

JANUARY 2011 | VOL 1 ISSUE 1 | ISSN 1757-3890

# THE HOUGHTONIAN



QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF HOUGHTON HERITAGE SOCIETY



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[WWW.HOUGHTONLESPRING.ORG.UK](http://WWW.HOUGHTONLESPRING.ORG.UK)

# CAN YOU HELP?

**If you have any old photographs of Houghton-le-Spring that you would like to share, please contact Paul Lanagan via [www.houghtonlespring.org.uk](http://www.houghtonlespring.org.uk)**

## FACES AND PLACES

**Photographs are treated with care and respect and are returned promptly once they have been copied.**

**Allowing your precious photographs to be copied and shared ensures that they will be around for generations to come.**







WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTONIAN, the new quarterly magazine of the Houghton Heritage Society. In this issue you can catch up with all the local history and heritage news for Houghton-le-Spring as well as several mysteries which you may be able to help solve.

THE FRONT COVER features a snowy view of Houghton Rectory from the 1950s, a scene which has been echoed in recent weeks with all the snow we've had. I do hope you enjoy reading this issue and extend thanks to all those Houghtonians, near and far, who have contributed.

PAUL LANAGAN BA HONS

WWW.HOUGHTONLESPRING.ORG.UK

## @ WEB UPDATES

The HH website is updated frequently. Just click on the **UPDATED** link on the home page to see what's new. The following pages have been updated in the past three months:

- ⚡ Newbottle Street School – two new photographs from c1910.
- ⚡ Old Adverts – 1905 undertakers advert added.
- ⚡ Old Photographs – Houghton's rooftops in the 1930s.
- ⚡ H-L-S: The Jewel in the Crown of the Prince Bishops – details of this rare VHS video by Ken Richardson.
- ⚡ Houghton Hillside Cemetery – downloadable factsheets; and old documents and receipts.
- ⚡ Houghton at War - updated with details of adopted warship, HMS Wellard, and Houghton's War Savings Campaign plaques.
- ⚡ Dedication Stones article updated with details from the Council Office plaque.
- ⚡ Houghton Rectory Time Line updated with details of the official opening as a public park.
- ⚡ Then and now videos of the Houghton Feast fairground, 1954 and 2009.



If you don't have a computer at home, you can always access the Internet in Houghton Library. For details, telephone:

0191 561 6383

# A BIG CHALLENGE

WORK IS NOW UNDERWAY to catalogue and document the Paul Lanagan Collection of Houghton photographs, which has continued to grow in size following the publication of the book, 'Houghton-le-Spring in Old Photographs Vol 1'. The collection currently contains over 1,300 vintage photographs, around 1,500 images of Houghton Feast and 1,000 of Hillside Cemetery.

Paul Lanagan said: *"Following the book's release, I realised that the rest of the collection needed marrying up with all of the documentation, facts and figures I have amassed over the past 10 years. There's nothing worse than discovering an old photograph and not knowing who is in the picture or when or where it was taken. The Houghton Heritage Archive will ensure that future generations will have a sound record of Houghton's heritage."*

It takes on average thirty-minutes to document a photograph. Each image is scanned into the computer at high resolution,

before being named and numbered. Any information that is known is recorded on file – but sometimes enquiries have to be made or history books consulted before this can happen. Copies of the image are then printed, while a digital version will be added to the HH website. The entire file is then printed, as it is not yet known with certainty whether digital information will be reliably accessible in the future. As the following samples show, the project is well worth the effort.



REF: HLS1854161228

SAY CHEESE: Posing in the studio of C.Plews, Sunderland Street, circa 1900.





THE THREE Rs: Class III at Houghton Infants' School, with teacher Primrose Brass, circa 1908 – 1915. The school was officially opened on December 15<sup>th</sup> 1908.



ALL WORK AND NO PLAY: Young lads hard at work in the grounds of Houghton Hall, not long after it was converted into a YMCA in 1972.

