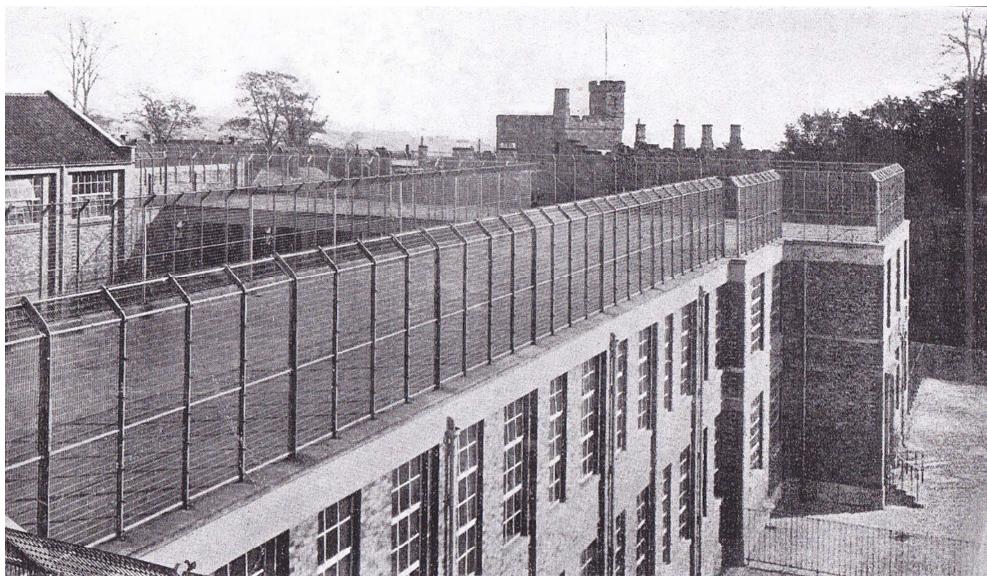


# Pendower Puzzles

Wordsearch – Crossword – Quiz

Pictures and Stories from history



*Does this picture bring back memories?*

This is the rooftop play area of Pendower School. The picture comes from the brochure produced for the official opening of the school in 1929.

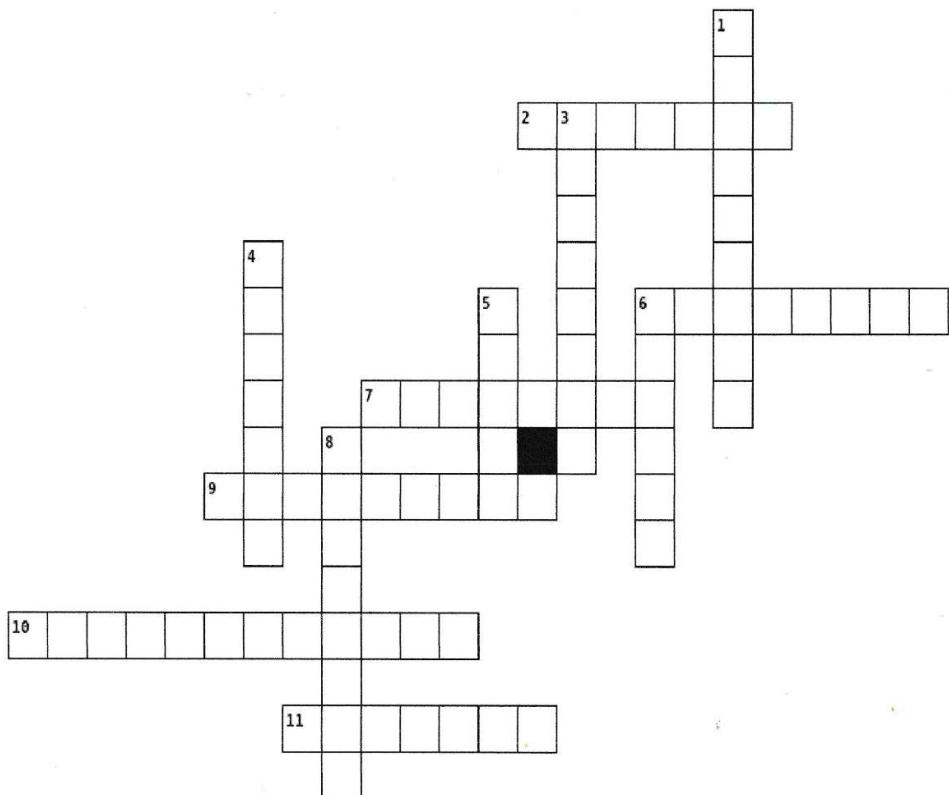
Until the 1970s the site catered for the whole range of ages from four to 14. In later years there was also a youth club and a community centre here.

