

West End Puzzles

Number 4

Wordsearches–Crosswords–Quizzes–Interesting facts

START HERE

Can you identify this building on the West Road

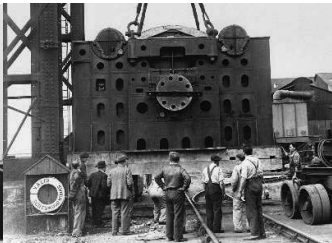
Answer on next page



INSIDE

How much do you know about your area?

INSIDE BACK PAGE Answers to crosswords and quizzes



Did you know?

The Shilling House



In 1925 a major mining disaster at the Low Montagu Pit in Scotswood resulted in the death of 38 men and boys. Various schemes were launched to provide financial assistance to the families of the victims. Perhaps the most imaginative fundraising idea was the Shilling House.

The Shilling House got its name because it was the first prize in a competition which cost one shilling to enter. The winner had to estimate the number of people using the Newcastle Tramways on 30th May 1925. The new house was donated by the proprietors of the Newcastle Daily Chronicle. It was valued at £1,500 which was a large sum at that time.

The Shilling House is on the West Road between Grange Road and Benwell High Reservoir. It was built in a modernist style as a demonstration house to illustrate the latest techniques in building with reinforced concrete.



This photograph from the West Newcastle Picture History Collection was taken about 1939.

Go West

WORDSEARCH

O	I	S	I	T	E	L	R	C	S	R	S	N	I
L	E	S	O	L	C	S	L	L	E	B	C	W	W
N	L	W	T	Y	D	A	M	A	S	O	M	O	A
O	Y	L	E	S	C	O	T	S	W	O	O	D	L
T	E	E	N	P	S	S	E	O	N	O	L	S	B
G	L	U	O	E	L	L	E	W	N	E	B	N	O
N	K	N	E	L	W	T	A	H	E	B	K	R	T
I	C	O	T	C	E	A	R	B	R	D	C	U	T
M	O	C	L	A	V	A	L	E	D	V	I	B	L
E	R	E	T	A	L	T	E	O	T	K	W	W	E
L	H	Y	E	L	G	U	S	L	E	K	S	E	L
N	T	Y	E	S	D	N	C	W	T	S	L	N	U
L	P	A	R	A	D	I	S	E	N	N	E	D	S
E	O	O	U	W	E	W	R	D	R	W	C	D	L

Join us on a journey along the West Newcastle riverside.
Can you find these places?

ELSWICK
BENWELL
PARADISE
DELAVAL

SCOTSWOOD
BELLS CLOSE
SUGLEY
LEMINGTON

NEWBURN
THROCKLEY
WALBOTTLE

DID YOU KNOW?

WHICH WAS FIRST

The Tyne Bridge or the Sydney Harbour Bridge?



Did you know that the Sydney Harbour Bridge in Australia was designed by the same architects as our Tyne Bridge? Opinions differ as to which came first. The photograph above shows the Tyne Bridge under construction in 1928 not long before it was opened. The Sydney Harbour Bridge (right) didn't open until 1932, but it took much longer to build because of its larger size, so construction began earlier.



LOCAL HISTORY QUIZ

Can you guess the dates ?

See how close you can get to the correct year when these local events took place

1. The opening of the second Scotswood Bridge that replaced the old Chain Bridge
2. The Animals' record "House of the Rising Sun" reached number one in the charts.
3. The New Tyne Theatre was first opened.
4. The first Tyne Tunnel for vehicles was opened.
5. The Great Flood of Newcastle which swept away the old bridge across the Tyne
6. The Hartley Pit Disaster which killed 204 miners.
7. The last ship built on the Tyne was launched.
8. The Siege of Newcastle when John Marlay led the defence of the town.
9. Newcastle Civic Centre was opened.
10. Benwell and Scotswood became part of Newcastle.
11. Newcastle Central Station was opened.

