

Ready for a walk?

There are several heritage walking guides available if you fancy doing a walk through the history of this area.

You can pick up copies of these and other leaflets from Search or local libraries, or download them from this website:

stjameschurchnewcastle.wordpress.com

- ◆ Exploring 19th century Elswick: a heritage trail
- ◆ Condercum: from the Romans to the bankers
- ◆ Benwell's Big Houses: a heritage trail
- ◆ A Guide to St James' Graveyard

Fire your imagination with a photographic journey

Have you visited West Newcastle Picture History Collection to see the unique collection of over 20,000 photographs of West Newcastle from the 1850s to the present day. Drop in to the West End Library, Condercum Road, any Monday between 10-4pm.

This leaflet is produced by St James' Heritage & Environment Group in partnership with Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums.

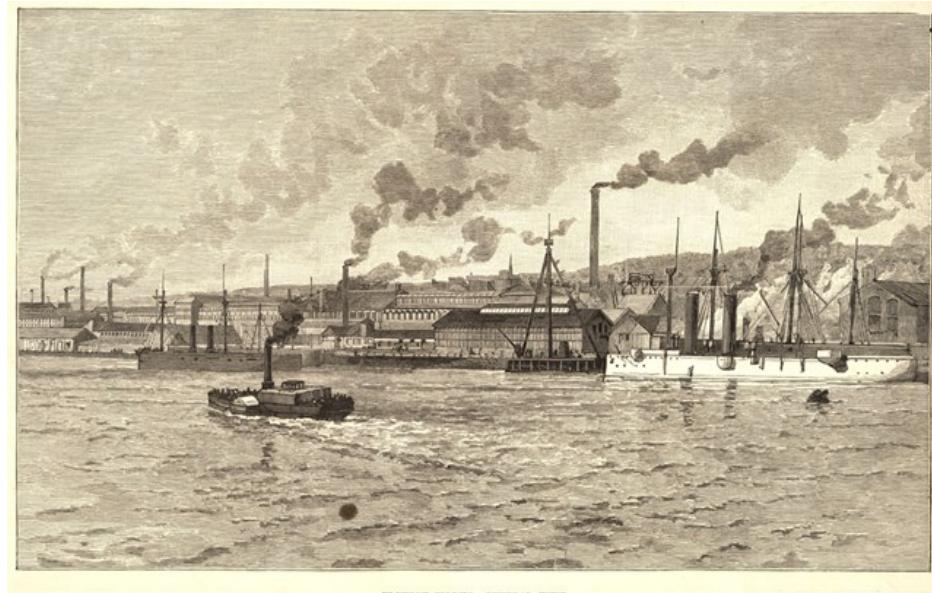
For more information or to contact us:

Visit us Tuesdays from 12-4 at St James' Church, Benwell Lane
Write to us **c/o Search, 74 Adelaide Terrace, Benwell, Newcastle, NE4 9JN**

Walking through our history Elswick & Benwell

You don't have to visit a museum to find interesting history.

When you walk around Elswick and Benwell, history is all around you.



Take a walk through history.

Here are just some of the sights to see.



Visit the Romans

Hadrian's Wall ran through present day Elswick and Benwell. The West Road marks its route. A Roman fort called Condercum stood at the highest point, giving a good view of the countryside all around. This picture shows what the fort looked like 2000 years ago. You can still see the remains of a Roman temple on Broomridge Avenue, and a vallum crossing on Denhill Park (signposted off the West Road).



Built on coal

There used to be dozens of coal mines across this area. The Charlotte Pit pictured here was the last to close, in the 1930s. The council depot on Condercum Road stands on the site now, and there are still traces of the old pit buildings there. Condercum Road was previously called Charlotte Pit Lane. Coal was transported from the pit on a waggonway which ran down to the river, crossing Benwell Lane and passing through what is now St James' graveyard. Atkinson Road south of Armstrong Road follows the route of the waggonway.

Remembering the Terrace



Adelaide Terrace is still a busy shopping street more than a hundred years after this photograph was taken. The oldest buildings on the Terrace are those on the left of this picture. They started off as houses, later converted to shops. Much has changed but there is still much of the street's history to be seen if you look carefully— the distinctive style of a Co-op store, a former cinema, the home of the minister of the Bond Memorial Methodist Church. Awake your memories as you walk along.



Stroll among the graves

The surrounding area has changed but Elswick cemetery with its Gothic gateway is still there 130 years after this picture. Located at the bottom of Grainger Park Road, this is the biggest cemetery in Newcastle, covering 28 acres. There you can find the memorial to the 38 men and boys who died in the town's worst ever mining disaster at the Montagu Pit in Scotswood. Among the other interesting graves to be seen are those of Dr Gibb, a real Newcastle doctor whose memory is preserved in the song "Blaydon Races". The cemetery is well worth a visit on a sunny day, but bear in mind that it is not easy to locate a particular grave in such a large area.



The original Cruddas Park

Elswick Dene House was built in the 19th century as the home of the Cruddas family. It was designed by John Dobson, the north east's foremost architect. George Cruddas was a founding partner alongside William Armstrong of the Elswick engineering works. The house survived the postwar clearance programmes, although it is now a hostel and not a family home. It stands south of Westmorland Road, near Brunel Terrace, below where the Loadman Street Estate used to be. You can see the building (now called Virginia House) through the metal gates



A peaceful river

Today you can walk all the way along the north bank of the Tyne on a landscaped path, enjoying the fresh air and the quiet, and looking at plants and birdlife. In the past, you wouldn't even have been able to see the river below Elswick as the whole area was covered by Armstrong's (later Vickers) giant engineering works. This was at one time one of the world's major manufacturers of armaments. It included a shipyard to make warships.