



NEWS RELEASE (EN/02/2008/06)

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‘Hands on Heritage’ at Newcastle’s Stephenson Works

Delegates from across Europe who are attending the EUROPA NOSTRA Congress in NewcastleGateshead got hands on experience of different regional and national construction, conservation and musical skills yesterday. On the first full day of the Congress the famous Stephenson Works in Newcastle hosted this interactive event where different techniques of stone masonry, dry stone walling, creative performance, engineering, lime pointing, and many others, will be explored and celebrated.

An array of organisations was drawn together for this event including the National Trust, the North of England Civic Trust, Sage, The Heritage Lottery Fund and the International Built Heritage Conservation Training Centre, with the aim of enhancing intercultural dialogue.

John Sell, UK Chair of Europa Nostra said:

‘One of the reasons that the Europa Nostra Congress has come to NewcastleGateshead is because this area is renowned for its industrial heritage and offers such a wonderful context for our conference discussions. We also wanted to recognise and celebrate the cultural and civic revival that is underway here in the North East.’

Following the event at the Stephenson Works John Sell commented:

‘There were some fantastic sessions that blended different skills and different countries. We experienced great demonstrations that showed off the many and varied intellectual and practical skills that each uniquely contribute to our cultural heritage.’

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Notes to Editors:

PHOTO: TBC

EUROPA NOSTRA was founded in 1963 and is dedicated to putting heritage and its benefits in the mainstream public arena and to making heritage a priority for public policies both at European and national levels. **The Grainger Town Project, Newcastle upon Tyne**, was a top Prize winner in 2003 of the EUROPEAN UNION PRIZE FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE / EUROPA NOSTRA AWARDS, in the Category of Cultural Landscapes, recognised for the extraordinary achievement of transforming the historic core of a fine 18th century city.

For full details of the EUROPA NOSTRA Congress go to:

<http://www.europanostra.org/newcastlegatesheadcongress.html>

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