

# LOCAL HISTORY QUIZ

How well do you know the history of Houghton-le-Spring? Have a go at the ten questions below then check the answers at [www.houghtonfeast.co.uk](http://www.houghtonfeast.co.uk) Give it your best shot - no cheating - and then let us know how you performed on the Houghton Heritage Society Facebook page!

- 1 How did Houghton-le-Spring get its name?
- 2 Name three of Houghton's popular ice cream sellers.
- 3 What were the forenames of Rector Gwilliam?
- 4 How did Bernard Gilpin die in 1583?
- 5 What is the Earl of Durham Monument better known as?
- 6 What did Houghton's old workhouse become known as?
- 7 Which local family was well known for its confectionery factory?
- 8 What was the name of the German pork sausage butcher on Newbottle Street?
- 9 When did Houghton's colliery close?
- 10 What were the names of Houghton's three picture houses?

## HOW DID YOU DO?

0 – 3 Oh dear! That is dreadful!

4 – 6 You need to brush up!

7 – 9 Well done – a noble effort!

10 You are a Heritage Hero!

Newbottle Street, 1939



# ANSWERS

## 1 How did Houghton-le-Spring get its name?

Houghton-le-Spring takes its name from the Anglo-Saxon "Hogh" which means a point of land projected into a plain, and the Old English word "tun" which means settlement. Some think it is derived from the Le Spring family, Lords of Houghton in ancient times.

## 2 Name three of Houghton's popular ice cream sellers.

Riani, DiMambro, and Jaconelli. You could also have Minchella and Gougie, or perhaps you know of some others.

## 3 What were the forenames of Rector Gwilliam?

Oswald Noel Gwilliam. Reverend Gwilliam was Rector of Houghton-le-Spring from 1948 until 1972. He was ordained in 1926/27 and served throughout the Durham Diocese. His curacy was in Gateshead, and he served as Vicar at Holy Trinity, South Shields, 1932 – 1941, and then Seaham, 1941 – 1948. He helped to rejuvenate the Houghton Feast celebrations in 1967. A memorial service was held in St Michaels Church when he died on February 21st 1997.

## 4 How did Bernard Gilpin die in 1583?

Bernard Gilpin was knocked down by an ox in Durham's Market Place and died shortly afterwards.

## 5 What is the Earl of Durham Monument better known as?

Known locally as Penshaw Monument on Penshaw Hill, the monument was inspired by the Theseion, Temple of Hephaestus and was constructed in 1844 out of local gritstone.

## 6 What did Houghton's old workhouse become known as?

Heath House Hostel, and is now a small housing development called Heath Grange.

## 7 Which local family was well known for its confectionery factory?

The Wheatley family. You might also recognise the Gibson family and others.

## 8 What was the name of the German pork sausage butcher on Newbottle Street?

Stein butchers or Stone butchers.

## 9 When did Houghton's colliery close?

The last underground shift was completed at Houghton Colliery on Thursday September 24th 1981.

## 10 What were the names of Houghton's three picture houses?

Houghton's three picture houses were on Newbottle Street: The Coliseum; The Gaiety (aka the Grand, the Essoldo or the Classic); and the Empire. They had a range of nicknames, too!