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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 August 2019.

# Back to the Future

*Every Saturday morning at 10.30am our new guided walk will take you to discover the history of the Ouseburn Valley, its more recent regeneration story and what the future holds for it, all in 90 minutes!*

Our volunteer guides lead visitors through its industrial revolution beginnings and the lives of its workers, the decline and neglect of the mid-twentieth century, then the gradual regeneration creating the vibrant urban village we know and love today.

What our visitors say:

"We took the Back to the Future tour in May, and found it very interesting and informative. The tour guides were very professional with vast knowledge. Their relaxed approach made the walk easy and enjoyable. How this area has changed over the years! For anybody who knows this area but has not been there recently you must go and see the change for yourselves. Highly recommended." Alan Wells, Durham

"I went on the Back to the Future tour with my 9-year-old son. We both really enjoyed it, a fabulous walking tour with wonderful guides. Thank you very much! We will be looking out for more like this and highly recommend it!" K Baines

What our Volunteer Guides say:

Ouseburn resident David Carr enjoys sharing his enthusiasm for the Valley when he leads the walk: "Where else could you find such an eclectic mix of the past, present and future in one place? Eco-friendly homes, listed buildings, traditional pubs, bars, cafes, breweries, artists' studios, galleries, offices, the National Centre for Children's Books, music venues, stables, a tunnel, a UNESCO world heritage site and even a farm, all sitting side by side in harmony."

Book your Back to the Future tour for yourself or bring your weekend visitors at [www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/back-to-the-future](http://www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/back-to-the-future) or call 0191 261 6596. Tickets £5.

We can also arrange private tours for groups at other times.

To join our team of enthusiastic guides (full training provided) contact heather.richardson@ouseburntrust.org.uk



Volunteer Guide David Carr Photo: L Turner



On the first tour. Photo: John Hipkin

# Walk on the Wild Side

Lesley Turner took part in the City Nature Challenge in April, joining the Natural History Society of Northumbria and expedition leaders from Wild Intrigue on a guided walk to enjoy and identify the plants, insects, birds and animals on a three-hour safari through the Ouseburn Valley.

Led by Heather, Cain and James from Wild Intrigue we looked along the riverside, checked out overgrown corners, searched the woodland and the sky above and identified 86 different species.

- Some of the plants have great names - hairy bittercress, maidenhair spleenwort, rough stalked feather moss and ivy-leaved toadflax.
- Orange tipped butterflies were showing off along the whole route and we saw five other butterfly species as well as 3 varieties of ladybird and 4 types of bee.
- The 24 different bird species we spotted included the mute swans with 2 eggs, a moorhen feeding its chick on board the Seven Stories boat, and a kestrel watching from its favourite perch on the Viaduct.

There was a great variety in the humans on the walk as well, from students to retirees, new nature watchers to expert enthusiasts, first-time visitors to Ouseburn regulars. The friendly conversations and shared concerns and interests along the way made for a morning to refresh my natural wonder and also my confidence in human nature.

For the full list of species see:  
[wildintrigue.co.uk/species-lists/urban-wilds-of-ouseburn](http://wildintrigue.co.uk/species-lists/urban-wilds-of-ouseburn)



Look out for Wild Intrigue's forthcoming Bat Walk in Ouseburn at 8.30pm on Monday 24 August and other expeditions. More details and to book a place at [wildintrigue/mini-expeds/bat-safari](http://wildintrigue/mini-expeds/bat-safari)



All photos: John Hipkin

# Summer Walks 2019 – the second instalment!

In the April edition of the Newsletter we introduced the first five walks of the 2019 Summer programme and the first walk, Brewing in Ouseburn, has already sold out!

There are still a few places available on:

- Lizzie's Life and Death in the Lead Works on Tuesday 11 June
- Walking the Ouseburn on Tuesday 18 June
- The Drink Trade in Ouseburn on Tuesday 25 June
- The Route of the Roman Wall on Tuesday 2 July

And we have also released the next five walks:

**On Fiascos, Factories and Farmland** on Tuesday 9th July will be a lively and topical tour of South West Byker/East Ouseburn led by resident Andy McDermott to explore landscapes, trees, businesses, architecture, design, political legacies and economic regeneration.