Answers - go to the next page for the answers

Can you guess the dates? QUIZ ANSWERS

1. The second Scotswood Bridge was opened in 1967 just west of the Chain Bridge. Before the Chain Bridge opened in 1831 there had been no crossing point between Newcastle and Corbridge.
2. The Animals' record "House of the Rising Sun" reached number one in the charts in 1964. Geordies were enraged when the BBC only played part of the record on Top of the Pops.
3. The New Tyne Theatre was first opened in 1867 as the Tyne Theatre and Opera House. It is a Grade 1 listed building, credited with being among the top 4% of listed buildings in England.
4. The first Tyne Tunnel for vehicles was opened in 1967. The pedestrian and cycle tunnels under the river had opened in 1951.
5. The Great Flood of Newcastle happened in 1771, causing a huge amount of damage including the destruction of the old bridge across the Tyne.
6. The Hartley Pit Disaster in 1862 caused the death of 204 miners and led to a change in law meaning that pits had to have at least two routes for miners to escape to safety in the event of an accident.
7. The last ship built on the Tyne was the "Largs Bay" which was launched in 2006, the year when Swan Hunters shipyard closed.
8. The Siege of Newcastle happened during the First English Civil War in 1644. John Marlay is widely hailed as the hero of the siege, but it is less well known that he fled with the contents of the treasury after the town fell to the besiegers.

9. Newcastle Civic Centre was completed in 1967 and officially opened by King Olaf of Norway in 1968.

10. Benwell and Scotswood became part of Newcastle in 1904. The previous Benwell and Fenham Urban District Council was based in a building on the corner of Atkinson Road and Armstrong Road in Benwell which still stands today.

11. Newcastle Central Station was opened in 1850, providing the first central station for a number of different railway lines.



Left: The new and old Scotswood bridges side by side in 1967, shortly before the Chain Bridge was demolished.

Right: Interior of New Tyne Theatre, 1890s



Left: Aftermath of the Great Flood of 1771

Remembering the ABC Minors



"As a kid growing up in 1950's Benwell, Saturday morning meant only one thing, a visit to "the Maj" Cinema on Condercum Road. Nothing would stop my visit to this emporium of children's entertainment. The weekly excitement would start as hundreds of us queued outside with our 6d entrance fee and a pocket full of gob-stoppers, cinder toffee and spangles. The open doors would be followed by a screaming scrum as we fought our way through the plush foyer to "baggs" the best seats in the house.

For two hours - with Mrs Rankin and a couple of other grown-ups in attendance - we escaped to another world. We laughed our way through Bugs Bunny, Abbot and Costello, and the three Stooges, and were then enthralled by Flash Gordon and his fight against Emperor Ming, before riding the range with Hopalong Cassidy as he put paid to all those bad guys. After a couple of verses of the ABC Minors Song we spilled back onto the streets and wended our way home happy and elated."

John Taberham

Did you know - about the Battle of Newburn?

Meet King Charles the 1st.
Did you know that one of the most significant events in the unfolding drama that led to the Civil War and his execution happened at Newburn?

The Battle of Newburn took place on 28th August 1640. A Scottish army was heading for Newcastle, which held a key economic role as the centre of the coal trade with London. The Scots decided to cross the river at Newburn to attack Newcastle from the south. They camped to the north and west of Newburn, and watched as the English army approached. As well as heavily outnumbering the English army, the Scots had a much better position on the higher ground. They set up cannons on the slopes, including in the steeple of the Church of St Michael and All Angels. The English army set up camp on the meadows of Ryton Willows, and hastily erected earth defences to protect the ford.

