

The image shows a banner for Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd. The top part is a solid blue rectangle containing the text 'Hadrian's Wall' in a large, white, sans-serif font, with 'Heritage Ltd' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. The bottom part of the banner is a photograph of the Hadrian's Wall, a stone wall built on a grassy hillside, with rolling hills and trees in the background under a clear sky.

Hadrian's Wall  
Heritage Ltd

PRESS RELEASE

### **Hadrian's Wall Twitter writing challenge**

Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd is challenging people to Tweet about Britain's most famous historic landmark using no more than the 140 characters (about 22 words) allowed by Twitter.

The organisation has joined the social networking group as part of its campaign to publicise The Living Frontier, a series of dramatic re-enactment events during the spring half term holiday. Using the Twitter profile Emperor Hadrian the team at Hadrian's Wall Heritage is starting to update people about all the exciting events that are planned between 26 and 31 May.

Now Emperor Hadrian is calling on people to use their creative writing skills by sending a Tweet about Hadrian's Wall with the chance to win an iPod nano 8GB. Apart from sticking to the 140 character limit the only other requirement is that you use the words 'Hadrian's Wall' in your tweet.

The competition will be judged by the author and broadcaster Eric Robson, who is also a board member of Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd. He says: "We want to

see just how well people can write about the Wall with only 140 characters available to them. I think it'll be a great test of people's creative writing skills! The key to success will be thinking very carefully about the words you use.

"It doesn't matter whether or not you've had the chance to see Hadrian's Wall first hand yet. You could write about your experience of visiting the Wall or maybe just what you think about Hadrian's Wall as an engineering achievement. You could even create a very short story about Hadrian's Wall. The sky's the limit."

To enter the competition just email a link to your Tweet to [comms@hadrianswallheritage.co.uk](mailto:comms@hadrianswallheritage.co.uk) and put Hadrian's Wall Twitter Competition in the heading or add it to 'The Wall' on The Living Frontier Facebook page.

The competition will close at 5pm on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> of May and the winner will be announced early the following week. A selection of the best entries will also appear on the Hadrian's Wall Heritage website.

Twitter is a free social networking and micro-blogging service that enables its users to send and read other users' updates known as Tweets. It has become increasingly popular over the last year, partly due to celebrity users like Stephen Fry, and there are now millions of people tweeting all over the world.

The Living Frontier will bring 2,000 years of history to life in vivid and spectacular detail along one of the world's most famous frontiers.

The events are being led by Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd and form part of North East England's word-class programme of festivals and events developed by culture<sup>10</sup> which is celebrating heritage and landscape in 2009. Carlisle Renaissance is providing support, alongside other partners, to make sure the

programme features the city's unique Historic Quarter as one stop along the western end of the Wall in Cumbria.

Senhouse Alive! will start the Living Frontier celebrations at Maryport at the western end of the World Heritage Site on 26<sup>th</sup> May including historical tours, Roman food and a chance to make your very own Roman goddess.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> May a march of Romans and other re-enactors on Carlisle Castle will launch the Carlisle Historic Quarter which contains the Castle, the Cathedral, Tullie House and the Guildhall. This dramatic event will act as a preview for the 500 or so re-enactors spread along the Roman sites in Hadrians Wall Country for the following three days.

Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd, working closely with the Ermine Street Guard has recruited re-enactors from all over Europe and created a full Roman Century (80 soldiers) – the first time this will have been seen on Hadrian's Wall for over 1600 years. From their encampment at Corbridge Roman Site they will make visits to a number of sites in Hadrian's Wall Country, as well as presenting full drill exhibitions and living history displays at Corbridge.

Other events will include a living history camp involving Border Reivers – the Steel Bonnets- at Birdoswald, where there will be weapon and show drills with muskets and other period equipment and an interactive 'court martial'.

The Sealed Knot will set up camp in Carlisle Castle on the 29<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> May. Visitors will get a flavour of what it was like at the time of the Siege of Carlisle Castle in 1645, including parade ground demonstrations and troops manning the battlements.

Vindolanda will be the site of an encampment that not only recreates Roman military life but shows how the civilians and families lived almost 2000 years ago.

The Roman Army Museum will provide a taste of history with cookery demonstrations from key periods in the history of Hadrian's Wall.

Once a Roman Cavalry fort, Chesters will provide displays of equestrian and falconry skills, while Corbridge Roman Town will host one of Britain's best known re-enactor groups – the Ermine Street Guard. There will also be events at Housesteads.

At the eastern end of the Living Frontier, Segedunum and Arbeia will also celebrate with displays from the Viking era.

The highlight of The Living Frontier events will be a spectacular ninety minute pageant at Tynedale Rugby Ground in Corbridge on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 8.00pm. The event will bring together all the re-enactors and their frontier stories in a spectacular show which will mix storytelling with technical wizardry and bring 'veterans' from key eras of the Wall's history back through the mists of time to re-live their glory days.

Tickets for the pageant will cost £10 for adults and £5 for children. Anyone who buys a ticket for the event will save 50% on admission charges from 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May at all the other venues where the Living Frontier events are taking place.

Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd is funded by One North East, the North West Development Agency, English Heritage and Natural England to protect and promote the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, the Hadrian's Wall National Trail and the landscape which it runs through in a sustainable way that will preserve this unique part of England for future generations.

For further information, times and tickets visit [www.livingfrontier.com](http://www.livingfrontier.com) or telephone 01434-322002.

To find out more about Hadrian's Wall Country go to [www.hadrians-wall.org](http://www.hadrians-wall.org).

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To get updates about the events you can follow @EmperorHadrian on Twitter or join The Living Frontier Facebook group.

## **Ends**

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## **Notes to Editors**

1. Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd was set up in May 2006 in partnership with One NorthEast (One), the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA), Natural England and English Heritage.

2. Hadrian's Wall Heritage works in partnership with a number of organisations. It brings together business and conservation, visitors and local communities in a uniquely focused way, with the overall aim of:

- Creating jobs and enhancing the local economy
- Attracting more visitors who will stay longer and spend more in the area
- Creating a vibrant and sustainable visitor economy
- Finding better ways to interpret and protect an internationally recognised monument
- Making Hadrian's Wall a truly world-class destination

3. In order to protect this important and historic monument for future generations we would be grateful if editors do not use photographs of people standing on top of the Wall as this is counter productive to our

conservation messages. Hadrian's Wall Heritage has a large image library available to support news stories and travel features. Journalists can contact the organisation direct to obtain access to this library. It is also important not to use photographs of cyclists or horses next to the Wall.