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THE HOUGHTONIAN



QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF HOUGHTON HERITAGE SOCIETY



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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

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-le-Spring Heritage Society. This is our sixth issue, numbered as Volume 2 Issue 1 and the start of all things relating to heritage in 2012.

TOP OF THE NEWS is the announcement of actress Penelope Wilton OBE becoming the Society's Patron. You can read more on this inside and in a future edition we hope to have an interview with Penelope.

HOUGHTON HERITAGE SOCIETY is pleased to announce that it has acquired copies of Cyril Arthur Smith's articles on Old Houghton (shown above) and grateful thanks are extended to Sunderland Antiquarian Society for giving us unprecedented access to their records beyond the normal level afforded to members of the public.

WE HAVE ENDEAVOURED to keep this issue to the 16 page format but it has been particularly hard to do so following a huge amount of enquiries and genealogical quests from around the world. We have squeezed in five pages worth and in future will be reducing the font size.

THANK YOU, AS always, for the positive feedback. I hope you enjoy reading this issue.

PAUL LANAGAN BA HONS
CHAIRMAN, H-L-S HERITAGE SOCIETY

@ WEB UPDATES @
WWW.HOUGHTONLESPRING.ORG.UK

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:

- Rectory Grounds** – many pages have been updated and greatly expanded, including: A Walk Around Rectory Park; the Park fountains; Pet dog grave in the Park; the demolished Park toilets; and the Gilpin Holy Thorn and it's siblings.
- Bernard Gilpin** – the fact sheets have updated to mark the 429th anniversary of his death.
- Church Magazines** – copies of the covers from St Michael & All Angels Church magazines for 1888, 1944, 1966 and 1971 have been put online.
- Houghton Union Workhouse** – the time line has been updated with extra years plus photographs of Heath House.
- Houghton Heritage Trail** – download your own print-at-home free copy of the illustrated Houghton Heritage Trail map and take it with you on a walk around historic Houghton.
- Houghton Feast: Ox Roast Carvers** – a new page with the names of the special few who have carved the Feast oxen more than once!
- Houghton Hall** – time line updated with photographs of Captain Hutton's tomb and the Social Club in 1919.
- The Kay Grave at Houghton Cemetery** – the report of the tragic death of young Horace Kay in an early motorcar accident.
- Sunnside & Homelands Estate** – the article has been re-written and illustrated with newly found photographs.
- Kepyer School** - the new time line has been updated with information from the Census returns plus further alumni.
- Dedication Stones** - the article has had further tablets/stones added, including: Bank Head Methodist Church, Lambton Miners' Hall, Philadelphia Miners' Welfare Institute and Joicey Aged Miners' Homes.

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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!



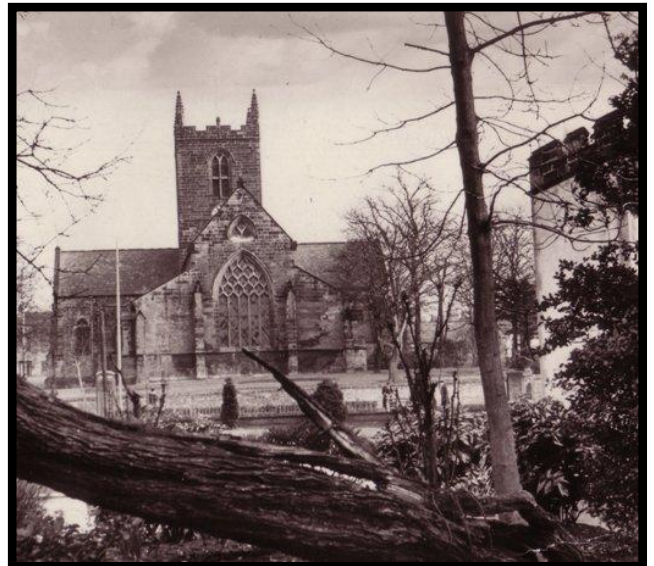
OUR PATRON

EARLIER IN THE MONTH
Houghton Heritage Society
announced that actress
PENELOPE WILTON OBE
had become Patron of the Society.

