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Newsletter edited by Lesley Turner, designed by Northern Design & arranged by Toby Lloyd. Many thanks to all contributors. If you would like to include an item in our next newsletter, please email:  
[lesley.turner@ouseburntrust.org.uk](mailto:lesley.turner@ouseburntrust.org.uk)  
by 20th January 2019.

## Ouseburn on Film

*Heather Richardson, Heritage Officer, has been watching old films of the Ouseburn Valley*

To complement the Trust's ever-growing and fascinating photo archive, we have now added a selection of old and new films about Ouseburn to our website at:  
[www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/film](http://www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/film).

Initially we are working in collaboration with the North East Film Archive (NEFA) who are committed to finding, preserving and providing access to the moving heritage of the region. NEFA have over 25,000 titles showing a visual record of life in the North East of England over the past 120 years, including industrial collections depicting shipbuilding, mining, steel, and manufacturing. The Archive's expert staff ensure the long-term preservation of films donated to the collection. The original format of the film is preserved, and the material digitised to make it more accessible either online or through community screenings.

NEFA currently have three films available online depicting Ouseburn Valley and it will be these that form the foundation of the film links available on the Trust website:

- **Byker Viaduct** (1980) is a comprehensive record produced by Turners Film Productions of the construction of the Byker Viaduct (now usually known as the Byker Metro Bridge) using precast, prestressed concrete segments.
- **Ouseburn** (1986) is a Tyne Tees Television documentary looking at the history and development of the River Ouseburn, from Callerton in the north into the Tyne. The film shows the various strategies to improve the environment of the Ouseburn, as it goes through Jesmond and the City of Newcastle, to create better conditions for visitors and wildlife.
- Finally, **Flowers for Peter** (1952) is a silent yet stylish crime thriller exposing the dark underbelly of post-war Newcastle. A chase sequence amid the industrial decay of the Ouseburn waterfront and on the Tyne provide a remarkable amateur portrait of the city and river in the 1950s. The film was produced by Gordon Hetherington as part of the Newcastle & District Amateur Cinematographers Association.

... Continues on page 2



Still from 'Flowers for Peter'



Still from 'Byker Viaduct'

## Ouseburn on Film ... Continued from page 1

North East on Film – Search and Rescue is a two-year NEFA project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund to find hidden films of the North East. From the earliest days of film, people have been recording their daily lives, celebrations, communities and traditions. Much of this film heritage remains lost or inaccessible. Captured on original film or video stock, likely tucked away in cupboards and attics, museum storerooms, company archives and garden sheds, fragile and deteriorating, these films need to be preserved before they are gone forever.

Did your family have a home movie camera - and do you still have the films? Are you aware of any workplace film collections that are now gathering dust?

Are you an amateur filmmaker who wants their work preserved for the future? If you think you might have something of interest contact the team at: [nefa@tees.ac.uk](mailto:nefa@tees.ac.uk). You can find out more about the project at [www.northeastonfilm.com](http://www.northeastonfilm.com).

From the Ouseburn Trust's perspective, we very much hope there will be some lost gems of the valley rediscovered as part of this exciting project. In the meantime, we will also be adding films from the Trust's own collection. So, with some cold, wet winter Sundays on the horizon, why not get the kettle on, some snacks to hand and snuggle down to watch some Ouseburn movies!

Heather Richardson, Heritage Officer

# Flood Risk in Ouseburn

In the lower Ouseburn Valley we have had some experience of flooding especially when heavy rainfall coming down the river has combined with very high tides coming up the river – but very infrequently. However it is a horrible experience for the people affected and the best defence is preparation in advance.

Taryn Al-Mashgari from the Environment Agency will be in the area over the next year to help communities become more resilient to flooding and to advise them about what they can do to prepare. She will be specifically working with businesses and residents offering advice, workshops and training so people in flood risk areas have a better understanding of what to do.

