written over the last five years. The book is about domesticity, seas and snow and is inspired by a rural upbringing and the flat desolation of the Solway Firth through which the route of Hadrian's Wall runs.



Ewanrigg pupils at the Roman Army Museum