Penelope, shown above in a press pack photograph from ITV, is known to millions as Mrs Crawley in the popular drama *Downton Abbey*, while to a younger audience she will be forever known as Harriet Jones M.P., defender of the Earth in the BBC's *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, George 'Sticky' Wheatley.

According to Wikipedia: 'She has twice won the Critics Circle Theatre Award – in 1981 for her performance in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and in 1993 for *The Deep Blue Sea*. In 2001 she was nominated for the London Evening Standard Theatre Award for her performance in *The Little Foxes* at the Donmar Warehouse. In 2004 she was made an Officer of the British Empire (OBE) for her services to drama.'



THE GILPIN THORN

IT IS USUAL for us at this time of year to stop a while and pay a visit to the Gilpin Thorn when passing through the Rectory Park and reflect on its links to the crucifixion of Christ, but as reported in a previous issue of the HOUGHTONIAN, the holy thorn was removed from the grounds in early 2011.

The Gilpin Thorn article on the HH website has been updated recently with details of the thorn's siblings around the world, including: Iona island; Brickendon, Hertfordshire; Herefordshire; Somerset; Buckinghamshire; Cheshire; Washington, USA; Australia; Canada; New Zealand and not forgetting Glastonbury.

As many know, the Glastonbury Thorn in the grounds of the Abbey died in 1991 and was removed in 1992, strangely around the same time that the original Gilpin Thorn died. Another holy thorn sibling in Glastonbury, growing on Wearyall Hill since 1952, was sickening vandalised in December 2010; the severed stump has shown some recent signs of life, but sadly from the rootstock and not the grafted holy thorn. Thanks to the efforts of the Glastonbury Conservation Society and owners of Wearyall Hill a new seedling has been planted nearby – but this time protected by a large metal cage!

The news on the grapevine – or should that be hawthorn? – is that a new Gilpin Thorn seedling is to be planted in the old Rectory grounds. It is just a shame that the thorn's removal in 2011 could not have waited until the replacement was ready to be planted, thus ensuring that there has always been a holy thorn growing in Houghton-le-Spring, uninterrupted, since Bernard Gilpin planted the first one in the sixteenth century.

PAUL LANAGAN



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Can you help solve these Genealogical & Heritage Quests?

FROM DOWN UNDER

G'Day Paul from Down Under Australia. It was with great interest and excitement that I stumbled across your amazing web site. To the extent that thanks to you I have been up all night reading and will look like a zombie for the rest of the day. It is hot here today too so a hot old tired blonde will be trying to stay awake all day. My reason for writing is to sincerely thank you for your amazing wonderful Houghton Heritage site. My beautiful mum Greta Robson (nee Charlton) was born in Pottery yard on 24th June 1932 and will celebrate her 80th Birthday this year. I have been trying to obtain any information about Pottery Yard and if available any photographs that people may have hidden away that I can put together for mum for a special gift on her birthday. She remembers so much about her childhood there, the people, shops, St Michaels church (she was baptised in the Font) and still speaks so fondly of her childhood memories there. I came over in 2009 and took lots of photos of the church (a lovely lady kindly opened the church for me whilst there) but sadly I learnt Pottery yard had been demolished some years earlier. If you know of anyone that might have some photos that they could email to me I would be so extremely grateful. My mother's father was John Charlton (aka Pep), married to Lily Charlton, they had James, then Marian, then Vera then my lovely mum Greta. They moved to Slough when mum was quite young but she remembers so much. If anyone recalls them this would be the icing on the cake for mum. Thank you so much Paul for what you have created here. I hope to return to the UK again this year or early next and I hope you won't mind if I email you earlier to take you out for a coffee (might even get them to throw in a biscuit) Alternatively if you travel to Melbourne come and meet mum. Would love the opportunity to show you OZ. Cheers and thanks again.

*Helen (the bleary eyed one) Robson
Melbourne*

HOUGHTON AT WAR

Does anyone remember the war years and going into the air-raid shelters at night, we had what were called siren suits and wore them to bed so that if the warning went off we were ready they were like jump suits of today. I slept in the shelter many a night it was built at the bottom of our yard.

