

Community Art meets Local History

In March, members of the Art Club in Benwell and Scotswood (*part of the 'Something Wonderful' Community Project supported by MU*) helped to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the local Montagu Pit Disaster when 38 men and boys lost their lives. They researched and painted some of the scenes and people of the time. This portrait was painted by Nabilolah, a former teacher from Iran. He has captured the distress of the event in the eyes of the pitman.

Nabilolah is a tall, quiet and modest man who is no stranger to distress in his own life. These eyes could be his. He has found a place for his family in the Christian community in Benwell and is one of many who have discovered ways to express emotions through art. His son took part in the dramatic reading of the Passion Gospel on Palm Sunday.

Many MU members have donated much appreciated art materials for the Art Club in Benwell's 'Something Wonderful' Community Project. Here is a place where people can meet to discover and create 'something wonderful'. Membership is free and all are welcome.

Revd Chris Minchin says: *"We are incredibly grateful for the help Mothers' Union members have given us recently, in a climate where more and more people are in need... A meal eaten together, or the joy of creating something good and beautiful through art, are small but direct and tangible ways of transforming lives."*