The buildings were demolished in the 1990s and houses now stand on the site – but the memories remain.

**MORE INSIDE**

*answers to puzzles on inside back cover*

## CROSSWORD In and Around Pendower



### Across

2. School on Pendower Estate named after a Roman emperor (6)
6. School at the top of Pendower Way named after a Northumbrian saint (8)
7. One of the two pubs that used to be in Old Benwell Village (7)
9. A colourful tree? The other pub in Old Benwell Village (5,4)
10. Can we go hunting in this Pendower street? (3,3,6)
11. Big park south of Pendower (7)

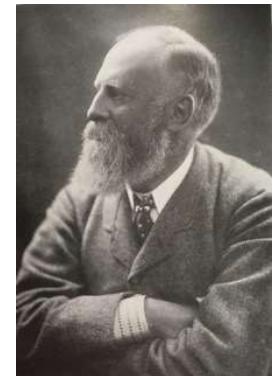
### Down

1. Pit that used to be between Sunnybank Avenue and Condercum Road (9)
3. The old Benwell Library closed in 2010. Which road was it on? (8)
4. Name of huge engineering factory on the riverside at Elswick (7)
5. Benwell Towers became a pub for a few years – what was it called? (5)
6. Bird that used to work with miners down the pits to warn of toxic gas (6)
8. Dairy farmer who gave his name to the road through Benwell Village (8)

## What's in a Name?

Do you know the stories behind some of the street names on Pendower?

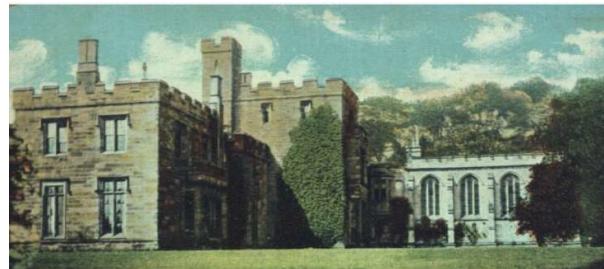
Pendower Way and Pease Avenue tell a story of love. John Pease and Thomas Hodgkin were friends and business partners who married two sisters. In 1865 Thomas purchased land in Benwell (today's Hodgkin Park) and persuaded his brother-in-law to buy the adjoining plot. John, pictured here, had a house built on his land. This was to be a gift of love to his wife Helen Maria. It was called Pendower after the beautiful beach close to her childhood home in Cornwall.



Many of the street names on Pendower have links to the Shafto family who used to be major landowners in Benwell. Two Shafto women provide us with the names for Bertram Crescent and Dorcas Avenue.

Isabell Bertram was born about 1450. When her father died without a son, his fortune was divided among his four daughters. Isabell had married Cuthbert Shafto of Bavington, bringing considerable wealth to the Shafto family. She insisted that her family name should be given to at least one of her sons, and for generations the name Bertram appeared in the Shafto family tree – testimony to the power of the Bertram family in Northumberland.

Dorcas Shafto was born in 1629, the daughter of Robert Shafto of Benwell Tower (below). Dorcas married Lancelot Fenwick, one of the most important Freemen of Newcastle and a huge landowner in Northumberland. This helped to embed the Shafto family at the heart of political life in the region.



Dorcas's father Robert was not the Bobby Shafto who went to sea, although the Robert of the song was actually a member of the same family.

# Pendower - Homes for Heroes

When the First World War ended in 1918 there was a desperate shortage of decent housing in Newcastle. There was massive overcrowding in the town itself, while much of the housing in Benwell and Scotswood was in a very poor condition and did not meet even the most basic public health standards.

The government faced a crisis as thousands of soldiers returning home from the war had higher expectations than a life of unemployment and slum dwelling. For the first time the government was forced to intervene in the provision of housing by giving money to councils for a crash building programme intended to provide "homes fit for heroes to live in".

Pendower Estate was one of Newcastle's first council estates, built as part of this national movement. This photograph dates from 1925 when the estate was newly built.



Newcastle Council was determined that the houses on Pendower would be of a high quality. They chose a garden suburb model, designed to include the best features of a traditional English village. The houses were built to generous standards of internal design. The provision of separate inside toilets contrasted starkly with the outdoor netties, often shared with other families, that were common in the area at that time. The houses were built at a much lower density than private developments of the same period. There was plenty of outdoor space, with individual gardens as well as communal open space.

