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THE HOUGHTONIAN



QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF HOUGHTON HERITAGE SOCIETY



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- :: HOUGHTON COLLIERY'S CLOSURE
- :: THE WAR MEMORIAL
- :: HERITAGE OPEN DAYS REPORT
- :: A TASTE OF HOUGHTON RECIPE
- :: AND MUCH MORE!



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 via 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.

1953 Coronation, 1977 & 2002 Jubilee photos also wanted for a special commemorative book in 2012!





WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTONIAN, the quarterly magazine of the Houghton Heritage Group. In this fourth issue, which has been expanded to 24 pages, we take a look at our town's annual festival, Houghton Feast, as October will be here before we know it! The front cover shows Mr Shenton and the choir singing from the Church tower top during Houghton Feast in the 1950s.

WE ALSO PAY HOMAGE to Houghton Colliery, which closed thirty years ago, and announce the launch of the Houghton Miners' Project, which has ambitious aims to document the memories of the last living miners who worked at the pit. There has been another flurry of enquiries and family tree quests – if you can help answer any of them, please get in touch.

TAKE A LOOK AT some of the visits that members have been on around the district over the summer months.

WATCH OUT LATER IN the year for the Houghtonian Almanac 2011, available from the website in early December, this will be a look back on Houghton's heritage in the year 2011 and is bound to become a much sought after addition to local history book collections. These are likely to be printed to order.

HERE'S TO HOUGHTON FEAST 2011!

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. Some of the updated pages during the past three months include:

⚡ **Penshaw Monument** – a new section has been added on the history of Pensher Monument, including a time line and photographs from the very top of the monument.

⚡ **Houghton Cenotaph** – updated with personal details on many more of the names featured.

⚡ **Houghton Cemetery** – printable plan for the cemetery on Durham Road, including locations of Houghton's War Casualty Graves.

⚡ **Time Lines** – the Colliery, Rectory Park and Houghton Feast time lines have all been updated with juicy details of goings-on in the Victorian days.


⚡ **Football Teams** – New photograph of Houghton Rovers AFC from 1911/12 added.

⚡ **Public Houses** – photos and info on landlords of more pubs have been added, including the Lambton Arms, the Jolly Farmers, the Black Horse and the Wheatsheaf Hotel.

⚡ **Wild Boar Heritage Trail** – to help you navigate around the fabulous framed photographs in the new Weatherspoons.

⚡ **Houghton Area Office Treasures** – details of the 10 items recovered before the demolition.

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 If you're reading a printed version of The Houghtonian and are having difficulty seeing the print, did you know you can read the online PDF? This can be increased in size up to a whopping 6400% in Adobe Reader!

Free Internet access at Houghton Library – telephone 0191 561 6383 for details.

THERE'S A PARTY HERE IN HOUGHTON,
EXCITEMENT'S IN THE AIR.
FAMILIES FLOCK INTO THE TOWN
FOR THE CARNIVAL AND THE FAIR.

CARNIVAL TIME

AND SO THE song goes, for this year's Houghton Feast will be the setting for the 45th Annual Carnival Parade.

The Feast has its origins in the 12th century as Michaelmas, the festival of the dedication of the parish church of St Michael & All Angels, but following the restrictions and blackout of World War II, had solely become a miner's gala - a local holiday and opportunity to spend the day in Houghton's many public houses.

In 1967 Houghton's Rector, Rev Oswald Noel Gwilliam, teamed up with the Rotary Club, Round Table, local Chamber of Trade, Houghton Urban District Council and other community groups to start the revival of Houghton Feast.

The 1967 Festival was billed as 'new style' and saw the introduction of the carnival parade. The original route started at Brinkburn Crescent, through the town centre, up Church Street, and into the Market Place, but was later re-routed down Dairy Lane, across Wallace Street, ending on the Welfare ground. The Feast parade soon became an annual tradition and has always been organised by the Round Table, a social organisation for young men that was established in Houghton in 1958.

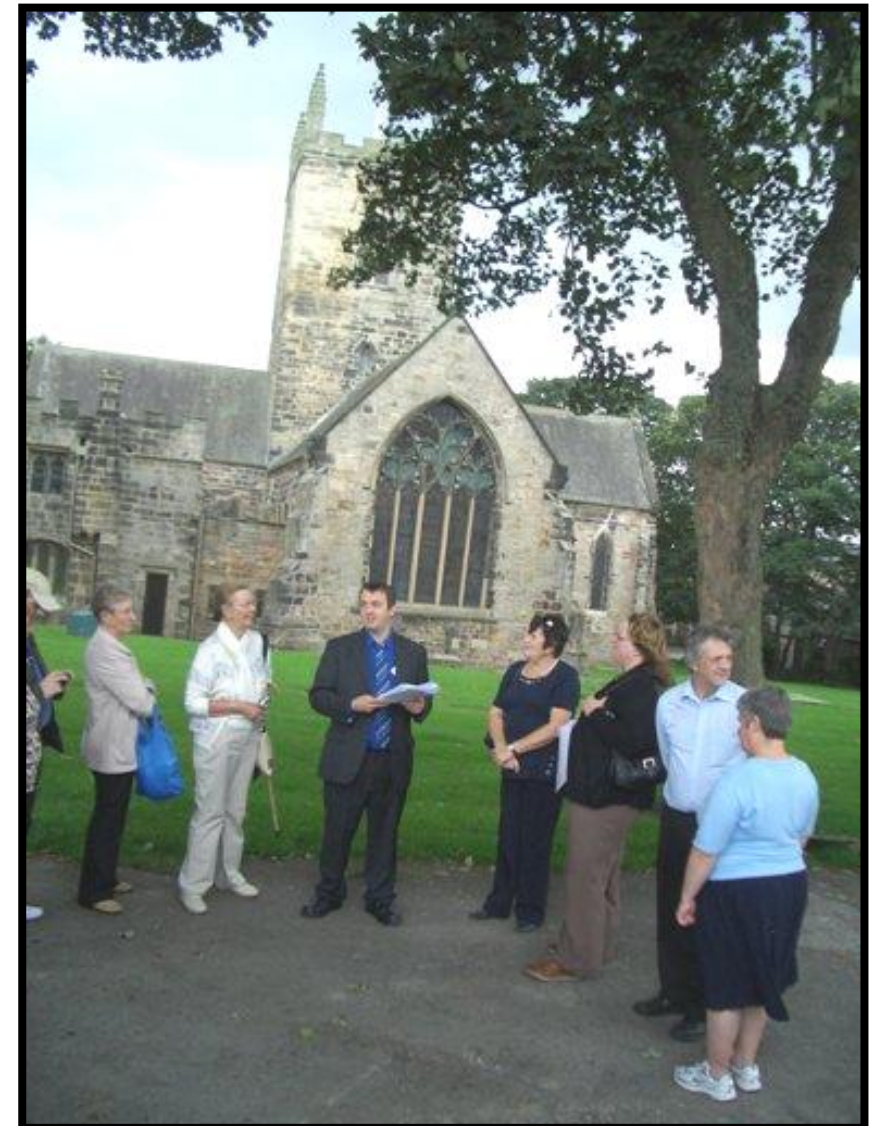
Each year, thousands of families line Houghton's streets to take in the spectacle of the passing parade of pipes and drums, decorated floats, marching community groups, vintage cars and everyone's favourite traction engine, Stafford's Providence, seeing up the rear! Volunteers from Houghton's Round Table make a collection along the route, the funds of which are donated to local charities and worthy causes...

SO COME ALONG AND JOIN THE FUN
HOUGHTON FEAST WE HAVE TO KEEP.
IT'S PARADE TIME IN HOUGHTON,
LINE THE ROUTE AND THEN DIG DEEP!





