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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
by 20th March 2019.



Tree-planting in Ouseburn this Springtime with Trustee Dave Cross, Andy Gray from Living Woods and Tony Gates, Chair of Ouseburn Trust. Photo: JR Hipkin

Ouseburn Valley- the next 10 years?

The current Ouseburn Regeneration Plan was launched in 2012 and covers the period up until 2020. The document was co-authored by the Trust, Ouseburn Futures and the City Council and established a series of objectives for the Valley around outcomes for children and young people, health and wellbeing, safety, the economy, housing and the environment. It followed a structure used by the Council at that time for each area of the city.

With 2020 fast approaching, the Trust has discussed with the City Council drafting a replacement, and have their support in doing so. For the new strategy we have the opportunity to design a bespoke document that better suits the unique character and mixed-use nature of the Ouseburn. We believe that we shouldn't be constrained by the notion of a regeneration plan. We feel a plan for the Ouseburn should not simply be about its regeneration, but about protecting and celebrating what we already have here too. It should be about nurturing its natural as well as its built environment, celebrating and engaging residents, workers, and visitors in its immense and broad heritage offer. We want to be ambitious but do not want to compromise what makes Ouseburn special.

Perhaps more important than all of this though, is that a plan for the next ten years of the Ouseburn should not simply be what we think is best for the place, or what the City Council think is best, but must capture the views of all stakeholders, everyone who lives in, works in and visits Ouseburn.

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We propose introducing the document with a summary of what makes Ouseburn special for each of us, followed by a document structured using themes, such as the built environment, the natural environment, heritage, transport, business, arts and culture, health and wellbeing and others we might wish to develop aspirations around.

Each of our sub-groups, and Valley-wide networks are looking to develop a series of categories for each theme within which objectives can be set. This is where we need your help. You can attend any of the groups – we currently have a Planning and Development Group, a Heritage group, a Green group and a Transport group, where you can help develop the framework.

Alternatively there will be opportunities to comment and participate once we have a set of headings and proposals under each theme and further consultation opportunities once the detailed content has been developed.

Get involved and help us make this a really inclusive and powerful plan we can use to best shape the future of the Ouseburn Valley.

Follow the progress of developing the new strategy on our website and find out about current ways to comment and contribute at www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/2020-30 or email admin@ouseburntrust.org.uk

Chris Barnard, Chief Officer, Ouseburn Trust

News from Ouseburn Valley



The new Shieldfield Pharmacy opened in January and is looking really smart, with improved access, space for wider range of products – and some fascinating fish too. Tony Jassal, who owns this and the Quayside Pharmacy on Crawhall Road, has run both for over 20 years and loves being part of the vibrant Ouseburn community.

Evergreen Tattoo Studio

Faye Oliver is now open for business above Ernest at 1 Boyd St. “I specialise in bespoke botanical tattoos inspired by nature. You can see my work and book appointments through my website www.fayeo.co.uk. I have 2 apprentices with me - Laura and Adam - and we will all be doing handpoke tattoos without a machine

“It’s not solely a handpoke studio, however, as we will be having guest artists from all over the world coming to work with us and they could work with machine. I’ve got a few guest artists lined up already and will be advertising for another full-time tattoo artist to join the team very soon.”

Recyke y’Bike

Recyke y’Bike’s premises move is in full swing! The shop will move from the railway arch on Hannington St in mid-April and they’re planning an Everything Must Go sale on the 13th and 14th of April. A great opportunity to grab a bargain and find vintage bike parts, frames, forks and wheels and weird stuff they’ve kept for some reason! Meanwhile the workshop is already set up at the new site at 164 Brinkburn Street and if you have a bike to donate they’d be grateful if you could take it there.

Recyke y’Bike have just launched a crowdfunding call-out to raise £8,000 by 23 April to improve the new premises on Brinkburn Street and to develop their work: “The wonderful people of the North East have been incredibly generous to Recyke y’bike over the past 13 years, donating thousands of volunteer hours and thousands of bikes. At this pivotal point in Recyke y’bike’s development we need your help even more so that we can continue to grow and develop, meet demand and connect more people to the joy and freedom that comes with a bike.”

Support them at www.crowdfunder.co.uk/recyke-y-bike-brinkburn-street-boost (there are some great rewards as well as the good feeling from supporting a wonderful Ouseburn project)

To keep up to date with their latest news you can sign up to the e-newsletter on their website <http://recyke-y-bike.org>

Limbering up for the Summer walks



Photo: JR Hipkin

Each Summer the Trust runs a series of walks on Tuesday evenings exploring a different theme related to the Ouseburn valley and its neighbours. Following the results of a short survey of those taking the walks in 2018 the programme will start earlier this year to make the most of the light evenings and largely avoid the August holiday season.

