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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 2020.

Arbour Days



In January over thirty volunteers came to help get the Ouseburn woodland ready for planting new trees to create a more diverse woodland. With regular volunteers and new ones, with ages ranging from 15 - 80, a huge amount of work was achieved in a friendly and fun day.

Join us for two more inspiring tree planting 'Arbour Days' in Ouseburn.

- Saturday 22 February
- Saturday 21 March - families are particularly welcome to attend this day.

From 10am-1pm we will be planting trees - no experience necessary, just wear old clothes and appropriate shoes or wellies. Then at 1.15pm we will head to the Ouseburn Trust meeting room for lunch and a tree-themed film. Let us know that you are coming by emailing Phil Ogg, the Trust's Environment Officer, at phil.ogg@ouseburntrust.org.uk

Plus there's a special event for families with young children 4+ to join in:

Terrific Tree Planting

11am-12 noon Thursday 20 February.

Help us make Ouseburn an even greener place at a special tree planting session arranged jointly with Seven Stories. Read the wonderful woodland story *It Starts With A Seed*, learn tons of terrific tree facts and plant new trees in nearby woodland. Please come dressed to be outdoors - you might get a bit muddy! Tickets £5 per person.

www.sevenstories.org.uk/whats-on/events/953/terrific-tree-planting



Thiepval Memorial

Victoria Tunnel Volunteer Guide Georgia Brusby has just returned from a placement at the Thiepval Memorial and writes about her experience.



“In 2019 I spent four months working as an intern for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, living in Arras, France, and working at Thiepval Memorial - the largest Commonwealth war memorial to the missing in the world, situated on the Somme.

“Working for the Commission and living in France as an intern gave me unique opportunities, new ways of engaging with the public, and allowed me to write my own tours and carry out research for the people who came to the memorial. Many of these visitors were looking for their own relatives on the Memorial, or people from their villages and towns. In addition I had the opportunity to attend reburials of fallen soldiers, and work behind the scenes seeing how the fallen are cared for and identified where possible.

“Working there, and looking into the lives of the men on the Memorial, made me think about the lives of the men from the Ouseburn Valley who went out to war, many of whom never returned to the place where they'd grown up. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemorates 1.7 million people from both the first and second world war, and a fair few were from the Ouseburn and Battlefield area. Where I worked on the Thiepval Memorial I found the name of Michael Dempsey, killed on the 1st July 1916 aged

28. He had lived at 14 Breamish Street with his parents Michael and Margaret Dempsey. He was baptised at St Dominic's Church, and like many other men he went out to war and never returned to his family.

“He is just one of many men, like John Lowes of 19 Back Lime Street, William John Boyle of 23 Lime Street, and John Prince, of 12 Ouse Street, who never returned home. I found records of people from Ouseburn in many other cemeteries and memorials, recorded on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website. Working as an intern, I was able to bring the names of these men, and many more, to new people and new generations so they'd never be forgotten.

I became a Victoria Tunnel volunteer guide in 2018, and I wouldn't have ever had the courage to work in France without the experience I've gained working with the amazing guides at the Tunnel, and I'm happy to be back in the Valley to continue giving tours in Ouseburn.”

VE Day 75th Anniversary

We're busy planning a remembrance and celebration day to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day on Friday 8 May. For the people who sheltered in the Victoria Tunnel during World War 2 this was a momentous occasion.

From the grassy area outside the Tunnel entrance on Ouse St we will be offering free taster tours from 10.30am, refreshments, WW2 vehicles, and in the afternoon a Pipe Band playing traditional music and a special composition to mark this VE Anniversary.

In the evening there will be a special performance by Fools Gold with music and stories reflecting the heritage of the Victoria Tunnel and the local area.

Find out more about our plans as they develop and add the date to your diary to join us

www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/ve75

Victoria Tunnel: Romance, Grime and Crime

A Victoria Tunnel of Love tour

This will be a tour with a “Difference” and hopefully a night to remember for you and your special someone on a one hour tour of the Victoria Tunnel to celebrate Valentine’s Day. From 6.30pm Friday 14 February www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/tunnel-of-love

Valentine’s Tipple in the Tunnel

Our monthly wine tastings in the Tunnel in partnership with Hotel du Vin are proving to be very popular ways to celebrate the last Friday of the month, so an extra event has been arranged for an unusual romantic outing on Saturday 15th February. Starting at Hotel du Vin at 7pm with a glass of champagne and chocolate-dipped strawberries you will then enjoy a short Tunnel Tour and wine tasting from 7.30pm www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/tipple

Grime Time at the MAPS festival 2.45pm Thursday 20th February

Join rapper, singer, songwriter, Kema Kay, for a grime storytelling session in Victoria Tunnel where he’ll reimagine children’s books as you’ve never heard them before. We’ll head down the tunnel before settling down for Kema’s performance. Suitable for children aged 6+ and their grown ups. Free event, but booking essential at www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/grime-time

Dark Tales in the Tunnel

Since the Victoria Tunnel is already a site of many stories, we thought it might be fun to add a couple of criminally fine tales. We’re delighted to team up with Newcastle Noir as one of their fringe events in 2020.