THE HH EVENTS for Heritage Open Days 2011 included a photograph exhibition of old images of Houghton, Houghton Feast and the Hillside Cemetery, followed by a two-and-a-half hour heritage walk around the town, plus the permanent exhibition of large sumptuously framed photographs in the Wild Boar. For the second year running the day was a mega-success, with over 600 viewing the exhibitions between 08:00 Thursday and 23:00 Sunday. Thanks are extended to all who assisted with the preparations and delivery – many hours of behind-the-scenes work to make the day the success it was!



FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

THE KING & I

OCT 8TH - 11TH 2011 - PRODUCTION BY ZAZZ at Houghton Dance & Performing Arts Academy. Find out more at: www.zazzuk.com or 0191 584 0764

FRIDAY OCTOBER 7TH 2011

7:00PM - OPENING CEREMONY in the Broadway.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 8TH 2011

10:00AM - HERITAGE PHOTO EXHIBITION in the Broadway until 3:00PM. Featuring a new and extended selection of old photographs of Houghton-le-Spring commemorating the 30th anniversary since Houghton Colliery closed.

9:30AM - MINERS BANNERS DISPLAY in the Welfare Hall, Station Road, until 5:00PM. Members of the Lambton and Houghton Banner Group will be on site to share their local knowledge about the history of the banners to ensure that this important part of their heritage is never forgotten. Commemorating 30 years since the closure of Houghton Colliery.

2:00PM - 45TH CARNIVAL PARADE organised by the Houghton's Round Table. Help to celebrate this historic occasion by showing your support with the on-street collection for local charities.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 9TH 2011

10:30AM - CIVIC CEREMONY in St Michael's Church. Please note that the service is starting later than in recent years.

6:00PM - COMMUNITY HYMN SINGING in St Michael's Church, which was started in 1949 by Rector Oswald Noel Gwilliam. Please note the earlier start time.

MONDAY OCTOBER 10TH 2011

4:00PM - ROASTING OF THE OX at Rectory Field. Get there early as the sandwiches sell out quickly!

7:30PM - FREE FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR launched from Durham Road playing fields.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 15TH 2011

9:30AM - CARNIVAL TIME PHOTO EXHIBITION celebrating the 45th Carnival Parade in Houghton Library until 12:00PM. Free admission.

2:00PM - HOMICIDE IN HOUGHTON 6 - Dare you join author Sheila Quigley and local historian Paul Lanagan for an investigation of the fictional murder scenes from Sheila's bestselling books, 'Run for Home', 'Bad Moon Rising', 'Living on a Prayer', 'Every Breath You Take' and 'The Road to Hell'? Book by Telephone 0191 561 6383 NOT FOR THE FAINT HEARTED!

SUNDAY OCTOBER 16TH 2011

11:30AM - HOUGHTON HERITAGE WALK visiting buildings and sites of interest. Book via the HH website or telephone 0191 268 4688.





WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Can you help solve these Genealogical Quests?

More quests are on the usual back cover!

PUBLICANS

Hi, I have just been reading your excellent website re my family history, in particular the pub lists. I am currently researching the name 'Brownless' as part of my ancestry in the Co. Durham area & found one of the daughters of my 3x Great Grandparents (George & Mary Brownless), a Margaret Brownless married a John Fletcher. They had a daughter named Mary who married Thomas Rigby. In the 1891 census Margaret Fletcher (nee Brownless) is widowed & living with her married daughter at the Lambton Arms, Newbottle Street, Houghton-le-Spring. Her son-in-law, Thomas Rigby, is listed as head of household & Licensed Victualler of the Lambton Arms. I noticed that Thomas Rigby's name is not listed in the innkeepers names & wondered if you would be interested to know this for your records. Also, by the 1901 census Mary Rigby is widowed & she is listed as Head of household & Innkeeper of the Red Lion Inn, Church Street, Houghton-le-Spring. The next house on the census is Rectory Lodge & then Houghton Rectory, then Dairy Lane & 'Clergy House' [in 1948 made the Rectory until 2005, now is Dairy Lane Dental Practice]. As Mary's name was also not on your lists, I thought this little snippet might be of interest to you. I shall continue reading

your excellent site & many thanks for all the hard work that must have gone into it. It must be of much interest both to locals & those further afield (such as myself) researching family history etc. Regards,

*Linda Rowley
Redcar*

GEORGE STEPHENSON THE SMITHY

Any information concerning Elizabeth and Helen Matthews, thought to be buried at Hillside Cemetery, plus: George Stephenson, the blacksmith, with a smithy next to the bus depot in the centre of Houghton, would be appreciated, as he was my great uncle.

*Douglas Matthews
Aberdeen*

MEMORIES OF SUNDERLAND STREET

Re: The memories of Sunderland Street in the last issue (Issue 03). The butchers shop was owned by Harry Harland. The cobblers shop was Ron Waites and Jack Stewart. The Carmichael jewellers was owned by a Mr & Mrs Williams.

*Richard Rose
Houghton-le-Spring*

MEMORIES OF HOME & MORE PUBLICANS

I just love this site. I grew up in Houghton and can trace my family in the area back to the 1700's. We lived in 3 Shakespeare Street from 1947 to 1957. My father worked at Herrington Pit. In 1957 he became landlord of The Londonderry Arms in Chilton Moor and we lived above the pub. My grandparents Luke and Sarah Robson (nee. Fenton) were managers of the Dubmire Club from 1918 to 1922. Luke died in the Pensions War Hospital after WWI, from injuries he had received, and his name is on the Cenotaph in Houghton. My sister and I went to St Michael's RC School in the 1950's - Rita and Maureen Robson. We both live in the south now, but Houghton will always be 'home'.

*Maureen Brown
London*

THE LINDENS, DAIRY LANE

Dear Paul, I am doing some research for a friend's family tree. Can you tell me whether Lyndhurst, in Houghton Le Spring was a residential or family home? I think the street name is Dairy or Daisy Street. The period I am talking about is 1951. Any help you can give me would be most welcome, thanks.

Joan Elliott

MR JAMES JAMES & FAMILY

Hello Paul, I am trying to trace living descendants of James James (my great great uncle) who was born in Somerset 1851 & his sons who lived in Houghton Le Spring & died in that area, Oliver James born 1877 & died 1961, Joseph C James born 1887 & died 1948 plus possibly William James born 1880 & died 1971. I was wondering if you could point me in the right direction - I live near Carlisle. Many thanks.

*Doug James
Near Carlisle*

THOMAS WILLIAM USHERWOOD ROBINSON
Anyone out there in HLS related to Thomas William Usherwood Robinson of the brewery? I am his GG grand daughter. Have a dead end on info about his father and mother George & Elizabeth. I am the Great Granddaughter from his daughter Elfrida who was from his second marriage to Isabella Widowfield.