Shirley Ramsbottom

LAING FAMILY

Some time ago, Mel Baines told me, by e-mail that some of my branch of the Laing Family were buried in New Herrington. She also said she had a list or a book record containing the names of people buried there. A short time ago my old computer died and with it my e-mails so I have lost the information. Does anyone else know about the book or list? I shall be visiting HLS in the next month or so and would like to gather as much information about my HLS ancestors as I can before I arrive.

Raymond Laing

THE MANOR HOUSE

Dear Mr Lanagan, I am researching my family tree and hope that you can help me. My paternal grandmother Norah Martin was born at "Manor House, Penshaw" (according to her birth certificate) in 1899 and her father Cornelius Martin died there in 1903. I am trying to find the exact location of this building. I visited the area a few days ago and believe that the Manor House was where the Northern Electric building now stands. Do you know if this is the case? Or is the children's services building "Penshaw House" actually the building I am looking for, or am I completely wrong and it's somewhere else entirely?

If Penshaw Manor House was demolished, do you know when this was and are there any pictures of it prior to demolition?

Thank you for any help you can give me. Yours sincerely,

Ruth Taylor-Durant

SWEET SHOP

Paul do you remember a sweet shop that used to be beside the park? It was up the road from where Collings is now and I think it's been changed back into a house - I seem to remember going there as a kid.

Jill Nimmo

Houghton-le-Spring

PAUL LANAGAN REPLIED:

It was called Ferguson's. Others have shared memories of buying fishing nets there to use in Rectory Park.

GREY HORSE LANE

Hi I have an old pic of my dad George Hamilton, written in pencil on the back is the address - 4, Grey Horse Lane, Houghton Le Spring, Co Durham, and the date July 10th 1934 - he would have been 13 at the time. Do the road and the address still exist? Thanks.

Neil Hamilton

PAUL LANAGAN REPLIED:

Grey Horse Lane became known as Robinson Street. It was demolished when much of Houghton was redeveloped.

QUARRY ROW

Do any photographs exist of Quarry Row? It had 2 rooms downstairs and 2 up one of the rooms downstairs was kept for best or if visitors came we all had to live in one room where we ate cooked and when the weather was bad washing strung across the room the fire blazing it was like a sauna in there.

Margaret Ritchey

A PREVIOUS QUEST

Hello Paul, how do I get in touch with Mal Shearer asking about the Shearer family on your web-site, I have all the information about this family? Regards,

Anne Perry

PAUL LANAGAN REPLIED:

Thank you, Anne. Your details have been passed on to Mal.

ALLAN WOOD

Hello Paul, I would love to find any information regards an Allan Wood b 1881 in Leeds and moved up to Houghton in the early 1900s with wife Minnie Beatrice (Teague) b1883. He was a miner in Leeds and moved to Houghton again to be a miner which is the puzzle! He lived at 5 Abbott Street and had at least 4 children Arthur b1904 - Charles Frederick b1906 - Joseph Benjamin b1911 and John V b1912. Thank you.

*Brian Spink
Leeds*

SUNNISIDE MINING SETTLEMENT

My Grandad Tot Orrell delivered Sunday papers to Sunniside and at Christmas time I had to go and find him because every house would offer him a Christmas drink - he never made the end of the round! Tot and I walked over to Outram Street where my two aunts lived and he explained how he was lowered down on a rope with his pick to work on Houghton Cut. Whether this was initial work or improvement I don't know. It must have been in the 1930s - does anyone know when the Cut was first done?

David Annand

PAUL LANAGAN REPLIED:

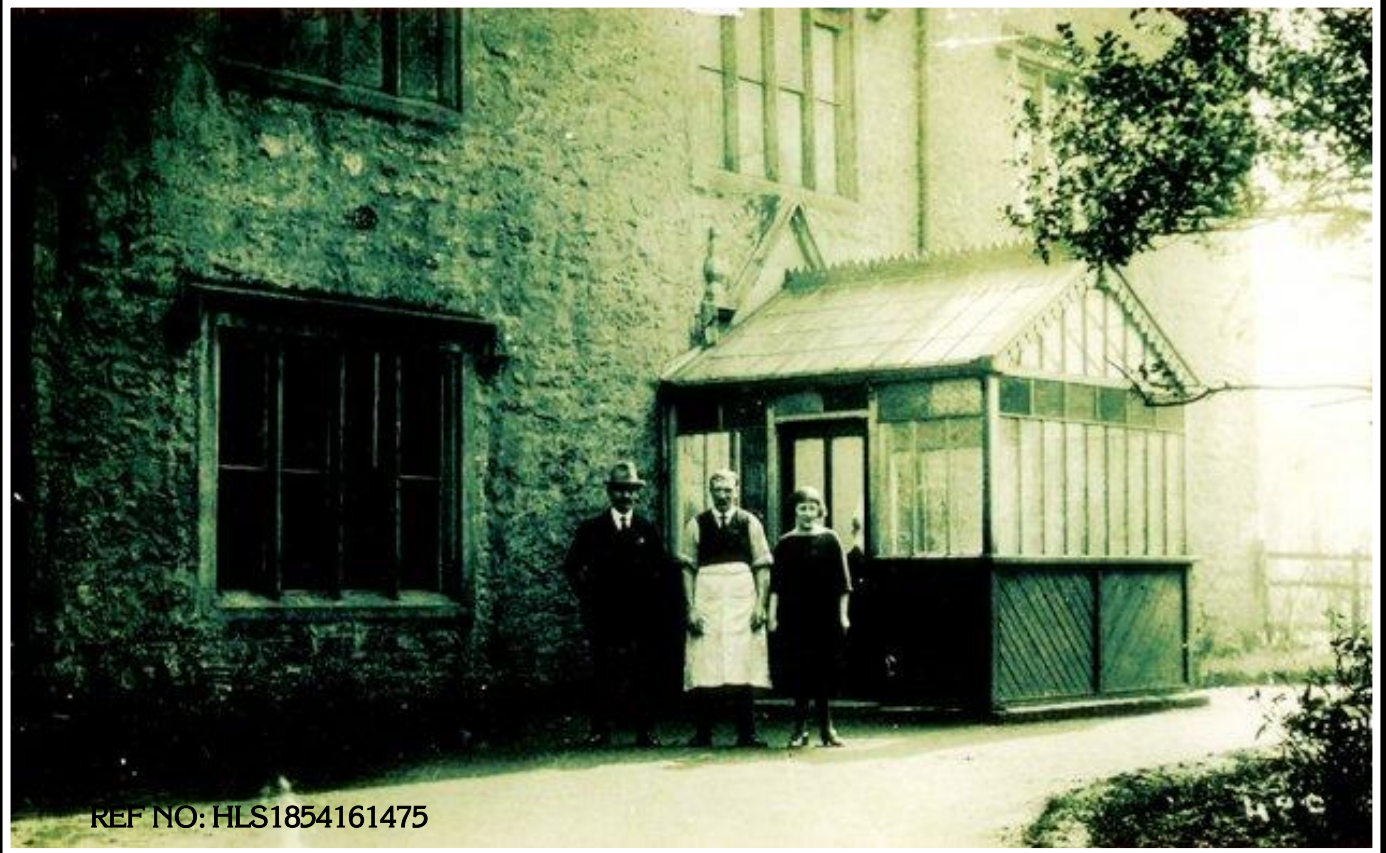
100s of years ago. Though I'm not convinced (yet) of the perpetual myth that it was carved by French Prisoners of War following the Napoleonic Wars (c1803-1815). I have seen no evidence whatsoever in searching the Archives in 12 years. I have a book from c1850s about the history of Houghton and there is no mention in there. As a roadway, it is clear it was a natural cleft in the rocks. It's well documented on OS maps from c1856 to modern times. The earliest photograph I have of it is around 1880 with various views of the opening and subsequent roadworks to widen it. I will try and get some online.

* * * * *



**Keep reading for
more Quests!**

PHOTO FOCUS



THIS MONTH'S PHOTO FOCUS looks at Houghton Hall in the early years of it being used by Houghton Social Club. Pictured is Anthony Widdowfield, steward of Houghton Social Club (centre), with other members outside their premises, circa 1919. The old Hall had been purchased by Houghton Social Club for £1,030 0s 0d in 1917.



OUR SECOND photograph shows the staff of William Fish's grocery shop at 42 Holly Avenue, circa 1960. Pictured, from left, are: Freda Fish, Maureen Blair and George Fish. The shop was built in 1935 and was owned by the family until 1983. The premises were demolished, along with the rest of Holly Avenue, around 2006.

