

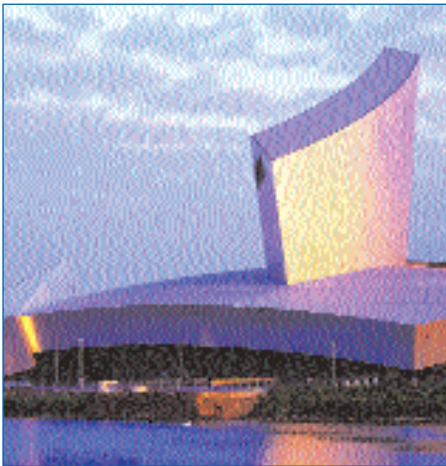


## An Invitation to Manchester 15th – 18th May 2008

... giving you a flavour of our fine city and its surrounding countryside

**'Visit Manchester and see the World'. Visiting Manchester for the weekend opens up a whole world of exciting opportunities. Our vibrant city is steeped in history and traditions and set in a background of beautiful countryside on the edge of the Pennine Hills, known in our school days as the 'Backbone of England'.**

The Manchester Conference Liaison Committee is arranging a busy and interesting programme for you over the Centenary Weekend and if you have time for a few extra days here we know you won't be disappointed. Between the lush green counties of Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire, and bordering the beauty of Yorkshire and Merseyside, Manchester offers much to see and do. This month's article gives some ideas of places to visit in and around Manchester.



### Museum North

One of the most talked about Museums in Britain today, Imperial War Museum North is about people and their stories, about how lives have been and still are shaped by war and conflict.

The award-winning building by international architect Daniel Libeskind is a symbol of our world torn apart by conflict and is situated at The Quays, a waterfront destination two miles from Manchester city centre.

### Rylands Library

The John Rylands Library, Deansgate, houses some of the most significant books and manuscripts ever produced. The magnificent neo-gothic building in Manchester's city centre is a major visitor attraction as well as a research library of world renown.

The collections include exquisite medieval illuminated manuscripts, examples of the earliest forms of modern



printing including the Gutenberg Bible as well as the personal papers of distinguished historical figures including Elizabeth Gaskell, John Dalton and John Wesley.

In 1920, a fragment of papyrus, with some of St John's gospel, was found in the Nile delta and placed in John Rylands Library; this was not catalogued as P52 until 1934. It is the oldest known piece of the New Testament and has been scientifically dated as originating between 125 and 150 AD.



### Buxton and the Peak District

The earliest known settlement in what is now Buxton dates from the Middle Stone Age or late Mesolithic period around 5300 BC. Stone Age farmers made the area their home at about 3500 - 1800 BC and left numerous monuments in the form of barrows and the famous henges at Arbor Low and Bull Ring. They were followed by dwellers of the Bronze Age whose stone circles and burial cairns are still visible around Stanton Moor and elsewhere. Evidence of Iron Age settlements can also be seen in the hill forts at Castle Naze and Castleton's Mam Tor.

The Romans called the town "Aquae Arnemetiae" which translates as "The Waters of the Goddess of the Spring". Buxton was an important Roman site with no less than three bath houses and a shrine, and only Bath ("Aquae Sulis"), was elevated to such levels with the granting of the appellation, "Aquae". Coins dating from 100 - 400 AD have been found in the area and there is

evidence of Romano British farming settlements throughout the period.

It wasn't until the Tudor period that the reputation of the spa waters was enhanced when Mary, Queen of Scotland, under the custodianship of the 6th Earl of Shrewsbury, was given leave to take the waters for her numerous ailments. The Hall, now the Old Hall Hotel was specially built to house her visits between 1573 and 1584. Georgian Buxton enjoyed only modest success but after 1850 visitors started to arrive by rail in substantial numbers to holiday and take the waters. New baths, a Pump Room, churches, hotels and hydros were built to accommodate them. The Stables were converted into the Royal Devonshire Hospital and had its magnificent slate roof added in 1881. The Pavilion and Gardens were laid out and in 1903, the Opera House was opened to much acclaim.

The popularity of Buxton as a holiday resort has been enhanced by a wide range of entertainments, dances and, as the heart of the Peak District, unrivalled scenery and walking.



