



St James' Heritage & Environment Group

Summer Celebration Event

Tuesday 2nd September 2 - 4pm
St James' Church, Benwell



Annual General Meeting (starts at 2pm)

Launch of our new Graveyard Guide - be the first to have one!

Strawberry cream tea (priority given to people who book)

Smell the flowers - Enjoy the graveyard in the sunshine

help us to make the graveyard even more beautiful
do you have any plants you could donate?

Join us on Tuesday 2nd September for our Summer Event

Free of charge to members of the Heritage & Environment Group

Thank you again for your support

The Group is wholly run by volunteers. 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, stationery and basic equipment and materials. Thank you to all our members and supporters.

Visit the church and graveyard - Tuesdays 12 - 4pm

Every Tuesday we run a drop-in session at St James' for anyone who would like to look around the church or graveyard, view our exhibitions and publications, search our records of the burials at St James', or look for other information about local or family history.



There is also a full programme of activities happening on a Tuesday afternoon - including guided tours and slide shows - see our website or the printed programmes for details.

Or just drop in for a cup of tea and see what is happening.

Volunteers needed

The Group has grown from a small group of people meeting to attack the weeds and rubbish in the overgrown graveyard to a busy community organisation running events, producing books, and putting on exhibitions. It is still run by volunteers. It is independent of the church, and you don't have to be a church-goer to get involved.

Interested in helping? We welcome any help with running the Tuesday drop-in or special events, researching local history, tidying and working in the graveyard, or anything else. Regular or occasional help welcome. If you would like to discuss this, visit us on a Tuesday afternoon between 12 -4pm or email stjamesbenwell@gmail.com

News from St James'

Once again the builders have been busy at St James' Church. Last year the building was completely re-roofed, which means that is now dry inside and no longer smells of damp and mould! It also means that this precious heritage building is no longer at risk of serious damage from water penetration.

This summer the church hall and porch have been re-plastered and are about to be painted. No more black mouldy patches or flaking plaster! This is yet another important step in the slow but sure process towards making St James' into a high quality venue for heritage and culture activities in the west end.

By September we hope that the hall will be ready for us to set up a permanent local and family history resource and display area so that visitors can consult burial records and other family history research resources, watch archive films, and browse local history publications.

What's New?

These are some of the highlights of the Heritage & Environment Group's current work.

Tuesdays at St James'

The Tuesday afternoon drop-in at St James' has grown and developed over the past 12 months. As well as welcoming visitors who call to see the church and graveyard or look at our exhibitions, we now run a programme of activities on Tuesday afternoons. This includes regular guided tours of the church and the graveyard, and also a new programme of "Benwell Memories" tours around the local area. There are also slide shows of old photographs run by West Newcastle Picture History Collection and archive film showings.

Children in the graveyard

We have realised that St James' graveyard is a wonderful resource for helping children to learn about local history and the environment. During this last year, with funding from Make Your Mark and the Community Foundation LEAF fund, we have run a series of sessions for local schools and other organisations to bring groups of children in to do organised activities focusing on the history of their area and the people who lived in it over the past 200 years and on the wildlife and natural environment. We have just been successful in obtaining another grant which means we can continue and develop this work.

Men's Lives

Coming soon - "Men's Lives in the West End of Newcastle", the newest book from St James' Heritage and Environment Group. It contains personal stories from men who have lived or worked in the area, capturing their memories and experiences of working in jobs or industries that have disappeared or changed radically. The book also includes memorable images from the unique collection of archive photographs gathered by West Newcastle Picture History Collection.

Currently on display at Fenham Library is an exhibition linked with the Men's Lives project

West End Stories in the Community

Now in Denton Burn Library - our "West End Stories in the Community" exhibition. This is part of a two-year programme of exhibitions in venues across Benwell and Scotswood showing objects that tell stories about the changing west end. Some of these are objects from Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums which have been hidden away in storage for years. Others are personal objects belonging to local residents and other people.

St Joseph's Church

St Joseph's RC Church in Armstrong Road closed suddenly last year. This was an important local landmark and cherished by many in the local community and beyond. The Heritage & Environment Group is collecting pictures and memories of St Joseph's for an exhibition celebrating its history. All contributions welcome.

Bringing it Back Home: Remembering the First World War

It is a hundred years since the start of the First World War.

St James' Heritage and Environment Group and other local organisations are involved in a local project looking at the impact of the War on the people of Benwell and Scotswood.

We are interested in finding out how the War affected families - whether they lived in this area a hundred years ago or whether they have moved here more recently.

CAN YOU HELP US?

Do you have any information or stories about what happened to people during or as a result of the War?

- People who fought in the 1914-18 war?
- People who did munitions or other war work?
- What life was like at home during the War?
- Families left in poverty or distress as a result of the War?

We would love to hear from you if you have any stories, information, photographs or other material.

Contact us:

Drop in to St James' Church any Tuesday afternoon between 12-4pm

Write c/o Search, 74 Adelaide Terrace, Benwell, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 9JN

Email: stjamesbenwell@gmail.com



Did you know?

The War Memorials for Benwell and Scotswood are at St James' Church, Benwell, and St Margaret's Church, Scotswood. There are also memorials in the graveyard and church to people who died in the First World War.

Can you tell us anything about the people commemorated on these War Memorials?