Tuesday 16th July will see Tina Gough and Colin Haylock explore **What makes successful Ouseburn Buildings?** This tour will highlight the best of Ouseburn's, historic, adapted and new buildings, with reflections on what will help shape successful future buildings in the Valley.

Mike Greatbatch will be exploring **A Chartist Life - William Parker of Lime Street** on Tuesday 23rd July to learn about the industries and politics of the Ouseburn in the years 1838-42.

On Tuesday 30th July Charlie Hoult will be our guide

for **Maling Pottery Reborn**, a walk from the Brinkburn St Brewery Bar and Kitchen to the Malings Ford B Pottery, the largest pottery in the world in the 1870s, now Hoult's Yard.



Dale Bolland leading one of the 2018 walks. Photo: John Hipkin

Finally, for all those who like to be in the know:

**What's next for the Ouseburn?** on Tuesday 6th August will be an opportunity to look around future development sites and buildings with the Ouseburn Trust's Planning & Development Group.

Walks are priced at £4 per person except for the Eric Larkham Memorial Walk (The Drink Trade, 25 June) which is free. The majority of walks start at 7pm and last around 1 ½ hours, but please check the details when booking as this might vary.



Mike Greatbatch leading one of the 2018 walks. Photo: John Hipkin

# Ouseburn Farm Aid 3



All proceeds from ticket sales for the festival go towards supporting the work of Ouseburn Farm. More than just a visitor attraction, the Farm provides a unique setting for some of the city's most vulnerable residents to gain skills, build their confidence and form new friendships. It also works with hundreds of school children each year who learn about the origins of food and why we need to protect the planet's natural resources through hands-on, practical encounters with the Farm's flora and fauna. But it can only keep its doors open and continue this important work with ongoing support from the public and business supporters such as The Cluny.

Tickets are on sale now from [www.thecluny.com/gigs](http://www.thecluny.com/gigs) and are also available from Ticketweb, Reflex, RPM and Beatdown.

## Saturday 13-Sunday 14 July

Two Ouseburn Valley institutions join forces again this summer for a weekend of live music, great beer and piglet cuddling. Yes, it can only be Ouseburn Farm Aid, a collaboration between The Cluny and Ouseburn Farm, back for its third year on 13th and 14th July.

This year's festival builds on previous years with the announcement of another fantastic line-up including Callum Pitt and Rob Heron and the Teapad Orchestra, and a new programme of family activities on Sunday in the Farm's orchard.

Children (and adults) can join in the fun this year with a Farmers Club and festival workshops as well as The Cluny's infamous Duck Race which sees competitors decorate rubber ducks then launch them on the Ouseburn in a bid to win the coveted Golden Duck trophy (all ducks are retrieved from the river and returned to their creators).



*It's time to get your duck for The Cluny Duck Race!*

## More ways to support Ouseburn Farm

If you'd like to learn more about the Farm, then come along to its **Garden Party** on 26th June from 5-7pm.

The Farm will welcome North East businesses and current supporters to share its plans for the year ahead, offer tasters of events and activities that businesses can access (as well as tasters of its

delicious sausage rolls!) and the opportunities for local companies to get involved. Register your attendance with Stef at [stef.anderson@ouseburnfarm.org.uk](mailto:stef.anderson@ouseburnfarm.org.uk)

If you've an idea for how your business could support the work of Ouseburn Farm then get in touch with Stef who is keen to develop new partnerships.

# What's on in Ouseburn



## The Biscuit Factory Summer Exhibition

7 June - 25 August

Summer arrives at The Biscuit Factory with a new exhibition of contemporary paintings, prints, sculpture, ceramics and textiles. Painter Simon M Smith headlines the new exhibition with his latest collection of beautiful floral paintings, made with dress pattern tissue, torn paper and soft colour washes (the image above shows Yellow Birch). Other highlights this season include Stuart Buchanan, whose work features images of imagined and anonymous figures in painterly landscapes, and Astrid Weigel with her screen printed and embroidered fabric panels, lampshades and small fabric sculptures.

