

West End Puzzles

Number 5

Wordsearches-Crosswords-Quizzes-Interesting facts



START HERE

Can you identify this man?

He was a well-known figure around the west end.
He devoted himself to documenting the local area and its community with his camera.

Answer on next page

INSIDE

How much do you know about your area?

INSIDE BACK PAGE Answers to crosswords and quizzes



LOCAL PEOPLE

Jimmy Forsyth

Jimmy Forsyth has become a well-known name in the world of photography. Several books of his photographs of Newcastle's west end have been published and there have been exhibitions of his work. But to many local people he was known as the old chap who was always wandering around the area with his old camera, snapping scenes that took his fancy, and showing off his latest pictures to anyone who was interested.



He is pictured here photographing the demolition of St Stephen's Church, Elswick in the 1980s.

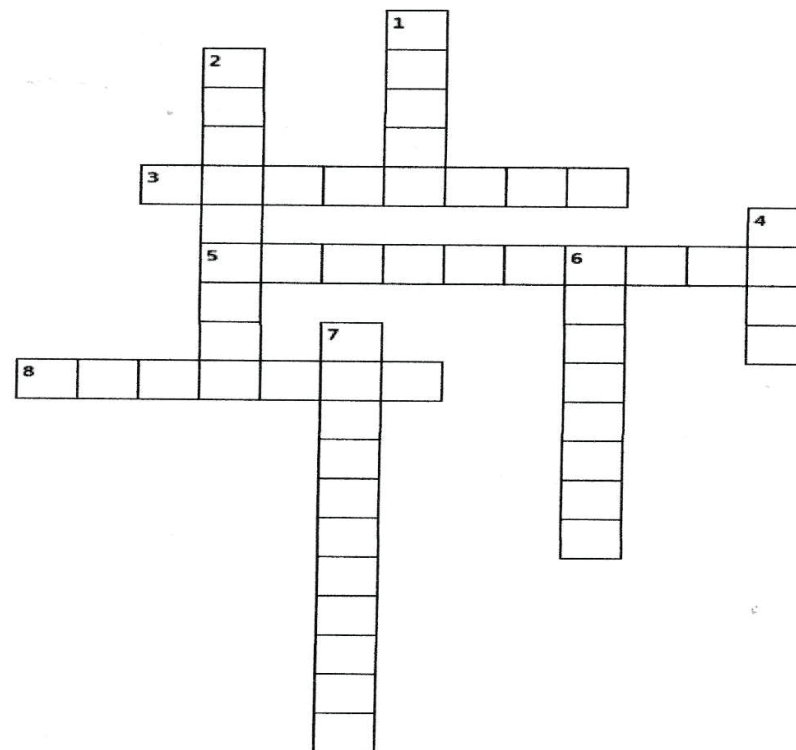
The photograph on the front cover shows him on site during the demolition of Hopedene (formerly The Gables) on Elswick Road in the 1990s.

Jimmy started taking photos of the west end in the 1950s. An accident at work which blinded him in one eye meant that he was unable to find employment. At that time, plans were afoot for clearing the Scotswood Road area, and Jimmy decided to make a record of these places and the people who lived there before they disappeared.

Jimmy continued to live in the west end and photograph the changes there until a few years before he died in 2009 aged 93.

QUICK CROSSWORD

Sweets of Our Childhood



Across

3. Was this really the sweet you could eat between meals without spoiling your appetite? (5,3)
5. Would this have stopped you talking? (10)
8. These hard round balls had a strong flavour (7)

Down

1. Whose was this mixture of small soft colourful sweets? (5)
2. Don't forget these, mum (5,4)
4. Company that made chocolate-covered cream bars (4)
6. Sweet with a hole in the middle (4,4)
7. Multi-coloured little people (5,6)

WORDSEARCH

Lost Schools of the West End

W	A	R	I	E	S	N	D	N	O	W	R	K	L
R	Y	E	H	I	L	L	K	A	Y	E	S	Y	O
K	U	N	K	K	B	R	R	Y	D	I	N	M	E
M	R	I	D	R	E	N	A	L	T	V	O	Y	L
O	E	H	E	E	N	L	P	E	P	M	W	K	S
C	W	D	N	K	T	K	S	V	S	A	S	O	W
W	O	E	T	K	I	I	A	E	Y	H	T	O	I
T	D	E	O	R	N	W	D	R	R	K	R	N	C
A	N	N	N	S	C	U	D	T	A	C	E	S	K
M	E	M	R	A	K	R	U	Y	M	I	E	D	R
E	P	W	O	R	O	I	R	R	T	H	T	D	O
L	R	T	A	L	E	I	C	A	S	W	A	O	A
I	S	R	D	I	R	T	I	M	I	E	H	T	D
T	E	E	R	T	S	M	I	E	H	N	E	L	B

