West End Puzzles *Number 7*

Wordsearch – Crossword – Quiz - Interesting facts

How much do you know about your area?

START HERE

Can you identify this place in the centre of Newcastle? Pictured here in the 1840s, it is still an important focus of social and commercial life in the town today.

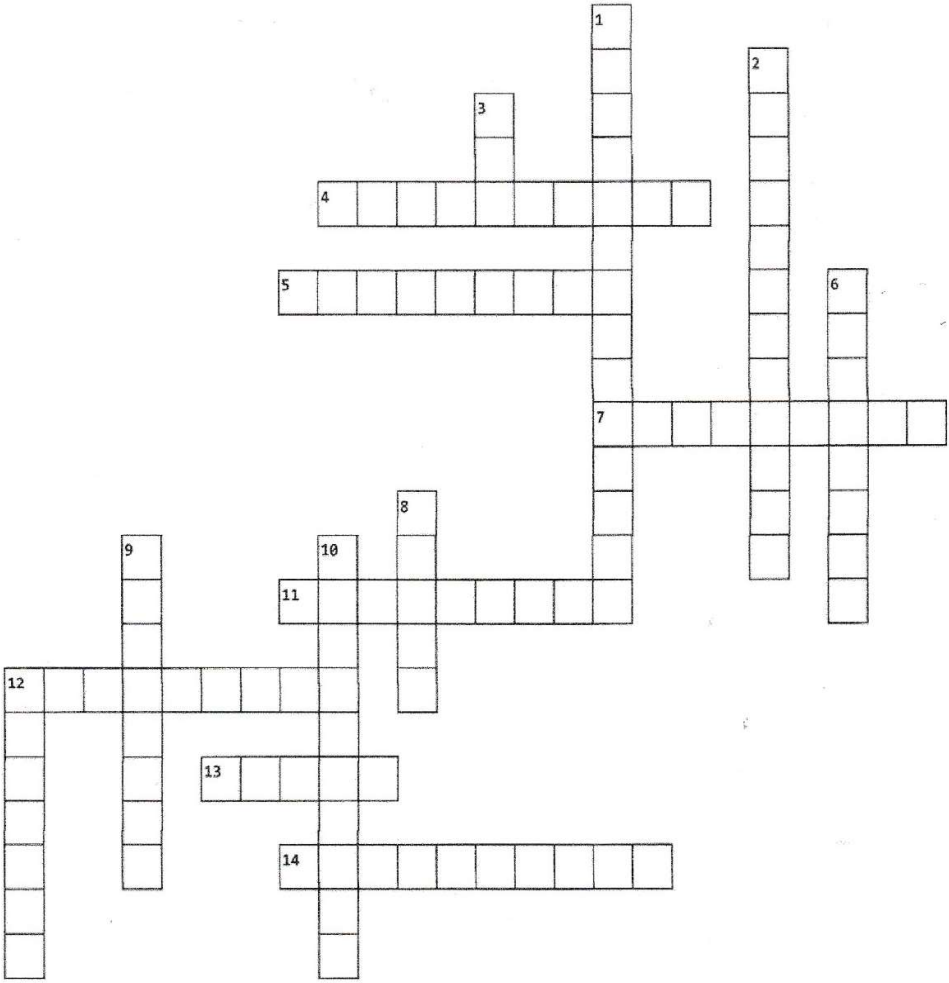
Answer on inside back cover

INSIDE Pubs through time, West Road floods, Street names, Canary Island, Old Newcastle in pictures

CROSSWORD Pub Names

Solve the clues to find the names of 15 pubs on the west side of Newcastle. Some of these pubs are long gone: others are still here. They include some of the 46 pubs that used to line the Scotswood Road.

Don't worry if you are not a pub-goer. You can guess the answers from the clues.



Across

4. Named in the second verse of the song “Blaydon Races”: pub on Scotswood Road (5,5)

5. This might be difficult to see in the dark among a herd of cows?: pub on Barrack Road (5,4)

7. Soldier in the Roman Army: pub at Central Station (9)

11. Tropical fruit: surprising name of pub just off Scotswood Road (9)

12. Place to keep your boat: pub on riverside at Water Row, Newburn (9)

13. Village on the Tyne west of Newcastle: brewery now based in Exhibition Park in the last building to survive from the Great North East Exhibition of 1929 (5)

14. Summer fruit to enjoy after a football match?: pub next to St James’s Park (10)

Down

1. The original product made by Armstrong’s factory: one of the last Scotswood Road pubs to be demolished (9,5)

2. A suitable place to go when out hunting?: pub on the West Road (3,3,6)

3. A weapon to shoot with: one of the pubs on the Scotswood Road named after products made at Armstrong’s (3)

6. Famous developer and resident of Elswick Hall: pub in Elswick (8)

8. Not to be confused with the ones you find on the beach, this one is deadly: one of the pubs on the Scotswood Road named after Armstrong’s products (5)

9. British Queen: Villa …….. at town end of Westmorland Road (8)

10. Small fort built at regulat intervals along the Roman Wall: pub at bottom of Westgate Road owned by Wetherspoons (4,6)

12. More likely to be seen at a children’s party?: pub on Silver Lonnen (7)

Did you know?