*Dina Salter
Australia*

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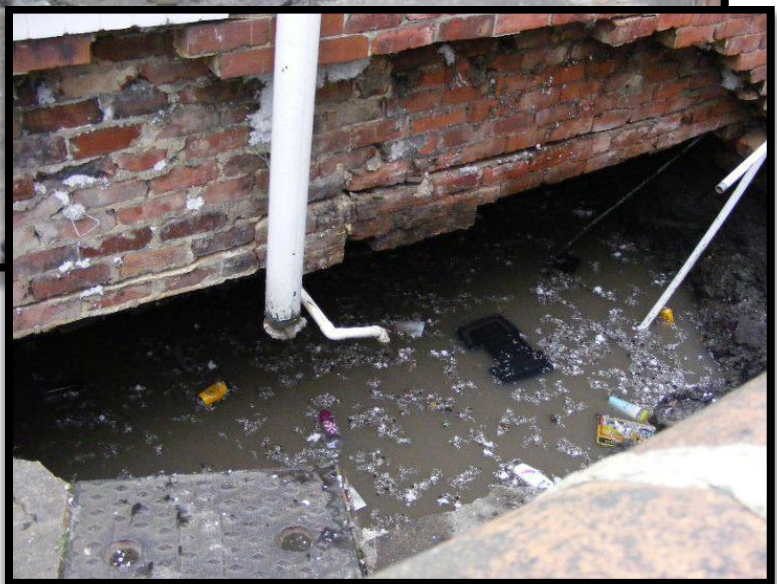


If you can help, please get in touch via the HH website.

A HOLE LOT OF TROUBLE!



A BLAST FROM the past made its presence felt on July 20th when this hole appeared in the yard of a house in Station Avenue, Fencehouses. It is thought that the subsidence had been caused by workings from Lambton D Pit.



Lambton Colliery dated from the 18th century. It was reconstructed in 1950 but closed shortly afterwards on February 27th 1965. The colliery was located a short distance from the property, just down the road in the direction of the railway lines, then right down New Lambton Road (now known as Lambton Lane).

Relics from the colliery still exist in the area, including the dilapidated

shell of the former Lambton Swimming Baths, which has been used as storage for a scrapyard in recent years. The adjacent land, used as Lambton Coke Works (which closed in 1986), was unveiled in 2010 as Elba Park, a country park and housing development, following a £25 million reclamation project.

Meanwhile, Coal Authority officials will be investigating the hole.

MORE COLLIERY INFO at: www.dmm.org.uk

NCB ROTA. FORESHIFT
21/09/2011

HM01 Jack Hardy
HM02 Jim Watts
HM03 Norman Wardle
HM04 Eric Knight
HM05 Joe Knight
HM06 Denis Watson
HM07 Bobby Watson
HM08 Bobby Wilkinson
HM09 Harry Cambell
HM10 Jimmy 'Doc' Sill
HM12 Pat Riley
HM13 Brian Fish
HM14 Alan King
HM15 Tom Wilkinson Jnr
HM16 George Davison
HM17 Gary Wood
HM18 Gilbert 'Bertie' Fletcher
HM19 Gordon King
HM20 Gavin Little
HM21 Maurice Allen
HM22 Rueben 'Rempi' Purvis
HM23 Sid Bowden
HM24 Tommy Harle
HM25 Bill Bestford
HM26 John Cook
HM27 Herbert 'Herbie' Shackler
HM28 Colin Brewis
HM29 Billy Frostwick
HM31 Jim Jarvis
HM33 Billy Laydon
HM34 Alan 'Ally' Crompton
HM35 Brian Rumney
HM36 Stan Morsen
HM37 Joe Winwood Jnr
HM38 Jim Bilton Jnr
HM39 Billy Reddel
HM40 Malcolm 'Malci' Fenwick
HM41 Ernie Wilkinson
HM42 Alan Lynn
HM43 Ralph Lister
HM44 Arthur King
HM45 Robert Henry Fletcher
HM46 John Freeman
HM47 Tommy Watson
HM48 David Patterson
HM49 Jimmy Bell
HM50 Ronnie Pounder
HM51 Terry Kelly
HM52 Billy Shaw
HM53 George Habershon
HM54 Ted Bowden
HM55 Harold Maddison
HM56 John Thomas 'Tom' Smith
HM57 Ernie Dobson
HM58 Barry Cummings
HM59 Tommy Ramsbottom
HM60 Arthur Lee

HOUGHTON MINERS' PROJECT

September 21st 2011 sees the 30th anniversary since Houghton Colliery closed. As each anniversary passes there are fewer Houghtonians alive with memories of having worked at the pit. The Houghton Miners' Project has ambitious aims to record the recollections and experiences of all the remaining miners - and others - who worked at the colliery, underground and at bank.

An initial list has been drawn up (left) with the help of a couple of retired miners, but could well be incomplete. Can you add any extra names to it?

The second stage of the project seeks to find contact details for the miners so that questionnaires can be sent out for them to complete.

The memories will then be recorded, along with other information, such as job role, the ups, downs, and everyday life on a working colliery.

Houghton has changed a great deal since the colliery closed in 1981. In that time there has been an influx of new residents, many from outside the area, and it is no surprise that some children don't know Houghton once had a colliery - let alone where it was!

The Houghton Miners' Project will ensure that the town's coal-mining heritage is not forgotten.

If you can help, please contact Paul Lanagan on:
(0191) 268 4688



Below are remnants of Houghton Colliery, still standing tall as memorials to what once was. The electrical substation (right) can be seen at the entrance to Houghton Quarry, opposite the Colliery site, while the pit's old powder house (left) was rebuilt at Beamish Museum, brick by brick. The powder house originally stood opposite the Lamb Inn pub and was built by Wilson Ramsbottom. Tommy Ennis, who lived at Quarry Row, was in charge of it for a while.



REMEMBERED WHERE WITH HONOUR?

ARMISTICE DAY IS just around the corner and in recent years has taken on a greater significance following the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

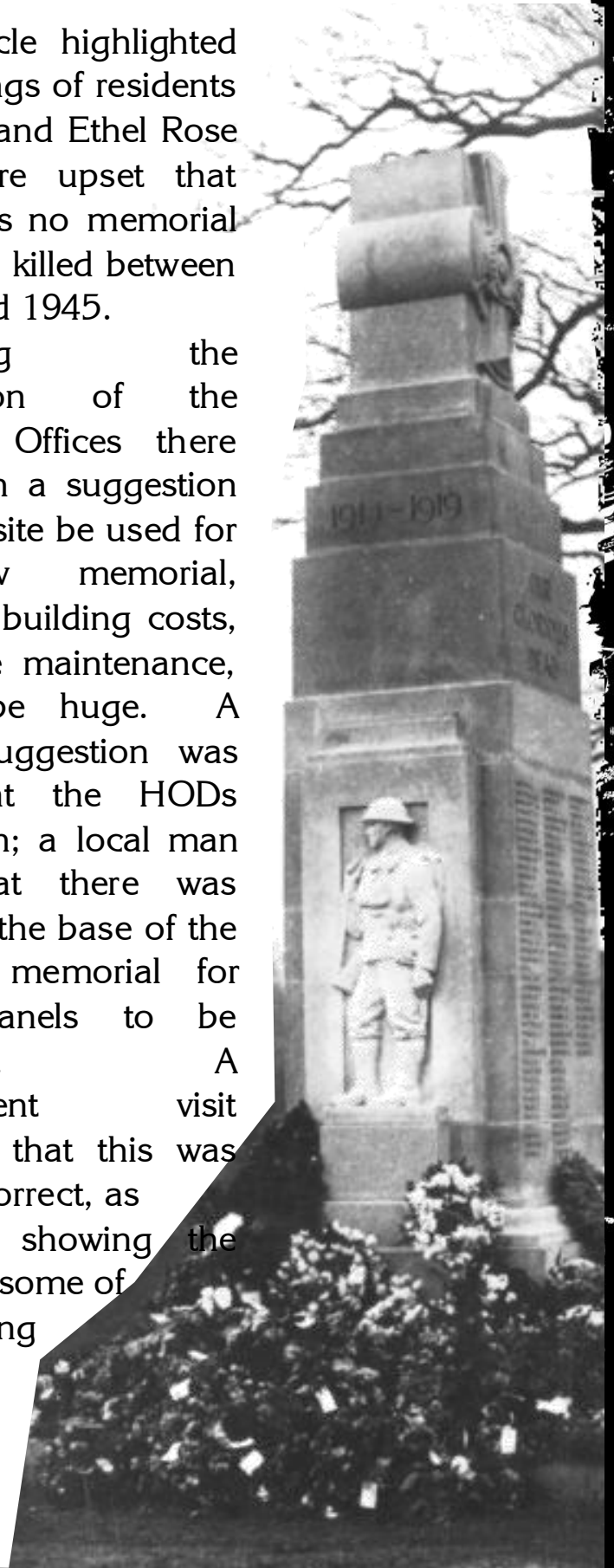
Houghton's fallen are remembered each year on Remembrance Sunday at the cenotaph in the churchyard. This memorial was erected in 1925 at a cost of £7,000. Funds were publicly raised and the local Scouts contributed a significant portion. It was unveiled by the Earl of Durham and dedicated by Houghton's Rector, Rev Ralph Watson.

