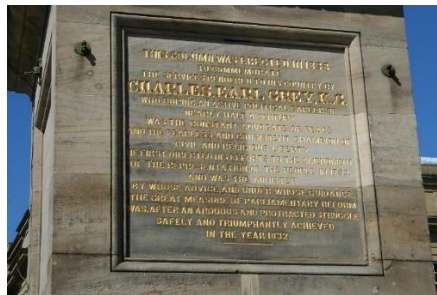


Dunston & District Amblers



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NEWCASTLE LEAZES AND ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL



The start point for this amble is the iconic **Grey's Monument**, dedicated to Lord Percy, mainly known for these three “major” reasons:

1. The Great Reform Act 1832 (also known as The Representation of the People Act 1832) which extended voting rights from 1% of the population to 7%: not actually full representation of the people, but one step along the way (and specifically excluded women!).
2. The Abolition of Slavery Act in 1833
3. Earl Grey tea: his wife thought it so pungent, asked Twinings to produce a less aromatic blend!

Walking eastwards along Blackett Street at the junction with pedestrianised Northumberland Street is **Cook's Corner**: Thomas Cook had a Travel Agency on this corner: demolished as part of T Dan Smith's “modernisation” of Newcastle, now occupied by a burger restaurant.



One of the shops on Northumberland Street, built in 1900, and was occupied by **Boots the Chemists**. On the inside, the shop had the first (wooden!) escalator in the U.K. outside of London. The statues are of Sir John Marley, Roger Thornton, Thomas Bewick and Harry Hotspur. Sir John Marley best remembered for his heroic defence of Newcastle upon Tyne during the English Civil War, when he held the town for seven months against a besieging army on behalf of King Charles I. In poverty and desperation, he later betrayed the Royalist cause which he had served so loyally, and as a result, to the end of his life, he was reviled by many of his former comrades as a traitor. Roger Thornton, the Dick Whittington of Newcastle and three times mayor of that town. Thomas Bewick was an English wood-engraver and natural history author. Early in his career he took on all kinds of work such as engraving cutlery, making the wood blocks for advertisements, and illustrating children's books. He gradually turned to illustrating, writing and publishing his own books, gaining an adult audience for the fine illustrations in *A History of Quadrupeds*. The fourth statue is of Harry Hotspur (Sir Henry Percy). He rebelled against King Henry the fourth, was executed, quartered, and body parts distributed around the kingdom. His head was displayed at the gates of York.



Quite close to the ex-Boots shop is a plaque celebrating **John Wesley**, who founded an orphan house in Northumberland Street outside the Pilgrim Gate in 1742-3. It was never used as an orphanage but became the base for Wesley and his fellow preachers' activities in the north and the local headquarters for Methodism.



Almost at the top of Northumberland Street, a right turn takes us into Northumberland Road, and a mock Tudor building. Originally a Carrick's café, becoming the Steppes, and later the City Tavern.



The City Hall on Northumberland Road was the original live music and entertainment centre other than the Theatre Royal. Many bands, either famous or to become famous played at this venue, including the Animals, The Byrds, David Bowie, Motorhead, Roxy Music and of course Tyneside's own Lindisfarne. Next to the City Hall is the city's swimming baths.



Heading up John Dobson Street, the direction heads us towards the Civic Centre, passing a memorial of the Second World War. The inscription on a bronze plaque gives the Kohima Epitaph (*When You Go Home, Tell Them of Us and Say, For Your Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today*) and is dedicated to men from the North East who gave their lives in Burma 1941-45. It was presented by Tyneside and District Burma Star Association. The war in Burma is sometimes referred to as "The Forgotten War".



A few yards further on, another, larger memorial can be seen. Commissioned to commemorate the "Pals Battalions" of the Northumberland Fusiliers by Sir George Renwick, MP for Morpeth, whose all five sons returned, unharmed, from WW1.

Newcastle Civic Centre is a municipal building in the Haymarket area of Newcastle upon Tyne, England. Designed by George Kenyon, the centre was built for Newcastle City Council in 1967 and formally opened by King Olav V of Norway on 14 November 1968.



Almost opposite the Civic Centre is the **Church of St Thomas the Martyr**. The church is dedicated to St Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, who was murdered in 1170 by a group of four English knights acting – so they mistakenly believed – on the orders of Henry II. Since Becket had defended the privileges of the Church against Henry, he was regarded as a martyr and canonized in 1173. The four murderers were instructed, in order to atone for their sins, to serve a period as confreres (associate brothers) of the Knights Templar, but it is believed that one of them, Hugh de Morville, also elected to found a chapel dedicated to the saint as a private penance. It was this chapel which would eventually become the church. The current building, constructed in the 1830's, was a design of Newcastle architect John Dobson.



