

# ABOUT HOUGHTON HERITAGE SOCIETY



Houghton-le-Spring Heritage Society was formed to promote, share and preserve the local history of the Houghton-le-Spring district. The Society uses the Internet to share aspects of Houghton-le-Spring's heritage which otherwise would not be accessible to the public, including those in the town's boundaries (residents) and those beyond (descendants and expatriates).

Houghton Heritage Society actively records current aspects of Houghton which will be of interest in the future, preserves and/or reintroduces local traditions and customs, and supports schools and educational establishments in the Houghton district with the promotion of our local heritage.

Houghton-le-Spring Heritage Society is a not-for-profit organisation recognised as charitable by HMRC.

## THE SOCIETY'S WEBSITE

The Society's popular non-profit website is the culmination of years of research. Launched in 2007, our website features a wide range of exclusive articles and photographs. Like all good websites, the site incurs hosting and running costs. These costs are met through generous donations and the sale of local history publications through the site. Without the public's support, the Houghton Heritage website would not be online.

## JOINING THE SOCIETY

The public can join the Society via our very popular and active Facebook group, which currently has over **8,300 MEMBERS**. The Group is the ideal forum for sharing old photographs, memories, family tree quests and other local information.

[fyassbyuk.com](http://fyassbyuk.com)



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PROUD TO BE MEMBERS OF  
OUR CHARITY IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATION RECOGNISED AS CHARITABLE BY HMRC

## OUR PATRON – PENELOPE WILTON



Houghton Heritage Society is honoured to have actress **PENELOPE WILTON DBE** as Patron of the Society. Penelope has starred in a variety of award winning roles throughout her career and is known to millions as Mrs Crawley in 'Downton Abbey' and also as Harriet Jones MP in 'Doctor Who'.

Penelope Wilton is the niece of 1940s actress Linden Travers, who was born in Houghton-le-Spring, and is the Great-Great Granddaughter of Houghton confectioner and Crimean War veteran, George 'Sticky' Wheatley.

*Photograph from ITV Downton Abbey Press Pack*

## THE SOCIETY'S LATE PRESIDENT

The Society was proud to have **DR JOHN SELWYN MORLEY PhD, MD, DSc** as honorary President. Jack Morley was born at 32 Edwin Street in 1925 and his memories of Houghton, particularly of the 1930s, have been of great use to the Society. Jack attended Newbottle Street Junior & Infant School and then Houghton Secondary/Grammar School before going to University College Durham to study life sciences. He was sent to Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine to continue his medical studies. He had won international acclaim for his work and in 1982 co-founded a unique multidisciplinary Institute at Liverpool for research on chronic pain. Jack passed away in 2018.

## THE SOCIETY'S CHAIRMAN

The Society's Chairman is published local historian **PAUL LANAGAN BA HONS**, who has studied the history and heritage of Houghton-le-Spring for more than 40,000 research hours between 2000 and 2022. The Society has its origins in November 2002, when Paul started to document Houghton's heritage. His first project was to raise the issue of the neglected and abandoned Hillside Cemetery followed by many overnight visits to local properties for 'Haunted Houghton'. Paul was joined by **JOAN LAMBTON** who has helped the Society above and beyond the call of duty. Houghton is certainly in her debt!

## THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

As a Small Charity there are four Trustees. The Houghton Heritage Society's Committee, made up of four members, meets regularly in Wetherpoo's Wild Boar public House on Frederick Place, just off Sunderland Street. The Wild Boar opened in 2011 and features large, sumptuously framed photographs from the Society's large collection of old photographs of Houghton-le-Spring.



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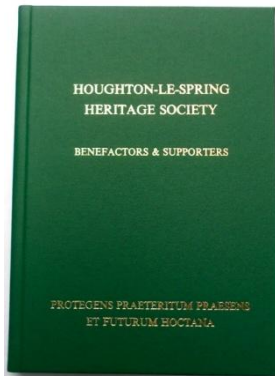
## SHARE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS

If you are happy to have your photographs copied – or perhaps you want to donate them – please get in touch.

In over 20 years, our Chairman Paul Lanagan has borrowed thousands of photographs and all have been looked after carefully and returned in their original condition.



## MAKE A DONATION



Houghton Heritage Society relies on the kindness of the public to make donations to cover the Society's running costs. A decorated *Book of Benefactors* records all those donors who give £60 or more.

A Guide to Donating can be found on the home page of the Society website and includes information on Pay Pal donations, small donations, making an annual donation and leaving a legacy.

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## HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Society could not exist without the generous donations it receives from the public. The following shows how your donation could help:

- £6 would buy postage stamps and help us with our admin costs.
- £35 would buy an Army grade Time Capsule, a good way of promoting local heritage.
- £50 would help with the cost of having a stall at a local heritage fair.
- £75 would help towards our membership of the British Association for Local History.
- £150 would cover our website costs for around a year.
- £300 would help to buy a projector, allowing us to give talks and presentations to local groups.
- £500 would help towards a commemorative bench and help replace those missing from traditional meeting spots around Houghton-le-Spring.
- £700 would allow us to print and distribute one of our illustrated guide books.
- £1000 would help to print and distribute school resource packs with photographs from our collections.
- £2500 would help us to replace the missing 1953 Coronation Notice board.



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