Join us at our free summer launch event on Friday 7 June, 6-9pm for a first look, complimentary fizz and more! Visit [www.thebiscuitfactory.com](http://www.thebiscuitfactory.com) for more details.

## And coming in September...



## Tipping Point Live

Friday 21-Saturday 22 June

Evolution Emerging has transformed – say hello to Tipping Point Live! This is Generator's bigger, better and fresher music festival taking place in the heart of Ouseburn in Summer 2019. The line-up consists of a range of artists representing genres such as jazz, dance, alternative and rock at venues across the Ouseburn.

Tipping Point Live will also feature an extra day of showcases, commissions, film screenings, masterclasses and music industry sessions. Plus for this year's festival, Chalk has curated a full day of activities for the whole family! The programme includes opportunities to make, create, dance and above all, listen to some great music. You'll be able to make your own instruments, throw some shapes to a surprise DJ and immerse yourselves in an interactive gig.

For details and tickets see [www.tippingpointlive.co.uk](http://www.tippingpointlive.co.uk)



## Recyke y'bike Opening Celebration

Friday 28 June 5.30pm onwards

After the hard work of moving, Recyke y'bike invite you to see and celebrate their new venue at 164 Brinkburn Street. Start with a tour of the new premises at 5.30pm and then move down to Tyne Bank Brewery at 6pm for brewery tours, raffle with amazing prizes, food from Nin's Shack and a fine array of craft beers.

If you'd like to come along email [sara@recyke.bike](mailto:sara@recyke.bike)

# Let the side show begin.....

Heather Richardson, Heritage Officer, introduces a new exhibition drawn from the Trust's photo archives. - on show at The Star and Shadow from 5th-30th June.

As regular readers know, photo archive volunteer Allen Mulliss produces a page for each newsletter to show some of the fantastic images in the Ouseburn Trust's photographic archive. To make the archive even more accessible Allen and I have chosen a range of images for our first external photograph exhibition.

**Up the Street: 100 years of photographs round the Star and Shadow** uses photographs selected from the photo archive to represent the passage of time around the site now occupied by the Star and Shadow cinema on Warwick Street facing the City Stadium. Drawn from collections by anonymous photographers and those of the late Davey Pearson, they show the very literal change to the landscape over the past 100 years. Take a look at the Photo Archive page opposite to see some of the images selected.

The exhibition will run from Wednesday 5th till Sunday 30th June. As the Star and Shadow is a community space run entirely by volunteers, access to the exhibition is only available when they are open for an event, so please check their website to avoid disappointment [www.starandshadow.org.uk](http://www.starandshadow.org.uk).

The cinema café is open every Sunday from 12-5pm so on Sunday 9th and Sunday 30th June I will be on hand from 3-4.30pm to answer any questions you have about the exhibition or the photo archive more generally.

We are also on the look-out for other local venues to host future exhibitions, so if you have a venue in mind please get in touch with me at [heather.richardson@](mailto:heather.richardson@)

## Ouseburn Trust AGM

This year our AGM will be held on Thursday 11th July at Maling Hall on Ford Street. Refreshments will be available from 6pm with a short business meeting at 6.30pm. Toby Hyam Managing Director of Creative Space Management (including Toffee Factory and Newcastle Science City) will be our guest speaker from 7pm, commenting on Ouseburn's recent and future regeneration in the light of his experience locally and in other cities. After time for questions and conversation guests are welcome to retire to Brinkburn St Bar & Brewery from 8pm

Anyone interested in the work of Ouseburn Trust is welcome to attend our AGM.

