

**NEWSLETTER 17**  
**November 2018**



## **St James' Heritage & Environment Group**

### **WINTER CELEBRATION EVENT**

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2pm - 4pm**

**St James' Church, Benwell**

**Join us for  
A festival of seasonal crafts, history and film**

- make Christmas decorations with woolly pompoms and natural materials
- local history quiz
- card making
- showing of *Riverside Voices* film and archive film of the west end
- learn how to draw with seasonal themes



*Mince pies and mulled wine*

*Free to all members*

**INSIDE** news, events and how to keep in touch with us

# Highlights of 2018

This has been another busy year. The graveyard has looked lovelier than ever, thanks to the efforts of the volunteers, and we ran many successful projects and events. These are just two highlights of the year.



## Nature in the Graveyard

As well as an important heritage site, St James' Graveyard is a valuable area for nature and wildlife. There is a wide variety of trees including evergreens such as holly and yew which are commonly found in churchyards to signify eternal life. It is home to many animals such as squirrels and hedgehogs as well as insects and other mini-beasts.

This year we produced two new interpretation boards and a series of leaflets about the different types of trees and animals in the graveyard, and created natural shelters and butterfly gardens in the graveyard and other places to encourage wildlife.

## Remembering the Bond

In October we celebrated the opening of the community garden to commemorate the Bond Memorial Methodist Church building which was sadly demolished in 2017.

Together with the Bond Guild and Action for Children (who are based in the former manse behind the new

garden) we created a small garden with some of the foundation stones from the old church building and a historical interpretation board. A booklet telling the history of the Bond is available from us and from local libraries, and it can also be seen on our website [www.stjamesheritage.com](http://www.stjamesheritage.com)



# LOOKING FORWARD TO 2019

## Benwell and Scotswood in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century

Next year we are publishing a new book about Benwell and Scotswood during the early years of the last century, including housing development, industrial growth and the impact of War. This builds on the talks and exhibitions we have put on over the past four years as part of our projects about the First World War. We also made a film



*Riverside Voices* which mixes new and archive film and photos with the voices of people who used to work or live along the West Newcastle riverside. If you haven't already seen this, you can catch it at our Winter Event or view it on our website.

## From the Big Freeze to the Arctic Convoys—calling at the pub

Our events programme for 2019 includes talks on a wide variety of local history topics, as well as guided tours and films. The year starts with Andrew Clark's talk on 8<sup>th</sup> January about the harsh winters Newcastle has experienced over past years. Other subjects include the pubs of the west end, the Roman excavations in Pendower, local folklore, and the Sowerby family of Benwell Towers.



There will be a new exhibition on display at St James' focusing on the history of local churches, past and present. We hope this will grow over the year as people donate more photos and information.

We will also have a rolling programme of displays at the West End Library.

# KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US

The Heritage and Environment Group is run by volunteers for the benefit of people who care about the local area, its history and environment. We rely on the support of our members and volunteers.

## Visit us

Every Tuesday afternoon throughout the year between about 12 noon and 4pm you will find us working in the graveyard at St James'.

We are always ready to welcome visitors and will be happy to show you around the



graveyard and tell you about our work. The church hall is open for information and refreshments. If you cannot manage a Tuesday, contact us and we will make a special arrangement for you to visit.

## Become a volunteer

We have volunteers doing all sorts of tasks. Every Tuesday afternoon volunteers work in the graveyard, weeding, tidying and planting. Other people do different things such as finding out more about the lives of people buried in the graveyard and about the trees and wildlife there or researching local history. Help is always welcome, whether you want to become a regular or occasional graveyard volunteer or help with a particular project.

## Come to a talk

We have a programme of talks, films and activities. These take place at St James' Church and the West End Library in Condercum Road. See our events programme for details or look at our website which has information about forthcoming events as well as our films and publications.

**Contact us:** Email: [stjamesbenwell@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesbenwell@gmail.com)

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