

NEWSLETTER

May 2023

SUMMER EVENT

Tuesday 27th June
2.30pm

St James' Church, Benwell



Celebrate the 190th anniversary of St James' graveyard

STRAWBERRY CREAM TEA - GUIDED TOUR - FILM - TREE TRAIL

Annual meeting with keynote speech by author Michael Chaplin

Booking essential – see enclosed invitation

OUR CREATIVE COMMUNITY

11th September- 9th October

An exhibition at the West End Library exploring the history of the west end using different crafts including knitting, felting, pottery, proggy matting and silk painting.



Some of our recent activities



More than 50 people attended our Winter Event in December, enjoying crafts and history activities, a storytelling performance and festive refreshments.



Our barbarians Dennis and Malcolm succeeded in defeating the Roman invaders at the West End Library during the *Roman Soldier's Handbook* event. This was one of several Roman themed activities we organised this year.



Participants in a series of visits to the Mining Institute enjoyed a guided tour of the refurbished building, viewing the Robert Stephenson exhibition and examining rare old documents relating to coal mining in West Newcastle from the Institute's unique collection. We also organised visits to the Discovery Museum and Tyne Theatre.



Heritage at Risk

Did you know that the area known as Lemington Gut, west of Scotswood, was once a thriving industrial area? As well as a glass works and iron works, there were coal staithes for transporting coal from the many local pits.



Today the industries have gone, and the remnants that remain of their history are at risk from redevelopment and neglect. During the pandemic some important remains of old kilns from the iron works were destroyed during the building of a new Lidl store to the north of here. We are working to raise awareness of the value the industrial heritage of this area.

Local History Mondays

Our Monday afternoon Local History talks at the West End Library are back again. This is the programme for the rest of 2023. All talks start at 1pm.

- **Monday 5th June:** *A Day at the Seaside* with Andrew Clark
- **Monday 11th September:** *Blaydon Races* with Pat Lowery
- **Monday 2nd October:** *Robert Burns and Newcastle* with Kevin Mochrie
- **Monday 6th November:** *The Story of the Military Road* with Ian Farrier

Booking essential for all these talks

It's Wor Wall

Hadrian's Wall National Path runs for 84 miles from coast to coast, passing through beautiful countryside. However when it reaches Newcastle it leaves the actual route of the Wall and diverts south to run along the riverside. We are keen to reclaim the real route of the Wall through the heart of the city. This is an important part of our local heritage.



In the west end there are several visible remains of the Roman presence almost 2000 years ago. Pictured above is a group visiting the site of the Vallum Crossing for the Roman fort of Condercum during a guided tour we ran for the Hadrian's Wall Festival last year.

One of our current priorities is to raise awareness of the real route of the Wall in Newcastle. Last year we made a film called *Gannin' Along the Wall* which illustrates the way the Wall went. If you haven't yet seen this film, you can view it on our website. This year we are continuing this work with a series of guided walks visiting particular sites along the route of the Wall – including Newcastle Castle, pictured below. The castle was actually built on top of a



fort called Pons Aelius which guarded the Roman bridge across the river. We are in the process of creating a printed walk guide describing where the Wall went through Newcastle. This will be available later in the summer for anyone who is interested in exploring the route themselves – and there will be certificates for those who complete the 12 mile route. Contact us for details.

CONTACT US

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Visit St James' Graveyard: Wednesdays from 10am-1pm, or by arrangement.