Over the next few months Taryn will be visiting businesses and residents in the Valley with specific advice relating to the risks of the river overflowing its banks and of surface water flooding. However, flooding is very difficult to predict and climate change and the increase in hard urban surfaces mean we all need to think about how we might be affected in Ouseburn:

- Is our home or business at risk of river flooding or surface water run-off?
- Is the car park we use at risk of flooding?
- How we can avoid driving or walking on flooded roads and paths?
- Can we look out for our neighbours who may need help?

Taryn recommends making your own flood plan. There are useful templates for individuals, community organisations and businesses at: [www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding](http://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding).

If you would like her to speak to your group or visit your business you can contact her at: [Taryn.Al-Mashgari@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Taryn.Al-Mashgari@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Taryn is working alongside Newcastle City Council on this project and working across Tyne and Wear as part of a team covering the whole of the North East.

Newcastle City Council, the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water are working together to reduce the risk of flooding. Here's who to contact to report a flooding issue:

**Roads, gullies, streams, burns and denes:** Newcastle City Council  
0191 278 7878 (ask for Envirocall)

**Sewers:** Northumbrian Water 0800 328 7648

**Rivers:** Environment Agency 0345 988 1188

# Green Ouseburn

The Clean Green Ouseburn team has led volunteer working parties through the summer to clear litter and keep the paths and steps open, and carry out environmental improvement works in the green spaces and the river.

We've teamed up with the Malings Residents, with the Plastic Free Ouseburn campaign and connected with neighbouring groups in St Anns. We've had great volunteers from the Department of Work & Pensions, Tyne Rivers Trust, Balfour Beatty, Stantec, local residents, student groups and some who simply love coming to Ouseburn. We've all enjoyed being outdoors and making a difference to this special place in our own individual ways. There's something deeply satisfying about looking around at the end of a session and seeing Ouseburn Valley looking even better than it did before.

Everyone with an interest in Ouseburn's environment is invited to a meeting of the **Green Working Group** 5.30pm on Tuesday 20th November at the Ouseburn Trust, 55 Lime Street.

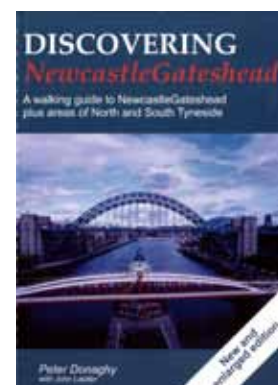
We'll be exchanging news and views, celebrating achievements, and looking at priorities and proposals for how to move forward. We'll be thinking about how the environment should feature in the Ouseburn Regeneration Plan that is being revised in 2019. Residents, workers, businesses, visitors and students are all welcome to come along.



*Volunteers in action on a River Clean up (Photo: John Hipkin)*

## Discovering Newcastle Gateshead: a walking guide

We met Peter Donaghy – the author of this book – as he checked and revised two of his routes which feature Ouseburn Valley (Newcastle East Regeneration and Following the Ouseburn). Since the original version of this book was researched in 2010 this vibrant region has continued to evolve and change so there was quite a lot to re-write! It is clearly a labour of love with detailed instructions on the route and comments on current and historic places and people of interest along the 30 walks included in the book. It is very much a book about discovering, not just walking.



The updated second edition of the book has now been published by Sigma Press and is available at all good bookshops and online at [www.walking-books.com](http://www.walking-books.com)

## Discovering Ouseburn: on guided walks

Over the years the Ouseburn Trust Summer Walks programme has offered a wide range of walks to discover more about the heritage and current developments in the Ouseburn Valley. A couple of these walks can also be arranged privately for group visits, but most have been one-off opportunities.

We want to develop this and offer these walks both more regularly and more flexibly; so we are looking to create a group of volunteer walk leaders to share their enthusiasm for the area. This will complement our Victoria Tunnel Tours with overground walks to introduce visitors to other aspects of the wonderful Ouseburn Valley. We will offer training in walk-leading and in leading an 'Ouseburn Highlights' or 'Welcome to Ouseburn' walk as well as the opportunity to research and develop special interests.

