

**Live Gateshead,
Love Gateshead**

Walking maps:

Finding the hidden gems in Bensham and Saltwell



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Council

Ever wanted to uncover hidden treasures in your own neighbourhood?

Why not take a walk around Bensham and Saltwell to discover some of the area's fascinating cultural and historic past.

From the homes of some of Gateshead's social crusaders to the memorials and blue plaques commemorating its famous residents, Bensham and Saltwell's rich past is scattered across its streets.



St. Chad's Church



Blue plaque

The treasures of the future are also popping up as regeneration activity introduces new features across the community.



Avondale Park

Visit the refurbished parks and open spaces, the upgraded leisure centre and library, and the renovated streets that are at the forefront of the neighbourhood's transformation.

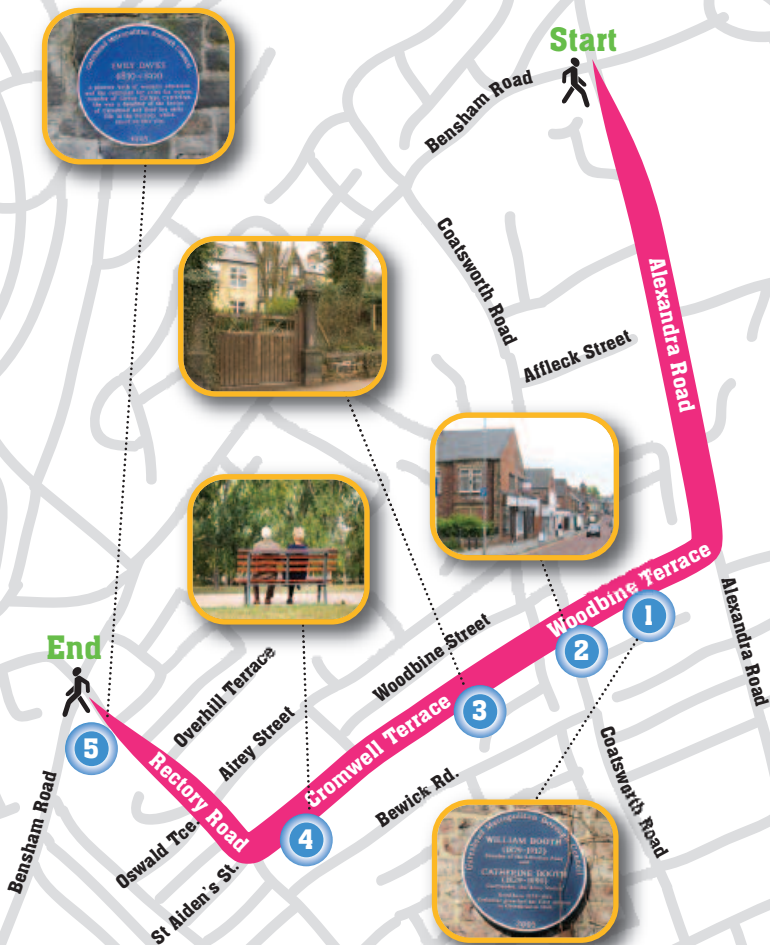
So get your walking shoes on and head out to discover the history and future of Bensham and Saltwell following these five walking maps. Each walk should take around 30 minutes to complete - unless you stop off for a cuppa on the way!



Windsor Avenue

Shops and social crusaders

- 1 Walk down Alexandra Road and turn right onto Woodbine Terrace. Make sure you look out for the blue plaque at number 15 - this was once the home of humanitarian Salvation Army founders William and Catherine Booth.
- 2 Continue on to the busy shopping area of Coatsworth Road. Take in the recently planted trees along the pavements and the eclectic range of shops reflecting the area's rich cultural influences.
- 3 Turn right onto Claremont Place, one of the oldest terraces in Gateshead dating back to 1819. The street, which includes several listed buildings, was built to house rich 19th century businessmen and is a lovely example of the architecture of the time.
- 4 Cross through Cromwell Terrace towards the Gateshead Synagogue and refurbished park at Bewick Road. The park's nature garden and many other features were introduced as part of its 2010 renovation.
- 5 Continue down to Rectory Road and walk towards Bensham Road, here you'll come across a blue plaque celebrating the work of Emily Davies. Emily founded the first higher education college for women and spent some time living in the rectory that used to stand here.



Cultural gems and literary lessons

- 1 Starting at the bottom of Prince Consort Road, check out the Shipley Art Gallery. An impressive building in its own right, the Shipley dates back to 1917 and has many exciting exhibitions throughout the year as well as a permanent painting collection that includes William Irving's iconic Blaydon Races.
- 2 You can then flex your literary muscles across the road at Gateshead Central Library, which has recently benefited from a £2.6million renovation and restoration of the beautiful 1920s entrance.
- 3 As you head back up Prince Consort Road, look out for Gateshead Leisure Centre, which reopened in 2010 following a huge revamp. Keep walking up to Bewick Road, passing a series of streets named after famous English cathedrals.
- 4 Turn left onto Bewick Road and you'll pass the Catholic Church of the Holy Name of Jesus, a recently restored Grade II listed building.
- 5 Continue back down Alexandra Road, right onto Whitehall Road and you'll reach Avondale Park. The park was refurbished in September 2009 with new planting, seating and play facilities that can be enjoyed by the whole community. The Muslim Community Centre also sits at the edge of the park.