# IL COLLEGAMENTO ITALIANO



THIS IS A RARE PHOTOGRAPH from the Houghton Heritage archives, showing a village scene in the Lucca province of Tuscany, Italy, around 1890. Seated behind the bearded cart driver is the great Italian composer Giacomo Puccini, and behind him is his friend, a young Colombo Riani. Colombo later travelled to Houghton-le-Spring and founded the Gaiety Temperance Bar at 67 Newbottle Street (seen below in the 1920s). The business evolved into an ice cream parlour and café, and was popular with Houghton residents until its closure in the 1990s.



Giacomo Puccini (1858 – 1924) was a celebrated Italian composer, famous for his compositions such as 'Madame Butterfly'. Colombo was a renowned musician.

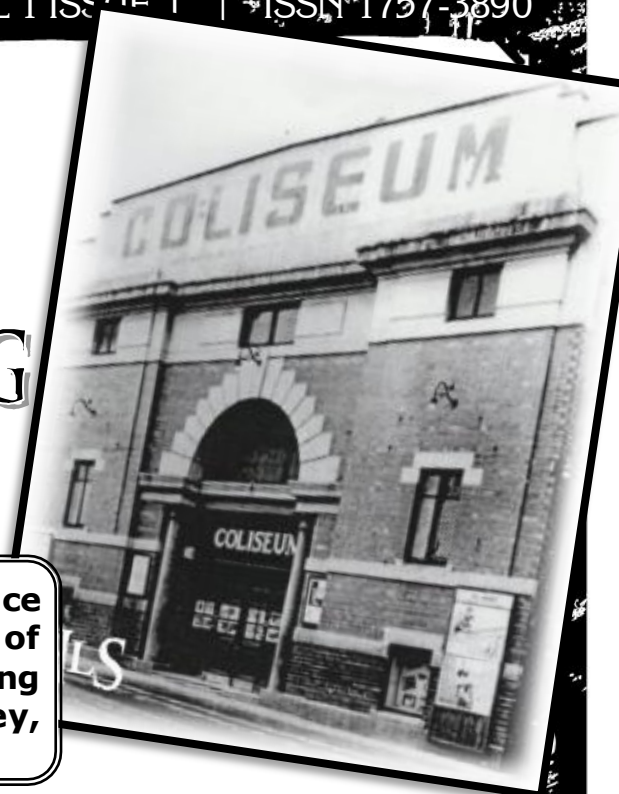
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE RIANI FAMILY ON THE **HH** WEBSITE





# HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING

## Remembered



**Houghton-le-Spring Remembered is your chance to share your experiences and memories of Houghton in the good old days. The following memories, from Houghtonian June Lumley, relate to circa 1945.**

“My mother was cook for Rector Hugh Ashdown [incumbent 1943 – 1948] at the Rectory house, which is where the Council offices now stand. When I was 16 years old there was a long wall opposite the Church, where everyone used to meet friends – boyfriends and girlfriends. We needn’t have a date; just walk along the Church front and there were always friends we knew to have a night out with. It was the most popular meeting place. Saturday was always busy with people going to the dog track or choosing which film to see at one of the three picture houses – the Coliseum, the Grand, or the Empire. There were three ice cream parlours in Houghton – Dimambros, where most Catholics gathered after having visited Church; then there was Jaconellis and Rianis, so plenty to choose for a natter. There were no punch-ups like you see today. To me that wall was a monument of very happy memories, never to be forgotten!”

**Mrs June Lumley, 2009**



REF NO: HLS185416132



## THE GILPIN FAMILY CREST

DRIVERS PASSING THROUGH Houghton can't help but have noticed the newly erected signs on the A690, welcoming visitors to the "ancient town of Houghton-le-Spring" [shown in the photograph above]. The sign at Houghton Cut replaced an old one which snapped in half in 2008 (for a while only 'HOUGH' was visible). Another has been placed near to Rainton Bridge. Both of the new signs feature the boar and oak tree from the family crest of Bernard Gilpin.

Reverend Bernard Gilpin, the Apostle of the North and Father of the Poor, is Houghton's most well-known Rector. At around the time of the signing of the Magna Carter (1215 AD), Gilpin's ancestors resided in Kentmere Hall, Westmorland (Cumbria), a long way away from Bernard's arrival in Houghton in 1558. Richard De Gilpin, who was also known as Richard the Rider, achieved prominence for slaying the 'Wild Boar of Westmoreland', a

ferocious porcine which was terrorising local villages and ravaging the land with its tusks.