Newcastle's First Pubs

Did you know that the Great British pub actually started life as a great Italian wine bar?

It was the invading Roman army that brought pubs to these shores some 2000 years ago. These Roman pubs were called tabernae, and they sold food and other commodities as well as wine. This picture shows a typical taberna in Pompeii. In Britain, these quickly sprang up alongside Roman roads and towns.

Hadrian's Wall ran from Wallsend through today's central Newcastle and Benwell. The fort of Condercum in Benwell was one of the largest forts along the Wall, with more than 500 soldiers stationed there.

There was an extensive civilian town just to the south of this fort, occupied by traders merchants and craftsmen as well as the wives and children of the soldiers.

This drawing shows what the town would have looked like. There would probably have been several tabernae here.

Over time the taberna adapted to sell the favourite British drink of ale. The name taberna became corrupted to “tavern”, a term which stuck over the centuries.

The age of the stagecoach opened up new opportunities for the tavern. Coaching inns were established on strategic routes across the country, providing not only food and drink for travellers, but also accommodation and stabling for horses. Newcastle had several coaching inns. One of these which survives today is the Old George, off the Cloth Market. Said to be Newcastle’s oldest pub, it dates from the early years of the 17th century or earlier. This photograph shows the courtyard of the Old George, with its carriage arch just visible at the top of the picture.

Thanks to Pat Lowery for this information about the history of pubs.

Painting by Luigi Bazzini of a taberna in Pompeii, from Wikipedia
Photograph of Old George from Newcastle City Library local studies
Drawing of Roman vicus courtesy of Tyne and Wear Archives & Museums

What's in a Name?

Before the mid-19th century Benwell and Elswick were mainly covered by farmland or the private grounds of the wealthy families who lived there. But by the time of the First World War they had become dense urban areas, with thousands of terraced houses filling the slopes between the river and the West Road. Some of these streets remain: others have been wholly or partly demolished.

Have you ever wondered about the old street names? Many of them carried the names of real people. Who were they?

Several streets to the south of Elswick Road were named after the eleven children of Richard Grainger, the famous 19th century developer who lived with his family in Elswick Hall and owned the large Elswick Estate on which these houses were later built. They include Amelia, Hannah, Joseph and Juliet. Richard himself is commemorated in the name of Grainger Park Road.

To the west, a large area of land had belonged to the coal owner John Buddle, as part of his investment in Benwell Colliery. It was developed for housing after his death, and many of the streets were named after his heirs and their relatives. Buddle Atkinson had two streets named after him, while his son was remembered not only by his name of Frank but also those of his sisters Aline and Violet, his mother Clara, and other family members. Maughan Street was named after the vicar of St James' Church in Benwell who was related to the Buddle Atkinsons by marriage.

Some of the streets to the north of Adelaide Terrace, built slightly later, were given the surnames of long-forgotten public figures. Canning Street was named after a 19th century British prime minister (pictured here), while neighbouring Colston Street was named after a Conservative MP whose wealth derived from the slave trade, which was what prompted protesters to throw his statue into Bristol Harbour last year. A short distance away, Bentinck Road, a broad street of large houses, was named after a former Governor-General of India.

WORDSEARCH What's in a Name?

A	A	D	H	G	I	B	E	J	D	H	L	A	N
E	E	A	A	B	J	H	O	A	S	G	E	R	L
E	T	H	E	L	O	A	R	I	C	T	C	J	D
H	A	I	A	S	S	N	E	E	H	H	A	I	N
H	G	C	R	E	E	N	G	I	I	E	H	C	R
N	D	R	A	B	P	A	N	R	N	O	A	A	A
H	L	R	L	H	H	H	I	A	E	D	E	R	M
E	E	A	C	E	G	L	A	C	L	O	M	O	E
D	B	R	L	A	E	P	R	H	E	S	L	L	L
L	U	J	O	A	N	R	G	E	E	I	R	I	I
A	D	U	I	S	A	B	E	L	L	A	A	N	A
R	D	G	D	C	G	A	A	A	O	L	O	E	O
E	L	L	H	G	P	M	I	A	A	N	I	N	E
G	E	A	P	H	U	G	H	A	D	C	S	H	E

Can you find these 12 old street names? They are all named after relatives of the two major landowners whose surnames are here too.