- Kicking off the programme on Tuesday 4 June Martin Ellis will be repeating his very popular walk from last year on **Brewing in Ouseburn**, exploring the explosion in local micro-breweries.
- On 11 June Lynne Mountford's walk **Lizzie's Life and Death in the Lead Works** is likely to be a more sombre affair. Through the life of local Ouseburn resident Lizzie Dowson, the walk will highlight the working conditions for women lead workers in the 19th century.
- For those who fancy flexing their leg muscles a little further Andrew Buckley will lead **Walking the Ouseburn from Gosforth to the Valley** on 18 June (6pm start). Along the way, you will discover Jesmond Dene, Armstrong Park and Heaton Park, which were laid out as private pleasure gardens in the mid 19th Century, quite a contrast to the industrial landscape of the Lower Ouseburn valley.
- Mike Greatbatch will be exploring another aspect of **The Drink Trade in Ouseburn** on 25 June. This is a memorial walk in honour of Eric Larkham, Ouseburn friend and enthusiast with a thirst for the local pub heritage.
- The **Route of the Roman Wall through Ouseburn** on 2 July will follow the line of Hadrian's Wall and look at past and present attempts to find evidence of its location in the valley.

Hopefully these first five walks have something that takes your fancy, but if not the June issue of the newsletter will tempt you with details of another five. Walks are priced at £4 per person except for the Eric Larkham Memorial Walk which is free. The majority of walks start at 7pm and last around 1.5 hours, but please check the details when booking as this might vary. Bookings open on 1st April on our website www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/walks-and-talks.

Spring Bloom

a walking tour of the Byker redevelopment

Saturday 13 April.

Meet at Byker Metro at 10.30am, finish 1pm.

A wonderful opportunity to discover the Byker redevelopment this Spring on a guided walk led by Byker resident Andy McDermott. He explains what you will see:

"Long regarded as one of the UK's finest post-war housing developments, this lively tour details the area's topography, architecture, micro-climates, ecology, landscapes, trees and wildlife, resource management and more. If we're lucky we'll be greeted by fine examples of spring blossom."

Refreshment can be enjoyed at the tour's end in the East End Library where a selection of archive material will be available to browse.

Suggested price £5 (low waged) £10 (full price). Please arrive promptly. To book your place in advance please email Andy at admcdermott1@yahoo.co.uk



What's on in Ouseburn

Puppets all day

11am-4.30pm Saturday 13 April 2019

Newcastle Puppetry Festival 2019 comes to Ouseburn for a day of free and ticketed children's puppetry events, including shows, workshops, outdoor theatre and activities for all the family.

At Seven Stories

- A heart at sea 11am
- Funky Puppet making workshops 12pm and 4pm
- Insect Marionette Circus 3pm

Free events at **Ouseburn Farm** (Donations welcome)

- Professor Ambrose Merryweather & his Fabulous Fossils 11am, 1.30pm, 3.30pm
- Don Quixote 12pm, 2pm, 4pm
- The Meanderthals 12.30pm, 3pm

Plus Little Fawn Caravan at 11am, 11.40am*, 12.40pm*, 2.40pm*, 3.20pm, 4.20pm, 5pm* (*some are already full – to book email info@newcastlepuppetryfestival.co.uk this is a pay as you feel event)

While at **Cluny 2** there's a series of free performances through the day:

- Map Mystery 11am
- Horizon 11.30am and 3.30pm
- We are not Shellfish 12pm
- Creation 1pm and 1.30pm
- Island Home 3pm
- Moving Parts education project showcase 4pm

See www.newcastlepuppetryfestival.co.uk for tickets and more details.

Easter Fair at The Tyne Bar

Saturday 20 April

Dee Plater enjoyed hosting their Christmas Fair so much she's making plans for Easter too "The Fair is on Easter Saturday, starting at 12 o'clock midday. We have at least 17 local craft stall holders and several street food traders too. Our programme of events on the outside stage starts with the following:

- 12.30 Rob Slater will conduct his Rock Choir
- 1.15 An acoustic act
- 2.30 Voice Of The Town an amazing Gospel/Rock choir presented by Steven Morton
- 3.30 Voice Of The Town second set.
- 4.30 Jammshed (street band)

With DJ Walter and Carnival Moon inside at 9pm"

Rapper Day in Ouseburn

11am-4.30pm Saturday 6 April 2019

A traditional North East sword dance is coming to Newcastle on Saturday 6th April as an annual 'rapper' tournament returns to the city for the first time in a decade. The local teams hosting the event include the two based at the Cumberland Arms in Ouseburn - The Kingsmen and Star & Shadow Rapper.

Five Ouseburn pubs will play host to more than 20 teams from around the country, each hoping to be crowned the finest. Each competing team will dance at five pubs –Brinkburn St Brewery Bar & Kitchen, The Cluny, Cumberland Arms, The Free Trade and the Old Coal Yard, with an extra stage performance in The Cluny 2.