Architecture and open spaces

- 1 Walk down Windsor Avenue to see some of the stunning streets in this part of Saltwell. On your journey you might just spot some hidden treasures - decorative baubles, designed by David Goard, showing scenes from the lives of prominent local people in history are embedded on the street's restored railings.
- 2 Weave your way through the rest of the Avenues to see more recently renovated street frontages.
- 3 When you reach Saltwell View, head down to the Little Theatre on the corner of Avenue Road. It was originally financed by political activists and historians the Dodds sisters and was the only theatre in Britain to be built during World War II.
- 4 Cross the road and enter the award-winning Saltwell Park. You can spend ages wandering around the park as there's so much to take in. Visit the lake, the dene, Pets' Corner and the children's play areas and you'll only be scratching the surface.
- 5 The park originally belonged to William Wailes, a stained-glass artist and manufacturer, before it was bought by the Gateshead Corporation in 1876. Wailes built a fairy-tale mansion, Saltwell Towers, for his family to live in and this has been restored to its former Victorian glory to house the Saltwell Park visitor centre.

Churches and inventors

Head to Dunsmuir Grove to see some of Saltwell's historic churches.

1 Corpus Christi Church was built in 1936 and has a distinct Art Deco style. It also has a stained glass window dedicated to John Ingram, the Catholic martyr who was executed in Gateshead on 26 July 1594. Corpus Christi Primary School sits opposite the church - it celebrated its centenary in 2009.

2 Across the street is St Chad's Church. Designed by William Searle Hicks in the Arts and Crafts style, the church was built to serve the growing population moving to the area from the 1880s. Hicks also designed a Silver

Collection for the church. Wander down towards Saltwell Road to see one of the busiest streets in the area. Make sure you check out the improved house frontages along Kelvin Grove on your way.

3 Saltwell Road combines a variety of independent shops with buildings steeped in local history, like The Stirling House pub.

4 Beneath Saltwell Road lies the 'Inventor Streets'. This series of terraced streets was named after famous inventors from the 19th century like Stephenson, Hedley and Watt. You get extra credit if you can name all of their inventions!



Westminster St. Westfield Rd.



Start

Brunel St.
Armstrong St.
Macadam St.

3

Westminster St.
Dunsmuir Grove

2

Dunsmuir Grove

1

Brighton Road

Fenn Dene Road

Rectory Road

Kelvin Grove

Rawling Road

Rayleigh Grove

Faraday Grove

Telford St.

4

Saltwell Road

Watt St.

Huxley Crescent



Barry St.



End

Pocket parks and a country cottage

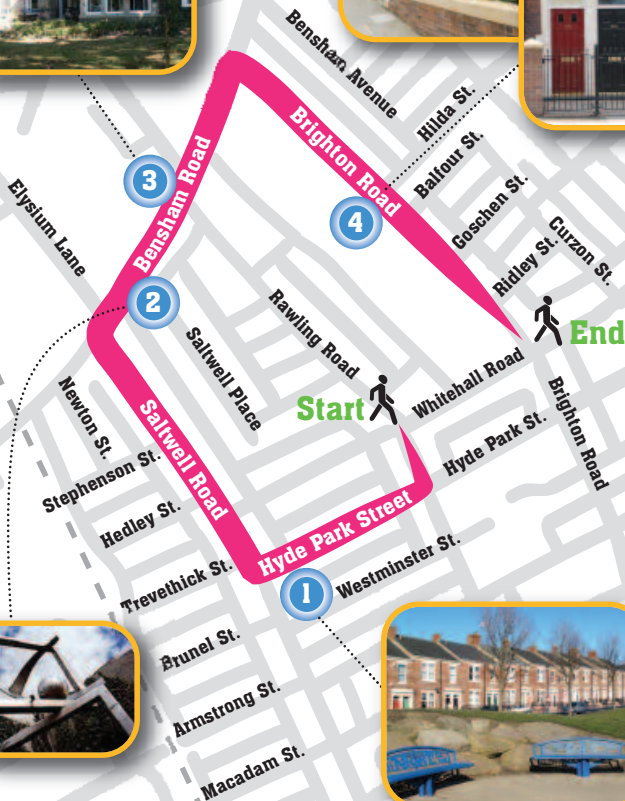
1 If you're starting from Rawling Road, turn right to check out Hyde Park, one of the many parks scattered within Gateshead's streets.

Head towards Saltwell Road. Check out the 'Inventor Streets' - named after famous 19th century inventors - as you come to a collection of Gateshead's pocket parks.

2 Bensham Grove Park features trees and shrubs planted by local nursery children in 2008. Harry Cowan Memorial Park was refurbished with the help of children from Corpus Christi Primary School and features the "Window" sculpture by Colin Roses. Both of these green spaces offer valuable tranquillity from the bustling community nearby - they even contain sensory areas filled with herbs and shrubs to stimulate the senses through touch, aroma and vision.

3 Across Bensham Road lies Bensham Grove, one of the area's most historic buildings. Now home to many of the neighbourhood's community groups, Bensham Grove was occupied from the early 1880s by the influential Spence Watson family. In their time at the Grove, members of the family established it as a country cottage, played their part in introducing political reform bills and championed the plight of the working man. Visit the Bensham and Saltwell Information Seekers based at the Grove to learn more about the building's fascinating history.

4 As you cross back over Bensham Road, head down Brighton Road (and into the streets on its left) to see the housing improvements that are reinstating some of the properties' pre-1939 features.



Well, you must be exhausted after all of that walking!

We hope you've uncovered lots of interesting facts, buildings and stories about the Bensham and Saltwell community on your travels.



Saltwell Park

Please continue to visit the historic places and cultural gems throughout the community to make the most of the hidden treasures in your neighbourhood.



Windsor Avenue

You should have also seen some of the new features of the community introduced by its ongoing regeneration.

Pocket parks, stunning streets and fantastic leisure facilities are ensuring the community stays a vibrant and exciting place for residents of the future.



Saltwell Road

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