Joan
Hugh
Amelia
Rachel
Buddle

Caroline
Ethel
Theodosia
Isabella
Grainger

Gerald
Clara
Hannah
Joseph

Old Newcastle Picture Quiz

Most of the buildings in these photographs dating from the early 20th century are still there today. Can you recognise them?

1

2

3

4

5

6

Answers on inside back page

True or False

Can you tell which of these statements is true?

1 . The TV series *Byker Grove* was filmed at Benwell Towers, the mansion that housed the Mitre pub in the 1970s

2. Cushie Butterfield's favourite drink was beer

3. William Armstrong - the owner of Cragside, the mansion and grounds now owned by the National Trust – used to be the MP for Newcastle

4. The Harry Potter films contain scenes filmed in Newcastle Castle and Cathedral

5. The 1991 film *Robin Hood Prince of Thieves,* starring Kevin Costner, features a scene filmed along the Roman Wall in Northumberland

6. The highest point of the huge land sculpture *Northumberlandia* near Cramlington is her knees

7. Newcastle University was founded in 1834

8. The Lidl store in Benwell is built on the site of a former quarry

9. There used to be a leper hospital next to where Newcastle Civic Centre stands now

10. *The Animals* recorded a song called "Send you back to Benwell"

11. There used to be almost 50 pubs along the Scotswood Road all serving beer

Did you know?

Scotswood Road's Temperance Pub

The Scotswood Road area was once famous for its pubs, many of them named after products made at the adjacent engineering and armaments works. West Newcastle Picture History Collection identifies 46 different pubs along the road – but their list does not include the Nursery Cottage, pictured above.

The Nursery Cottage did not sell alcohol. It was the third British Workman pub to be opened in Newcastle, part of a temperance movement that spread in the middle years of the 19th century in an effort to counter the serious social problems associated with drunkenness.

The Nursery Cottage was built in Low Elswick in the 1830s at a time when the area was still mainly farmland. It was later bought by the Richardson family who had opened a leatherworks nearby in 1863. The Richardsons were Quakers who were associated with many progressive causes. They made alterations to the Cottage building and leased it to a committee at well below the market rent. The Nursery Cottage opened as a temperance pub in 1872. It was open from 5am to 10pm, and served meals as well as drinks. There were reading and smoking rooms, two club rooms and a separate lecture hall. It also served as a meeting place for a number of organisations.

Do you remember

When the West Road flooded ?

These photographs show floods on the West Road at Denton Burn in the 1940s and 1950s. Such scenes were not so unusual in years gone by.
The stream known as the Denton Burn runs south from Blakelaw to the Tyne, parallel to Silver Lonnen and Denton Road. For centuries it ran above ground, and a bridge carried the West Road over the stream at the village of Denton Burn. In times of heavy rain the Burn could burst its banks causing flooding. It has now been covered over and has disappeared from view. The outlet into the Tyne can still be seen between the Scotswood and Blaydon Bridges.

We flew past Armstrong's factory and up to the Robin Adair

So goes the *Blaydon Races.* If you had flown up to the Robin Adair in the 1980s this is what you would have seen. This pub was on the Scotswood Road not far east of the Scotswood Bridge. It closed a few years after this photograph was taken, and the site is now occupied by Benfield Motors.

This was not of course the Robin Adair named in the Blaydon Races. The pub pictured here was a Scottish and Newcastle house - opened in 1965 by T Dan Smith.

The original Robin Adair was further east at Paradise to the south of Benwell. The earliest reference is on a survey map of the riverside dated 1837. This fits with other developments in the area. It was only in the 1830s that the previous footpath to Scotswood was upgraded to become the Scotswood Turnpike Road, prompted by the construction of the Scotswood Bridge. The creation of a proper road would have provided a business opportunity to some enterprising person.

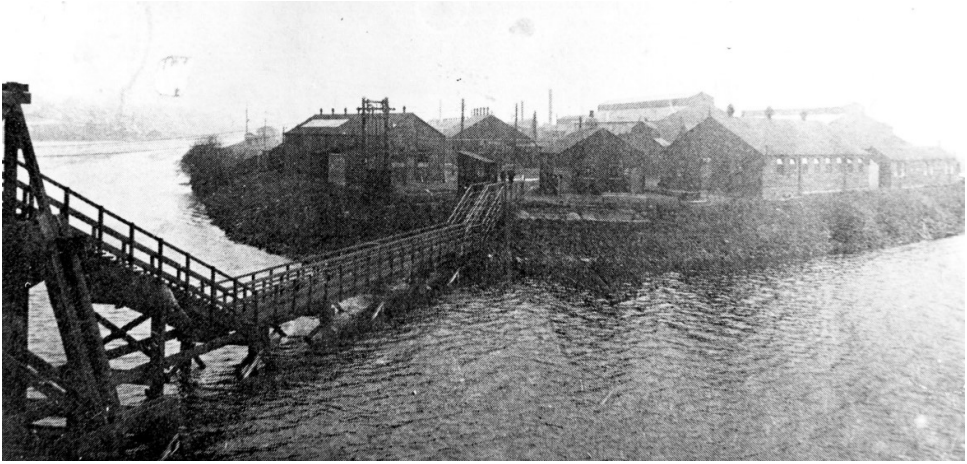
When did the first Robin Adair disappear? The latest reference we found was in the Daily Chronicle in 1910. By this time the site of Armstrong's factory had extended westwards to cover this area. However, this section of the site had not been developed for production and lay largely unused, and it is likely that the Robin Adair was here. Today the Jobling Purser company is based here.