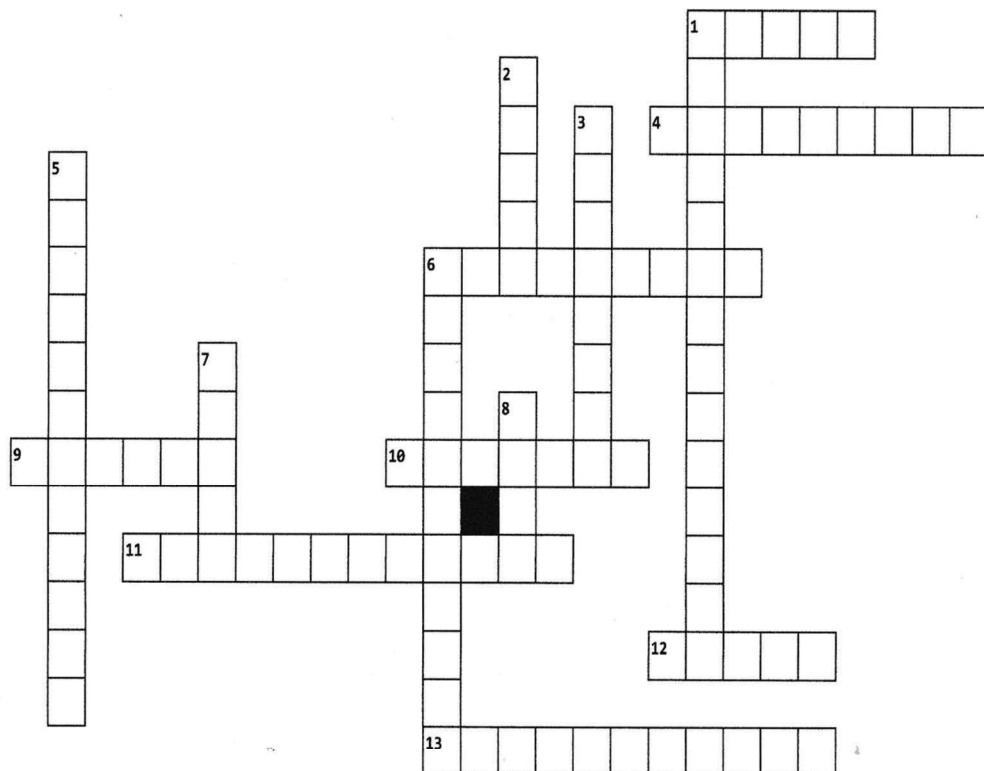
Most of the English soldiers were far from home, unpaid and not at all happy about being forced to join the army. When the battle began, the English defences collapsed quickly, and the troops abandoned their positions and retreated. The Scots then moved on Newcastle, finding it undefended as the English army had retreated south. King Charles was forced to make peace and to recall parliament. This in turn led to the struggles between king and parliament that were to lead to the Civil War.

Walking in this area today you may still find souvenirs from this battle, such as musket balls, cannon balls and fragments of bone.



ABC S CROSSWORD

All the answers begin with the letter S



ABC S CROSSWORD CLUES

Across

1. leader of Newcastle City Council from 1960-65: reputation permanently damaged by later corrupt activities (5)
4. one of towers on Newcastle's town walls: now Grade 1 listed (9)
6. Roman fort at Wallsend (9)
9. family that owned the manor of Benwell long ago: will Bonny Bobby come back and marry me? (6)
10. Newcastle-born footballer regarded as one of the greatest strikers of his generation; joined Newcastle United in 1996 (7)
11. road in Fenham linking West Road to central motorway east: used to be the access road to Silver Hill Farm (6,6)
12. lead singer of the band The Police; born in Wallsend (5)
13. neighbourhood just to the east of Newcastle city centre: name probably means field with a shelter (11)

Down

1. home of Sunderland football club (7,2,5)
2. bridge across Tyne, opened in 1879: built by WG Armstrong & Co to enable larger ships to sail downriver from the company's shipyard at Elswick (5)
3. Where I heard a lassie sing: street near Newcastle quayside, takes its name from one of the gates on the medieval town wall (8)
5. town at mouth of Tyne on south bank (5,7)
6. last shipyard to close on the Tyne (4,7)
7. cinema on Westgate Road in building now called New Tyne Theatre (5)
8. music venue on riverside at Gateshead (4)

Scotswood through the Years



In Maps and Pictures

In the middle of the 19th century Scotswood was a small village clustered above the banks of the Tyne. The rest of the area was mainly farmland. By the time of the Second World War it had become a dense residential area, part of the conurbation of Newcastle.

Left: Papermill Houses, 1905

Right: Scotswood Tower, c1880

Our new book traces the development of Scotswood over 125 years, using maps and photographs. These are just two of the many pictures featured. They come from the archive of West Newcastle Picture History Collection.



