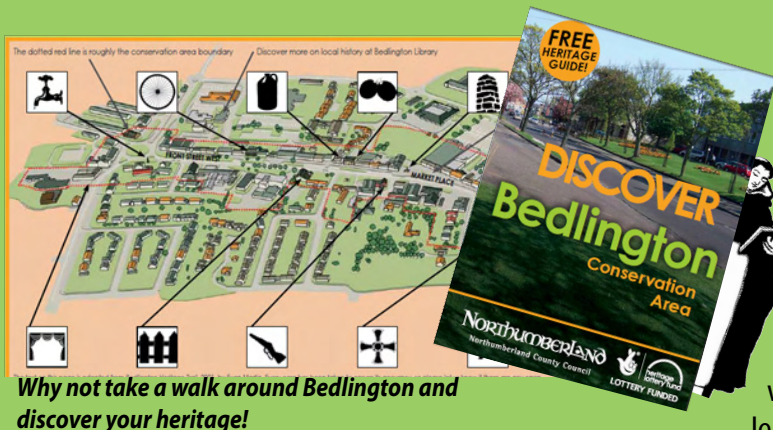


# Discover Bedlington's heritage

Have you ever thought about the Bedlington Conservation Area? Why it's designated? What makes the place so special? It can be a tricky subject to recognise the detail but the new Bedlington Conservation Area leaflet tells you what you need to know along with some fascinating facts.

Bedlington's Conservation Area is full of unique characteristics that warrant



**Why not take a walk around Bedlington and discover your heritage!**

protection and show just how significant the place is.

These unique characteristics aren't just about the buildings; it's about the open, communal spaces, the events that happened and the people that lived in the area. The conservation area is also about bringing all that history to life and

connecting with local people today.

The new leaflet is full of facts and features to help local people, as well as visitors, learn about and

understand Bedlington Conservation Area.

Produced by Northumberland County Council, the leaflet identifies features that would go otherwise unnoticed, from the history of the local post box to the water fountain on Front Street West.

The leaflet also provides general

information about the conservation area and points out attributes that may sometimes be forgotten.

The traditional market place layout with interesting open, public spaces alongside the fascinating 18th and 19th Century buildings all provide a hint of character to create a distinctive and attractive place which deserves to be protected.

Why not explore the conservation area by following the map on the leaflet and discover your heritage!

The leaflet is inserted into this edition of the newsletter. If there is no sheet inside, contact us for a copy (see below) or pick the leaflet up at Bedlington Front St Council offices or Bedlington Library.

For more info, contact Richard Schofield  
See contact details below.

# Bedlington building detectives

A building recording project is taking place this summer, to record some

of the town centre buildings that have undergone many changes over time.

The history of Bedlington is believed to date back to Saxon times, before the Norman conquest of 1066, and although it's unlikely that this project will uncover anything as old as that, many buildings are likely to contain fabric from centuries past.

Martin Roberts, of the North East Vernacular Architecture Group (NEVAG) and formerly historic buildings advisor for English Heritage, gave a fascinating lecture in St Cuthbert's church in August, discussing the basics of building recording, and what a building's fabric can tell us about its history.

Next, on Saturday 3rd

September, with Martin and NEVAG's help, a group of local residents will spend the day recording 3 or 4 buildings in the town centre, including Gordon Mackinnon Photography, former Spend 'n' Save, and Tallantyre.

Gordon Mackinnon is intrigued about what secrets his building might reveal about its past: "Having the building dated will be of great interest as I am currently working with a local architect to have the building restored to its former glory. Hopefully a bit more information will be uncovered about the age and maybe the original use of the building"

It promises to be a very revealing day!

If you are interested in recording Bedlington's history, contact:

Richard Schofield, THI Officer  
See contact details below.

## Building recording?

Historic building recording should be an integral part of the planning process which aims to understand the nature and the value of historic buildings.

This can help decision-making about a buildings future by fully understanding and appreciating its past.

So what's involved?

Sketches and diagrams should be made along with photographs taken to document as much of the building as possible.



Materials used, architectural details and cross-sections are just a few of the methods used to document a building.

A written report is then created which brings all the information together to fully understand the building.



**From top to bottom: Former Spend 'n' Save, Tallantyes, Gordon Mackinnon Photography. All to be part of the building recording day.**



## NEVAG

The study of a region's vernacular buildings has been described as defining its 'architectural dialect'. As short definitions go it's a good description with which to introduce the work of the North East Vernacular Architecture Group (NEVAG).

The Group was established in 1985 with the aim of bringing together all those who share a love for the country's more modest historic buildings – houses and cottages, farms and barns. NEVAG is a 'broad church' and one for enthusiasts, not just experts. Monthly meetings cover lectures, rural and town walks, and visiting fine historic buildings, usually private homes not normally open to the public.

Central to the Group's aims is recording this architectural heritage and producing building studies for publication. Members are welcome to join recording groups, either surveying the buildings or undertaking research in record offices and archives. No prior experience is needed only an enthusiasm for the work. Training is provided. For more info:

Martin Roberts  
martin@fleece.wanadoo.co.uk

## PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT HAPPEN

The THI is run by people with the drive to enhance the area. The next in our series profiling some of those involved is the contractor that competitively won the tender for Tallantyre works.

Tony McNally, Historic Property Restoration Ltd.

Tony McNally has worked for Historic Property Restoration Ltd as a Minor Works Manager since 1996, specialising in restoring and renovating buildings with historic value. "The Tallantyre shopfront, completed this year, was the flagship for Bedlington. Roof works and chimneys were reverted back to the original positions as well as stonework cleaned by hand, and in some cases rebuilt to strengthen the structure. Timber shopfronts were produced as they would have been to original profiles." "It's very important to maintain the detail as it was originally designed. Archives were checked, and discussed with the client, us as contractors and the architect. The THI has, and is doing tremendous work for the region, long may it continue."



## Contact us!

Get in touch if you'd like to know more about grants or activities:

**Richard Schofield, THI Officer**

(01670) 843 453 or email richard.schofield@northumberland.gov.uk

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