The Baron of Kendal rewarded Gilpin's bravery and gave him land in and around Kentmere. King John granted Gilpin a coat of arms, which featured the sable (black furred) boar and a crescent moon, on a gold background. Research suggests that the oak tree, which pierces the boar on modern crests, was not part of the original Coat of Arms. The Wild Boar Hotel near Windermere is thought to have been built on the site where the beast was killed.

The Gilpin crest has now been adopted by Houghton and can be found in a variety of places including:

- :: Logo for the old Houghton Urban District Council
- :: Logo for the Rotary Club of Houghton-le-Spring
- :: Logo for the Gilpin Press, Pottery Yard
- :: Engraved on lamp posts throughout Houghton's Broadway
- :: Centrepiece illumination during Houghton Feast
- :: Group badge for 1st Houghton (St Michael's) Scout Group
- :: Embedded in the linoleum floor of Houghton Council Office (the Old Rectory)



:: On the Houghton Feast flag which was unveiled at Houghton Feast 1999 from the top of St Michael's Church

:: Logo for Houghton-le-Spring Golf Club

Parts of the Gilpin crest were even incorporated into the civic arms for Sunderland Metropolitan Council, when Houghton became a part of Sunderland in 1974 (the design was subsequently changed in 1992 when Sunderland became a City).

Houghtonian, Joan Lambton, is the proud owner of a hand-made fired clay version of the Gilpin crest, but has recently discovered that her crest is not as unique as expected, even though her own mother had made it! While in the Gilpin Press printers, she noticed a similar crest mounted on the wall.

*"I did not know John had one until I spotted it and asked in amazement how he came by it. He said it had come with the building! He had never had it down and was amazed when I told him to get it down and look on the back, as I just knew Mam's trademark would be there. Very obediently he immediately did as I said, and the trademark was there! Mam must have made it for an officer in Houghton Urban District Council who had let her have a letterhead with the crest on. The printers before John did a lot of Council work so*

*we deduced that it had been passed on to them and that is how John got it."*

Joan has since discovered that three versions of the crest were fired – her own, the one in Gilpin Press, and a third which is now missing. A fine example of the crest can be found engraved upon the west side of Bernard Gilpin's tomb, located in the south transept of St Michael's Church. That version, which could date from Gilpin's death in 1583, features a slightly portly boar upon an ornate shield. It was once sketched in detail by the famed artist Samuel Grim around 1780; and luckily so, as the engraving is now in a damaged condition.

By Paul Lanagan



# THE OLD RENT OFFICE

THERE IS TALK IN the air that the old Council Offices (officially known as Houghton Area Office) in the Park grounds, are to be demolished following the recent relocation of staff from the building. At the time of writing (October 2010), no official announcement on the building's future has been made.

Houghton Urban District Council (HUDC) purchased the Rectory grounds on July 20th 1949. The embattled Rectory building was adapted to become the Council Offices and Council Chamber in 1950/51, but by the 1960s it was clear that a more modern building was required for the needs of a functioning council.

On November 18th 1967, Councillor John Mawston, then Chairman of HUDC, laid the foundation stone for the new building, and almost a year later, on November 1st 1968, the Council Offices were opened by Councillor Mawston's successor, Councillor Edward Kelly. The building was used by HUDC for six years, and became Houghton Area Office under the jurisdiction of Sunderland Borough Council upon the reformation of local government in 1974.

