

Letters Through Time



From the development of the postal service, to the invention of the telephone and then the internet, how we communicate has changed dramatically over the last 200 years. How do you think communication will develop in the future?

What if we could communicate with our ancestors in the past and our descendants in the future? What would they tell us about their lives and what would you tell them? What would you like them to know? What advice do you think they would give us for today to make a better future?

This activity invites you to ask: what if everyone had done everything they could to make a better world and wanted to tell us how?

You can find out more about the Tyne Derwent Way at www.tynederwentway.co.uk

If this has captured your imagination you can find out what has inspired us at:

www.tynederwentway.co.uk/Travelling-Through-Tyne




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Travelling Through Tyne is a series of creative and imaginative activities that explores the past, present and future and invites us to consider how we can be good ancestors.

It is about looking closely, thinking deeply and imagining boldly with the people and places that make the Tyne Derwent Way home.

These series of activities has been designed for you to use as a starting point to explore your community. You are free to use your imagination and build on what we have done.

Travelling through Tyne was created for the Tyne Derwent Way by Dingy Butterflies CIC and artists Chris Folwell and Liv Hunt. It was inspired by the Amateur Ancestor Project created by Justine Bousard.

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Photos by Dingy Butterflies, Liv Hunt, Chris Folwell and Tyne Derwent Way. Dunston Staiths: Beamish (c.1934)

www.dingybutterflies.org

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TYNE
DERWENT
WAY

THE
AMATEUR
ANCESTOR
PROJECT

Travelling Through Tyne



Letters Through Time

Everything around you has been imagined at some time. Imagine a future worth hoping for. Let's harness our imaginations to create beautiful futures.

1.

LET'S TRAVEL THROUGH TIME

Let's travel through time! You can use this weblink or the QR code to show you how to do this:
https://youtu.be/AYnrtphO_RY.



How far into the past and future are you travelling?
When you get to the past and travel to the future you might want to ask yourself:

What conversations can you overhear?
What do they worry about and hope for the future?
What do they wish people knew and what is their advice?

You might be tempted to imagine a future based on your fears, but we encourage you to travel to a future built on your hopes.

WRITING YOUR LETTER!

If you need help starting you could start your letter with one of these:

- "I am writing to you from..."
- "You won't believe what this place is like.."
- "If you find this letter..."
- "I hope that in your time..."
- "We made a mistake..."



Use some of the "What if..." questions from the front of this resource if you want some inspiration.

2.

LETTERS THROUGH TIME

MATERIALS

What are your letters from the past and future made from? It doesn't have to be paper. Think about:

- A scrap of fabric
- A piece of wood
- Natural materials...grass, clay or mudpaper - if so what kind?
- Something recycled.
- Via technology such as a text, radiowaves, AI, robots
- Textured materials

SENDING YOUR LETTER

Think about how people of the time might send a letter. Could it be....

- Buried underground?
- Carried by the river?
- Sent via animal?
- Sent telepathically?
- Sent by post?