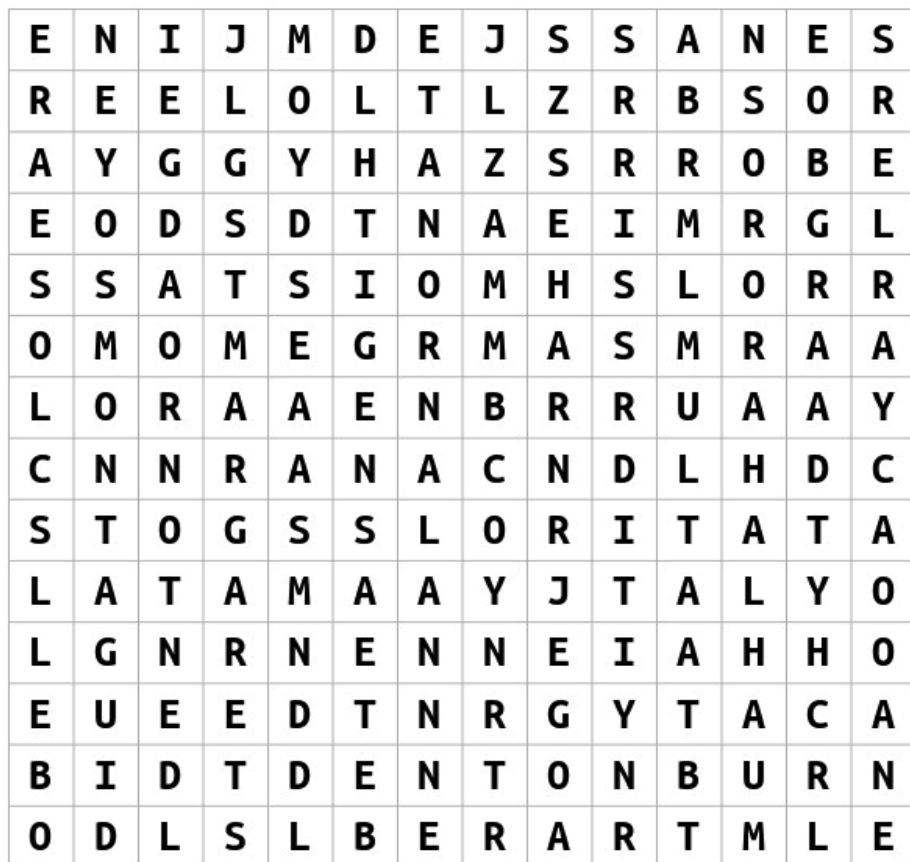
"Scotswood through the Years" is published by St James' Heritage & Environment Group in partnership with West Newcastle Picture History Collection. Copies can be obtained directly from us (Email at stjamesbenwell@gmail.com) or ordered through Search (Tel 0191 2737443).

QUIZ Remembering Scotswood

1. "We flew across the Bridge reet into Blaydon Toon". By what name was the first Scotswood Bridge known?
2. Can you name the factory at Scotswood famous for manufacturing toilets and other sanitaryware? It closed in 1975.
3. Whickham View School later took the name of a former Mayor of Newcastle, famous for defending the town from the Parliamentary forces during the Civil War. What was it called?
4. What name was given to women workers at Armstrong-Whitworth's factory during the First World War?
5. What is the name of the stream that runs down the west side of Scotswood into the Tyne?
6. Where is the War Memorial for the parish of Scotswood?
7. Name the pit where a terrible disaster killed 38 men and boys in 1925.
8. What is the name of the next village west along the riverside from Scotswood?
9. Can you name the school that used to stand at the junction of Armstrong Road and Denton Road? It was closed in the 1990s.
10. During the 19th century a railway line was built going west from Newcastle, reaching Scotswood in 1838. Which town did this railway line connect Newcastle with?

