

St James' Heritage & Environment Group

NEWSLETTER



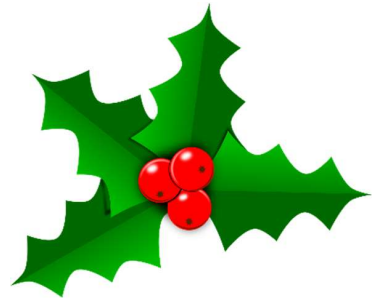
December 2021

Join us for our Winter Event

Tuesday 21st December 2pm

St James' Graveyard, Benwell Lane

Imagine the graveyard and church wreathed in lights!



This year's Winter Event will take place outdoors.

We cannot promise that the sun will shine, but there will be people to meet, things to do, mulled wine, mince pies, hot drinks and Christmas cheer.



At the end of the Event there will be a Christmas Carol Service starting at 3.30pm

Booking essential

More information about activities and booking on the invitation enclosed

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We look forward to seeing you soon

Interesting Times

Although we have not been able to run activities indoors this year, we have kept busy and active.

Our Summer Event in June took place outside in the graveyard. About 50 people turned up to have a go at crafts and musical activities, enjoy our traditional strawberry cream tea, and meet up with old friends once more.



The volunteers have continued to meet weekly to maintain the graveyard, with help from our friends. Many people turned up for our Autumn Leaves day recently to help to clear the big piles of fallen leaves.

We took part in the annual Heritage Open Days festival in September. As well as two open days for visitors to explore the graveyard, we ran two guided tours. This photograph shows participants in the Roman Benwell tour at the Benwell Roman temple.



We are very proud of our Roman heritage here in the west end, and are keen to increase awareness of it more widely. Next year there is a big regional festival celebrating the 1900th anniversary of the building of the Wall. We are making a film about the real route of Hadrian's Wall which goes through the town, up Westgate Road and along the West Road before turning onto the old Military Road to Throckley.

During the autumn we have run twelve guided walks. Pictured here is a group exploring forgotten parts of Scotswood's history such as the railway line that used to link Scotswood to Newcastle and Wylam.



On the left is the view looking east along the riverside towards the bridge at Newburn – part of the route of our last guided walk this year – a five mile walk through the history of Newcastle's outer west.

Our outdoor crafts activities using natural materials have also been popular. Here is Margaret displaying her decorated glass tea light holder.



During this period we have been working on two new local history booklets. *Ruth Nicholson's Elswick* is inspired by the life of a pioneering woman doctor. In August of this year, she was officially commemorated on a heritage plaque installed on the front of her former home in Kenilworth Road, Elswick. This booklet also tells the story of the extraordinarily rapid growth of Elswick during the late 19th century and of St Stephen's Church where Ruth's father was vicar.



Remembering St Joseph's Church tells the story of another church – St Joseph's RC Church in Armstrong Road, Benwell (pictured here), and of the school which stands on the site of the original "tin church" opened in 1903.

OUR PUBLICATIONS

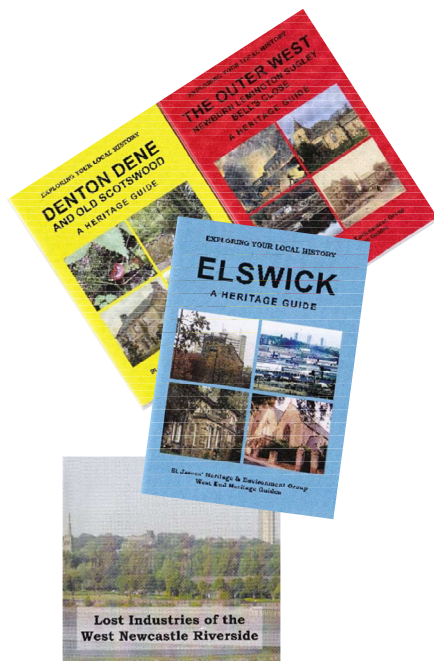
Since the pandemic began in March 2020, we have produced several new books and DVDs. These can be viewed on our website (stjamesheritage.com) and copies are available from us – contact details below.

Books

Newcastle's Outer West in Maps and Pictures
Scotswood in Maps and Pictures
Remembering St Joseph's Church
West End at War
West End Stories
Gone but not Forgotten

Booklets including walk trails

Elswick: a heritage guide
Benwell: a heritage guide
Denton Dene: a heritage guide
The Outer West: a heritage guide
The Outer West: a heritage trail
Ruth Nicholson's Elswick



DVDs

Lost Industries of the West Newcastle Riverside (three films)
Bringing the West End's History to Life (five talks and an exhibition)

CONTACT US

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

Visit: We meet weekly to work in St James' Graveyard, Benwell Lane. Visitors are welcome. At the moment we are there from 10am-1pm on Wednesdays.