People are often surprised to discover that Houghton has no sculptured memorial for those killed during the Second World War. Indeed, in August 2009 the Sunderland Echo ran an article entitled:

**COUPLE FIGHT FOR
WAR MEMORIAL**

The article highlighted the feelings of residents Richard and Ethel Rose who were upset that there was no memorial for those killed between 1939 and 1945.

Following the demolition of the Council Offices there has been a suggestion that the site be used for a new memorial, however building costs, let alone maintenance, would be huge. A better suggestion was made at the HODs exhibition; a local man said that there was room at the base of the existing memorial for extra panels to be attached. A subsequent visit revealed that this was indeed correct, as well as showing the need for some of the existing names to be renewed.





WHITE'S MAMMOTH GAVIOLI ORGAN

:: 50 GOLDEN YEARS ::

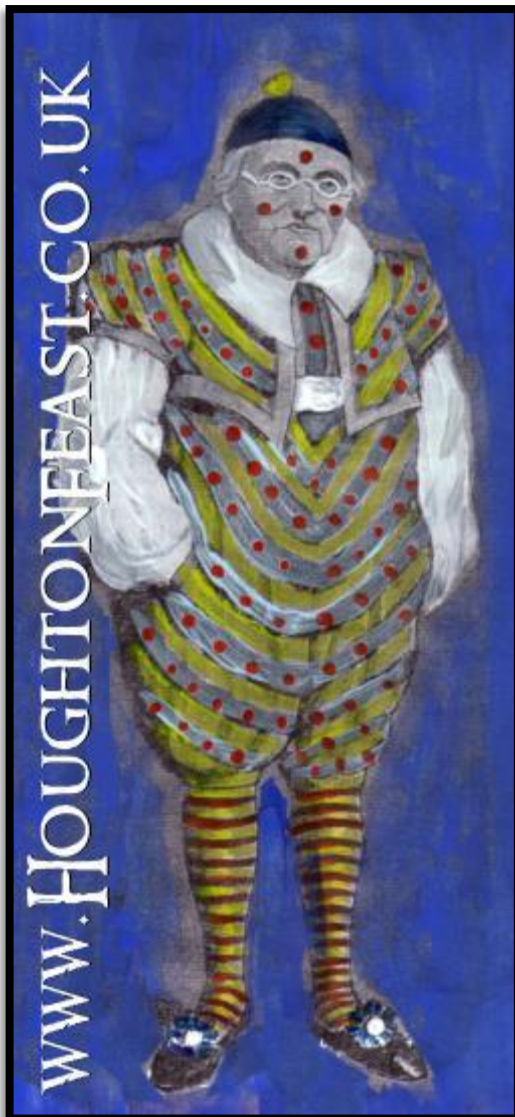
SIDNEY WHITE'S MAMMOTH GAVIOLI organ, which was restored in 1956 by George Parmley and a band of enthusiasts, made its first appearance at Houghton Feast in 1961.

For many years it stood in the grounds of the Council Offices, but moved out to the Broadway in 2001.

It can now be found at the Church Street corner of Broadway on Feast Friday and Saturday. Check the Houghton Feast website for performance times at:

www.houghtonfeast.co.uk





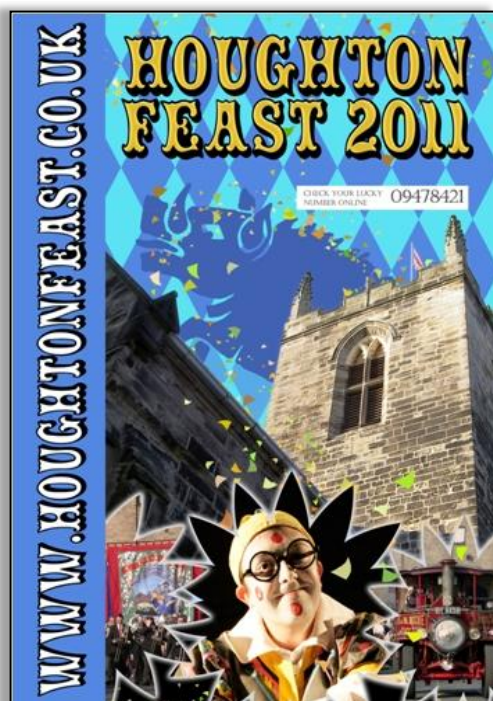
BILLY PURVIS

EVERYONE'S favourite Geordie clown, Billy Purvis, will be making another visit to Houghton Feast this year, has third visit since 1848!



Watch out for him during the Carnival Parade – plus he may be making a surprise appearance at other Feast events!

FIND OUT MORE about Billy in the ARTICLES section of the HH website.



WATCH OUT FOR

**your free commemorative
Houghton Feast 2011
brochure and your chance to win a
free prize, thanks to the advertisers!**

**Available from shop counters, pubs,
businesses and waiting rooms in late
September!**

**This year's brochure celebrates
the Round Table's 45th
Carnival Parade!**

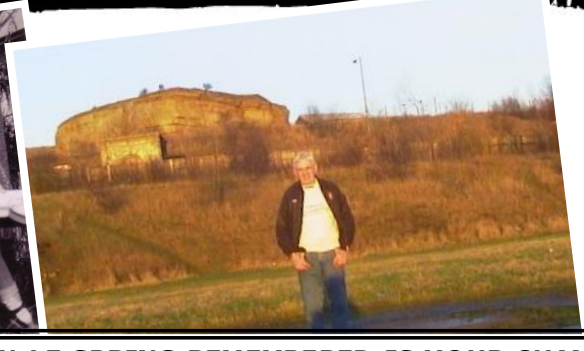
PHOTO FOCUS



Customers queue inside the ox roasting tent as ox roaster and Rotarian Ron Young watches over the cooked meat, Monday October 9th 2000. Ordinarily the queue would have been outside, up the side of Rectory Park, however the weather was most indement. The Rectory Field was in a bad state and for the only year on record, the Rotarians did not manage to sell all the ox sandwiches. Pictured at the front of the queue, from right, are: Joan Nicholson, Margaret Douglas, Paul Lanagan and Lyndsay Frain.



Councillor John Mawston, Mayor Denis Whalen and Bill Lee at a stall at Houghton Methodist Church craft exhibition for Houghton Feast, October 8th 1994. Bill Lee made the turned wooden items on display.



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 GEORGE DAVISON, RELATE TO HIS TIME AT HOUGHTON COLLIERY BETWEEN 1950 AND ITS CLOSURE IN 1981.