Becoming a member is a way to express your support for the work of the Ouseburn Trust. It is open to anyone over the age of 18 who supports our aims and values. Individuals can join or organisations and businesses can join and nominate a representative. Members can either:

- Pay the annual membership charge (£12 adult, £5 concession, £18 joint, £25 business)
- Or volunteer their time as a registered and active volunteer with the Trust

If you would like to attend the AGM or become a member please contact [lesley.turner@ouseburntrust.org.uk](mailto:lesley.turner@ouseburntrust.org.uk) or call 0191 261 6596 or call in to the Ouseburn Trust office at 53 Lime Street..

# Ouseburn Trust Photographic Archive

by Allen Mulliss, Photo Archive Volunteer

These images and others feature in the forthcoming Ouseburn Trust photograph exhibition at the Star & Shadow Cinema Co-op, Warwick Street. Further details are in a feature within this edition of Ouseburn Valley News.

Our team of volunteers continues digitising (66,000 so far) and cataloguing photographs for the archives. Full training is given if you would like to come and help research and catalogue the images.

## Leader of the pack



Harley-Davidson graffiti art on a wall in Dinsdale Place, Sandyford near 'Just Harleys', Warwick Street (Harley-Davidson motorcycle dealership, relocated from this site 2009).

*Photo credit: Davey Pearson Collection*

## Room with a view...



British Paints Limited, Britannic Works, Portland Road from Shieldfield House tower block (soon after completion in 1966), Barker Street, Shieldfield. The paint works were purchased by the Berger Group in 1969, the factory was then known as Berger Paints. Bottom left are the paint works and bottom centre are the associated offices and research laboratories. In the centre are the Ouseburn Railway Viaduct in front of Byker Bridge.

*Photo credit: Ouseburn Trust Collection*

## Last orders



Rubble on the site of the demolished Lorraine Arms pub and Crawford's Row from near Crawford's Bridge. A solitary building remains near the end of Foundry Lane near Byker Bridge. In the background there are bushes and long grass on the side of the Ouseburn Valley up to (top left) Hannington Street.

*Photo credit: Ouseburn Trust Collection*

## One careful owner (until stolen)?



A burned out Vauxhall Astra van with close up of wheel, tailgate and roof bar, adjacent to Newington Road, Heaton on the edge of City Stadium, Shieldfield. In the background (right) is Shieldfield House tower block.

*Photo credit: Davey Pearson Collection*

# Graffiti solution

Many people think good street art on an unloved fence or soulless concrete wall can be a surprise delight in Ouseburn.

But tagging or scribbling on heritage interpretation panels or lovely historic brick and stonework or current businesses' carefully kept property is just annoying and ugly.

Our Clean Green Volunteers have wanted to help to protect key sites but finding what would work and be non-toxic and easy for volunteers to use has been a challenge. This spring Newcastle City Council has donated five tubs of non-toxic graffiti wipes to help and our volunteers find they are excellent on smooth surfaces.

All you have to do is wipe it on, give it a few minutes to sink in, rub hard, then if possible finish with water and a scrubbie. Gloves help to stop the paint or ink getting all over your hands as it comes off the surface.

“Very effective”, “really satisfying to see the results” were some of our volunteers' comments as they removed graffiti from the riverside walkway signs and



Denise and Pat clean up a heritage panel. Photo: L Turner

railings. Once started it was hard to stop!

The Clean Green Team meet every Saturday morning at 10am behind The Ship Inn for varied tasks to tidy and improve the Valley. Volunteers are welcome to join in as regulars or to come along now and then.

## A new job with Ouseburn's environment

We are currently seeking a part-time Environment Officer to develop the Trust's role in the maintenance and enhancement of woodland, green and in-between spaces in the Lower Ouseburn Valley for the enjoyment of residents, visitors and businesses. The main purposes of the role are:

- To contribute to and assist in maintaining, sustaining and developing of the open spaces of the lower Ouseburn Valley, including protecting its wildlife and promoting access for visitors.
- To develop volunteering in open space management by supporting and developing the team of volunteer supervisors and widening opportunities for session volunteers (from businesses, residents and other sources).

The Ouseburn Trust recognizes the crucial role that the maintenance and management of our open spaces plays in addressing the challenges facing our environment and the diversity of species.