If you would like to get involved please contact Heather Richardson, Heritage Officer, at [heather.richardson@ouseburntrust.org.uk](mailto:heather.richardson@ouseburntrust.org.uk)



# What's on in Ouseburn



*Hole Editions in 36 Lime Street during Open Studios 2017  
(photo by John Hipkin)*

## Winter Open Studios 2018

Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th November  
Open from 10am-5pm

Find out what goes on behind the doors of Ouseburn Valley's fabulous collection of artists studios in some of the area's most interesting buildings.

This weekend is your chance to get inside, meet the artists, see their work and buy some festive presents for your friends and family (or yourself!). As well as pottery, printmaking, furniture, painting, jewellery, textiles, sculpture and glass to admire, buy and book onto courses to make, there's also music, food, hands-on activities and prize-draw raffles.

This year you can visit:

- Mushroom Works (also open for the Sneak Peek Preview: Friday 23rd, 6pm - 8pm)
- Kiln Ouseburn
- 36 Lime Street
- Jim Edwards Studio Gallery
- Northern Print
- Cobalt
- The Biscuit Factory
- Biscuit Tin Studios

There is so much going on that it's well worth checking out their website to plan your visit so you can fit as much in as possible! [www.ouseburnopenstudios.org](http://www.ouseburnopenstudios.org)

We hope you will come and say hello to Ouseburn Trust staff, trustees and volunteers on the 3rd floor of 36 Lime Street over the Open Studios weekend. You can complete the short Visitor Survey and talk to us about what's going on in the Valley.

## Xmas Fayre at The Tyne Bar

Saturday 24th-Sunday 25th November

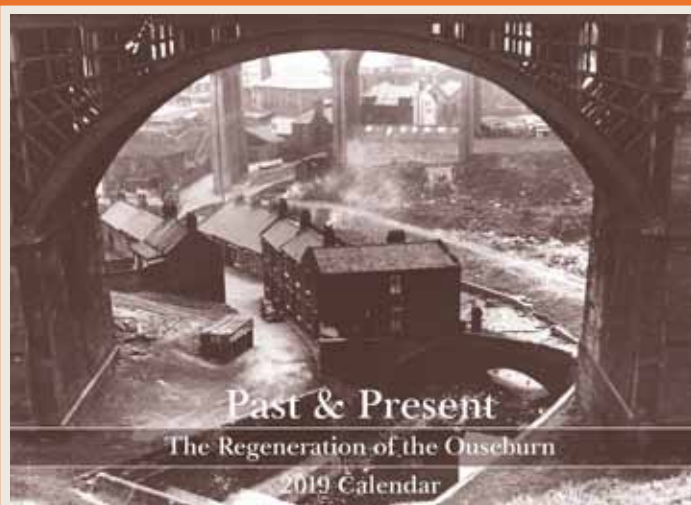
The Tyne Bar's seventh Xmas Fayre will coincide with the Ouseburn Open Studio weekend and there will be more entertainment this year, including

- On Saturday: Rock choir, Heaton Street band, DJ in the evening
- On Sunday: Children's choir from Ravenswood School, Rock Choir, Mitch Laddie Band

Plus a great variety of good quality Xmas stalls and a Xmas craft beer festival, great food, hot mulled Xmas drinks and hot chocolate drinks. The money raised on the charity stall goes to Brysons Animal Refuge in Gateshead.



*Having a go at Northern Print during Open Studios 2017  
(photo by John Hipkin)*



**Buy your copy at 36 Lime St during Open Studios or from the Ouseburn Trust or The Biscuit Factory after the weekend.**

## Ouseburn Farm Christmas Fair

Saturday 1st December, 10am-3pm

You are invited to Christmas at the Farm with guests Seven Stories and their Storycatchers, and a very special 'Rein-horse-deer' from Stepney Bank Stables. There will be street food from such pioneers as Memories of the Black Forest, Meat:Stack, Whitley Bay Pizza Co, and Flat Earth Food. It's perfect for Christmas presents too, with independent local makers and retailers on the specially selected craft stalls. On top of all this, the farm will be selling its own crafts from its Pre-Loved Furniture Warehouse and Upcycling Workshop, as well as food products and treats from the cafe, lovingly prepared by their team.