**While we can, let's take a look at the building where many Houghton folk have queued a while to pay their rates!**



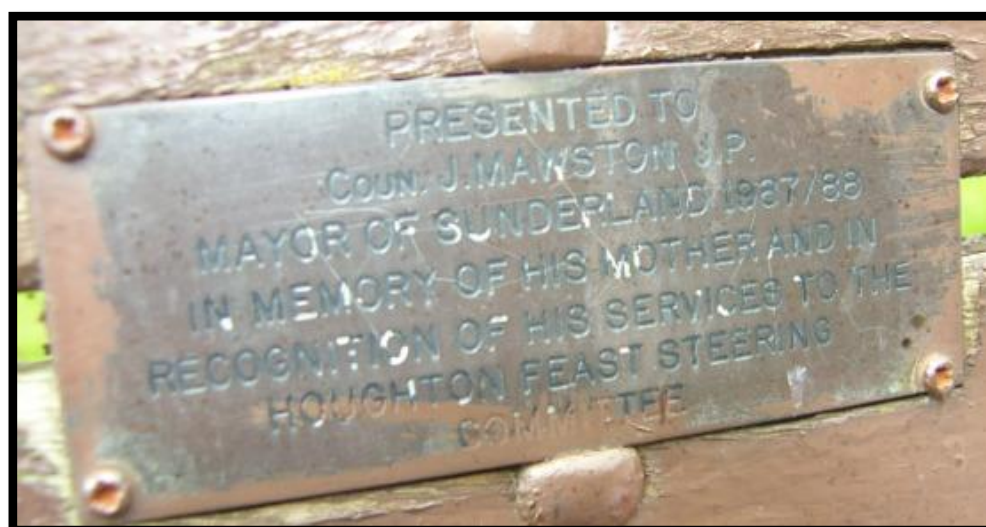


Foundation  
stone, dated  
November 18<sup>th</sup>  
1967.



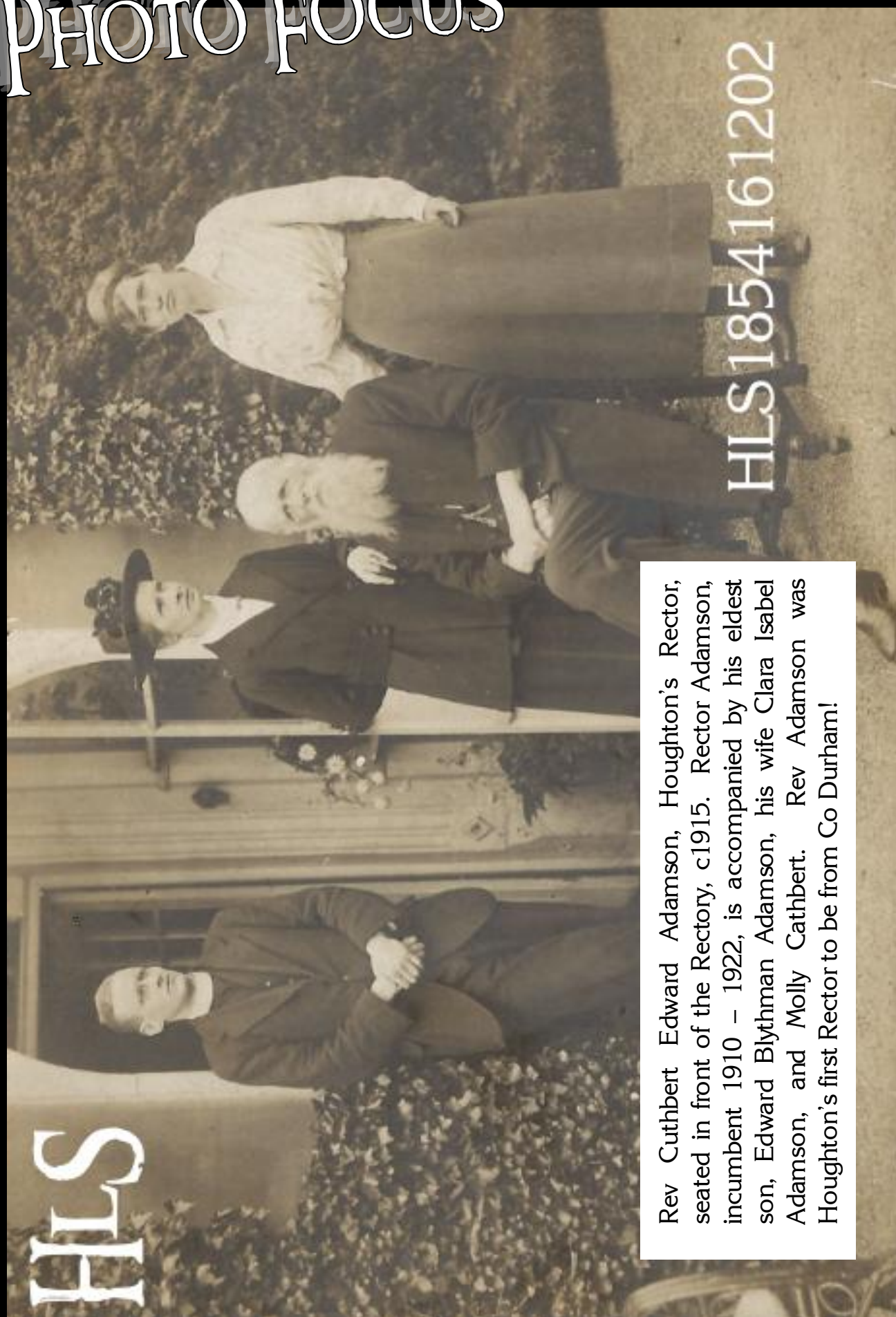
Official opening  
plaque, dated  
November 1<sup>st</sup>  
1968.

