



## St James' Heritage & Environment Group

# Celebrating our Heritage may Event

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2pm-6pm**  
**St James' Church, Benwell**

**Join us on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May for our Celebration Event**

Annual General Meeting starts at 2pm followed by showing of "Stories from the Past" – a film record of our 2011 *Children in the Churchyard* project

Then enjoy refreshments and activities until 6pm including an opportunity to "Meet the ancestors" – our talented volunteers will be in place around the graveyard to tell you about some of the illustrious people buried there

If the sun shines, you might like to help us plant some more flowers to brighten up this important local heritage site

*Free of charge to members of the Heritage & Environment Group  
(Membership costs £2 for the year or £10 for Life Membership)*



### **New Life Membership Scheme**

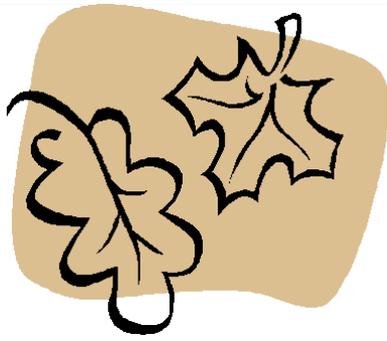
This year we are launching a new Life Membership scheme. For only £10 you can buy a life membership of the Group which entitles you to free entry to all our events and activities.

#### **What happens to your money?**

Thank you for your support. The Group is still wholly run by volunteers and all the money we raise goes towards improving the graveyard and running events, activities and projects to explore and celebrate our heritage and environment. Your subscriptions are vital to help pay for things like postage and stationery, teas and coffees for the graveyard volunteers, and basic equipment and materials. Thanks to all our members and supporters.

### **See over for News about our recent activities**

Discovering a third Bishop.....Pit Disasters.....New website.....Storytelling



## Visit the graveyard

If you would like to help, or just want to look around the graveyard or ask a question about family or local history, visit us on a Tuesday afternoon between 2.00 – 3.30pm or ring on 0191 2528675. We have a data-base of the graves and a complete copy of the St James' burial records.

You can get a light lunch before at *Lunchbreak* in the church hall between 12-2pm or have a cup of tea during the afternoon.

### **Grave of Bishop Lloyd rediscovered**

March 11<sup>th</sup> this year saw a historic event in St James' graveyard. The grave of Bishop Thomas Arthur Lloyd was re-dedicated by the current Bishop of Newcastle at a special service following the restoration of the grave from its previous damaged state. Bishop Lloyd was the third bishop of Newcastle. He lived at Benwell Towers (which later became the Mitre pub) until his death in 1907. He chose to be buried at his local church rather than the splendour of the cathedral. Lloyd's grave was one of those uncovered by our Graveyard Group during the major clearance of the graveyard during the past couple of years. We have produced a booklet about Bishop Lloyd and his links with Benwell – available free.

### **Tyneside Pit Disasters**

Another new booklet from St James' Heritage and Environment Group in its local history series documents the major pit disasters on Tyneside over the past 200 or so years. Coal mining used to be the biggest employer here, and it was a dangerous occupation. In the 1920s a miner died for every 279,000 tons of coal produced. 2012 is a particularly important year to remember the number of miners who died in pit accidents, as two of the worst disasters - New Hartley (150 years ago) and Felling (200 years ago) - are commemorated this year. The booklet was produced to coincide with a big event in March run by the Group in partnership with the Mining Institute. More than 50 people joined a tour and series of talks about coal mining and pit disasters, culminating in a special service at St Margaret's Church in Scotswood to commemorate the 1925 Montagu Pit Disaster.



### **Storytelling event**

Join us on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 1pm for a family event in the graveyard with storyteller Chris Bostock. Stories, activities and refreshments. Free event. No unaccompanied children. Adults must be accompanied by children.

## **CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE**

We are in the process of developing a website that will give information about forthcoming events, news, photographs and publications and much, much more.

You can find it by linking to "<http://stjameschurchnewcastle.wordpress.com>"

### **Contact us: St James' Heritage and Environment Group**

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