



St James' Heritage & Environment Group

NEWSLETTER

November 2025



WINTER EVENT

Tuesday 2nd December 2pm

St James' Church, Benwell

Don't miss this year's Winter Event

An afternoon of festive activities in good company. As well as the traditional mulled wine and mince pies there will be a local history picture show, quiz, book stall and different crafts to try including making a small mosaic coaster. Local storyteller Pascale will be back to tell us a new story about times past.

The Romans Were Here

The Winter Event is also a celebration of our project *The Romans Were Here*, which finishes at the end of the year.

This is the right time of year to celebrate our Roman heritage, as the ancient Roman festival of Saturnalia used to take place in December. By the time the Romans occupied our area this celebration had been extended to seven days of festivities with a sacrifice and a banquet. We aren't promising a sacrifice but we can offer mince pies and mulled wine.

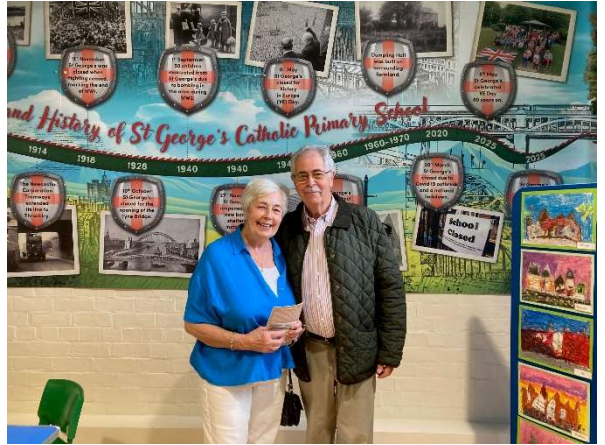
Read about *The Romans Were Here* in our special supplement.

INSIDE - Memories of our recent activities



Some of our recent activities

Former pupils of St George's School, Bells Close, pictured at the school's 150th anniversary event in July in front of the mural designed for the occasion with help from St James' Heritage & Environment Group.



Participants share memories of Elswick at an event in Cruddas Park Library, prompted by the collection of old photographs of the area belonging to west end organisation Newcastle Photo Archive.

Photographs taken along the route of Hadrian's Wall from Shields Road to New Bridge Street during the development of our new walk guide.



The history of Dunston Staithes was one of a programme of guided tours organised over the summer and early autumn.

Others included the Scotswood Station site, Roman Benwell and Denton Burn, Quayside to Paradise, and Lemington.



Rather less strenuous was this summer's butterfly count in St James' Graveyard.



Do you remember Elswick Leadworks?



This is Elswick Leadworks pictured in 1956, with its iconic shot tower dominating the skyline. The tower has long gone, along with most of the other buildings. The site is awaiting redevelopment.

The site is inaccessible today, but this photograph taken from the pigeon crees on the riverside shows piles of stone and bricks surrounded by trees.



There are two buildings remaining below here on Skinnerburn Road, both empty.

Did you work at the leadworks or do you remember the homes or the school that used to be on the site?

We would like to hear from you.

CONTACT US

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