Plaque on the  
John Mawston  
Seat. The  
inscription reads:



*PRESENTED TO COUN. J. MAWSTON J.P. MAYOR OF SUNDERLAND 1987/88 IN  
MEMORY OF HIS MOTHER AND IN RECOGNITION OF HIS SERVICES TO THE  
HOUGHTON FEAST STEERING COMMITTEE*

# PHOTO FOCUS



Rev Cuthbert Edward Adamson, Houghton's Rector, seated in front of the Rectory, c1915. Rector Adamson, incumbent 1910 – 1922, is accompanied by his eldest son, Edward Blythman Adamson, his wife Clara Isabel Adamson, and Molly Cathbert. Rev Adamson was Houghton's first Rector to be from Co Durham!



# THROUGH THE KEY HOLE

## WHO LIVED IN A HOUSE LIKE THIS?



CAN ANYONE IDENTIFY this grand looking house? It is featured on a photograph which was sent from Fence Houses on June 14<sup>th</sup> 1904 to The Rev Edgar Jackson at St Peter's Church Vicarage, Jarrow. The sender was an S. POTTS, who wrote:

*Rev Sir, I will see that you get the eggs you require while you are here, yours best,*

*? Potts.*

My initial thoughts were that the house looks as though it is on Black Boy Road, Chilton Moor, but other suggestions via the Houghton Heritage Facebook Group included: Greenshield's farm house next to Houghton Cut/Vardy's Garage; a house in Newbottle village; Houghton Market Place; Sedgeleth; the large house opposite the Jolly Potter's pub in Newbottle; Sunnyside

farm house; or a house on Salters Lane, next to Warden Law. All have been discounted and ruled out. Another suggestion came in from Houghtonian Harry Smith, now of Middlesbrough, who said: *"This looks like a house that used to stand in the fields just outside Bankhead and Colliery Row on the paths to Sunnyside and Grasswell but it may have been swallowed up by development in that area."*

It is significant that the photograph was posted in Fence Houses and not Houghton-le-Spring, and it would appear that the recipient, the Rev Edgar Jackson, was due to stay in the area – could the sender have been a church going man, suggesting the house was in the vicinity of a local church?

**Do you recognise the house?**

# CLASSIFIEDS

## A. DIMAMBRO

FOR MORNING COFFEE,  
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3 DURHAM ROAD  
HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING

## Durham Directory ADVERTISING SHEET, 1857.

### NESHAM HALL ACADEMY,

FOR YOUNG GENTLEMEN,  
HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING, DURHAM.

*Established in 1838, and conducted during seventeen years,  
by the late*

MR. W. GOODRICKE.

THE instruction given in this Establishment is in accordance with the present comprehensive system of educational requirements, and is founded on the soundest modern principles.