Join us for a guided tour of the Tunnel and then hear respected North East authors Matt Wesolowski and Iain Rowan read from their work in this fascinating and atmospheric setting. We’ll retire to a pub close by afterwards to continue our criminal discussions. It’d be criminal to miss it!

Two tours will start at 6pm and 6.10pm on Wednesday 29 April, meeting at the Tunnel Entrance on Ouse St finishing with shared stories at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8 per head. Book your ticket here www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/noir

Photography in the Tunnel

Fancy testing out your photographic skills in one of Newcastle’s most unusual locations? The Victoria Tunnel is a fascinating place to take photographs.

You will be given a quick tour of the Tunnel and learn about its history. Then you will have some free time to take photographs in this unique location. A guide is on hand who has some photography experience and can help you out, but this is not a photography workshop. Rather it is an opportunity for you to try out your photographic skills and see if you can produce some magical results!

6.30 – 7.30pm on Mondays 9 and 23 March

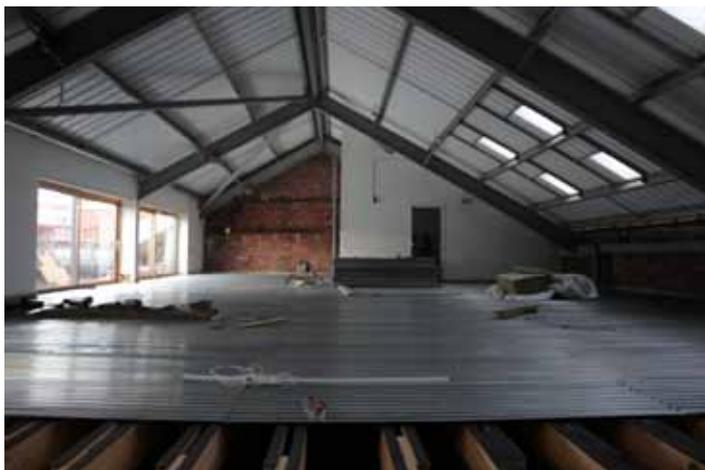
Find out more and book a place at www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/photo



Kema Kay



New & News in Ouseburn



New space in Cobalt Studios

After a long year of fundraising and looking for capital funds Cobalt have been granted a mixture of social enterprise loans and grants to develop their empty top floor space on Boyd Street. They plan to create a flexible co-working and cultural resource space that can also be used for events in the evening. They are currently considering, planning and designing the details and would love to hear from people that have ideas about what makes a great workspace, what they would like in a co-working space and also if you would just like to have your name added to their waiting list.

They are thinking about furniture; open plan space against more private working areas; light; what makes a comfortable chair; what features people look for when freelance working and what the membership and cost structure might look like; will exercise classes before work be popular and what's on the menu for lunch! Cobalt are also considering how to keep the design flexible so that it can be transformed to an events space in the evening.

Get in touch if you are interested: Cobalt can be contacted on 0191 2323553 or cobaltstudiosltd@gmail.com

The Big River Bakery

The new home for the Artisan Baking Community, is open now in Shieldfield with bread for sale and opportunities for local community groups and businesses to get involved, make bread, do courses and generally enjoy local food (especially bread!). Currently open 9-1 Wednesday – Friday they will be increasing their opening hours soon.

Ouseburn Trust Business Matchmaking

We get a lot of enquiries about property available in Ouseburn for new and expanding businesses, anything from 2 people needing a desk or small workshop space to whole buildings with their own parking! There is not a lot available in the area at present but we keep and send out a current list of what we know about and keep an ongoing matchmaking list as we hear about new developments.

- If you have property, or unused space in your building, and are looking for a tenant, get in touch.
- If you are looking for business space and want our current list and what is coming soon, get in touch

Contact lesley.turner@ouseburntrust.org.uk

Ouseburn Business Breakfast

**8-9am Tuesday 25 February
at Ouseburn Trust, 55 Lime Street**

Join us for business news and networking about what's going on in Ouseburn, including latest news about the Ouseburn Strategy for 2020-2030 and meet the community policing team for the area.