Instigated by renowned architect-planner Sir Terry Farrell, the **Farrell Centre** is a new centre for architecture and cities in Newcastle, UK. Their mission is to widen the debate around the crucial roles that architecture and planning play in the contemporary world in ways that are engaging, innovative and challenging. The Farrell Centre is admission free and offers a variety of experiences for visitors of all ages: exhibitions, public talks and debates, activities for schools, young people, community groups, events for built environment professionals, as well as publications, podcasts and other digital projects.



The **Hatton Gallery** was founded in 1925, by the King Edward VII School of Art, Armstrong College, Durham University (Newcastle University's Department of Fine Art), in honour of Richard George Hatton, a professor at the School of Art.



Leazes Park is a Grade II listed park urban park in Newcastle upon Tyne, England. It is the city's oldest park, opened in 1873, and lies to the west of the city centre. The park contains a lake above the course of the Lort Burn.

Leazes Terrace is an elongated square of houses in Newcastle, next to Leazes Park. The terrace was built from 1829 to 1834 by Thomas Oliver for Richard Grainger, in a classical style; the houses varying from 2 to 8 bays. Nos. 1-59 Leazes Terrace, Newcastle, are jointly Grade I listed, including Lake House, Garnett House, Hodgkin House, Gurney House and Embleton House. The Terrace now has a mixed use as student halls of residence, offices and houses.



The pub's name, **The Strawberry** and the street name, Strawberry Place, is thought to derive from the nuns of nearby St Bartholomew's who grew strawberries on plantations in the area, made strawberry wine and also sold the fresh fruit. It's a much-used drinking place on match days!



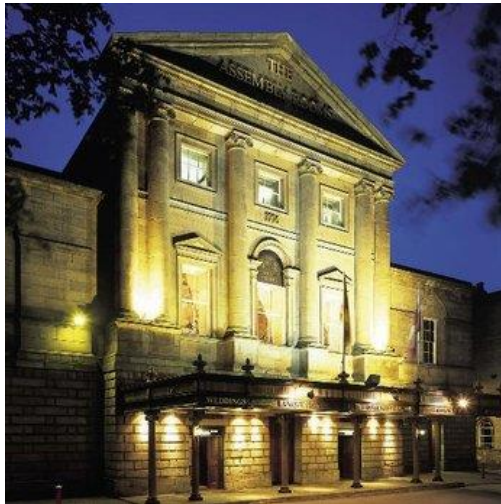
From St James Metro Station, the route passes by the entrance to China Town, noted for its impressive gateway, and follows the line of the original 13th century city walls to Bath Lane



There is then a short diversion to Charlotte Square designed by architect William Newton, built in 1770, it was one of the first housing developments outside London associated with a garden Square.



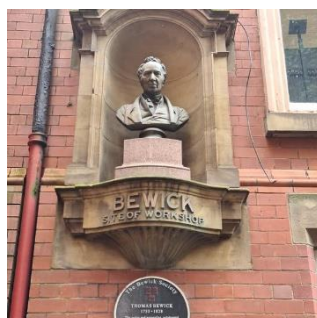
Returning to the original route via Fenkle Street, the date on the façade of The Old Assembly rooms reminds us of happenings on the other side of the Atlantic that year. This was another project designed by architect William Newton, and continues to be a favourite venue for all sorts of social and business events.



Newcastle Cathedral, formally the Cathedral Church of St Nicholas, is a Church of England cathedral in Newcastle. It is the seat of the Bishop of Newcastle and is the mother church of the Diocese of Newcastle. It is the most northerly diocese of the Anglican Church in England, reaching from the River Tyne as far north as Berwick-upon-Tweed and as far west as Alston in Cumbria. The cathedral is a grade I listed building. Founded in 1091 during the same period as the nearby castle, the Norman church was destroyed by fire in 1216 and the current building was completed in 1350, so is mostly of the Perpendicular style of the 14th century. Its tower is noted for its 15th-century lantern spire. Heavily restored in 1777, the building was raised to cathedral status in 1882, when it became known as the Cathedral Church of St Nicholas.



Thomas Bewick is usually considered the founder of wood-engraving as the first to realize its full potentialities, using metal-engraving tools to cut hard boxwood across the grain, producing printing blocks that could be integrated with metal type, but were much more detailed and durable than traditional woodcuts. The result was high-quality illustration at a low price.