Pupils are prepared for Commercial pursuits, the Universities, the Army or Navy, the Civil Service, Engineering, &c. The Greek, Latin, French, German, and Spanish Languages, Mathematics, History, Geography, English Grammar and Composition, Natural Philosophy, and Land Surveying form the leading subjects of tuition. To the School is attached a Museum replete with the choicest specimens of Natural History, and with a well-selected philosophical apparatus for illustrating every branch of Natural Science.

The play-ground and premises are spacious and in a very healthy situation, and Mrs. Goodricke's superintendence of the domestic arrangements secures all the comforts of home to the pupils, whose moral training is the object of constant vigilance and care.

RESIDENT HEAD MASTER, MR. W. FINLEY, B.A., many years mathematical and assistant classical master in the Durham Grammar School, and during ten years mathematical and General Master in the Durham Diocesan Training School.

Prospectuses (containing terms for board and education) may be obtained on application to Mrs. Goodricke, Nesham Hall, Houghton-le-Spring, and very numerous references of the highest respectability can be supplied.

The School will be re-opened on Tuesday,  
January 20th, 1857.

## J. WELLS,

ARTIST,

Geologist, Entomologist and Botanist,  
33, GILSGATE, DURHAM.

HOUGHTON'S OLDEST  
YET MOST  
MODERN STORE



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OF SUNDERLAND STREET,  
HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING

## C. STONE, Pork Butcher

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TABLE DELICACIES FOR OVER 40 YEARS

16 NEWBOTTLE STREET - - HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING

## WM. WHEATLEY & SON

(EST. 1863)

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MANUFACTURING WHOLESALE &  
RETAIL CONFECTIONERS

HANDONside WORKS,  
SUNDERLAND STREET,  
HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING,  
COUNTY DURHAM.

SHOPS SUPPLIED — ENQUIRIES INVITED

BRANCHES:—

1 FRONT STREET, COXHOE. . . . . TEL. 349  
70 ST. BARNABAS ROAD, MIDDLESBROUGH . . TEL. 88031

DiMambro's, Pallister's, Stone's and Wheatley's advertisements from 1954; Nesham Hall Academy advertisement from 1857.

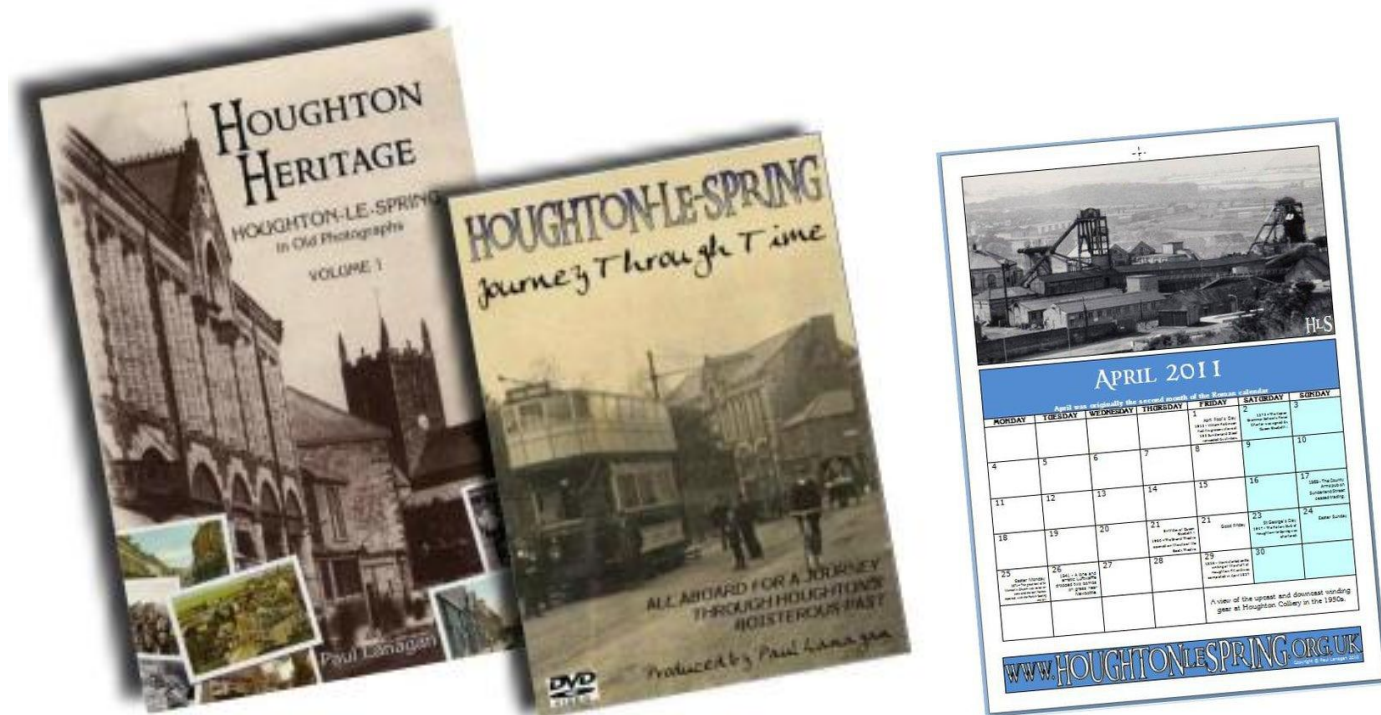
**Please show these businesses your support when you are in Houghton.**