Reserve your bacon butty or croissant at www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/business-breakfast.

Help shape the Newcastle's cultural vision

The most ambitious and inclusive cultural vision is being developed for the city to cover the next decade. The City Council's Arts and Culture team want local people to get involved and have their say. We want Newcastle to continue to offer cultural activities which are accessible to everyone. Look out for pop-up consultation events or complete the online survey that's been set up where you can share your views at www.letstalknewcastle.co.uk/consultations/info/317.





Stepney Bank Stables Coffee Shop

Denise Wilson, CEO of Stepney Bank Stables, is excited to announce that from the beginning of February Chef Matei Baran will be opening his Big Chef Mini Chef coffee shop within Stepney Bank Stables.

The coffee shop will serve Ringtons tea and coffee and provide a selection of delicious meals and snacks made by Matei. She says “We are particularly pleased that some of the young people attending the stables will have the chance to take part in cookery sessions and under Matei’s watchful eye help with the running of the coffee shop.”

Matei is a Master Chef “the Professionals” quarter finalist and is very busy throughout Newcastle and Gateshead delivering workshops and healthy eating classes to local schools and organisations. He will base his own community project within the Stables, delivering cookery workshops to local residents and social groups as well as the young people accessing our Equestrian and Activities Club. He will also be hosting breakfast clubs where parents can prepare tasty tempting dishes and children can learn why breakfast is an important meal not to be missed!.

For more information on how to become involved please log onto Big Chef Mini Chef Facebook page or come along to the Stables Coffee Shop to meet Matei Baran and taste his delicious dishes.

Hotspur School Ouseburn project

A whole school project is being planned from 1 June – 17 July celebrating, researching and learning from the Valley. Each year group will have a particular theme:

Nursery - Water in all its forms - Splish, Splash, Splosh!

Reception - Bricks, Bridges and Burrows – child-led enquiry-based learning.

Year 1 - Wildlife in the Valley - including working with Ouseburn Farm and Jesmond Dene and the creation of a bug hotel in the school grounds.

Year 2 - Homes and houses - including new developments.

Year 3 - Art and creativity in the Valley - including public art, representations of the Ouseburn in art and working with artists who work in the many studios.

Year 4 - Entertainment and Leisure in the Valley - including programming the Star and Shadow for a week, work with artists that perform in the many venues and places to eat.

Year 5 - The environment – including investigating the soil and water quality, renewable energy and the new orchard.

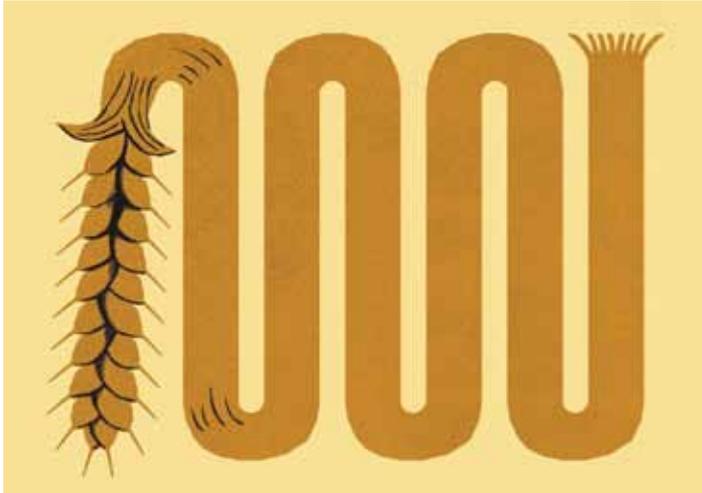
Year 6 - Making a living in the Valley – including pottery and glass making in the past and the many varied entrepreneurial people based there now.

There will also be whole school maths investigations, boatbuilding challenges, picnics, painting and so much more.

If you would like to be involved in the project in anyway please get in touch with Miles Wallis-Clarke, Headteacher
miles.wallis-clarke@hotspur.newcastle.sch.uk



What's on in Ouseburn



Shieldfield Art Works Shieldfield Wheatfield

Shieldfield Art Works announce the next development in the urban food-growing project with artist Mikey Tomkins that began in summer 2019. After talking with participants and residents after his mapping workshops the feedback was that there was a curiosity to actually grow some food in Shieldfield.

So they now invite you to collaborate on this project to grow wheat in Shieldfield that will harvest 10kg of flour, which they will use to bake around 10 community loaves to share at a Shieldfield harvest event in September 2020. There are many different aspects that you can get involved in such as building planters, the sowing and growing, harvesting and threshing, baking and eating.