Geordie was interviewed in 2003 and extracts from his interview have been reproduced here in his pitmatic dialect. More of his memories can be found on the [HH](#) website:

Thurty-one years ah worked there. Ah just took it in me stride, ah wasn scared ner nowt. Ah wasn even a bit scared when ah fust got in the cage to go down, the fust day. Ah was on foreshift for about three year besides playing football on a neet time. Didn't start playing football til ah was seventeen and a half, like. Gannin to work on a Saturday mornin, finish, come yarm, get me dinner, then gan out, play football for the Mechanics on the afternoon. Footballs nowadays gettin 20 odd thousand pund a week for playin one game a week!

The conveyor belts did away with the ponies. They got rid of them altogether, they started gettin little creeper things taken them further in. There was one or two vicious buggers [laughs]. Ah had one called Beauty, ee, could dee ivvery thing but taalk! Could! Aye, he was very mild natured. They were all 'hims' yer silly sod. Else they'd gan bloody beserk! They were all geldings! They were a breed of a Shetland. Not exactly Shetland, small. There were some bigger ones, like. But that Beauty, he was a hell of a hoss to work. Soon as ya sat down for yer bait, and heard the paper, used to come up. Yer bait paper, soon as they hear yer oppen yer bait paper. Jam sandwiches, cheese sandwiches, any kind of sandwiches what yer liked. They used to be there like a shot if yer didnt tie it up.

One of the worst experiences ah iwa had was working on this coal face, number 14A, it was caaled. And there was about thurty inches high, twenty six or thurty inches high, and aal of a sudden it went on the work and the middle of the face just lowered down, slowly. The props were just snappin like candles! And John Dixon, one of the ex-white mice men, he was a Deputy then in charge of that district/face, he was going in props under - and they were just snappin - and ah says *"T'hell with this am off"*. It just lowered down like that, for about twenty yards. Ah was nearly shiting mesell. Ah God! Ah was workin with a bloke called George 'Lukey' Heal. He says: *"Howah, yer soft bugger!"* Ah says: *"There's any amount of soft buggers lying in the cemetery... am not gonna be one of them!"* [laughs].

George Davison, 2003



HLS

HOMICIDE IN

HOUGHTON 6



**SATURDAY
OCTOBER
15TH 2011
2:00PM**

In Houghton-le-Spring it's Feast week, a time when all hell is let loose as the fair comes to town, and a frenzy of celebration and decadence provides a temporary distraction from the grim realities of everyday life.

DARE you join author Sheila Quigley and local historian Paul Lanagan for an investigation of the fictional murder scenes from Sheila's bestselling books, 'Run for Home', 'Bad Moon Rising', 'Living on a Prayer', 'Every Breath You Take' and 'The Road to Hell'?

Book by Telephone 0191 561 6383

Numbers Strictly Limited

Booking opens September 23rd 2011.

New start location will be given on booking.

NOT FOR THE FAINT HEARTED!

WWW.HOUGHTONFEAST.CO.UK



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Can you help solve these Genealogical Quests?

The bumper selection continues!

MINING SPORTS

Hi Paul, My name is Kimberley Dobson, I'm currently compiling evidence for a dissertation on the sports which took place at Houghton Feast between 1890 and 1900 as part of a wider study on mining sports and leisure. I noticed that you have some excellent picture of pamphlets and old photographs which would be excellent as primary source materials and I'm just wondering where I can access these materials? I have already got a couple of your books which are really helpful, but If you can offer me any advice or guidance it would be much appreciated, Best,

*Kim Dobson
Houghton-le-Spring*

THE COOKS

Yesterday I logged on to you site and came up with Heritage photos. I was delighted. On reading the preview I see that you are a local historian, so perhaps you can help me. I have past links with Houghton-le-Spring on both my paternal and maternal sides of the family. I have very

little factual information regarding Michael Cook, my Great-Great-Grandfather. Using his marriage of 1820, I estimate he was born about 1796, but not where. Michael Cook married Esther Sewell at St Margaret's Church, Durham, 1820. They had three sons, the youngest, Michael Cook, my Great-Grandfather, was born November 21st 1829 at West Herrington.

The next piece of evidence is provided by Pigot's Directory 1829 - 1830. Michael Cook is mentioned 'Baker & Flour Dealer, Houghton'. I next find Michael Cook and family in the 1841 Census living at South Hetton. This is the last time I can verify his existence. In 1851 Esther Cook is recorded as 'Widow'. I believe that Michael Cook was a victim of the Cholera Outbreak that swept the Durham area around 1849 or thereabouts. If he was still living in the area I have no idea whether he would have been buried locally, if so, where? Or was it at St Michael's, Houghton? His wife Esther Cook also died of Cholera in September 1854. She may have been amongst the earliest burials at Houghton Hillside Cemetery. If anyone can offer any help I would be most grateful. Also if there are any living descendants of Thomas Robinson, born 1799, died 1829. Thomas was married to Jane Swinburn, born Fatfield.

So you can see that my family has many links with Houghton and the surrounding area.

*Judith Cook
Portsmouth*

ALICE DIMAMBRO

Just had a browse through your new magazine and had to say well done, great job and look forward to forthcoming publications. Very interesting to see the name A. Dimambro - ice cream sellers of the village. A coincidence I think, but I thought you might like to know that my Gt. Grandmother was a former Stage Artiste/Singer & Concert Pianist. Her Stage Name was Alice Dimambro. As a family we have no idea why she picked this name - perhaps she knew the Dimambro's? Her signature tune was "The Roses of Picardy" a love song of WW1, written by Fred E. Weatherley/ music by Haydn Wood, pub.1916. I'm searching for some of my ancestors who lived at "Scots Pasture" in the Houghton Le Spring area. Does anyone know of this area and if so can you give me a location of it please? Best regards and keep up all your great work.

*Suzanne Tyson-
Butterworth*

HEATH HOUSE

On a death certificate from 1949 place of death is shown as Heath House,

Houghton-le-Spring and place of residence as Broadway House, Chester-le-Street. I believe I located Broadway House some time ago on North Road just off the roundabout at A693. Is this correct? And can anyone tell me if Heath House was or is a hospital? Thanks,

*Pamela Huddleston
Honolulu, Hawaii*

MARKET PLACE

I am looking for pictures that contain 32 The Market Place Houghton-le-spring. I was born there in 1952 and lived in Houghton until 1966 in the last few years I have been looking for pictures and written material to show my grandchildren. I can remember getting in the way of the showmen setting up for Houghton feast and getting free rides before they opened to the public.

Ken Walker

CANDY ROCK

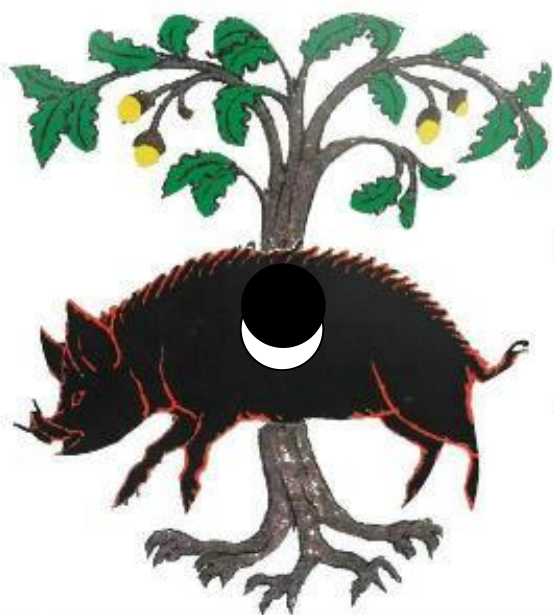
My dad says they used to get mis-shaped rock lollies at Harvians, which was Harvy and Ian Wheatley's sweet factory in Pottery Yard, behind Jaconelli's sweet shop.