With thanks to Lena Inch for sharing these photographs.

MORE PHOTOGRAPHS AT WWW.HOUGHTONLESPRING.ORG.UK



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Can you help solve these Genealogical & Heritage Quests?

HARRICK CUTHILL

Hello Paul, Have you been able to find Harrick Edward Cuthill's gravestone for me? I have since found out that poor Harrick may have died as an infant and may just have been added at the foot of whatever grave was available. Thank you very much for searching for me, but if nothing has been found so far, I realise that knowing that he is somewhere in Hillside Cemetery is as far as the search can go. All best wishes.

*Elizabeth Robinson
Essex*

FAMOUS WILLIAM SHANKS

The town of Houghton-le-Spring had a famous resident in the 1800's by the name of William Shanks. Shanks calculated the value of the mathematical constant π to 707 decimal places. This calculation was later found to be in error from the 528th place onward. Can you email me the *exact* 707 digits that Shanks got as the result of his calculations? I can get the *actual* value of π from many places, but I want the *erroneous* value that Shanks calculated. Thanks much in advance!

Charles Richmond

PAUL LANAGAN REPLIED:

Hello Charles, please see my article on William Shanks which is on the HH website in the Articles section. William's 1853 book might help you; it was called: 'Contributions to mathematics, comprising chiefly the rectification of the circle to 607 decimals etc'.

FEAST TIME

I always know when it is coming up to Houghton Feast time, even though I now live in Andalucia in Spain. How do I know this? The Pomegranate trees are at bursting point and they were always in the shops in Houghton at the Feast! Happy memories!

*June Brownlee
Andalucia, Spain*

STONES BUTCHERS

A descendant of the Stone family (Katherine Bond) has kindly given details of the family in a recent "Houghtonian" (2011, Issue 3). Kathleen tells us that Conrad (born in Germany) and Anna Steinbrenner started their pork butchery business in the early 1900s. Interestingly, the Indices give Anna's surname before marriage as Goetz. The interest is that a Frederick Goetz appears in the Newbottle Street 1911 Census as a pork butcher with a Schedule No near to that of No1 Wheeler St. Perhaps Frederick was then already trading at 36 Newbottle St (very near to 1 Wheeler St)? Perhaps Anna was a relative of Frederick, and Frederick employed Conrad when Conrad first came to England? A further complication is that neither Conrad nor Anna appear in the 1901 or 1911 censuses. Whatever the course of events, it seems probable that Conrad & Anna (who were in Germany throughout WW1) came to (or came back to) 36 Newbottle St soon after WW1. Soon after their return they changed their name to Stone. They had five children. I can find no record of the births of the eldest two, Renee and Greta. Ronald was born in 1921, Eric on 30 November 1923, and Maureen in 1928. Conrad and Anna both died in 1957, Conrad aged 73 and Anna aged 69. The family was well liked and respected. Renee married (Morris Rabin?) and lived in Wheeler St. Greta married Frank Bond, and begat a son Colin S Bond, the father of the aforementioned Katherine Bond. Ron joined the RAF straight from school and rose to the rank of Group Captain. Eric was well-known to me. We often played together, sometimes in the abattoir at the back of the Newbottle St shop! He married Olga Meer in 1950, ran the butchery business after his father's death, and died aged 66 in 1989.

Dr Jack Morley

PORK BUTCHERS

Good evening! I am researching pork butchers from the Hohenlohe area of Germany and I came across your very interesting web

site. In one of your magazines (unfortunately cannot tell you which as I am now having trouble with downloading them) Catherine Hall tells her story of the Steinbrenner family running a pork butcher's shop in Newbottle Street. The Steinbrenners changed their name to Stone apparently. My own great grandparents were from the Hohenlohe area and ran a pork butcher's shop in Rotherham, Yorkshire after emigrating to GB.