If you are interested in applying for the post there are more details and an application form at [www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/work-for-us](http://www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/work-for-us)



Volunteers help to plant new trees in Spring 2019. Photo: John Hipkin



# Holy Biscuit becomes Shieldfield Art Works



Shieldfield Art Works / SAW, formerly The Holy Biscuit, launches its new name and vision and celebrates the people of Shieldfield with a new exhibition.

Shieldfield Art Works / SAW builds upon eight years developing and curating exhibitions as The Holy Biscuit. It is an artist-led organisation, primarily funded by the Methodist Church, and founded on values of seeking truth, challenging injustice, social activism and operating for the common good. The organisation is wholeheartedly committed to the people of Shieldfield, an area that has undergone rapid developmental change over the past few years.

The exhibition itself will feature portrait photography of local residents by renowned photographer Phyllis Christopher; a map imagining a future, greener Shieldfield by Mikey Tomkins and local residents; a 3D map which tracks the money used to fuel the rapid urban development in Shieldfield by Dwellbeing; films produced by local residents as part of North EastEnders and a Shieldfield Art Works publication.

Open Tuesday to Friday 11am-4pm until 5 July, plus Saturdays 25 May & 22 June 1-4pm with a series of events throughout the programme.

**Shieldfield Art Works Launch Celebration**  
Friday 7 June, 6-9pm with a kid's party tea at 5.30pm  
Introducing Shieldfield Art Works, a celebration of the new name and vision. Enjoy the delights of the new exhibition, hear some readings from the publication writers, enjoy a feast of local Syrian food and dancing with a live DJ.

**Shieldfield Walks**  
19-25 June 10-11.30am and 2-3.30pm  
Take a walk around Shieldfield with Dr Mikey Tomkins who has worked with local residents to re-imagine the area as an urban garden. Explore urban green spaces and their opportunities within Shieldfield. If you would like to join one of the walks please sign up at [saw-shieldfield-walks.eventbrite.co.uk](http://saw-shieldfield-walks.eventbrite.co.uk)

**Discussion Evening**  
Friday 21 June, 6-8pm  
Delve deeper into the Shieldfield Art Works exhibition and publication over a shared meal, and discuss the work with some of the writers and artists involved. Soup and bread will be provided. RSVP via [enquiries@saw-newcastle.org](mailto:enquiries@saw-newcastle.org) or 0191 447 681

For more details [www.saw-newcastle.org](http://www.saw-newcastle.org)

## Dreamworld Cakes

Bernadett and Richard from the Patisserie on Stepney Bank have been displaying their skills and courage on Bake Off: The Professionals in May and reached the final six teams by the time of printing.

They are now selling some of the fancy delights they made as part of the Channel Four challenge, including chocolate red-velvet cup cakes and lemon shaped desserts.



## Shieldfield Community Bakery

Artisan Baking Community are progressing with their crowdfunding campaign to open a community bakery in Shieldfield and are 80% of the way towards their total. If you can help them achieve their goal and open their new premises in Shieldfield you can donate before 1 July. at: [www.spacehive.com/shieldfield-community-bakery](http://www.spacehive.com/shieldfield-community-bakery)



# Victoria Tunnel Events

Tours of the Victoria Tunnel continue to be booked up well ahead and we will be fitting in extra public tours throughout the summer holidays. We also love having group visits from WI's, Scouts, university students, staff team building outings, primary schools, cruise visitors, and can adapt to each group's special interests. Meanwhile here are some of the special events we're planning over the next few months:

## Bear Hunt

We're all going on an Ouseburn Bear Hunt... along the riverside... over the bridge... into the Tunnel, through snow and mud and forest... what will we find? These special visits in partnership with Seven Stories will run on Thursday 30 May, Sunday 23 June, and all Thursdays 25 July – 29 August. These multi-sensory adventures for families with young children can be booked at [www.sevenstories.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.sevenstories.org.uk/whats-on)



