



Project starts at Amen Corner!

Amen Corner is the area next to St Mary's Church at the junction of Newgate and The Bank in Barnard Castle.

St Mary's Parochial Church Council is working with the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership to carry out a renewal project at Amen Corner, which will enhance this important site within the centre of the town. The project will improve the visual and amenity impacts on the Buttermarket and Newgate corner, provide a more suitable and practical entrance to the Church and both revive and extend the green and floral settings.

Works include new landscaping, improvements to car parking and the entrance way, better seating and refurbishment of paving and walls. There will be a change in layout for central and corner flower beds, and the white roses will be replaced with similar varieties associated with the White Rose of York, as the area has strong historical associations with Richard III. There will also be new signage for the church.

The works will improve views to and from the Butter Market and provide an area for rest in the busy centre. A significant development will be the improved floodlighting of the tower which will draw attention to the church from along the market place and from afar.

Work has begun to clear and prepare the site, replace walling and put down new surfacing. Apologies for any inconvenience caused. The project has responded to requests and suggestions wherever possible and will try to minimise the period of disturbance.

Recently, the work has uncovered gravestones dating back to the mid-1700s which will be placed in the church grounds. There have also been a number of sheep bones uncovered during excavation work. The project has an assigned professional Archaeologist on standby, if needed.

Work is scheduled to be completed by the autumn, and it has been phased to keep the Rose Garden in place until after the August Bank Holiday.

Did you know...?

Amen Corner has often been used as a name for areas close to churches, notably near St Paul's in London, but also near the Cathedral in Newcastle and elsewhere.

There are also references to an 'Amen Corner' public house on the site!

Community Engagement

During the works there will be ongoing engagement with the community through on site signs and notices, a display and regular updates in the Church and the Parish Magazine, and via our mailing list. The updates will also be available from our website www.heartofteesdale.net.

At the end of the project there will be a formal opening event and dedication.

Rose Garden Seat

The seat donated by Barnard Castle Ladies Circle has been refurbished by volunteers and relocated near County Bridge. It will be replaced by a stone and wooden seat in due course.



Contact Details

If you would like any more information on this project or the Landscape Partnership, please get in touch using the contact details below.

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