## Special events at Seven Stories

As part of Being Human Festival: From Source to Sea these free events are presented in association with Newcastle University:

**Once Upon a Tyne** offers the opportunity to explore the archives. Inspired by the Tyne and the rivers, seas and oceans that feature within the archive, explore manuscripts from authors including David Almond and Robert Westall, and artwork from illustrators including Polly Dunbar. 11am and 1.30 pm on Saturday 17th November

**Tales of the Tyne** explore the old North East in David Almond's writing. As the mines closed and the shipyards fell silent, the North East saw the end of a long and vibrant tradition. Where next for the communities who had grown up with the old industries woven into the fabric of their lives? David Almond's wild and beautiful stories explore the end of the old North East, and the possibilities for new beginnings. Join Dr Lucy Pearson from Newcastle University's Children's Literature Unit for a talk on how David imagines these endings and beginnings, followed by a tour of our *Where Your Wings Were* exhibition focussed on David's work. 2.30pm on Sunday 18th November

**Songs from the Dam** explores stories, tunes and folk songs of the North East with Kathryn Tickell, David Almond and Amy Thatcher – artists inspired by the landscape, language, history and strange beauty of the north. They bring you a memorable evening of stories, songs and, of course, irrepressible music. The event celebrates David Almond's new book *The Dam*, beautifully illustrated by Levi Pinfold, which tells the



story of the flooding of Kielder Water. This event will be taking place at 7.30pm on Saturday 24th November at Boiler House, Newcastle University

Tickets are free but must be booked in advance at [www.sevenstories.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.sevenstories.org.uk/whats-on)



Explore the archives in *Once upon a Tyne* (photo Seven Stories)



# TESTHOUSE 5 Metal: a story and a show

**Exhibition open Friday 7th December  
6-8pm, Saturday 8th 10-5pm, Sunday 9th  
11-5pm  
at TESTHOUSE 5, Albion Row, Byker**

Founded in 1999, TESTHOUSE 5 is a small artists' studio premises located on Albion Row, Byker. This winter sees the premises open to the public for a show of furniture, photography and sculpture inspired by and made from metal. Evocative views of metal in the built environment are presented by Patrick McArdle whilst tactile, new and found metal objects and wares are exhibited by Andy McDermott and Dubhaltach Ó Colmáin.

Set on a hill made partly of ballast, TESTHOUSE 5 occupies a building that appears on the 1865 Ordnance Survey map showing farmland to the east. Changes to the premises during the last 150 years reflect in some ways the developments within Byker and Ouseburn.

In the early 20th century the land was home to College Sweets, followed in 1938 by Domestos (chemical works). The site was bought by Morley Coachworks in 1976, who moved premises from Stepney Rd. to make way for the Metro line. Mintex (vehicle braking systems) occupied the building in the 1980's and a decade later it became a factory manufacturing ribbons and bows! This closed in 1998 before re-opening the following year in its current guise.

This background reveals the constant use and re-use of the building as an asset to people, the economy and the area. However, in 2005 the future was uncertain as TESTHOUSE 5 was threatened with demolition for new housing. Fortunately or unfortunately (depending on your opinion) the banking debacle of 2008 and subsequent recession put a hold on this likelihood.

So ten years on, TESTHOUSE 5 not only weathers the recession, but is proud to open its doors for the weekend of 7th-9th December. Visitors are welcome to visit, enquire about commissions and perhaps even purchase an item. Come along, you might be surprised...

Andy McDermott, Proprietor



TESTHOUSE 5 as a name derives from a cast aluminium sign, found on a pile of scrap metal in the 'top yard' of Shepherd's Scrap Metal (now Ward Bros.) The sign, rescued from the melting pot of time, seemed to fit the premises in terms of creative potential and ambiguity. Handily, it sits quite well on the front door's roller shutter casing!

