

Join us for our Winter Event

Tuesday 6th December 2-4pm

St James' Church, Benwell

CRAFTS HISTORY STORYTELLING

Festive crafts - willow wreaths and cardmaking

Slide show of old photos of West Newcastle – History Quiz

Winter Tales performance by storyteller Chris Bostock

Mince Pies Mulled Wine

Booking essential

Getting ready for the New Year

We are planning an exciting programme of activities for 2023.

Local History talks and films: our Local History Mondays at the West End Library have already restarted, and there will be more talks and film showings in various venues during next year.

Local History Walks: join us on one of our guided walks exploring our history.

Big Local History Event: another full day event of talks and films is planned to take place next year during Local History Month in May.

Local Creativity and Local History: we are already looking ahead to next September's Heritage Open Days with plans for a big exhibition and activities.

Some highlights from the past 6 months



Unexpected wildlife encountered during a guided walk through Newcastle's parks.

This was one of eight guided walks taking place over the summer and autumn.

Digging for Roman history.

In the summer 16 volunteers helped archaeologists dig test pits on Pendower Estate, looking for remains of the 300 year Roman occupation of this area.



Under the stage at the Tyne Theatre.

This visit to the Tyne Theatre was one of a number of tours organised to places of interest.





Newcastle's Lost Railways.

This autumn we began to hold indoor events again. The Big Local History Event held in September was a particular highlight. Speakers included Les Turnbull (pictured here), Michael Chaplin and Tom Elwick.



A Potted History of the West End.

This Roman soldier was one of dozens of pottery models of people and places depicting

scenes from the area's history on display in our exhibition at the City Library and Discovery Museum.



Autumn in the graveyard.

Many volunteers helped with leaf clearing and bulb planting. The graveyard was also a perfect venue for creative craft activities using natural materials.

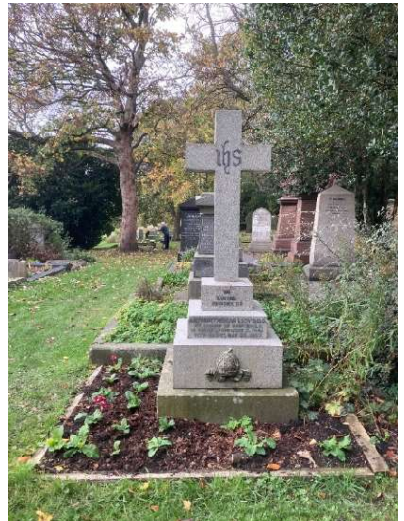


St James' Graveyard

The story of St James' Heritage & Environment Group began about 12 years ago when a group of volunteers came together to map the graves in the historic graveyard of St James' in Benwell. Since then our work has grown rapidly, now encompassing a wide range of activities including publications, talks, walks, exhibitions and community projects. Looking after the graveyard and improving it as a local amenity as well as a site of heritage significance has remained at the heart of our work. We are open to visitors every Wednesday from 10am to 1pm, or by arrangement. Information and tours available.

West End Stories

The graveyard was opened in 1833. In the early years it served as the burial place for a huge parish stretching from the river north to the Town Moor and from the edge of the city west to Denton Dene. This mainly rural area was soon to be transformed into a densely populated urban area at the heart of global industrial change. There are many stories to tell about the people buried in our graveyard whose lives were part of this history.



The Benwell Bishop

Did you know that there is a bishop in our graveyard? This photograph shows the grave of Bishop Arthur Thomas Lloyd. He lived at a mansion called Benwell Towers on the north side of Benwell Lane, which was for many years the official residence of Newcastle's bishops. Lloyd had a close relationship with the local area, and chose to be buried here in Benwell rather than in the Cathedral. Benwell Towers has had an interesting history since the bishops left, ending up as the studio for the television series Byker Grove.

CONTACT US

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