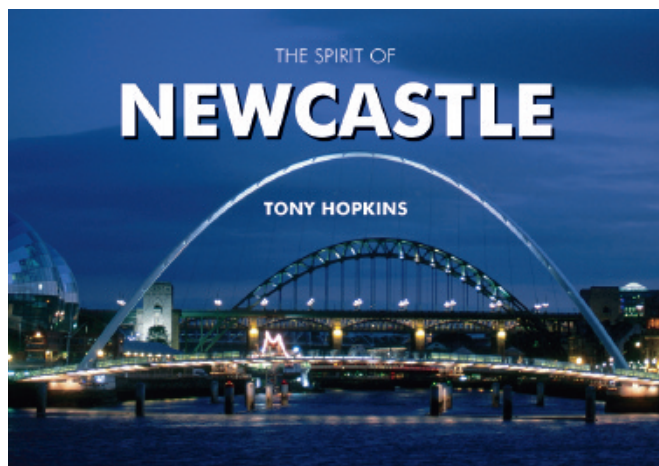


THE SPIRIT OF NEWCASTLE

Tony Hopkins



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Newcastle is one of Britain's most vibrant and hospitable cities, a mix of ancient and modern with a skyline as distinctive as New York and a contemporary culture the equal of any in Europe. The city has been a key settlement at least since Roman times. Pons Aelius, a bridge and fort at the start of the original Hadrian's Wall, lies at the foundation of modern Newcastle. Over and beside this stands a Norman keep, and close by are fragments of the medieval town walls that helped protect the settlement through the Border Wars. Shipbuilding and coal brought prosperity and expansion, and while the riverside was bustling and brash, the civic heart of the city centred on classical architecture and the elegant sweep of Grey Street and Grainger Town.

The mixture of grand buildings, green spaces, historical pubs and churches, a great river and a maritime outlook, have helped to give Newcastle/Gateshead a unique character. In recent years a revitalised Quayside has made the place the hub of contemporary art and music, and a successful football team, two universities and a thousand clubs and restaurants have kept its atmosphere lively and colourful, day and night.

The photographs in this book were taken over a period of three months, from late winter to early summer. Tony Hopkins has caught the spirit of Newcastle/Gateshead in a single heartbeat: the choice of material is based on the most exciting, beautiful and essential features of one of Britain's favourite cities.



Tony Hopkins is a writer, illustrator and photographer with a life-long involvement in field studies, conservation and countryside management. For fifteen years he was Interpretation Officer and Head of Visitor Services for Northumberland National Park, before leaving to establish a freelance career in countryside interpretation. Born and raised in Derbyshire, Tony lived in Northumberland for twenty-three years and has written and illustrated several acclaimed books about the farming, wildlife and cultural heritage of Northern England.



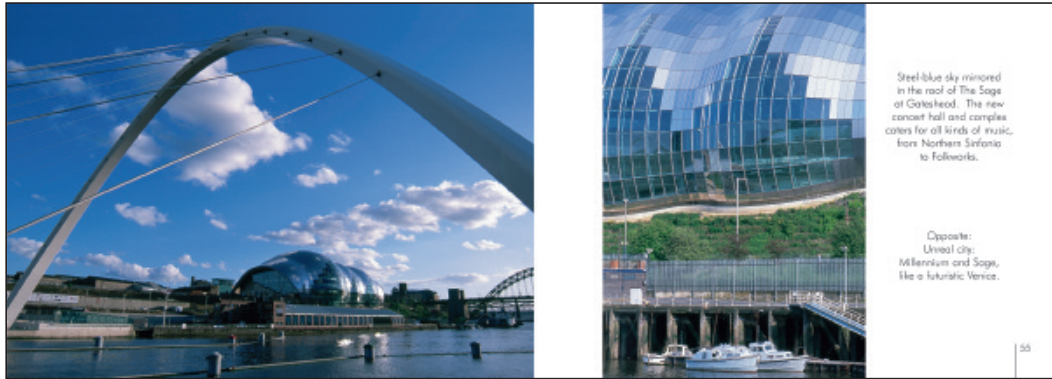
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THE GALLERY – THE SPIRIT OF NEWCASTLE



Some examples of double page spreads.



Above: The glory of Classical Newcastle: from Grey Street to the Castle Keep and High Level Bridge.

Left: The Castle Keep and Black Gate.

Far left: A lay-by on the A167 allows easy access to visit Antony Gormley's towering Angel of the North.



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