Rapper dancing involves five dancers using sprung-steel swords and is a tradition from the coal mining communities of Northumberland and Durham. Louisa Squires, Leader of Star & Shadow Rapper, says: "I love that it is a free event in public venues during the day which means it is easily accessible to a wide audience who might not have seen rapper dancing before. The atmosphere in the pubs will be amazing."

For more details see dert2019.co.uk and facebook.com/rappertournament



Photo: Mike Everett

A Mountain of Turkish Delight at The Biscuit Factory

9 - 19 May 2019

Jim Moir, otherwise known as popular comedian, presenter and actor Vic Reeves, is in Ouseburn for a special 10-day exhibition at The Biscuit Factory, his first-ever art show in Newcastle. The new collection will feature more than 100 original drawings and paintings of familiar northern faces and landmarks amongst his other quirky subject matter, rendered in his truly unique and characterful style. All work is signed by the artist and available to buy.

To be in with a chance of winning tickets to the private launch of the exhibition on 9 May, where Jim will be in attendance, email art@thebiscuitfactory.com with your contact details to enter by the end of April.



Victoria Tunnel update

As well as our popular heritage tours we have a diverse range of special events in the next few months with something for everyone:

We're Going on a Bear Hunt....down the Tunnel!

During April we are partnering with Seven Stories to celebrate 30 years of the popular children's book 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' with a very special hunt in Ouseburn's own Victoria Tunnel suitable for children aged 4+ and their families.

Explore with us as we go on a multi-sensory adventure in search for bears. What will we see? What will we hear? Join us to find out! After our trip we will settle down in the Seven Stories bookshop for storytime and craft activities. Come dressed to go adventuring! Tickets are £4 per person (children and adults) and can be booked on Seven Stories website at www.sevenstories.org.uk

Late Shows on Friday 17 May,

Women in Wartime – thirty minute costumed tours between 6pm–9pm in the Victoria Tunnel exploring the roles of women on Tyneside during World War Two and the valuable contributions and sacrifices they made. Free but booking essential. Tickets will be available from 17 April: www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/women-in-wartime

We will also be offering free taster tours of the Victoria Tunnel between 4-6pm – no booking required, just come to the Tunnel entrance on Ouse Street. There may be a short wait if busy.

Sounds of the Underground – Paul Taylor Saturday 18 May

For the next in our eclectic programme of concerts in the Victoria Tunnel we are welcoming Paul Taylor, an accomplished pianist and keyboard player specialising in improvisation. The music is evocative, alluring and unique; combining unusual harmonies and sonorities with an original and fluid technique. He is emerging as one of the most consistently interesting and innovative solo pianists in recent years, eschewing the conventional clichés associated with jazz improvisation in favour of an unorthodox, harmonically complex and often compellingly beautiful musical language that is often inspired by the classical tradition. Nonetheless, his playing also encapsulates the restless capacity for invention that is a cornerstone of jazz. Tickets available at www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/sounds-underground

Well done to all Victoria Tunnel Volunteers

Our Victoria Tunnel Co-ordinator, Clive Goodwin, adds "Our tours and special events are all made possible by a fabulous team of committed and enthusiastic volunteers. I'm very proud that they have recently been given special recognition by the Museum & Heritage Awards 2019."

More businesses, more jobs (and more cars)

We've had over 100 replies to the 2019 Ouseburn Valley Business Survey so far. They have come from all corners of the Valley, all types and sizes and ages of business so we've had a good representative response.

What have we found out so far?:

- Since the last survey in 2011 many businesses are maturing nicely – two thirds of businesses have been established for more than 10 years (compared with half in 2011)
- And many businesses are choosing to stay in Ouseburn – two thirds of businesses have been based in Ouseburn for more than 5 years (compared with under half in 2011)
- Most businesses (70%) think that Ouseburn has improved as a business location in the last 6 years just the same as in 2011, but now 14% think that it has got worse (whereas in 2011 only 3% thought it had got worse).
- It's really noticeable that there are more full time jobs in the Valley – over 80% of jobs are full time. (Compared with 51% in 2011). About a quarter of workers live in the east end of Newcastle, and another quarter in the rest of Newcastle.
- The way people travel to work has distinctly shifted towards car use (rising from 44% in 2011 to 59% now) with bus travel declining most over this time – so there's been little success in persuading people to walk/cycle/use public transport. (Though I did enjoy seeing someone travelling to work on a skateboard this week.)
- Not surprisingly many of the improvements requested were around parking and traffic, but there were also many suggestions for improving the environment, for a shop, plus more networking opportunities and better broadband. Many businesses stressed their enjoyment of the creative and varied nature of Ouseburn and wanted to keep the special character and avoid gentrification.

