

St James' Heritage & Environment Group

WEST END LOCAL HISTORY PUBLICATIONS

Local history books

Elswick through the Years: in Maps and Pictures

This book uses maps and photographs to trace the development of Elswick from 1864 to 1989. During this 125 year period Elswick changed from a largely rural area to become one of the most densely populated and highly industrialised areas of Newcastle, but then experienced a prolonged period of economic decline and physical transformation.

St James' Heritage & Environment Group and West Newcastle Picture History Collection, 2017

Benwell through the Years: in Maps and Pictures

This book uses maps and photographs to trace the development of Benwell from 1864 to 1993. During this 130 year period it was transformed from a distinct rural area of green fields and big houses in landscaped grounds to become a densely populated and industrialised suburb of the city of Newcastle.

St James' Heritage & Environment Group and West Newcastle Picture History Collection, 2015

Never Felt So Good

The Benwell and Scotswood area has a long and interesting history, and today stands at the cusp of further change as a result of a major regeneration programme. This book is a colourful record of a project using the craft of felting to explore the community's views of their changing area. It is a vivid and moving celebration of the past, present and future of Benwell and Scotswood and the creativity of the people who live there.

St James' Heritage & Environment Group, 2015

Built on Coal: The Story of Coal Mining in Benwell, Scotswood and Elswick

Newcastle once led the world in the production of coal. Coal mining shaped the development of Benwell, Scotswood and Elswick, an area which can stake a claim to be one of the first coal producing areas in the world. It also hosted a number of important innovations such as waggonways and steam engines. This book tells the story of coal mining in this area, illustrated with maps, photographs and other archive material.

St James' Heritage & Environment Group and North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers, 2013

"Waiting at the Pit Head": Coal Mining Disasters on Tyneside

Coal mining was once the biggest employer in the North East. It was a hard and dangerous occupation. This small booklet remembers the thousands of miners who have died mining coal on Tyneside, including the 38 men and boys who were killed when the Low Montagu Pit in Scotswood flooded in 1925.

St James' Heritage & Environment Group and North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers, 2012

Women's Lives

The 20th century saw enormous changes in people's lives with the creation of the welfare state, changes in employment and the increasing availability of new consumer goods. What was it like to live in the west

end of Newcastle during this period? This book traces the changes in women's lives through the memories and photographs of local older women, telling their stories in their own words.

Riverside Community Health Project and St James' Heritage & Environment Group, 2012

Men's Lives

West Newcastle was formerly one of the most important industrial areas in the UK, home to diverse companies at the forefront of industrial development. There are few traces of this legacy today. This illustrated book captures the memories and experiences of older men from the area who worked in jobs or industries that have disappeared or changed radically.

St James' Heritage & Environment Group and West Newcastle Picture History Collection, 2014

A Guide to St James' Graveyard

St James' Church, Benwell, is one of the oldest churches in Newcastle. This book introduces some of the 12,300 people buried in its graveyard including pitmen, boatmen, soldiers, farmers, shopkeepers and inhabitants of the local workhouse, as well as members of many of the richest and most powerful families on Tyneside.

St James' Heritage & Environment Group, 2014

"The King of the Coal Trade": John Buddle

When John Buddle died in 1843, his funeral procession was over a mile long and took over three hours to travel from his home in Wallsend to the burial place in Benwell. Today few people remember who John Buddle was or why he was held in such high regard in his time. This illustrated booklet is an introduction to Buddle's life and his enormous significance to the coalmining industry in the north east and nationally.

St James' Heritage & Environment Group, 2011

Richard Grainger and the West End of Newcastle

Richard Grainger enjoys a reputation as the main force behind the regeneration of 19th century Newcastle. Grainger's connections with the west end of the city are less well known. This illustrated booklet describes how, after bringing about dramatic changes in the centre of Newcastle during the 1830s, he turned his attention westwards to Elswick, devising a master plan for the area that included new housing, factories, roads, railways, churches, and even a zoo.

St James' Heritage & Environment Group, 2013

Bishop Lloyd

This booklet describes the life and death of Bishop Arthur Thomas Lloyd, the third Bishop of Newcastle, who died in 1907 and is buried at St James' Church. He resided in Benwell Towers, home of the bishops of Newcastle since the establishment of the diocese in 1882.

St James' Heritage & Environment Group, 2012

The Boy and the Hall

One man's story of his lifelong connection with Benwell Hall.

Newcastle Community Heritage Project, 2008

Heritage trails and guides

What to see in St James' Church

This heritage guide outlines the history and development of St James' Church since its opening in 1833 as a small chapel designed by John Dobson. There is a self-guided trail for visitors to follow.

St James' Graveyard: Children's Challenge

This leaflet is an ideal introduction to St James' graveyard for people of all ages. It contains information about the history and wildlife of the graveyard and the local area, with a trail and activities suitable for groups or individuals.

War graves and memorials at St James' Church

This is a guide to the Commonwealth War Graves and family graves commemorating people who died on active service, and war-related memorials inside the church. It includes a plan showing the locations of these and information about some of the individuals commemorated.

Benwell's Lost Coalmines

This heritage trail takes you on a circular route following the legacy of coalmining in Benwell, including the route of the waggonway, the locations of pits, and the former homes of some of the wealthy coal-owners. On the way it points out where some of Benwell's "forgotten villages" once stood, including the former pit village of Paradise (of *Blaydon Races* fame).

Benwell's Big Houses

Benwell used to be home to some of the most wealthy and powerful people on Tyneside, and most of the area was occupied by large detached houses set in their own grounds. Today only a few of Benwell's big houses remain, but traces survive. This circular walk starts and ends at St James' Church, following clues to where the former big houses stood and who lived in them.

Condercum: from the Romans to the bankers

This heritage trail takes you around some of the historic sites of Condercum, an area of West Newcastle which was once the site of an important Roman fort. The circular walk starts and ends at St James' Church, following the trail of the Roman remains and the sites of the former mansions and big houses of later centuries.

Exploring 19th century Elswick

During the 19th century Elswick was transformed from green fields to a dense urban area. This circular walk starts and ends at the entrance to St John's cemetery, Elswick Road, following the trail of the grand houses, parks and graveyards that were built during this period.

Benwell and Elswick walking tour

An introduction to some of the interesting historical sites you can see by walking around Benwell and Elswick.

Alang the Road

This heritage trail traces the route followed by the bus passengers in the Geordie anthem *Blaydon Races* from Balmbras Music Hall to Blaydon, with information and images about some of the key historical sites to be seen along the way.

Benwell's Churches Past and Present

This illustrated heritage guide is an introduction to some of the many churches that once stood in the Benwell area with a location map showing where they stood.

Famous Historical Figures of the West End of Newcastle

This illustrated heritage guide will introduce you to a varied parade of people who live and worked in the west end in the past – from the Benwell spy to the Benwell bishop.

Films and audio recordings

Digital stories (listed separately) (films)

Bringing it back home (film)

A trip down the Tyne (film)

Blaydon Races 150th anniversary (film)

Men's Lives in the west end (audio recordings)

Stories in the Graveyard (audio recordings)

Local history resources for schools

2 sets – History Hunters and WW1

Heritage & Environment Group Newsletters