### Lyme Park

Originally a Tudor house, Lyme was transformed by the Venetian architect Leoni into an Italianate palace. Some of the Elizabethan interiors survive and contrast dramatically with later rooms. The state rooms are adorned with Mortlake tapestries, woodcarvings attributed to Grinling Gibbons and an important collection of English clocks. The 6.8-hectare (17-acre) Victorian garden boasts impressive bedding schemes, a sunken parterre, an Edwardian rose garden, Jekyll-style herbaceous borders, lake, a ravine garden and Wyatt conservatory. The garden is surrounded by a medieval deer park, with herds of red and fallow deer, covering almost 566 hectares (1,400 acres) of moorland, woodland and



parkland and containing an early 18th-century hunting tower (The Cage). Lyme appeared as 'Pemberley' in the BBC's adaptation of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

## The Museum of Science and Industry

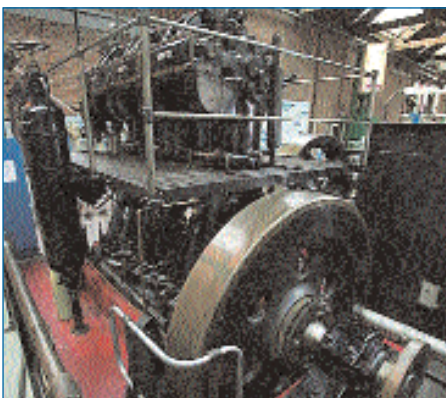
Today the Museum occupies the former Liverpool Road Station, one of Manchester's most important historic sites. Liverpool Road Station, which opened in 1830, is the world's oldest surviving railway station. It only operated as a passenger station from 1830 to 1844, but continued as a goods station until 1975 when British Rail closed it.

At that time, the Museum needed a permanent home. Opened in 1969, the North Western Museum of Science and Industry quickly outgrew its temporary premises on Grosvenor Street, Chorlton-on-Medlock. Its main funder, Greater Manchester Council, agreed to purchase the 1830 part of Liverpool Road Station from British Rail for the token sum of £1 in 1978. Greater Manchester Council later decided to purchase the eastern end of the Station too.

The Museum opened at its new site on 15 September 1983, the 153rd anniversary of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway. Initially, only the Power Hall and parts of the Main Building and Station Building were in use. Now funded by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, the Museum has continued to restore the buildings to hold new galleries and facilities.



*Liverpool Road Station Sundial*



*A Mirlees Internal-combustion Engine*

## Chatsworth House

Chatsworth is one of Britain's best loved historic sites and offers something for everyone to enjoy, from famous works of art, young animals and the spectacular fountains in the garden to the finest shopping, food and drink and many miles of walks. This home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire is set in the magnificent landscape of Derbyshire's Peak District National Park.

The house, garden, farmyard, adventure playground, gift shops and restaurant are open every day during May 2008, and the one thousand acre park and the farmshop and its restaurant are open all year round.

Chatsworth has one of Europe's finest private art collections, built up by successive generations of the Cavendish family over nearly five centuries, and still growing today. The collection encompasses 4,000 years of art and craftsmanship, from ancient Classical sculpture to modern work by Lucian Freud, Sean Scully and Edmund de Waal.

It includes objects as diverse as Royal thrones, a giant ancient Greek marble foot, a lace cravat carved from wood, Dutch flower vases, the titanium fan of a Rolls Royce jet engine, a Victorian painting of a poodle pretending to be a judge in court and a clock made of Russian malachite - all objects of wonder and delight.

Chatsworth has a long tradition of welcoming local people and holiday makers from around the world. We recommend that you allow at least five hours to see all that Chatsworth has to offer.



*The Chapel at Chatsworth built in 1688 (by kind permission of Chatsworth House Trust)*



## Manchester Art Gallery

Manchester Art Gallery is part of Manchester City Galleries, a department of Manchester City Council, which operates four venues in and around the city:

- Manchester Art Gallery
- The Gallery of Costume
- Heaton Hall
- Wythenshawe Hall

Here the city's internationally renowned and designated collections of fine art, decorative art and costume are cared for. An ambitious programme of temporary exhibitions and displays, public events and education programmes is promoted throughout the year.

The main venue, Manchester Art Gallery, was re-opened in 2002 after a four year, £35m redevelopment. Since then it has won several national awards and developed a reputation for high quality, family friendly services.

Manchester City Galleries is the lead organisation of the North West Museums Hub, part of a national framework set up by Government through the Renaissance in the Regions programme, to develop centres of excellence for museums and audiences.

## Manchester Central Library Centenary Exhibition

The history of the Catenian Association from the beginning of the 'Chums' to the current day will be exhibited with artifacts and memorabilia during the period 14th April to 30th May 2008 in the Manchester Central Library. This venue is one of Manchester's most prestigious and iconic buildings and only a short walk from the city centre hotels. It is expected to attract considerable interest from the public and wider Catholic community.

**The Manchester Provinces 1 and 17 look forward to welcoming you to our city for the Centenary Conference in May 2008. There is still time to send in your booking form issued with November's Catena and now available to print from the Conference link through the members pages of the Association website [www.thecatenians.com](http://www.thecatenians.com)**