In 2011 it was estimated that there were about 400 businesses and individual artists/makers and 2000 people working in Ouseburn.

Thanks to everyone who filled in the questionnaire (as well as Charlie from Hoults Yard, Lisa at the Toffee Factory and Jon who looks after the Council's i2 and i4 Business Centres) we have a much more accurate estimate of the size of the Ouseburn economy today. Initial estimates for 2019 indicate that it has grown considerably - with 650 businesses and artists/makers and nearly 3,000 jobs.

Most workspace is full and we know there is still demand - so developments that provide space to grow the Ouseburn business and studio base are important. It's good to see opportunities for more studios at B-Box and we look forward to the business spaces that will be created at VSSL on Lime St and at Lower Steenbergs Yard in future.

We'd still like more replies to the survey, if you haven't yet taken part there's still time to give your views at bit.ly/OVBS19 until the end of April.

Dale Bolland and Lesley Turner

New Venue at Ticbox Hub

There's a new venue available for hire at unit 20, Off Quay Buildings in Ouseburn. TICBOX use the venue themselves to deliver high quality Film & Television Training Courses, working alongside International Casting Agency NE14.TV and it is available to hire at other times. There is one large meeting/function room (for 30-60) at £15 per hour and one small room (for 10-20) for £10 per hour, both fully accessible on the ground floor.

Email hello@ticbox.tv or call 0191 265 7224 for details.



Ouseburn Trust Photographic Archive

by Allen Mulliss, Photo Archive Volunteer

The recent Ouseburn Trust business survey and occasional breakfast meetings for local businesses have inspired this latest selection from the extensive range of material in the Ouseburn Trust archives. We would welcome more current and historic pictures of businesses and people at work in the Valley to add to the collection.

Our team of volunteers continues digitising and cataloguing photographs for 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.

Pub Trade



Bar staff in the 1990s standing behind the bar at The Cumberland Arms, James Place Street, Byker.

Photo credit: Ouseburn Trust Collection

Art



Jim Edwards (landscape painter, artist) with exhibits for sale, 59 Lime Street, Ouseburn

Photo credit: Ouseburn Trust Collection (John Robert Hipkin)

Furniture



Nick James (designer and maker of high quality handmade furniture and entrepreneur) with examples of his work, Mushroom Works, St Lawrence Road, Byker.

Photo credit: Ouseburn Trust Collection (John Robert Hipkin)

Car Hire, Sales and Servicing



Alan Fearon and employees of Fearon's Car Hire, Sales and Servicing (Rolls Royce and Bentley Specialists) with Rolls Royce cars, Foundry Lane. This featured in the Ouseburn Partnership Calendar 2000

Photo credit: Ouseburn Trust Collection (Kate Edwards, at that time Ouseburn Partnership Regeneration Manager)

Four Awards for Digitalab



Digitalab brought home an incredibly impressive FOUR industry awards at this year's Trade Awards, held by the prestigious Societies of Photographers. Digitalab, the family run professional photo lab based on Stepney Bank in Ouseburn scooped Best Professional Lab, Best Professional Frame, Best Professional Product and Best Professional Customer Service.

With the company celebrating its 70th anniversary in 2019, the four awards have certainly provided the perfect way in which to kick off a huge year for the lab.

Jill Roe, owner and granddaughter of company founder, Bob Fountain, said "Winning these four prestigious awards at the Societies Convention is both overwhelming and humbling. I am so proud of the team who have worked so hard, producing amazing quality prints and frames and giving our clients exceptional customer service." An unprecedented year of growth has seen the company work with more photographers than ever before, whether it be prints and wall art for studio-based photographers or large-scale exhibitions in some of Britain's most prestigious venues, it certainly hasn't been a quiet year at the lab.

The success at the Societies Convention is only the start of a busy year for the team however. Several new product launches are coming within the first quarter of 2019 along with Workshops and Roadshows both at the lab and around the UK, ensuring that Digitalab's 70th year will be its busiest and most successful 12 months yet.

Saint Ann's in the Archives

Drop-in Event 2-4pm, Wednesday 17 April in Newcastle City Library,

Join Mike Greatbatch to view original maps, images and documents relating to Saint Ann's, Quayside and Ouseburn. Includes maps from 1770s-1900, Canon Bernard East scrap books, Saint Ann's Church Monthly Magazines (early 1900s), Medical Officer of Health Reports, and numerous old photographs – a small part of City Library's rich collection of archive material.

Mike will be on-hand between 2pm and 4pm. Drop-in anytime, whenever is convenient. Room 7 is on Level 6, near the staff Help Desk in the Search Room. Staff will direct you to Room 7.

Let Mike know you will be attending by emailing michael.greatbatch@sky.com



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