Jackie Pittilla

* * * * *



Keep reading
for more Family
Tree Quests.



HOUGHTON HERITAGE

AT HOUGHTON FEAST 2011

♦♦ SAT OCT 8TH

OLD PHOTO EXHIBITION IN THE
BROADWAY BETWEEN 10AM - 3PM

♦♦ SAT OCT 15TH

OLD FEAST PHOTO EXHIBITION IN
HOUGHTON LIBRARY 9.30AM - 12.00PM

♦♦ SUN OCT 16TH

HOUGHTON HERITAGE WALK
VISITING HISTORIC BUILDINGS & PLACES

www.HOUGHTONFEAST.CO.UK





WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Can you help solve these Genealogical Quests?

More quests are on the usual back cover!

METHODISM IN HOUGHTON

Dear Mr Lanagan, my Ritchey family originated in County Durham and Northumberland with an eventual concentration in Houghton le Spring; my mother and Ruth Scott Ritchey were cousins and I referred to Ruth as my great aunt. I just read your new addition to the website about the time line of Methodism in Houghton with great interest as my g. g. grandfather John Ritchey was a local Primitive Methodist preacher in Houghton. I was particularly interested in the picture of "the young men of Mautland St Methodist Church 1896" showing the old church with the original doorway. Are there any names attached to the picture, as my hope would be that one of my Ritchey men might be there? Are there any records that might be available that reference g. g. grandfather John? I did find one citation of John's work in a book called 'Northern Primitive Methodism' by W. M. Patterson in which he lists John among some others with substantial respect "...while speaking of noble men...the good work done by John Ritchie should not be forgotten". How wonderful that was!! Thank you ahead for considering my request. Sincerely,

*Kathleen Haak
U.S.A*

STOCKSFIELD TCE

Hi Paul, Margaret phoned me and we had such a long chat about our old home at Stocksfield Terrace! She still lives in Houghton. I did not know either her or her family when I lived there but we still exchanged lots of tales of the area. Great bit of feedback from the site. Thank you.

*Betty Stevens
Derby*

HETTON COLLIERY DISASTER

Dear sir/madam, I was wondering if you could help me. Hetton School is doing a project to celebrate their centenary year and I was wondering if you knew of any names of Hetton pupils who were involved in the accident. We would really appreciate if you could e-mail me back if you find out any information. Hope to hear from you soon. Yours sincerely,

*Chloe Mann
Hetton-le-Hole*

SUTTON FAMILY

I'm looking for information on the following SUTTONs, who may have been from the Houghton-le-Spring area: Robert SUTTON, died 1841?, born 1790-1796; Mary (Robinson?) SUTTON, born about 1806; Robert SUTTON born 1827, Many thanks.

*Lucia Menendez
London*

THE SHEARERS

My Grandfather John Shearer (b. 1893) was living at 13 William Street, Newtown, Houghton-le-Spring, according to the 1911 census. His brother Robert was living with him - he was killed during WW1 and is listed the one on the Cenotaph along with his brother. I am sure that John Shearer married, around the time of the First World War, to someone named Jane. I was told that he left her to go to war shortly after and that she was pregnant. There is another Shearer mentioned on the WW1 memorial - SHEARER B - and I would like to know if he was related at all. He is not on the list inside the Church - any reason for this? Finally, my research has noted that three Shearers were inmates at the Workhouse. Edmund, Joseph and William James. What kind of circumstances would force them to be interned in such a place? Looking forward to hearing from you.

*Mal Shearer
Standish, Wigan*

because the trees are covering that area. I took a picture of my friend whilst we were further in the cemetery and I noticed on the picture in the background that it looks like there is a person standing with their back towards us but with a light purple hood up! We were alone! We have been to that cemetery loads of times even when it is dark and we have seen things too - it's pretty scary! We are very interested in the supernatural do you know of any good ghost hunts to the public?

Demi Pattinson

WITH RESPECT

I have spent hundreds of hours alone at Houghton Hillside Cemetery and have even stayed overnight with the Scouts for a wildlife survey - but any visits to the Cemetery should be with respect and mindful that the site is a consecrated burial ground. Any activities not consistent with this are not to be encouraged.

Paul Lanagan

* * * * *

HAUNTED HILLSIDE CEMETERY?

Hello, My friend and I go up to the Hillside Cemetery all the time and we do agree that it is a peaceful place when you're out in the open part of it. We have noticed how that changes when you go further in but I don't know if that's just



See the back cover for this issue's final batch of Family Tree Quests.

POOR MANS SOUP

A RECIPE BY COLOMBO RIANI

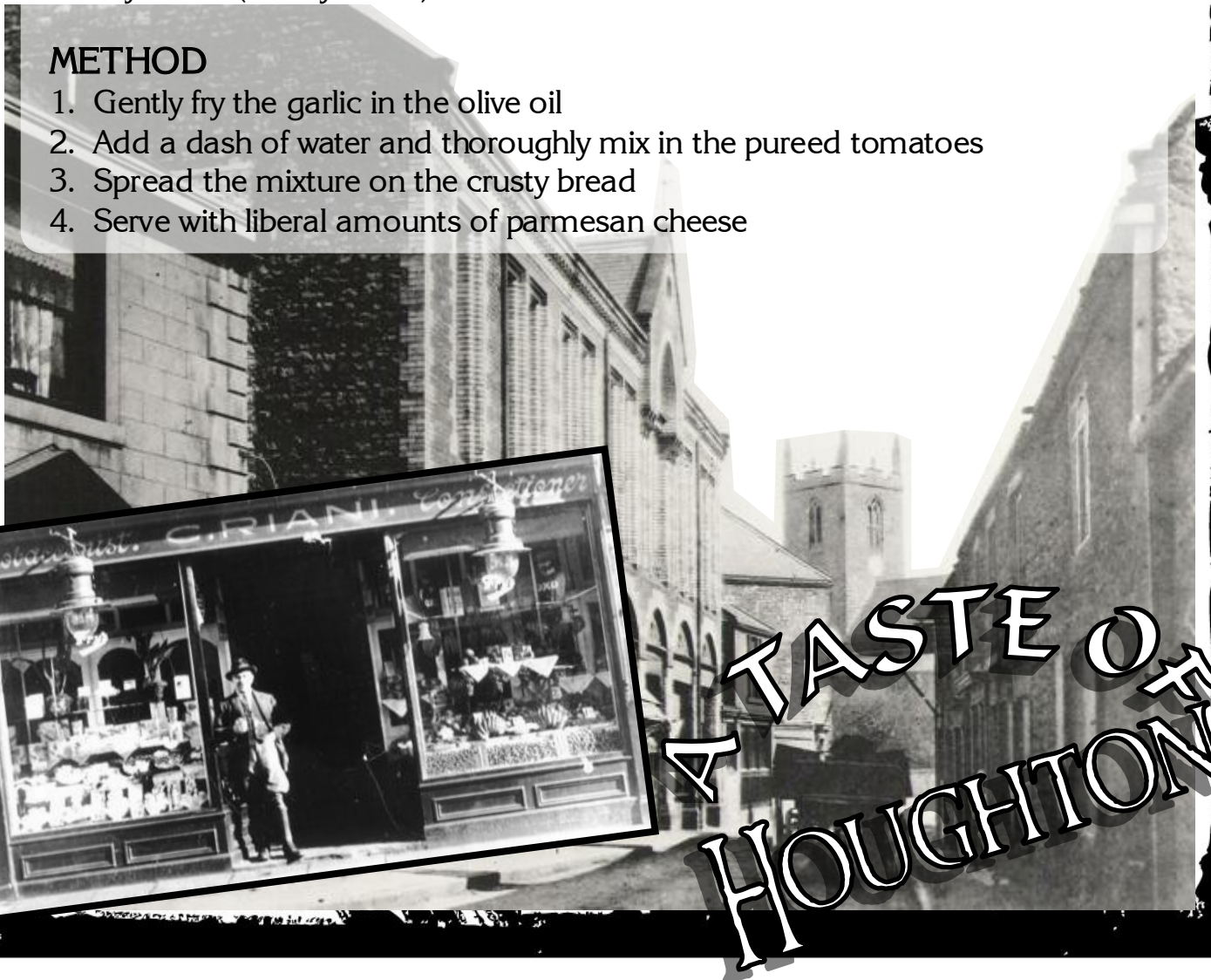
This simple yet tasty recipe has been shared by Jan Hanson, granddaughter of Colombo Riani who owned the café at 67 Newbottle Street. Colombo can be seen below outside the café, around 1920. More recipes from the **Taste of Houghton** series can be found on the **HH** website.