Answers – the answers are in the WORDSEARCH on the next page

SCOTSWOOD WORDSEARCH



CHAIN BRIDGE

ADAMSEZ

JOHN MARLAY

MUNITIONETTES

DENTON BURN

ST MARGARET'S (CHURCH GROUNDS)

MONTAGU

BELLS CLOSE

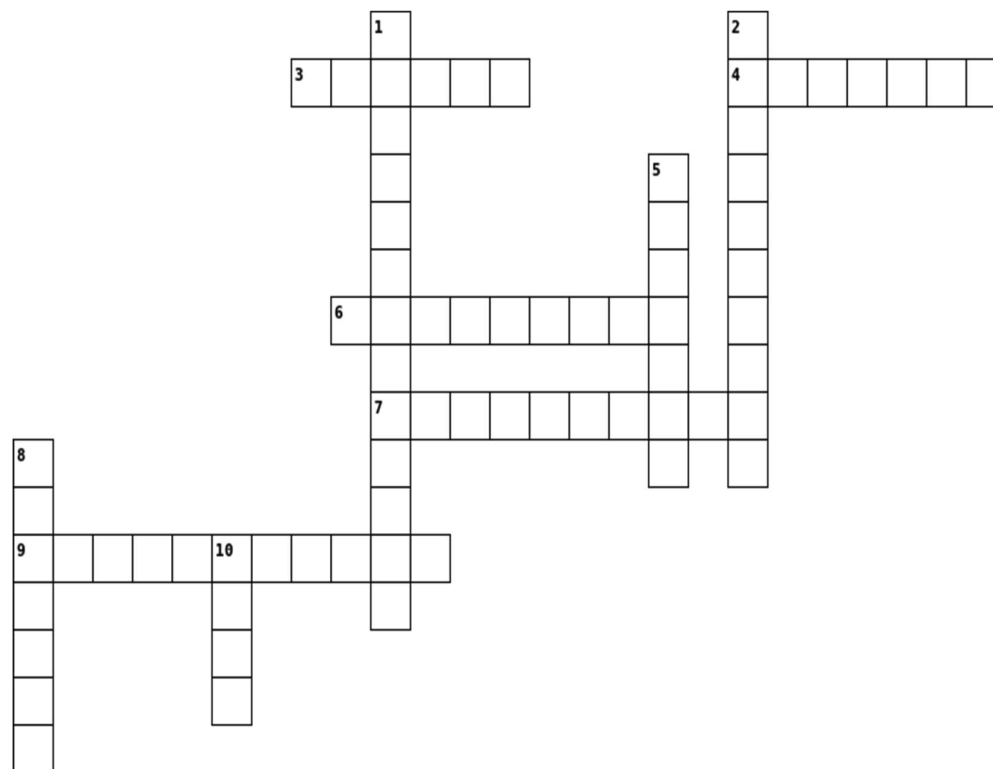
DENTON ROAD (SCHOOL)

CARLISLE

These are also the answers to the QUIZ on the previous page

Newcastle Parks

Quick Crossword



ACROSS

3. sleaze (anagram): park with boating lake next to RVI (6)

4. former grounds of Richard Grainger's house where a swimming pool stands today (7)

6. park just south of Heaton Park bearing the name of the former owner of the armaments works on the riverside at Elswick (9)

7. site of major exhibition in 1887: now home to Wylam Brewery (10)

9. home of Pet's Corner (7,4)

DOWN

1. park opposite the Freeman Hospital (5,8)

2. wooded valley running south from West Road at Denton Burn (6,4)

5. kind hog (anagram): Victorian park in Benwell (7)

8. not so much a park as a sports ground (2,5)

10. moor: small sister of town moor (4,4)

Children in Wartime

Memories of Evacuation

Over recent months the country has commemorated several events linked to the Second World War - the Battle of Britain, VE Day, VJ Day.... But what about the younger generation who lived through the War but were too young to be involved in active service or vital work?

Thousands of children from the west end of Newcastle were evacuated as the area was considered at high risk from enemy attacks. For many children this was a life-changing experience. Some had terrible times; others found a home from home.

This is Shirley
Horsman's story.

Shirley was one of a big group of girls evacuated to Wallington Hall, a large house in Northumberland owned by the Trevelyan family.



"My father was in the air force. My mother worked at Armstrong's, the Elswick one. So there was nobody at home, and so I was away. I think I just took it all in my stride. I was away for just about four years, and even in the holidays sometimes I didn't come home.

The whole of the hall and the corridors were dark, and they just had candles in the winter. It wasn't a very warm place. They used to have bats flying around the room. We used to put our knickers around our heads so the bats didn't get into our hair.