Mary Trevelyan
Denton Road
St Mary's
Blenheim Street
Pendower
Cruddas Park

Elswick Road
Rye Hill
Todds Nook
Snow Street
Bentinck
Whickham View

Remembering the Lost Schools of the West End



Denton Road School, Scotswood, opened 1908, demolished 2001

The end of the 19th century and early years of the 20th saw a massive programme of school building across West Newcastle. For the first time, national policy decreed that children should have an education free of charge. The need was especially high in the west end where the population was expanding at a rapid rate, as previously semi-rural villages became absorbed into a dense urban sprawl. The new schools were large imposing buildings catering for hundreds of children from the earliest years to school-leaving age. Today most of these schools have disappeared, but the memories remain.



Pendower School, with its distinctive roof playground

Remembering the Bond Street Baths

The sign tells us we are outside “a public baths and laundry.”



Bond Street Baths was to the north of Adelaide Terrace.

At the bottom of this 1960s photo we can see the Terrace’s High Cross Co-op.

Bond Street, like most public bathing pools, had a “wash-house and laundry” attached. The lack of new built housing after the war would see the communal wash-houses in use well into the 1970s.

On washing day, the housewives of working-class Britain would head to their local facility with their weekly household washing. For a small fee, access would be given to a sink, a bench and washers and dryers. Monday was wash day in our house and I can remember – I would be four years old - Mam would load up the pram and then plonk my two younger brothers on top and we were away. Up Beech Street, along Gill Street and then a final push up Bond Street. Not too far, but a canny walk for a youngster being chivvied by his Mam to “get a move on.”

Inside the wash-house there would be managed chaos, as amongst the clattering machinery and jets of steam the feisty attendant buzzed around making sure everyone had their allotted two-hour use of the equipment.

For many of the women, the wash-house would also be the social highlight of their week. A meeting of friends and neighbours and the sharing of local gossip. Not for nothing do we have the saying that someone was “the talk of the wash-house.”

Household washing machines were available in the 1950s but were very much out of reach of the average British housewife. A Hoover washing machine cost £42 in 1952 when average wages were only £2 a week. Little wonder then that hand and poss-tub washing would be the norm through to the 60s. Bond Street would not see the installation of electric washing machines until 1960.

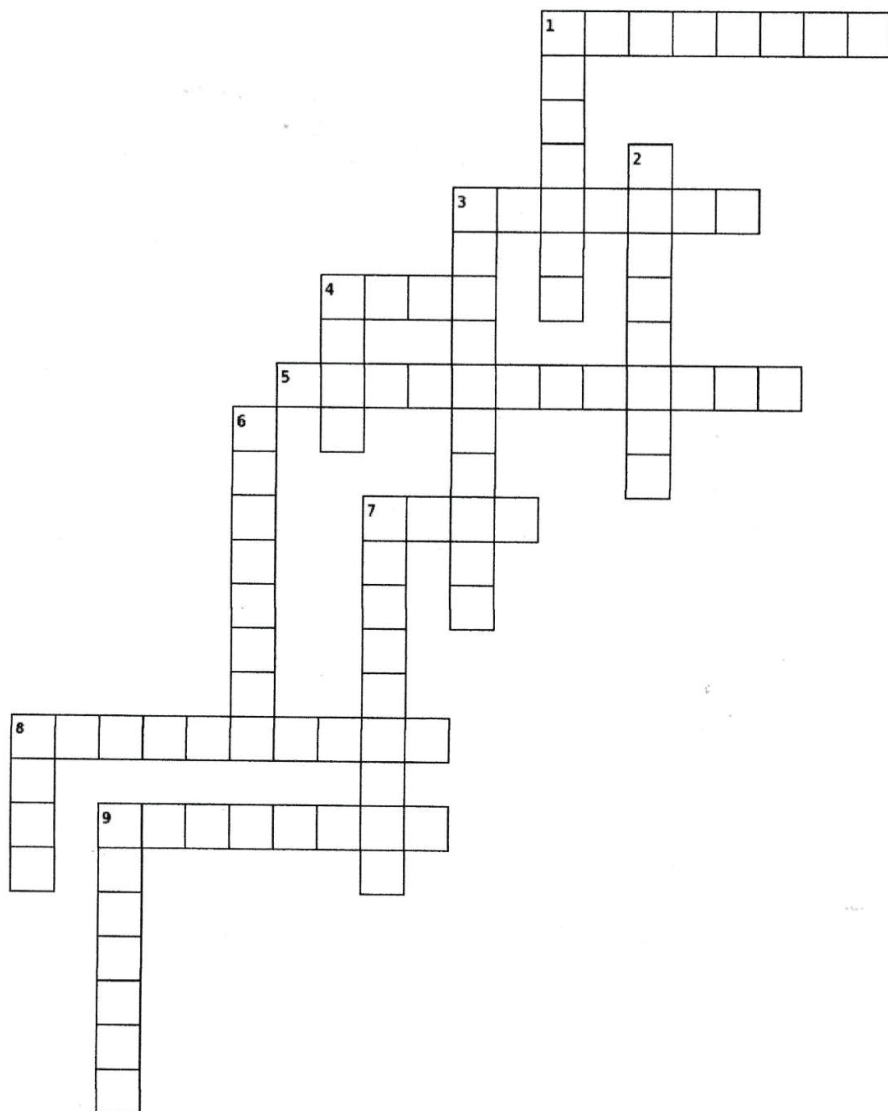
For us street-kids of the 60s, the swimming pool was a great treat if you could cadge 6d from your Mam. You always went with your mates for a laugh and a carry on. Dive-bombing the girls, jumping off the top board, swimming a breadth underwater, getting wrong for running, was all just good clean – pardon the pun – fun that only cost the 4d entrance fee. The other 2d was for afterwards, fresh icing buns from the bakers or penny chews and four mojos from the sweet shop. Happy days.