INGREDIENTS

Garlic x several bulbs
Olive Oil x splash
Tomatoes (pureed)
Parmesan cheese
Crusty bread (thickly sliced)

METHOD

1. Gently fry the garlic in the olive oil
2. Add a dash of water and thoroughly mix in the pureed tomatoes
3. Spread the mixture on the crusty bread
4. Serve with liberal amounts of parmesan cheese



OUT & ABOUT

MEMBERS OF THE HH GROUP HAVE BEEN OUT AND ABOUT DURING THE SUMMER ON SEVERAL VISITS. A SELECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS CAN BE FOUND HERE SHOWING THE RE-OPENING OF PENSRAW MONUMENT'S LOFT AND AERIAL VIEWING PLATFORM, RYHOPE PUMPING STATION WHILE IT WAS IN FULL STEAM, AN EXCLUSIVE VISIT TO LAMBTON CASTLE, AND EVENTS AT HERITAGE OPEN DAYS.

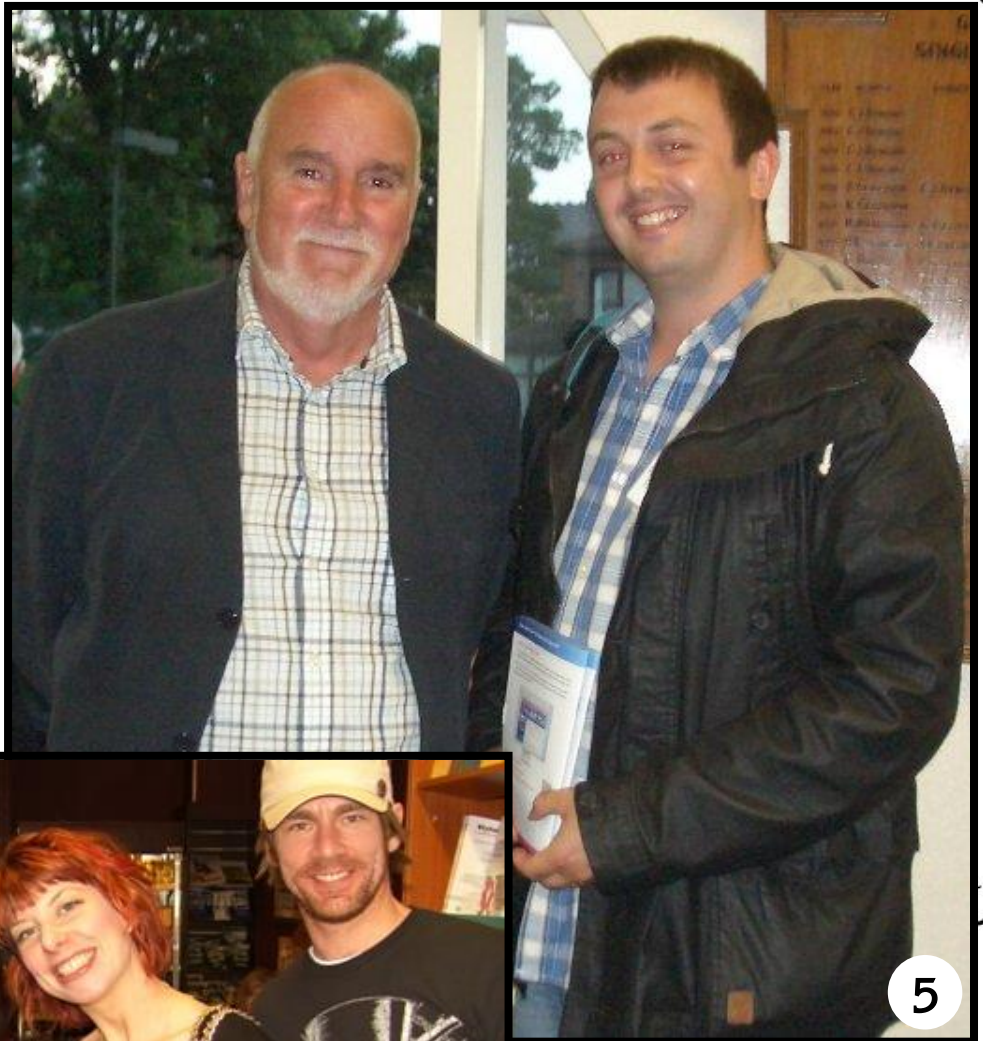


[1] Looking across the loft of Penshaw Monument. Read the new articles on the HH website.

[2] The view down one of Lambton Castle's ornately tiled drains.

[3] The smithy at work at Ryhope Pumping Station.

[4] Ryhope Pumping Station and one of its ponds which provided water for the steam-powered engines inside.



[5] Paul Lanagan with author and broadcaster John Grundy at the HODS launch event at Jesmond Lawn Tennis Club.



[6] Sheila Quigley and fans at the conclusion of the 'Slaughter in Sunderland' heritage walk, which was led by Paul Lanagan.

[7] Durham Castle at dusk. Further photographs (showing the interior) will be featured in the next issue of the Houghtonian.



CLASSIFIEDS

IN MEMORIAM



ALF ROXBY

1922 - 2011

Alf Roxby, well known barber passed away on July 4th 2011 at the age of 88 years. Many will remember the banter and humour in his barber shop at Dubmire. Alf was a gentleman and always participated in the Armistice Day parade in Fencehouses, having served time in the Royal Navy during the Second World War; he was a naval gunner for the duration and was aboard HMS Webster when it was sunk by the Germans in the Mediterranean Sea. Before the War, Alf was a hairdresser's apprentice - his brother Robbie had a shop at 3 Newbottle Street, opposite the Britannia Inn - but it was on his return home from the War that Alf opened up his Front Street shop in 1946. He worked there for almost 60 years until he retired and moved south to Hertfordshire to live with his son. Wherever he is now, he is bound to have a queue of old gents, catching up on the gossip while they wait their turn for a short-back and sides!



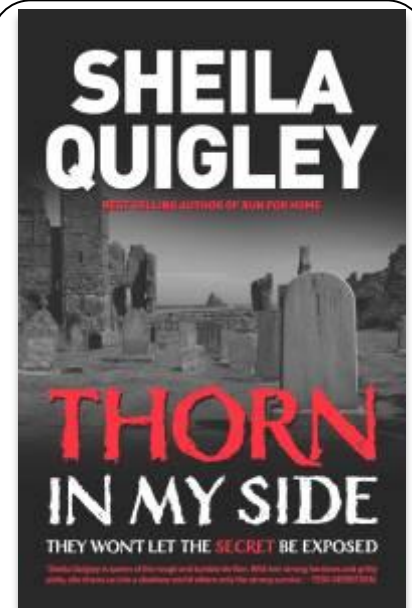
Sunderland Heritage Forum is a citywide umbrella organization of history and amenity groups. It runs a wide and well-supported range of events and initiatives, including community lectures and guided walks, a major history fair and the city's heritage open day programme. It also promotes specific ventures such as the recently completed street names project supported by Heritage Lottery funding. The Forum runs a wide range of events and activities. It coordinates the Heritage Open Day programme across the city, offers a series of free community lectures at the university's St Peter's Campus every summer, and runs popular day conferences on a range of topics. Every two years, it promotes the hugely successful Sunderland Heritage Fair at Seaburn, with support from the council.