# HOUGHTON HERITAGE

Houghton-le-Spring in Old Photographs book  
Journey Through Time DVD  
& 2011 calendar available from:

*[www.houghtonlespring.org.uk](http://www.houghtonlespring.org.uk)*



*Each sold separately. Book and DVD also available from:*

*:::: Houghton Co-Op :::: M.Lilley Newsagents, Dubmire ::::  
:::: Colliery Row Post Office :::: ED&Y Brown Newsagents, Newbottle ::::  
:::: The Bookcase, Chester-le-Street :::: Waterstones Sunderland Bridges ::::*



# WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Can you help solve these Genealogical Quests,  
which are all centred around Houghton-le-Spring?

IF YOU CAN HELP  
WITH ANY OF THESE  
QUESTS PLEASE  
CONTACT PAUL  
LANAGAN VIA THE HH  
WEBSITE.

## COLLING & THWAITES

I am interested in: Jane Thwaites died 1838; Isabella Colling died 1859; Matthew Colling died 1858; Matthew Colling died 1854; John Colling born 1850 died 1866; William Colling born 1808 died 1880; William Colling born 1818 died 1880; Mary Colling (Wilson) born 1815 died 1893; Mary Colling born 1819 died 1884; Peter Colling born 1804 died 1888; Jane Hannah Thwaites died 1860; Emma Thwaites died 1861; Catherine Atkinson Thwaites born 1862 died 1867; Joseph Thwaites born 1815 died 1897; Charles Thwaites born 1874 died 1875; Jane Thwaites born 1833 died 1875; and Joseph Thwaites born 1850.

*Miss Kirstie Franklin  
Lincolnshire*

## BONE & RICHARDSON

I am interested in: Andrew Bone died 25/05/1844 aged 28 years; Elizabeth Bone nee Richardson died in Houghton-le-Spring on 24/06/1848 aged 30 years; Thomas Richardson father of Elizabeth; John Bone a tailor who lived in Newbottle Lane in 1861. He was born on 12/09/1813 and died on 22/01/1892.

*Mrs Valerie Morgan  
Leigh-on-Sea*

## THE PICKERINGS

I am researching the Pickering family, most of whom, as far back as I have gone, are from Chester-le-Street in Durham. I don't know how far Chester-le-Street is from Houghton-on-Spring, or if the names are relevant. I have: three William Pickerings, one born about 1772, wife Ann (Humble) born 1776 - she could also be one of the Ann Pickerings - another William, born in 1805, married to Elizabeth (Dixon, or Dickson) - she could also be one of the Elizabeth Pickerings

and another William, born in 1868 (but I don't think he's from my direct line). I believe the men were masons (I suppose that means builders?).