Some while back, a visitor mentioned there were test houses used for the calibration of electrical equipment in the Stephenson locomotive works in Newcastle. If any readers know more, please get in touch via [admin@ouseburntrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@ouseburntrust.org.uk)



# Ouseburn Trust Photographic Archive

by Allen Mulliss, Photo Archive Volunteer

From the extensive range of material in the Ouseburn Trust archives, this latest selection was inspired by other articles within this edition of the Ouseburn Valley News.

Work by our team of volunteers continues digitising and cataloguing photographs in all the archives. Full training is given if you would like to come and help research and catalogue the images. There is also opportunity to promote the archive by sharing images via the 'Flickr' image hosting website.

## High Tide in Ouseburn



Very high tide in the Ouseburn almost overtopping the riverside walkway alongside Foundry Lane Industrial Estate (on the right). Taken from Ouseburn Bridge.

Credit: Ouseburn Trust Collection

## Looking back at Open Studios 2011



Amy Dover (artist and illustrator) in Foundry Lane Studios during Ouseburn Open Studios weekend in 2011.

Credit: Ouseburn Trust Collection (John Robert Hipkin)

## Guided Walks past programmes



Novelist Stephen Laws (left) standing by the late Eric Larkham who is talking to a group on Ouseburn Village Green at the start of the Ouseburn Trust summer walk 'A Novelist's Ouseburn' in 2012. Eric was a founder member of the Ouseburn Trust and organised the walks programme for many years, as well as leading walks himself. Since 2017 there has been an annual Eric Larkham memorial walk and outside The Cluny there is a plaque by local designer Colin Hagan that features a silhouette of Eric with his trademark carrier bag.

Credit: Ouseburn Trust Collection (John Robert Hipkin)

## Inside the Imperial Cinema, Byker Bank



Piles of clothing and costumes on tables, with Bruvvers Community Theatre Company in the former Imperial Cinema, Byker Bank. The Imperial cinema opened in 1910 as the Minerva cinema, it was renamed the Imperial in 1918 and closed in 1963. It became a warehouse, latterly used by Bruvvers from 1978, until it was demolished in 1985. The site is now the roundabout at the end of Byker Bridge, Shields Road and Shields Road 'bypass'.

Credit: Ouseburn Trust Collection (Richard Blossie)

# Victoria Tunnel Special Events

## Unquiet Earth: From Victoria Tunnel to Quantum Tunnelling

Saturday 17 November 2018, 10–11am.

Take a journey from our origins to potential endings via the Victoria Tunnel, which links Newcastle's unique ground to the majesty of the Tyne.

As part of the national Being Human festival of the humanities, The Experimental Architectural Group and Culture Lab from Newcastle University investigate how the spaces we inhabit can be transformed into experiences that inform new ways of living. They invite you to travel through time, as a visitor experience within the Victoria Tunnel. Within the bowels of the earth you will encounter the smallest and largest objects in the universe, and explore how they may be entangled with the specificity, unique history and possible futures of this historic place.

This event is free but booking is essential at [beinghumanfestival.org](http://beinghumanfestival.org) (then search for Victoria Tunnel)

## Solstice Atmospheric in the Victoria Tunnel

The winter solstice (not Christmas) Atmospheric concert at 7.15pm on Friday 21st December 2018 in the Victoria Tunnel, will see the world premiere of a brand new suite of wintry music from Ouseburn composer Steve Luck. The suite will feature three recently composed pieces which will each evoke a different aspect of winter. They will be performed in (almost) complete darkness in the wonderful acoustics of the Victoria Tunnel.

Wrap up warm and bring your family and friends along to experience an intimate pitch black concert of beautiful, solo piano music in an unusual setting. The darkness will help you to experience what it is like to truly listen. This is not a Christmas event, but is instead a celebration of the shortest day of the year and the beginning of the journey back to summer. Get away from the madness of the commerciality of the season and disappear down a tunnel, and into your own mind, for an hour or so. You know you are going to feel better for it afterwards!

Numbers are limited so please book now to avoid disappointment. Tickets are priced at £10 (plus booking fee) and are on sale at [www.atmospherica.co.uk](http://www.atmospherica.co.uk)



Steve Luck Atmospheric Underground Photo by John Hipkin



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