FIND OUT MORE AT:
www.sunderlandheritage.org.uk



Find us on
Facebook

To join the HH Group on Facebook simply click the link from the main website then follow the directions to join!

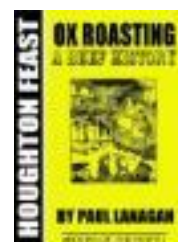


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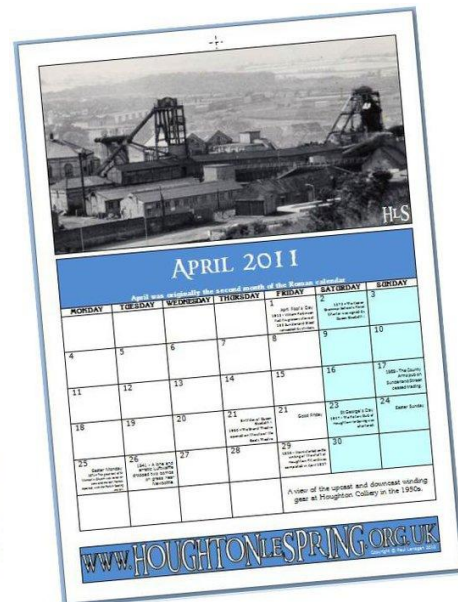
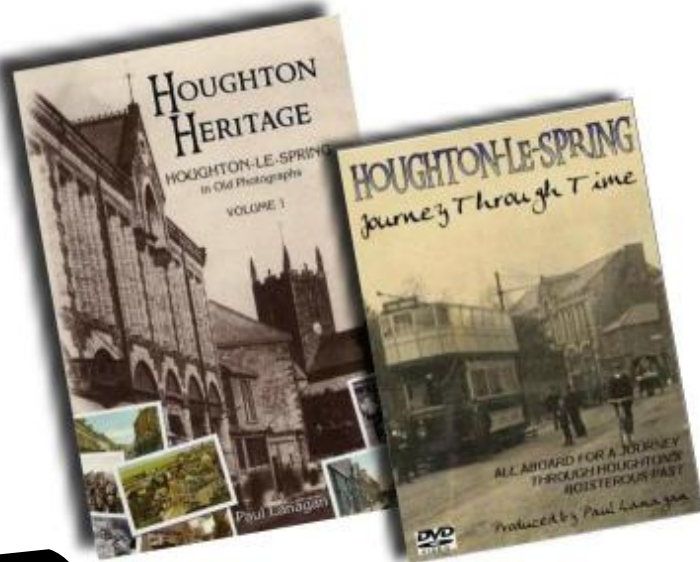
**OX ROASTING:
A BEEF HISTORY**

www.amazon.co.uk

Issue 5 of the HOUGHTONIAN will be available to download in January 2012. Send us your details and get a copy sent directly to your Inbox!

HOUGHTON HERITAGE

Houghton-le-Spring in Old Photographs book
Journey Through Time DVD
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www.houghtonlespring.org.uk



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ONE VOUCHER PER PERSON, WHILE STOCKS LAST.
VALID ONLY ON 08/10/11 BETWEEN 1030-1530.



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

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

NORAH SMITH

I have been trying for a long time and have spent too much money on Friends United without any help; I am trying to find where all birth certificates go. I've asked Father Gorman at the Church but he says the Church doesn't keep then any more. My mother was Norah Smith and my dad was Jimmy Smith of 33 School Road, East Rainton. There were seven of us. We all went to St Michael's RC School. Most of the family has died and I am 80 on the 29th of June, so not much time left! I have heard that my mother's father was from Newcastle, Tipperary, Ireland. I wish I could find my mother's birth certificate; she was born 1902, possibly Gateshead. Her father was Tommy Gallagher. Thank you.

*Ann Swain
Darlington*

WRONG COUNTY?

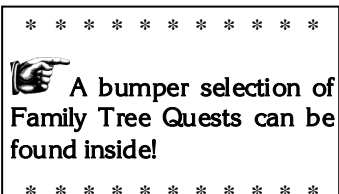
I have Thomas, son of Joseph and Annie (Makepeace) Liddle died in CAN. Notes say they were from Northumberland. Can you fill me in on the families I see in your cemetery records?

John & Denise Allis

SOUTH BACK LANE

Hi, I hope you can help me. My Great, great grandfather was born in Newbottle in 1886. The family name is Mosley and in the 1891 Census they are shown as living in South Back Lane (mother Pheobe Mosley), Newbottle. If you have any information on my family or perhaps a photo of South Back Lane it would be really appreciated. Kind regards

John Mosley



AT A JUNCTION

Hello, Not sure if you can help me. I'm busy building Family Trees etc and one branch of my family says they are from "Junction Row, Newbottle" - I've tried to find this on the map using Google Maps but have drawn a blank - I'm assuming that this 'Row' no longer exists. Can you shed any light on this for me - I'm looking for any old pictures which might show this particular area. Sincere thanks.

*Rob Leach
Northamptonshire*

TOON & COOPER

I'm looking for copies of photos of my great grandmother, Hannah Toon (nee Surtees) or any photos or documents relating to her family. Hannah was born on 17 July 1869 in South Hylton to Joseph Surtees and Hannah Blackett. She married Edward Toon, a locomotive stoker, at Penshaw Parish Church on 7 September 1890. They lived in the Houghton area - Shiny Row and West Herrington. She lived at 8 George Street East, New Herrington from about 1895 until her death on 13 October 1922. Any information will be gratefully received. I'm also trying to get a photo of my grandfather August William Cooper's grave. He's most likely buried in Houghton General Cemetery (after WW1 he was the cemetery superintendent there). He would have been buried in the first week of March, 1980. I'd love to get a photo of the grave marker, but any help, even if it's just to confirm that he is buried there, would be greatly appreciated.

*Ian Brett Cooper
Maryland, U.S.A*

MARGARET MAWSON

I am looking for family info concerning Margaret Mawson, my great-grandmother, who was born in Houghton-le-Spring in 1828. She married William Husband, a tin plate worker from Middleton in Teesdale in 1851. They went on to live in Richmond, Yorkshire, where she had 8 children. She died in 1907. Yours sincerely,

Flora Borgese

THE NAG'S HEAD

Hi Paul, I have recently come across the Banns of my 5 x Gt Grandparents marriage in 1762. George Addamson (Adamson) of Nags Head P of Houghton le Spring. Isabella Sidgwick of Low Pitt Houses in this P. The record then continues: "I found out afterwards that ye parties were both servants at Naggs Head in ye P of Houghton" Can you tell me anything about the Naggs Head? Isabella Adamson died in Torrish Lane 21/8/1802. I would expect it to have been demolished and replaced but does it, by any chance, still exist? Thanks!

*Judith in
Damp Gloucestershire*

THE HOUGHTONIAN

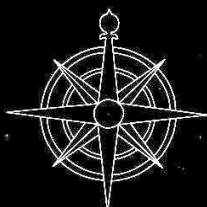
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