

New label for Victorian arms maker's statue

Monument to Newcastle inventor Lord Armstrong to have information panel despite no links to slavery

By Craig Simpson

THE statue of a pioneering Victorian inventor will be relabelled after a council review highlighted his profits from arms manufacturing.

Lord Armstrong of Craggside's innovations and philanthropy were recognised 120 years ago with a monument in his native Newcastle, where the council recently reviewed statues linked to "the slave trade or colonial abuses" following Black Lives Matter protests.

Despite finding no direct links between Lord Armstrong and slavery or

colonialism, the council has announced that the statue's panel will highlight his design and sale of weapons.

An internal review stated that the 19th-century engineer, who produced breech-loading guns for a global market, had "profited heavily from the armaments industry".

The industrialist knighted by Queen Victoria "sold arms", a report states, "not only to the abolitionist North but also to the pro-slavery Confederate South in the American Civil War".

The report adds: "Armstrong's company had a huge overseas salesbook arming nations across the globe, exemplified by the supply of warships to Japan ahead of their war with Russia. The Armstrong Gun had an influential role in many conflicts of the late 19th century."

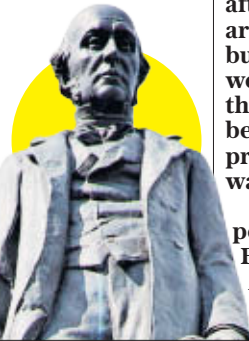
The council's review into the "appro-

Baron's life Acts of inventiveness and generosity to locals

William Armstrong was born the son of a corn merchant in 1810 in Newcastle, and trained as a lawyer.

As an amateur he developed a hydraulic crane for use in the shipyards, and his later hydraulic systems were used in Newcastle's Swing

Bridge and in London's Tower Bridge. Moved in 1854 by the plight of soldiers moving



heavy field guns in the Crimean War, he developed a breech-loading cannon, and after pivoting to armaments his business sold weapons around the world and began producing warships.

Raised to the peerage as Baron Armstrong in later life, he

resided at Craggside and gave endowments to North East museums, colleges, and hospitals.

The industrialist, who died in 1900, also gave the land surrounding his former family home in Jesmond Dene to the people of Newcastle.

priateness of commemorating" certain historical figures previously singled out a monument to soldiers killed in the Boer War known locally as the "Mucky Angel". The conflict's status as a "colonial enterprise" will also be reinterpreted with plans for new labels.

The council said it intended to place an information panel at the memorial to Lord Armstrong, who the report notes was "a great inventor, industrialist and benefactor to the city". The memorial stands outside the Hancock Museum in his native city, a natural history institution he largely paid for.

It is one of a number of legacies from the industrialist who died in 1900, which include the University of Newcastle and Jesmond Dene, a park area he gave to the people of the city.

Part of the fortune he made as an inventor, in which he developed the

hydraulics which power Tower Bridge, was also given to hospitals, including Newcastle's Royal Victoria Infirmary.

Lord Armstrong's Grade II-listed statue was last year added to the Topple the Racists database of monuments that "celebrate slavery and racism", and included in the council's inquiry.

The censoring of historical figures for indirect links to colonialism or slavery has been criticised for making tenuous connections between public monuments and past evils.

Dr Zareer Masani, an expert in the British colonial period, said: "If manufacturing and selling arms is enough to earn statues of public figures a badge of shame, might our self-appointed moral guardians go on to censor links with other parts of a production process that contributed, even indirectly, to war or conflict?"



Petal power

Dorset florist Kate White-Hamilton cuts tree lilies at her plot in West Chelborough in preparation for the Flower Farmers Big Weekend. The nationwide three-day festival starts today and gives flower lovers the chance to meet the horticulturists who grow them. Members of Flowers from the Farm group are keen to showcase the best of British blooms and aim to inspire visitors to find out more about locally grown, seasonal flowers.

Gainsborough saved paper by drawing on both sides

By Craig Simpson

THOMAS GAINSBOROUGH sketches uncovered by curators at Windsor Castle reveal that the artist used both sides of paper in a bid to save on materials.

Experts at the Royal Collection found that some of the chalk sketches have hidden artworks on the reverse, revealing that Gainsborough used both sides of his sheets when experimenting with compositions.

Curators discovered the 18th century painter's drawing habits while preparing his sketches for their first ever public display. The works were mounted in an album of drawings which prevented the viewer seeing the reverse side until the pieces had to be moved.

It is believed his use of both sides for the sketches, created during the 1740s

when he was in his early 20s, reveals a desire to save paper. Gainsborough may also have run out of paper while composing *en plein air* and been forced to use both sides of the sheets he had with him.

The works were first re-examined by curators in 2013 and it was revealed in 2017 that 25 drawings which had been attributed to Sir Edwin Landseer for more than a century were actually the work of a young Gainsborough.

But it would be a further four years before it was realised that four of the works are double-sided. The pieces include a study of a woman's head and drawings of various landscapes which may lend credence to the theory that he ran out of paper while working outdoors.

Curators also found pinholes in the



corners of several sketches, indicating that the pieces of paper were likely stuck to a portable drawing board he could take with him on excursions.

One sketch made on one of these

Twenty-five rediscovered landscape drawings by a young Thomas Gainsborough, including a sketch of Cornard Wood, left, are to go on display for the first time across England and Ireland



trips was of Cornard Wood in Suffolk, and it was this piece that revealed the true creator of the drawings.