*Afternoon Tea after a Tunnel Tour. Photo: John Hipkin*

## Theremin and Bass – Sounds of the Underground

On Saturday 13 July there is a unique opportunity to hear a Theremin and Bass Duo with Beatrix Ward-Fernandez and John Pope performing inside the Victoria Tunnel for the next in our eclectic 'sounds of the underground' music programme. A lasting interest in experimental and improvised music led Beatrix to adopt the theremin, while the development of new techniques to meet with the demands of these musics remains her abiding interest. Her trio has performed at the international theremin symposium "Hands Off", while her 2009 audio installation, "Castillo de Luna" (for theremin & waterphone) was exhibited at the AC Institute in New York. For this concert she is accompanied by the versatile North East bassist John Pope. Tickets available at [www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/sounds-underground](http://www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/sounds-underground)

If you've never seen a theremin before it's an electronic musical instrument controlled by the movement of the performer's hand near two high-frequency oscillators.



*Families in search of bears! Photo: John Hipkin*

## Tea and Tunnel

A one-hour tour of the Victoria Tunnel with a focus on the food and rationing experience of people who sheltered in the Tunnel during World War 2. Then return to Hotel du Vin to relax and enjoy a ration-inspired afternoon tea made with a Hotel du Vin twist, with delicious scones and Victoria Sponge. 1.30 Saturday 15 June. Book at [www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/tea-and-tunnel](http://www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/tea-and-tunnel)



# Days out Underground

## 50 Subterranean Adventures Beneath Britain

By Peter Naldrett

*Victoria Tunnel Guide, Jeff Taylor, reviews a fascinating new book:*

“What a really useful guide to 50 underground attractions throughout the UK. It packs a lot of information into a couple of pages for each attraction e.g. address, directions, contact and price information, along with a brief but very interesting history and practical stuff like parking arrangements.

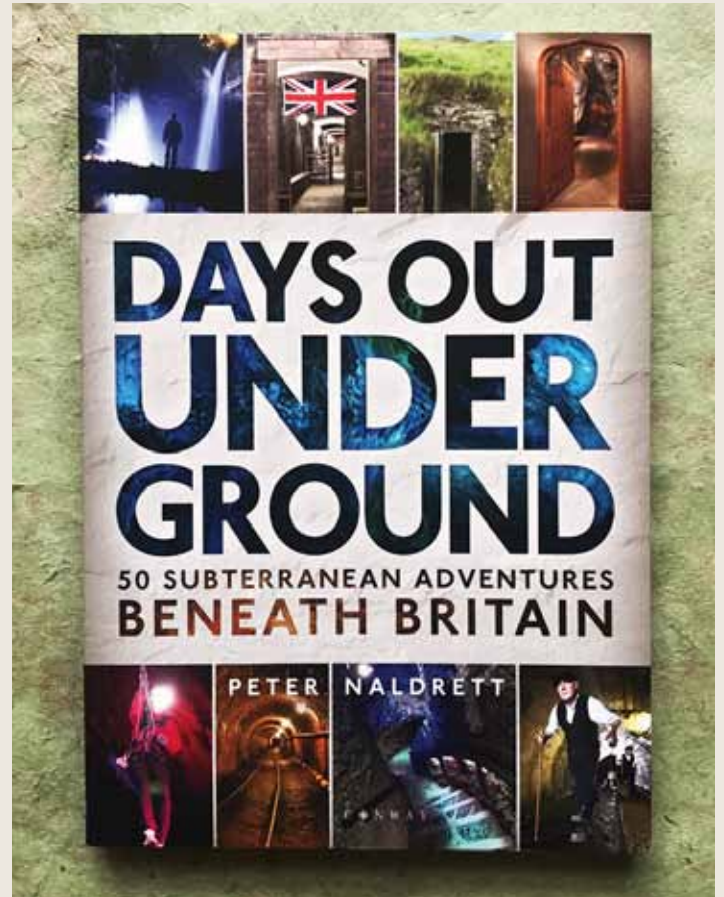
“I found it to be easy to read and it opened my eyes to some attractions I had never heard of before like Leeds Castle with its maze including an underground grotto and the more bizarre like Brighton Sewers! But it also gave some just as interesting facts on the places I had heard of, like the Churchill War Rooms and the first hotline.