At various times during the winter months this popular and much used swimming baths also served the community in other ways. With the pool boarded over, dances and indoor bowling would while away the dark winter months.

John Taberham

ABC W CROSSWORD

All the answers begin with the letter **W**



Across

1. River in Northumberland: origin of phrase “the wilds of Wannie” referring to a remote location on the edge of civilisation (8)
3. First name of founder of armaments and engineering works on West Newcastle riverside (7)
4. What the Romans started to build across the north of England in AD122 (4)
5. Popular pub chain with several pubs in Newcastle; recently bought Gibbs Chambers in Westgate Road, home of the legendary Dr Gibb (12)
7. River in Sunderland; used to be a major centre for shipbuilding (4)
8. Ancestral home of the Trevelyan family in Northumberland; now owned by the National Trust (10)
9. Main road out of centre of Newcastle to the west (8)

Down

1. Original name of coastal town near Newcastle; second word was added to its name because of frequent confusion with Whitby, leading to a coffin being delivered to the wrong place for a funeral (7)
2. Road running between Westgate Road and Fenham Hall Drive (8)
3. Metro station between Chillingham Road and Wallsend (10)
4. Small bird sometimes seen in St James’ Graveyard (4)
6. Deep wino (anagram); place on northern fringe of Newcastle crossed by the Great North Road (8)
7. Village on Northumberland coast with ruined medieval castle (9)
8. Material used initially for the rails of the waggonways which transported coal and were the forerunners of the railways (4)
9. Surname of actor who played Neville in Auf Wiedersehen Pet (7)

The Scotswood Toll System

Did you know that the original Scotswood Bridge was a toll bridge? This meant that people had to pay to use the bridge. How much you paid was graded according to whether you had two legs, four legs, travelled on a wagon or in a coach. This photograph shows the toll house at the end of the bridge.



The charges were displayed on a board on the outside of the toll house.

The first Scotswood Bridge was known as the Chain Bridge.

It opened in 1831, and was demolished in 1967.



There were two more toll houses on Scotswood Road itself, one at Paradise and one near the Hydraulic Crane pub. At each toll house, there was a gate or bar across the road to make sure people stopped to pay their money. Most payments would have been in cash but some were by way of tokens paid for in advance.

Toll payments on Scotswood Road ended soon after the area became part of Newcastle in 1904, but the bridge tolls may have continued until the late 1940s.

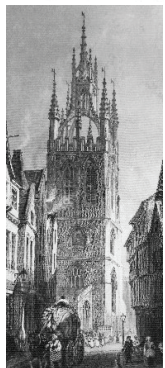


This photograph shows the Hydraulic Crane toll house, c.1900. Long after it had been demolished, the bus stop here was known by the nickname of the "Tollbar" or the "Tollgate".

Would you like to see more photographs of old Scotswood?