Lady Trevelyan was very good with country dancing, singing. We did a lot of country dancing. And Lady Trevelyan taught us a lot of lovely songs - which I taught my children. And maypole dancing. She used to play the piano. She was a beautiful pianist. And we would dance all the way around the Hall, all around the kitchen table, and upstairs.



Lady Trevelyan taught me to swim. You know the humpty backed bridge? They dammed that bit off and we used to run down from the house in our bare feet, jumping over nettles and everything, down to there.

Sir Charles Trevelyan, he would tell us stories. Not often, but he was very good.

At Christmas it was great fun because maybe half a dozen of us couldn't go home, but we went in with the servants. They had a beautiful spread and everything, and we had a lovely time."



Do you have memories to share?

These extracts are from an interview recorded in 2012 as part of the "War and Peace in the West End" project. The Heritage & Environment Group plans to publish these stories in a new book about local experiences of the War. Do you have memories you could share with us?

Contact us by email at stjamesbenwell@gmail.com

OR write to us c/o Sunnybank Centre, 12 Sunnybank Avenue, NE15 6SD

OR leave a message with Search 0191 2737443

Did you know?

HOW EPIDEMICS AFFECTED CHILDREN IN THE PAST?

These boys are the sons of the headmaster of Newcastle's Royal Grammar School. The two oldest boys, Claude and Denton Christopherson, died in 1879 at the ages of five and four soon after this photograph was taken. They are buried in St James' Graveyard in Benwell.



The current coronavirus pandemic does not affect children as seriously as adults. Although children are as likely to become infected, the effects are usually mild. This was not the case a hundred years ago. The burial records from St James' reveal some stark statistics. More than a third of all burials were of children under the age of ten. The worst decade was that between 1900-1909, when 51% of total burials were of children aged five or under.

Epidemics of infectious diseases were a major cause of illness and death in children in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Killer diseases included cholera, measles, diphtheria and tuberculosis, as well as scarlet fever which killed the Christopherson children. It was not unusual for schools to be closed because of life-threatening epidemics.

Are you missing our local history talks?

Then we have just the thing for you! **FREE DVD**

We have put together a collection of talks on different aspects of the history of the west end of Newcastle. Five speakers who were scheduled to talk at our Big Local History Event in September have recorded their talks for you. Topics are:

- The Grand and the Majestic – Benwell's cinemas
- A Survivor's Tale – some of the oldest buildings in Benwell
- Scot's Wood – medieval Scotswood and its deerpark
- An 18th century housekeeper in Newcastle
- What's in a name – street names of Pendower

To get your free DVD ring Search on 0191 2737443

If you have an internet connection, watch them on our website using the link <https://www.stjamesheritage.com/biglocalhistory>

ANSWERS

ABC S CROSSWORD

Across 1. Smith 4. Sallyport 6. Segedunum 9. Shafto 10. Shearer
11. Silver Lonnen 12. Sting 13. Shieldfield

Down 1. Stadium of Light 2. Swing 3. Sandgate 5. South Shields
6. Swan Hunters 7. Stoll 8. Sage

NEWCASTLE PARKS QUICK CROSSWORD

Across 3. Leazes 4. Elswick 6. Armstrong 7. Exhibition 9. Jesmond Dene

Down 1. Paddy Freemans 2. Denton Dene 5. Hodgkin 8. St James' Park
10. Nuns Moor

QUIZ ANSWERS answers are on the pages following each quiz



WEST END PEOPLE

Elizabeth Montagu

Elizabeth Montagu belonged to a rich and powerful family who were at the centre of the country's economic, political and social life in the 18th century. They had several grand houses in London and elsewhere including East Denton Hall, a mansion on the West Road.

Elizabeth was a celebrated society hostess and patron of literature but also a shrewd businesswoman. After the death of her husband, she managed the family's coalmining interests in the north. Her private views of the local mining community are revealed in her comment that they were "little better than savages".



East Denton Hall, pictured here in 1976, still stands today. It has been the official residence of the Roman Catholic Bishops of Newcastle since 1943.

Published by: St James' Heritage & Environment Group

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Additional images and material courtesy West Newcastle Picture History

Collection, J.Taberham, Shirley Horsman, Anne Creighton-Harris, Judith Green