Do you want to be involved in the project?

- Will you be involved in helping to build the raised beds in the SAW garden and planting in the small planters in Milton Place and Napier Street on 13th or 14th March, 10am-5pm at SAW?
- Have you got a small bit of outside space and are you willing to look after a container of wheat from March - July?
- Are you willing to become a Shieldfield Wheatfield advocate and help look after the wheat planted in Milton Place and Napier Street (this would just involve checking on it each week to see how it is growing and watering it if it is dry)?

Get in touch with SAW to get involved
www.saw-newcastle.org

MAPS FESTIVAL 15-24 February 2020

MAPS Festival is 10 days of creative and immersive music, art and play for children under 11 and their grown ups. The festival will take place in venues across Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead including wonderful events in our Ouseburn locations Seven Stories, The Cumberland Arms, Cobalt, Star & Shadow Cinema and the Victoria Tunnel.

Full details can be found at www.mapsfestival.co.uk

Back to the Future

Guided walks to the history, regeneration and future of Ouseburn run every Saturday morning, starting at 10.30am from the Ouseburn Trust, 55 Lime Street. Book your place or bring a friend or visitor to find out what makes Ouseburn so special.
www.ouseburntrust.org.uk/back-to-the-future

Recyke y'bike's Family Open Day Tuesday 18 February

People of all ages are welcome to bring their bikes along for a FREE mini service, get some training in basic bike maintenance, test their cycling skills over ramps and grab some bargains! Open 11am until 3pm at 164 Brinkburn Street, Byker, NE6 2AR.



Geordie Shores: wherries and lightermen on the River Tyne

Ouseburn Trust heritage research volunteer Alistair Collin describes the importance of wherries in maintaining trade along the Tyne and Ouseburn rivers. He focusses on the Newcastle Wherry Company, one of the principal companies from its founding in 1874 to its closure 100 years later.

5.30pm Tuesday 18 February at Ernest, on Boyd St
Booking not required, donations welcome.

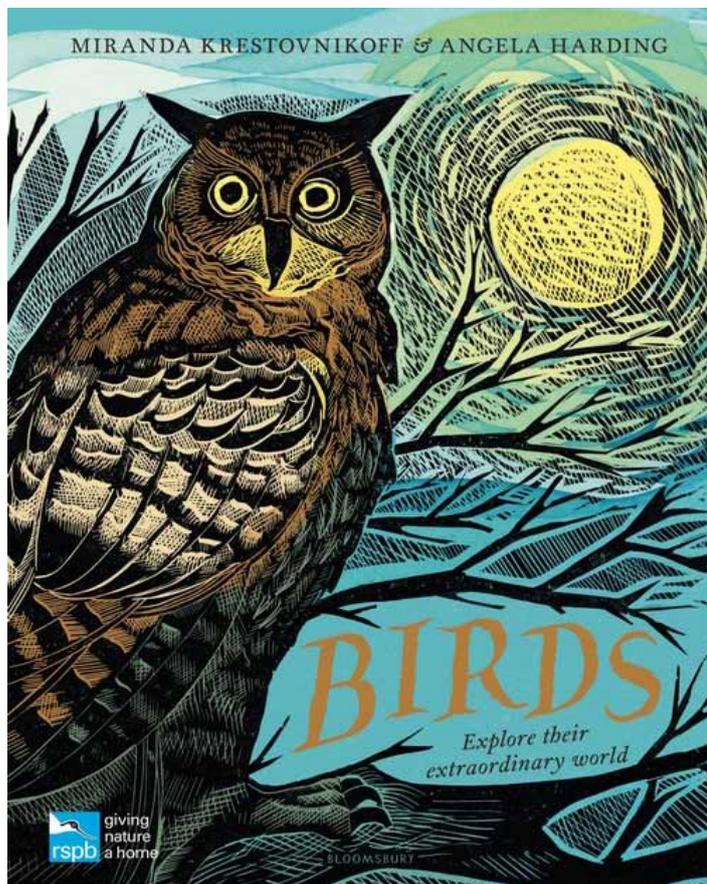
Ink & Drink with Angela Harding at Seven Stories

Thursday 27 February, 6pm

Grab a drink and join printmaker and painter Angela Harding, whose beautiful print features on the cover of Miranda Krestovnikoff's new book RSPB Birds, This two-hour workshop for adults will give you the chance to create your very own custom-made lino print! Supported by Bloomsbury.