Why the name Robin Adair? The Lordship of Manor was held by the Adair family, but this may be coincidental. More interesting is the probable connection with a popular 18th century song. *Robin Adair* was a traditional Irish song which is mentioned by Jane Austen in her novel *Emma*. Robert Adair, known as Robin, was a real person. The song was written by his wife, the daughter of the Earl of Albemarle, as a rebuke to her snobbish family who disapproved of her marriage to this Irish soldier. The song includes the words:

"Come to my heart again, Robin Adair".

Did you know about

Canary Island?



This 1916 photograph shows a wooden bridge leading to Canary Island, off Lemington Point. This was the site of a purpose-built munitions factory run by Armstrong-Whitworth during the First World War. Most of the munitions workers were women. Their job was to fill large shells with explosive materials. They were known as “canaries” because the materials they had to work with turned their skin and hair yellow. This was no joke as these were toxic substances and many women suffered illnesses which could be fatal. For the workforce and those living nearby, there was also the ever-present risk of explosions

Munitions workers at Lemington

ANSWERS

Front Cover
This is Old Eldon Square, then newly built as part of the transformation of the centre of Newcastle from a medieval town to one of the finest city centres in the country.

Crossword Answers – Pub Names
Across 4. Robin Adair 5. Black Bull 7. Centurion 11. Pineapple 12. Boathouse 13. Wylam 14. Strawberry
Down 1. Hydraulic Crane 2. Fox and Hounds 3. Gun 6. Grainger 8. Shell 9. Victoria 10. Mile Castle 12. Balloon

Old Newcastle Picture Quiz
1.Grey Street, 1907. 2. Grainger Street, 1886. 3. RVI across Leazes Park, 1906. 4. Northumberland Street, 1915. 5. Mosley Street, 1905. 6.Clayton Street, 1910

True or False Quiz
1. TRUE - Benwell Towers was used as a film set for Byker Grove for several years, causing considerable damage to this historic building.
2. TRUE – she did like hor beer
3. FALSE – **but** Charles Trevelyan, owner of Wallington Hall now also a National Trust property, was MP for Newcastle Central constituency from 1922-1931, and was a minister in Ramsay MacDonald's government
4. FALSE – but some scenes were filmed in Durham Cathedral and Alnwick Castle
5. TRUE – there is a scene filmed at Sycamore Gap along the Roman Wall
6. FALSE – the 1,300 feet long earth sculpture *Northumberlandia* is the world's largest land sculpture in female form, and the highest point is her forehead at 112 feet high
7. FALSE – Newcastle University was actually founded in 1963 **but** the first building dates from 1834 when the School of Medicine and Surgery was established. This later became part of Durham University. The whole Newcastle site was part of Durham University, until it became an independent university in 1963
8. TRUE – this quarry was one of several quarries operating in the west end into the 20th century
9. TRUE – the hospital of St Mary Magdalene, reputedly founded by Henry 1, was located at Barras Bridge where St Thomas' churchyard is now.
10. FALSE – it was actually "Send you back to Walker"
11. FALSE – there were an estimated 46 pubs on the Scotswood Road, **but** at one time there was at least one temperance pubs serving only non-alcoholic drinks.

WEST END AT WAR

Stories from the Home Front

This new book from St James' Heritage & Environment Group tells in their own words the stories of nineteen residents of the west end of Newcastle who lived through the Second World War.

We are familiar with tales of heroism and sacrifice on the part of those who fought in the Second World War, but what about those who supported the war effort in other ways? During these years every adult was expected to contribute either through joining one of the armed forces or through paid or voluntary work. The demands of wartime production changed the nature of work for many men. Women found themselves in new and unexpected roles. The lives of children also changed dramatically, with many sent away from home and not returning for years.

These personal stories of the west end at war bring to life the experience of wartime from many different perspectives.

Copies available from St James' Heritage & Environment Group (contact details below) or from Search tel 0191 2737443

WEST END PUZZLES

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