*Shirley Bulley  
Australia*

## CARR THE STONEMASONS

All sides of my family come from Durham - Houghton, Ryhope, Silksworth, Pitlington - so we are up there often, looking in the churchyards for THOMPSON, GALLOWAY, CURRY and now I'm doing my Grandmother, Mary CARR from the Houghton area. My particular interest in her family is the fact that they were stonemasons in Houghton. I would imagine stonemasons would be quite well known. I was wondering if you think that they might have made some of the gravestones in the old cemeteries? My research so far: Mary Carr (1886) married Robert Thompson (1884) of Ryhope. Her parents were: John & Elizabeth Carr (both 1841). He was a coal miner. Her grandparents were: William (1813 - 1886) and Mary Carr (1813). He was a stonemason. Her great-Grandparents were: Anthony (1791) and Mary Carr (1796). Again, he was a stonemason.

*Judy Galloway  
East Yorkshire*

## THE WHITES OF HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING

I am interested in: Jane White born 1869; Elizabeth White born 1819; and Elizabeth White born 1849.

*Mrs S. White*

## HOUGHTON - LE - SPRING WORKHOUSE

My name is Sally Brooman and I am currently looking into my paternal grandmother's family - her name was Esther Isobel Pattinson Calvert. She was born in 1913 on Dec 2nd, her mother is listed as Sarah Ellen Calvert and father unknown. On her birth certificate she was born at 8 William Street, Houghton. Sarah Ellen Calvert is listed on the birth certificate as a domestic/servant general and the birth was registered by R Harrison, occupier, who from the 1911 census I can see was master of the workhouse, 8 William Street. Are there any records pertaining to Sarah Ellen Calvert or her daughter Esther at the workhouse? Did Robert Harrison live there or have another residence where Sarah may have worked? Was the workhouse also a hospital? Also I am interested in the names Robert Smith and Elizabeth Smith who are listed as being inmates or staff at the workhouse. Sarah Ellen went to live with a Robert Smith, her uncle, in 1891 (in Houghton) and his wife was called Elizabeth. I have thoroughly enjoyed finding out about Houghton-le-spring, as my father did not grow up there and I have never been. I am hoping you will be able to answer some of my questions. Thank you in advance

*Sally Brooman*

## DOCTOR ANDERSON

Any information about Dr Ralph Robert Anderson, of Market Place, Houghton-le-Spring, circa 1851 and 1855, plus his wife Jane Ann Anderson, nee Bell.

*Michael Shovlin*

Trawling your website for information about the Andersons, I came across the enquiry (above). I don't of course know when the enquiry was made, and it may be out of date, but I have information about Dr Anderson in my family tree, and his family, if the enquirer is interested. I am happy for him to be put directly in touch with me.

*Revd Wendy Aird*

## LAMBTONS & ELLWOOD

Found you on the Net and somebody mentioned your name while I was in Houghton. Information required on the following names: William Lambton born 1837; Joseph Lambton; John Ellwood born 1815; Isabella Ellwood born 1850; and Hannah Ellwood born 1826.

*Wendy Haylock  
Australia*

## WILLIAM HOLMES OF NEWBOTTLE

Hello Paul, I am trying to trace from family tree, which is a little difficult from the other side of the world. I have though managed to trace I think my ancestors back to Houghton Le Spring. My 4th great grandfather William Holmes born in 1755 in Houghton Le Spring and was married to Elizabeth Robson born 1759 also from Houghton Le Spring. The family seemed to live also around Newbottle and Newcastle upon Tyne. My great great grandfather John Holmes came to Australia in 1850 along with 2 of his brothers and their wives, then onto New Zealand in 1854. I am writing to see if you have any information of the above family. I would appreciate what ever information you have. Many thanks.

*Bronwen Inness  
New Zealand*

## JOHN J. HENDERSON

Hi, I'm searching for my grandfather's brother, John James Henderson, born February 9th 1883 in Houghton-le-Spring. I would like to discover his baptism records and if he possibly died in the same place. I think his wife's name is Euphemia Marshall McDonald and I think his mother's name was Christina McLean. Any info would be helpful. Thanks,

*Lorraine Starnes  
British Columbia Canada*



**More quests  
next issue**

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