



SUMMER EVENT

Tuesday 24th June 2.30pm

St James' Church, Benwell

Annual meeting with review of the year

Strawberry cream tea

plant a pot of flowers to take home
guided tour – films – bookstall



Summer history walks

Quayside to Paradise

Wednesday 2nd July 1pm

A walk through the history of the west end's riverside industry

In the footsteps of the Romans

Monday 14th July 11am

Walk the route of Hadrian's Wall from Denton Burn to Benwell

Discover Newcastle's outer west

Wednesday 23rd July 1pm

A circular walk from Newburn Country Park

Scotswood station revisited

Wednesday 6th August 1.30pm

A tour of the site of this station on the Newcastle-Carlisle railway

The trees of St James' Graveyard

Wednesday 13th August 2pm

Find out about the different trees and the stories and superstitions

Who's who in St James' Graveyard

Wednesday 27th August 1pm

Guided tour of the graveyard of one of Newcastle's oldest churches

For more information & to book, email stjamesbenwell@gmail.com

Some of our recent activities

More than 50 people took part in our members' Winter Event in December, enjoying a variety of activities including seasonal crafts, quizzes and a local history show – ending with a festive performance by storyteller Pascale.



This year's Big Local History Event was the biggest yet, with an audience of over 70 people. Five speakers covered a range of topics under the theme of "Ordinary People: Extraordinary Lives".

Pictured below are Pat Lowery talking about the witches of Newcastle, Mike Greatbatch on Newcastle's workhouse, and John Taberham telling the story of the First World War munitions workers known as the Lemington Canaries.





This is a selection of the guided tours through the history of the west end which featured again in this year's programme.

This photograph on the left was taken on a tour of the site of the former Scotswood Station. It shows the main entrance on Scotswood Road, one of the impressive remains still standing.

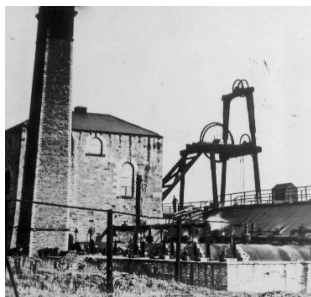
The image on the right was taken during a tour of Nun's Moor Park and the former General Hospital site.

Below left: a group pictured at the temple during a tour of Roman Benwell.

Below Right: a guided walk from Bell's Close to Scotswood passes along the riverside south of the site of the Montagu Pit.



Montagu Pit Disaster centenary



This year marks the centenary of the Montagu Pit Disaster. On the morning of March 30th 1925, 148 miners were working in the deepest seam about 185 feet below the surface. Without warning millions of gallons of water began to flood in. Most of the shift managed to escape, but 38 men and boys died of drowning, suffocation or poisoning.

St James' Heritage & Environment Group ran a programme of guided walks and talks to commemorate the disaster.

Right: A guided tour of Elswick cemetery focused on the victims of the disaster, ending at the memorial where most are buried. This stone memorial was erected in 1926, and features a miner and a shepherd.



Another walk traced the area's mining history, starting at the village of Bell's Close where some of the victims lived, and ending at the memorial sculpture created in 2012 by the Scotswood community (pictured here).

The Group also contributed to the Remembrance Event organised by local organisations at St Margaret's Church, Scotswood. This was held on Saturday 29th March and visited by almost 200 people.

CONTACT US

Write: c/o 12/14 Sunnybank Avenue, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 6SD

Email: stjamesbenwell@gmail.com **Website:** <https://stjamesheritage.com>

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