



14 January 2008

## **Big-hearted beCogent donates £5K to Summerlee**

Generous Airdrie-based beCogent is helping out with the heritage of the local area by donating £5000 to the Summerlee Redevelopment appeal fund.

Gilbert Cox MBE JP, her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Lanarkshire, was presented, on behalf of the Friends of Summerlee appeal, with the cheque which will be put towards additional extras in the museum's redevelopment.

Summerlee is Scotland's museum of Industrial Life and one of the country's leading visitor attractions. The Friends of Summerlee appeal fund is aiming to raise an additional £1million to enhance the existing £10 million costs of redeveloping the museum's main exhibition hall.

Jackie Lowe, Director of Human Resources at beCogent, said: "As beCogent is a major employer in the area, the company is extremely pleased to be able to put something back that will benefit the whole community. Young and old will be able to visit the new and spruced-up museum and hopefully get enjoyment from it for years to come.

"The people who work for beCogent are all in some way part of the heritage of the area and many have or had fathers and grandfathers who are part of the industrial heritage, which is why it is especially fitting to donate money to this project.

"We are certain that our donation will have aided in a positive way to the redevelopment of such an interesting and worthwhile museum."

Along with the redevelopment of the main exhibition hall, the new work will also see:

- the creation of a new entrance for the hall, incorporating enhanced visitor facilities including a café, shop and toilets
- the creation of an education and lifelong learning suite
- the refurbishment of the conservation workshops

Jim Francis, Summerlee Marketing and Sponsorship officer, said: "It is gratifying to receive this very generous £5000 donation today from beCogent in support of 'The Friends of Summerlee Appeal'.



To receive this from such a major employer in Airdrie does further recognise the close links built up over the years between Lanarkshire Industry and the people, young and old, who will again enjoy visiting Summerlee – ‘The Museum of Scottish Industrial Life’, on its re-opening in the summer.”

Summerlee is expected to reopen in July 2008. To find out about the appeal, email [SummerleeRedevelopmentAppeal@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:SummerleeRedevelopmentAppeal@northlan.gov.uk) or contact Jim Francis on 0141 304 1593 or 07921685924

**Ends.**

Notes to editors:

The Heritage Lottery Fund has contributed almost £5million to the redevelopment of Summerlee. Additional funding from the Scottish Museum Council, North Lanarkshire Council and various other private donations are helping to meet the estimated £10m cost of the project.

Summerlee visitor numbers stood at some 95,000 at the closure in summer 2006 and are expected to build to around 150,000 following the redevelopment.

**Issued by Beattie Communications ([www.beattiegroupp.com](http://www.beattiegroupp.com)) on behalf of beCogent.**

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