Tickets: £10 per person

www.sevenstories.org.uk/whats-on/events/954/ink-and-drink-with-angela-harding



New Ouseburn walking tour blends local heritage with craft beer

The Biscuit Factory is teaming up with local beer aficionados Donald and Tania Stewart to offer a cultural walking tour of the Ouseburn and its local pubs and breweries, paired with lunch at the gallery's in-house café.

The tour begins with lunch and cake at The Factory Kitchen, accompanied by one of the independent art, craft and design gallery's specially branded craft beers, brewed by neighbouring Tyne Bank Brewery.

The group will then enjoy a leisurely walk into the heart of the Ouseburn Valley, home to an alternative mix of pubs, artists' studios, live music venues and the popular Victoria Tunnel, to explore its rich local history, dating back to the industrial revolution.

They will also visit a variety of pubs, breweries and tap rooms en route, enjoying a selection of unique and interesting beers; taking in some of the best views of the River Tyne at the end of the tour.

The experience is led by Donald and Tania, who have lived in Newcastle for 50 years and are keen craft beer enthusiasts. The pair have been running tours for three years, with locals and tourists alike booking up to explore the city's local heritage and burgeoning craft beer offering.

The walking tour is available for groups of up to 12 people and lasts around three hours. Bookings are available Wednesday to Sunday between 2pm and 5pm, priced at £50 per person. For more information on how to book, visit www.thebiscuitfactory.com.

Ouseburn Trust Photographic Archive

by Allen Mulliss, Photo Archive Volunteer

The Ouseburn Trust has a substantial collection of photographs in its archives, including the work of Davey Pearson and Richard Blossie, which are being digitised by volunteers and this latest selection includes some of the many local shops.

Raby Street



Impressive displays of produce in windows and within shop of John Shaftoe (fruiterer and florist), Raby Street. The upstairs windows and adjacent doorway are boarded up as these remaining shops in the terrace will shortly be demolished. In the background a large area, up to flats in St Peters Road, has already been cleared of Victorian terraced housing.

Credit: Davey Pearson Collection

Raby Street



Motor cycles and scooter parked in the road outside a motor cycle repair shop, Raby Street, Byker. On either side are other shops that are boarded up, all these properties are awaiting demolition. Nearby, further up the street, next to a walkway (previously Carville Road) to Priory Green, are new homes completed as part of the development of Byker Estate.

Credit: Ouseburn Trust Collection

Shields Road West



Derelict former Large and Sons (printers, paper merchants and stationers, established 1884), Shields Road West. Closure was due to a compulsory purchase order By Tyne and Wear Metro, now the site of petrol station underneath the Metro Viaduct between the Ouseburn and Byker Metro Station. Behind the shop across the back lane were the printing works near Brough's Buildings and Windsor Street.

Credit: Richard Blossie Collection

Shields Road Shilling



Face side of 1s (one shilling) JT Parrish Ltd department store money token coin issued by the J.T. Parrish department store, Shields Road. The tokens were used for a system of buying on credit. JT Parrish, draper, opened in the mid-1880s, and this grew into the major store which opened in 1921, closed 1984. The upper floors of the building were converted into student accommodation in 1996. There are tokens currently on ebay: 1/2d (half penny) at offered for sale at £3.75 and 1d (one penny) £6.00.

Credit: Ouseburn Trust Collection

Exciting Changes at Ouseburn Farm

New events and retail space development underway

Thanks to a grant from Newcastle City Council, Ouseburn Farm is developing two new spaces at its site in the Ouseburn Valley. The capital developments, which will be completed at the end of March, will provide a fantastic new events space on the first floor with stunning views over the valley, as well as a new retail area and home for our small animals on the ground floor. This will improve the visitor experience for the public as well as providing a new 60m space for events, learning and activities on the farm site.

Ouseburn Farm have been supported by local architectural firm, Xsite Architecture, to develop the plans.

Hugh Stolliday, Farm Business Manager, said: "Ouseburn Farm is a much-loved community resource at the heart of the valley. These developments will help us cater better to our 30,000 annual visitors, and provide a new space for events and activities in the farm. We hope that local businesses will be able to use our new space for functions and celebrations of all kinds."

Louise Wilson, Head of Business Development at Tyne Group, Ouseburn Farm's parent organisation, said:

"We're delighted to see these plans come to life after over two years of planning. Tyne Group is committed to the future success of the Ouseburn Farm and these new spaces will help the farm meet the needs of its beneficiaries and the local community."

Ouseburn Farm will remain open to visitors during the duration of the work, and the cafe will continue to serve a delicious range of meals and snacks (including the legendary Ouseburn Farm sausage rolls), using farm produce wherever possible.

Please pop in and have a look!



Impression of the new events space at Ouseburn Farm



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Who are the Trust?

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