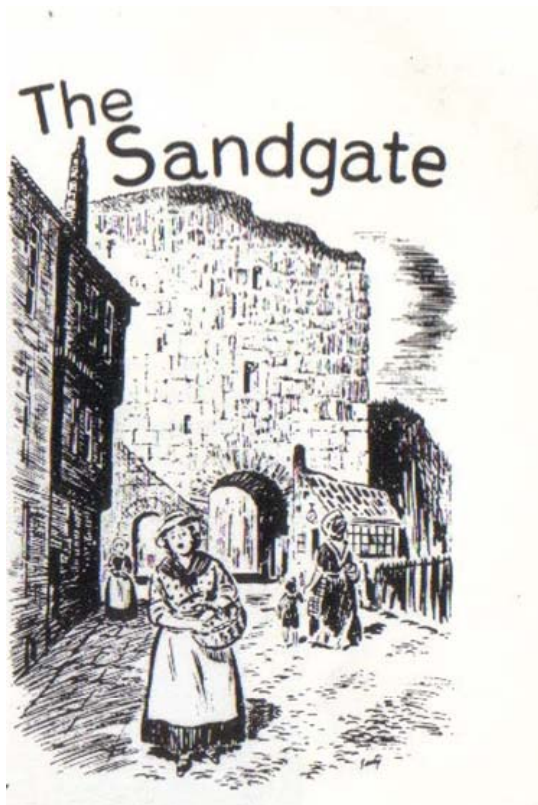


Living in Sandgate

The keelmen and their families formed a distinct community in Newcastle and most of them lived in the Sandgate area of the town. Sandgate was not only the name of the south-east gate in the town wall but it was also the name of the main road through the suburb. Since, during the eighteenth century, coal was not shipped during the awful winter weather conditions, the keelmen would often spend up to three months of the year without earning money. Sandgate, therefore became noted for its poverty, overcrowding and hunger.



The keelmen of Sandgate followed a calling that descended from father to son. They married only with their own class or with those from the pitmen of Heaton and Byker.

John Wesley, who visited Newcastle in 1742, described Sandgate as "*The poorest and most contemptible part of the town*"