Experts noticed that a preliminary drawing of the same landscape matched

the later, famous finished painting *Cornard Wood* they knew was the work of Gainsborough, and realised that the sketches had not been created by Landseer. The sketch and the painting will

be reunited for the first time in a Royal Collection exhibition titled *Young Gainsborough: Rediscovered Landscape Drawings*, which will travel to York Art Gallery from Oct 1, the National Gallery of Ireland from March 5 and Nottingham Castle from July 2 next year.

Rosie Razzall, the exhibition curator, said: "The reattribution of this group of drawings to Gainsborough was an exciting discovery. The exhibition will give visitors an insight into his early career and artistic techniques, as well as a chance to enjoy these beautiful drawings as works of art in their own right."

She added: "We are particularly grateful to the National Gallery in London for the opportunity to reunite one of Gainsborough best-known masterpieces, *Cornard Wood*, with its preparatory drawing for the first time."

60,000 EU citizens miss deadline to live and stay in UK

By Charles Hymas
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

NEARLY 60,000 EU citizens missed the deadline to apply to live and work in the UK, according to Home Office figures.

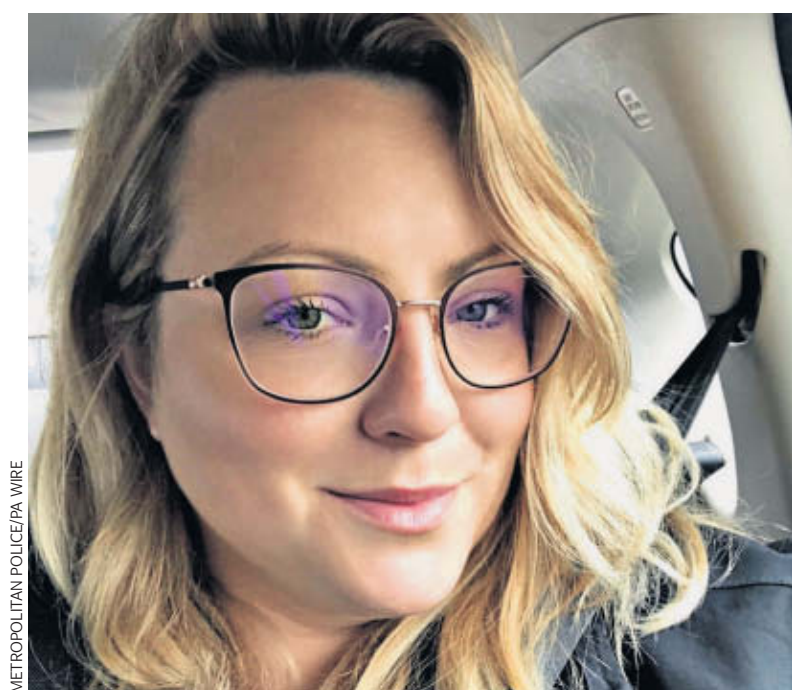
More than 58,000 applications were made to the EU Settlement Scheme in the month after the deadline passed, the data shows.

They will have to explain why they missed the closing date of June 30, although Home Office sources said the "reasonable grounds" to justify the failure to apply were drawn widely.

This could include not knowing they could apply for the scheme which has so far seen 6,015,400 applications.

A legal change last week granted them temporary protection so that they can continue with the same rights as they had before Brexit.

Poles, Romanians and Italians have led the way in applications to stay, with 1,091,500, 1,067,200 and 545,600 respectively. They were followed by Portuguese, Spanish and Bulgarian nationals, according to the data.



Crash questions The family of 32-year-old Melissa Burr, above, who died after becoming trapped under a bus that crashed outside Victoria Station on Tuesday "want to understand how such a tragedy occurred".

Lifestyle to blame for middle age spread, not slowing metabolism

By Joe Pinkstone
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE common excuse of a slowing metabolism for piling on the pounds in middle age holds no water, according to new research.

The spread is likely to be down to lifestyle factors such as exercise and diet. An international team, led by Duke University, US, analysed the speed of a person's metabolism throughout life.

A newborn uses the same amount of energy as adults pro rata, accounting for the difference in body size and mass.

However, their metabolism goes into hyperdrive, becoming 50 per cent faster by the time they are a year old.

"Something is happening inside a baby's cells to make them more active, and we don't know what yet," study co-author Herman Pontzer, professor of evolutionary anthropology, said.

This intense pace continues until a child is two years old but then slows by about three per cent a year. The gradual

fall continues until adulthood and stabilises at around 20 years old. This finding surprised scientists as it flies in the face of common wisdom, which states that metabolism increases in adolescence.

The study also revealed metabolism remains steady between 20 and 60 years old. Contrary to what many think

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The age at which the body's gradual decline in metabolic rate from the age of two stabilises, contrary to popular belief

and tell themselves when they look in the mirror, there is no metabolism go-slow in a person's 30s, 40s or 50s.

More than 6,600 people from 29 countries took part in the study and individuals ranged in age from one week to 95 years old.

Participants drank special water

which consisted of "heavy" isotopes of hydrogen and oxygen that can be tracked to see how swiftly these are flushed out of a person's body.

This allows scientists to precisely gauge metabolic speed, and takes into account energy consumed by all bodily processes, from breathing and digesting to working out and walking the dog.

This technique is tried and tested, and decades of data from various institutions was pooled for the study, published in the journal *Science*.

As a result, this study is the most thorough analysis ever done of metabolic speed throughout a person's life.

"At 60 years of age, total and basal expenditure begin to decline, along with fat-free mass and fat mass," the researchers write.

"Adjusted total expenditure declined by 0.7 per cent per year, and adjusted basal expenditure fell at a similar rate.

"For subjects 90+ years of age, adjusted total expenditure was 26 per cent below that of middle-aged adults."