



## St James' Heritage & Environment Group

# WINTER CELEBRATION EVENT *Christmas Past & Present*

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

*Join us on Tuesday 2nd December for our Winter Event*

### *Christmas golf*

*Have a go at our special Christmas indoor golf game with Rookie Golf*

### *Willow wreaths*

*Make your own Christmas wreath from willow with Linda (from 1pm)*

### *Picture History quiz*

*How well do you know the west end? Try our picture history quiz*

### *Chocolate quiz*

*Let Santa Claus tempt you with his chocolate quiz*

### *Mince pies and mulled wine*

*Refreshments include tea, coffee, mulled wine and mince pies served by angels*



*Free of charge to members of the Heritage & Environment Group*

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

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

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

Tel 0191 2528675 Email: [stjamesbenwell@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesbenwell@gmail.com)

website: <http://stjameschurchnewcastle.wordpress.com>

*Drop in and see us at St James' - 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, see our exhibitions and publications, watch archive film from the local area, search our records of the burials at St James' or look for other information about local or family history, or just have a cup of tea and a chat.

There is also a full programme of activities happening on a Tuesday afternoon - including guided tours, family history advice sessions, slide shows and archive film showings - for details see enclosed programme or look at our website (<http://stjameschurchnewcastle.wordpress.com>).

### **Interested in helping?**

The Heritage and Environment 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.

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

### *Goodbye to the damp and mould at St James'*

The church hall at St James' has undergone an amazing transformation. No more water pouring in when it rains. No more damp and mouldy plaster. As well as having a new roof, the hall has now been completely re-plastered and painted. Next to arrive will be some new cafe-style tables, thanks to a recent grant.

The hall is now bright and fresh-looking - a perfect setting for our current exhibition *Exploring our past, present and future in felt* - a colourful display of felting pictures created by the local community. The exhibition is at St James' until Christmas. Visit at the following times: Tuesdays 12-4pm and Thursdays 9.30-11.15 am.

The next step in the programme of improvements to St James' will be to install a new suspended ceiling and floor in the hall. The money for this has yet to be raised, so all donations are very welcome!



## *New publications*

New this autumn from the Heritage & Environment Group:

*A Guide to St James' Graveyard* - opened in 1833 when the area was mainly green fields and mansions, St James graveyard tells the story of the changing area and the people who lived in it. Pick up a copy of our new guide and read about some of the people buried there from Richard Grainger the famous developer of Newcastle's Victorian city centre to the unfortunate pitmen killed down the local coalmines.

*Men's Lives in the West End of Newcastle* - stories and photographs from men who have lived or worked in the area, capturing their memories and experiences of working in jobs or industries that have now disappeared or changed radically.

### *Looking for advice about family history?*

Do you have any queries about burials at St James' ? Are you looking for advice about researching the history of your family and its links with Benwell? Do you have any old photos of your family or this area you would like to share? We run monthly family history advice sessions on the first Tuesday of the month - 6th January, 3rd February, and 3rd March, between 2-4pm.

## *Discover the Romans beneath your streets*



Drop in to St James' on **Friday 13th February** between 1-4pm to find out more about the Romans on Tyneside and hear about the findings of the 2013-14 Wallquest archaeological excavations in Pendower.

Talk at 2pm by Nick Hodgson

Exhibition on show at St James' every Tuesday 12-4 and Thursday 9.30-11.15 January to April

## *Join our Benwell Memories tours in 2015*

Come on one our amazing guided tours (indoor slide show alternative if weather is bad) All tours start and end at St James'. Choose from:

<i>Discover the historic church of St James'</i>	- Tues 6th January 2pm
<i>Remembering Adelaide Terrace</i>	- Tues 20th January 2pm
<i>Explore St James' Graveyard</i>	- Tues 3rd February 2pm
<i>Trace the legacy of the Buddle Atkinsons</i>	- Tues 17th February 2pm
<i>The grand mansions of Benwell Lane</i>	- Tues 3rd March 2pm
<i>The legacy of coalmining in Benwell</i>	- Tues 17th March 2pm
<i>Discover the historic church of St James'</i>	- Tues 31st March 2pm

# Bringing it Back Home: Remembering the First World War

Our local project looking at the impact of the First World War on the people of Benwell and Scotswood is now underway.

We are keen to involve local children in finding out about how the War affected this area. This autumn about fifty children from Bridgewater Primary School worked with the historical drama group Time Bandits to find out what the War meant for local families. This culminated in a performance for parents at the school where the children acted out true stories about the impact of the War.

There are also a variety of activities for adults, including between now and Easter:

**Tours and workshops** linked with the special *Screaming Steel* exhibition of paintings and poetry from the First World War. These are happening between 10th-24th November (see our website or contact Search tel 2737443)

**Two talks** at the West End Library as part of our *Local History Monday* programme - Mike Greatbatch talking about Fenham on the event of the First World War on 19th January at 1pm and Rosie Serdiville talking about home life during the War on 16th March also at 1pm.

**Three archive film** showings at our Tuesday drop-in at St James' all starting at 2pm. *Forgotten stories of World War 1* on January 27th, *The Home Front in the First World War* on February 24th, and *More from the Home Front* on March 24th.

And more to come later such as a concert and a major exhibition at St James', a heritage trail of sites linked to the First World War, and special events and visits.

## CAN YOU HELP US?

Do you have any information or stories about what happened to people during or as a result of the War? We would love to hear from you if you have any stories, information, photographs or other material about people who fought in the War, people who did munitions or other war work, or about the impact of the War on home life.

## DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF THESE PEOPLE?

The War Memorials for Benwell and Scotswood are at St James' Church, Benwell, and St Margaret's Church, Scotswood. Can you tell us anything about the people commemorated on these War Memorials?

### Does anyone know anything about these Benwell men who were killed during the First World War?

E Adams	J S Cameron
A Convery	R Carr
E Armstrong	G Dalglish
J W Armstrong	H Dawson
W Armstrong	T Dunbar