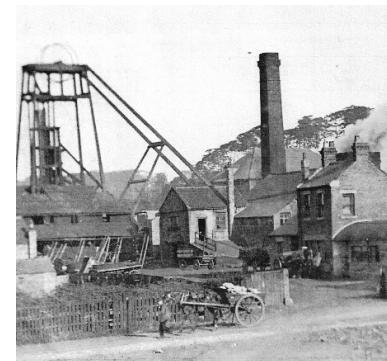
The land was purchased from the Pease family in 1919, and over the following years the estate of 589 homes was fully occupied. The first 22 tenants moved into Fox and Hounds Lane and the West Road in 1922.

## Who were these heroes?

The records show that the first tenants were quite a varied group, working in the growing public, service and commercial sectors locally as well as the heavy industries for which West Newcastle was known.

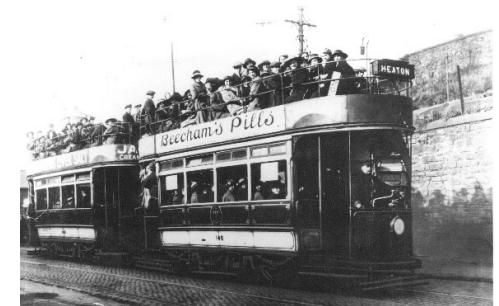
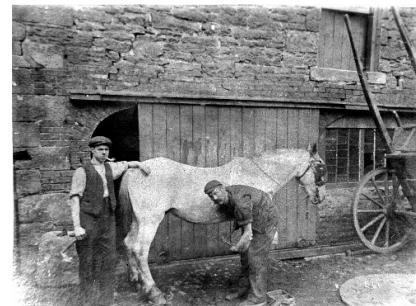
These are some of the occupations recorded among the first tenants of Fox and Hounds Lane:

*school teacher, postman, shop assistant, policeman, miner, tram conductor, watchmaker, plasterer, librarian, mechanic, motorman, labourer, chauffeur, clerk, insurance superintendent, civil servant.*



The Charlotte Pit in Condercum Road was one of several local pits in the 1920s.

Trams provided public transport along the main roads, but horses still played a role. There were several local blacksmiths – and one of the early tenants was a saddler.



## Streets of Pendower WORDSEARCH



Adair  
Aubone  
Beecham  
Benwell

Bertram  
Dorcas  
Lismore  
Pease  
Pendower  
Riddell  
Rushie  
Sunnybank

## More Pendower Heroes The Mines Fire and Rescue Service

Did you know that Benwell Towers served as the base for the Mines Fire and Rescue Service for more than 30 years?



This was a dangerous job. The men went all over Northumberland, Durham and Cumbria responding to pit disasters and emergencies.

They had to be ready to go at a moment's notice if the bell rang.

They were also responsible for checking the safety of equipment in coalmines and for training miners to deal with emergencies.

The Fire and Rescue workers and their families lived on Pendower Way in houses that backed onto the grounds of the Towers. After the service moved out in 1976, Benwell Towers became a night club called the Silver Lady.

### ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD

**Across:** 2. Hadrian 6. Cuthbert 7. Hawthorn 9. Green Tree

10. Fox and Hounds 11. Hodgkin

**Down:** 1. Charlotte 3. Atkinson 4. Vickers 5. Mitre 6. Canary 8. Ferguson

### ANSWERS TO QUICK QUIZ

- True
- False - The Romans occupied this area for about 300 years
- True and False – these cavalrymen came from Asturia in northern Spain
- False – the present day Benwell Towers was built in 1831, but there had been earlier grand houses on this site for at least 600 years before that. And it is likely that the Roman settlement extended to this site even earlier.
- False – the Romans had a few attempts to conquer Scotland, even building a wall across the middle of the country known as the Antonine Wall. Eventually they retreated to Hadrian's Wall. Clearly the best place to be.



# QUICK QUIZ

## The Romans and Pendower

The route of Hadrian's Wall runs along the top of Pendower Estate. How much do you know about what the Romans were doing here?

Can you guess which of these statements is TRUE?

1. Pendower is built on the site of a large civilian settlement attached to the Condercum Fort on the Roman Wall
2. The Romans occupied this area for about a hundred years
3. The soldiers stationed at Condercum were cavalry men from Italy
4. Benwell Towers was built by the Romans to accommodate the fort captain
5. The Wall marks the furthest point north in Britain reached by the Romans

ANSWERS ON PREVIOUS PAGE

This booklet was published by:

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