



Did you know there are many people connected to Sunderland who have helped socially just causes? Below are some examples of the courageous people who stood up for what they believed to be right.

James Field Stanfield

James Field Stanfield (1749-1824) was the first 'ordinary' sailor to become involved in transporting African slaves. James was horrified by what he saw on the slave ships and he began to write about his experiences. The descriptions of what he witnessed on board those ships were recorded in pamphlets that were published for others to read. As the word spread about how awful the conditions were for slaves aboard those ships, there arose a political movement to ban slavery and the slave trade. Those who supported it were called abolitionists. James's writings helped to inform the public about the plight of captured slaves and contributed considerably to the abolition movement. James lived in Sunderland between 1789 and 1796.

Baroness Anne Isabella Byron

Born in Elemore Hall, County Durham Lady Byron (1792-1860) was committed to social justice issues. She was very concerned about the need for prison reform and education; she herself was a talented poet and mathematician. Lady Byron lived at a time when women's voices weren't always heard, but despite this she founded the first Infants School and Co-Operative School in England. She also supported the abolitionist movement, and was one of only a few women to be commemorated in a painting of the World Anti-Slavery Convention 1840.

Norman Gaudie

Norman Gaudie was an accounts clerk on the North-Eastern Railway and a reserve footballer for SAFC (Sunderland Association Football Club). He was called up to serve as a soldier in the First World War. Norman was a Conscientious Objector - against war fighting, which meant he was exempt from combat. He refused to take military orders based on his religious conscience and became known as one of the 'Richmond Sixteen'. They were a group of men who objected to fighting on religious, political or social grounds who were tried in military court and sentenced to death. At the last moment the sentence was overturned and instead the Sixteen faced ten years imprisonment. Their heroic and courageous actions have had lasting impacts on the British Army and the global peace movement.