Why not take a look at our new book *Scotswood through the Years in Maps and Pictures*? Copies can be obtained directly from us (email stjamesbenwell@gmail.com) or ordered through Search (tel 0191 2737443).

WORDSEARCH *Heritage Buildings of Newcastle*



There are more than 50 Grade 1 listed heritage buildings in Newcastle. All the ones here are in the city centre. They include the castle which gave the town its name, the 13th century friary behind Westgate Road, the railway station opened by Queen Victoria, and the medieval house on the quayside from which Bessie Surtees escaped to elope with John Scott.

**BESSIE SURTEES
BLACKFRIARS
CASTLE**

**CENTRAL STATION
GRAINGER MARKET
GREYS MONUMENT**

**GUILDHALL
THEATRE ROYAL
TYNE THEATRE**

True or False?

Can you tell which of these statements is true?

1. Newcastle Civic Centre was built on the site of a jail
2. The right to keep cows on the Town Moor is restricted to members of the Newcastle united football team
3. An underground river flows through Newcastle under Grey Street and Dean Street into the Tyne
4. The West End Library in Benwell was built on the site of the Charlotte Pit
5. Lord Armstrong, founder of the armaments factory on Scotswood Road, owned Alnwick Castle
6. There used to be islands in the Tyne off Elswick
7. There was a railway station in Scotswood until the 1960s
8. Newburn used to be known as "New Sheffield"
9. Richard Grainger built a swimming pool in the grounds of his mansion in Elswick
10. Hank Marvin, guitarist with The Shadows, went to Rutherford Grammar School

Answers on inside back page

Picturing the Leatherworks



This photograph dates from 1898. It shows leather finishers at Richardson's leatherworks at Elswick. The factory opened in 1863, operating on the same site for over a hundred years. The manufacturing processes remained largely unchanged for most of this time. Untreated animal hides were brought in and fine leather came out, much of it destined to be made into shoes.

The company provided housing for its workers and their families behind the factory.

These photographs are from the archive of West Newcastle Picture History Collection



ANSWERS

Sweets of our Childhood Quick Crossword

Across: 3. Milky Way 5. Gobstopper 8. Aniseed

Down: 1. Dolly 2. Fruit gums 4. Fry's 6. Polo mint 7. Jelly babies

ABC W Crossword

Across: 1. Wansbeck 3. William 4. Wall 5. Wetherspoons 7. Wear 8. Wallington 9. Westgate

Down: 1. Whitley 2. Wingrove 3. Walkergate 4. Wren 6. Wideopen 7. Warkworth 8. Wood 9. Whately

True or False?

1. False – an eye hospital and some houses were demolished to make way for the new building. **2. False** – it is the Freeman of the city who have the right to graze cows on the Town Moor. **3. True** - the Lort Burn rises between Barrack Road and Richardson Road, flowing down the north side of St Thomas Street, then south to pass under Grey Street, Dean Street and The Side. It was fully covered over in 1784. **4. False** – it was built on the site of the Majestic Cinema. The Charlotte Pit was on the opposite side of Condercum Road where the council depot is now. **5. False** – it was Bamburgh Castle that he bought. The Armstrong family still own it. **6. True** – there were three islands – Kings Meadow and the smaller Clarence Islands. They disappeared in the 1880s when the river was dredged for Armstrong's shipyard. **7. True** – the Newcastle-Carlisle railway ran along the north bank of the Tyne from the 1830s until the 1960s when the route was moved to south of the river. Scotswood station closed in 1967. **8. True** – the huge Spencer's steel works at Newburn employed more than 2,000 people in the early 20th century and produced 1,500 tons of steel a week. **9. False** – but the swimming pool in Elswick Park today stands on the site where Grainger's Elswick Hall once stood. **10. True** – and so did fellow Shadow Bruce Welch

DID YOU KNOW

Newburn Parish Church

St Michael and All Angels Church is a beautiful Grade 1 listed building, dating from the 11th century. It is well worth a visit.



The churchyard is the burial place of several famous people including mining engineers and railway pioneers William Hedley and Robert Hawthorn.

Did you know that this church has experienced some dark times in its long history? Just after the Norman Conquest, the Earl of Northumberland was murdered in the entrance to the church. He had recently been appointed as governor by the new king, William the Conqueror, and is believed to have been the victim of the displeasure of the local lords whom he had displaced. During the Battle of Newburn Ford in 1642 the Scottish army occupied the tower as a platform for their guns, using the commanding position to fire at the English who were camped across the river at Ryton.

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Additional images and material courtesy of West Newcastle Picture History Collection, Newcastle Libraries, John Taberham and Judith Green.

