

Northumbria Region u3a Events



Victoria Tunnel 1.30pm 17th September



The **Victoria Tunnel** is a subterranean wagonway that runs under Newcastle upon Tyne, England, from the Town Moor down to the River Tyne. It was built between 1839 and 1842 to transport coal from Leazes Main Colliery in Spital Tongues, to riverside staithes (jetties), ready for loading onto boats for export.

The colliery closed in January 1860 and the tunnel was abandoned until the start of the Second World War, when it was converted for use as an air-raid shelter.

You can join us on a tour to experience life in a Victorian waggonway, learn how it was constructed and listen out for the waggons full of coal heading for the Tyne. You will also learn how tough life was during World War Two and see the rough wooden replica beds and benches, just like those slept or sat on by frightened citizens during bombing raids.

During your tour, you'll also find out which Newcastle landmarks you are walking beneath, including the unique chance to walk underneath Hadrian's Roman Wall.

The tour lasts 2 hours and costs £15 per person.

The entrance is in Ouseburn, Newcastle's cultural quarter and you may want to come early to spend the morning visiting the Biscuit Factory, or Seven Stories or the City Farm. There are also some interesting places to eat, The Cluny, Ernest, Dreamworld Cakes Patisserie and the Artisan restaurant in the Biscuit Factory.

Please register your interest with Wendy Dale of Tynedale u3a

w.dale381@btinternet.com early to avoid disappointment as there are only 30 places.