“Our Victoria Tunnel is also mentioned and is spot on with its facts and figures.

“I would recommend this book to both families and adults if they are planning a “staycation” in the UK or simply looking for an unusual day out in their own part of the country.

“Excellent book.”

You can buy the book direct from the publisher and quote DAYSOUT20 to get 20% off [www.bloomsbury.com/daysoutunderground](http://www.bloomsbury.com/daysoutunderground) or purchase from the Victoria Tunnel shop for £16.99



## Coming soon... *The Culvert Bandstand*

After what feels like a long wait, Ouseburn will this month welcome the installation of the Culvert Bandstand. Keep your eyes peeled for activity under the railway viaduct above the Culvert exit, and details of our launch event this summer.

We are still keen to hear from anyone who would like to put on events and activities over the summer in particular, and have some

exciting music and theatre and children’s activities in the pipeline already. The Bandstand is a free resource for the Ouseburn Valley, subject to licensing permissions for events, and we would like to see a full programme of activities over the summer.

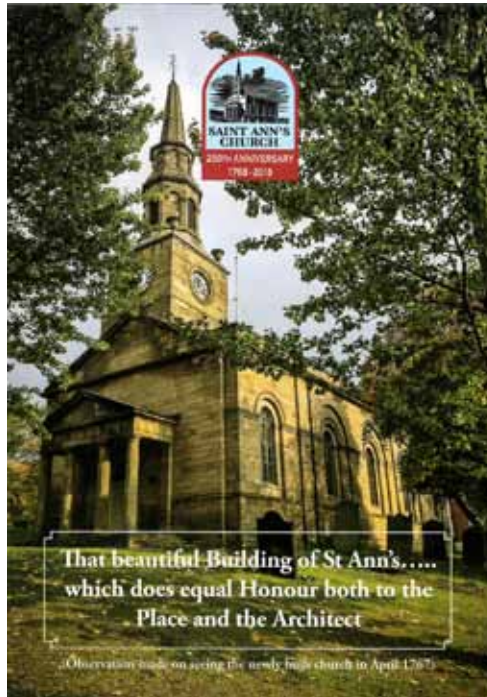
If you have an idea for how to use it please contact [chris.barnard@ouseburntrust.org.uk](mailto:chris.barnard@ouseburntrust.org.uk)

# Saint Ann's Heritage Events 2019

## Life & Labour at Saint Ann's, c1760-1840

7.00-8.30pm Saturday 20th July at Saint Ann's Church, .

Mike Greatbatch's annual Saint Ann's-tide lecture will illustrate who lived and worked in Sandgate and neighbouring Byker in the years following the building of Saint Ann's Church. This event will be preceded by the Friends of Saint Ann's AGM, starting at 6pm.



## Life on the Tyne: Water Trades on the Lower River Tyne in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries

7th September Saturday at Saint Ann's Church, 2-4pm.

Based on his excellent book, Life on the Tyne, Peter Wright's talk will describe the various water trades communities that lived and worked on and around the lower River Tyne during the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries.

## Saint Ann's Open Days this summer

Take the opportunity to call in and visit the Church on one of its open days and just imagine how the area must have changed since 1768. It is open 10.30am-3.30pm on the first and third Saturdays of every month from April to September. Their invitation is "Come and visit us and be enthralled by the tranquillity and beauty of this place of worship."

When you visit you can pick up and enjoy the new leaflet about the special features and community of Saint Ann's Church. This has been produced to celebrate the church's 250th anniversary by The Friends of Saint Anns with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund

The Friends of Saint Anns was established in 1999 to assist the Parochial Church Council in maintaining and enhancing the historic Grade One Listed church and its churchyard. Friends' Membership costs £5 for individuals, £10 for families.



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### Who are the Trust?

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