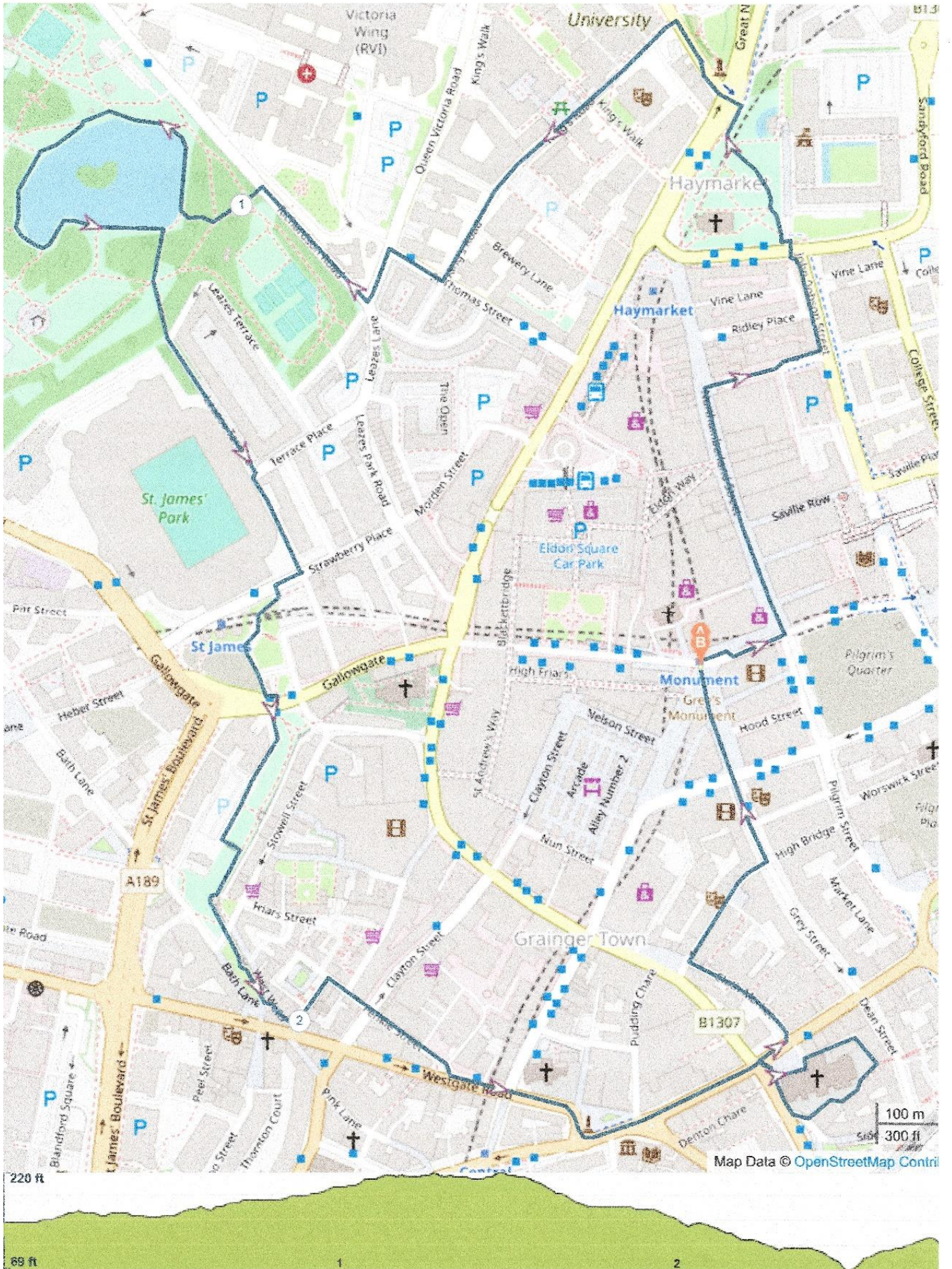


Close to the Thomas Bewick bust and perched on one of the buildings adjoining the 14th century St. Nicholas Cathedral (the previous 11th century church was destroyed by fire in 1216), the Newcastle Vampire Rabbit fascinates and frightens visitors. Several stories collide about this curious statue located in Newcastle upon Tyne. Legend says it was placed there to discourage grave robbers. Another, more believable story insists that the rabbit is actually a hare whose ears were placed upside down, in reference to Sir George Hare Philipson, a town doctor, friend of the architect of Saint Nicholas Cathedral. The rabbit also symbolizes the arrival of spring, alluding to the Easter Bunny.

Refreshments are almost obligatory after one of our walks, so we made use of Café 16 located within the Cathedral.

The journey back to the start point is via the Cloth Market and High Bridge Street, then north on Georgian Grey Street to the Monument: for others, the bus stop for the start of the return journey home is only a few yards from the Cathedral!

Newcastle Leazes And St Nicholas Cathedral



220 ft

69 ft

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