There is a very interesting story about the Hohenlohe butchers in that they were really masters of their trade and attempted (in many cases extremely successfully) to set foot in England. I see that there were dozens of them in the Durham area. Such names as Vogtherr, Kaufmann, Steinbrenner, Kuch, etc. appear when researching. A friend of mine in Germany has done some very interesting research on the pork butchers from Germany in England, particularly Sheffield, Liverpool, etc. and I have now found that Durham contained many pork butchers from the Hohenlohe area. Would it be possible for you to contact Catherine Hall and give her my email address? I could well send you an article on the Pork Butchers from the Hohenlohe area who settled in Britain from about 1830-1910, maybe. I now live in Switzerland, but was born in Cheshire and my grandfather, Louis Christian Pfisterer, was born in Rotherham, Yorkshire, to Margarethe Brück and Johann Friedrich Hermann Pfisterer of Kocherstetten / Künzelsau, in the Hohenlohe district of Germany. Christian Louis changed his name to Chris Fisher after 1904 as my mother was born as a Pfisterer. I think this could be the beginning of a very interesting subject, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Gillian Schuler

Switzerland

NEWBOTTLE ST SCHOOL
Hi Paul, have you got a photo of Newbottle Street Infant School around 1958 as my mam thinks she is on one of them?

Julie Wilde

Houghton-le-Spring

COLLIERY FOOTBALL

Hi, Not sure if you can help? My grandfather William Robson (1916-2002) lived in Houghton all his life worked at and played football for Herrington Colliery FC (and played semi-pro for Washington Colliery later) in the 1930's and won a northern league cup in the 1938/1939 season. I understand there was a photo of the winning team in an old photograph book of Houghton Le Spring released in the 1990's and I'm trying to track down either the photograph, book or newspaper clippings. Have you any idea where can I start looking? I've tried Amazon but there's nothing obvious. His father (Robert Robson) was also the club manager/coach and lived in Newbottle. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Best Regards.

Steven Turnbull

PAUL LANAGAN REPLIED:

Dear Steven, The photograph you mention is found in 'H-L-S & H-L-H in Old Photographs' by Ken Richardson, 1989. In the Herrington Burn section, located on page 141 is a photograph of Lambton Engine Works Sports Club Associated Football Club team and officials in 1938. W. Robson is listed as being in the front row.

FEAST FEEDBACK

Hello Houghton Heritage, I thoroughly enjoyed our Houghton Feast weekend from 7th - 9th October, especially the local history displays. My wife and I really enjoyed the history side of the Feast and particularly enjoyed the display of miners' banners in the Sports Centre. We wish you every success with planning next year's Feast. Thank you,

John Marlow

Derbyshire



Keep reading for
more Quests!



MYSTERY SOLVED!

Regular readers will recollect how in Volume 1 Issue 1 of the HOUGHTONIAN we were searching for the location of the twins' tombstone which had been placed in the churchyard during renovation work in 1857/58. We are pleased to say that the tombstone, now in two pieces, has been spotted – alongside Bernard Gilpin's tomb in the south transept of the Parish Church. Our other ongoing mystery, of the unidentified house, continues to provoke much discussion in our popular Facebook group.



THIEVES STRIKE

A new mining memorial was unveiled in Concord on March 31st 2012, depicting a mother watching her son pass his dad, a miner, his bait box. The special unveiling of the memorial was attended by a large gathering, including Washington Councillor Dianne Snowdon, pictured left. Days later metal thieves attempted to hack down the £100,000 statue, causing damage to the legs of the boy.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact police on 101 ext. 69191.



ON SCREEN SOON

A new production from the BBC is set to film at Lambton Castle over the summer months. The Ladies' Paradise, a rags-to-riches story set in the 1890s, has been written by Bill Gallagher and will be based on the novel by Emila Zola.

Members of Houghton Heritage Society and Herrington Heritage Society visited the Lambton Estate in 2011.



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Can you help solve these Genealogical & Heritage Quests?

THE OLD CLINIC

Dear Paul, I have just recently found the Houghton Heritage site and found it most interesting and wondered, if you had time, whether you could clear up a couple of points for me. I'm originally from South Shields but in the early to mid sixties I worked with what was then Durham Council's Health & Welfare Department and for about two or three years I was based in Houghton: I was certainly working there during the big freeze-up in 1963 when getting into Houghton was difficult - and getting out almost impossible. What puzzles me is just where our office was situated and I cannot find any trace of it on any map, old or new. My now hazy recollection is that the building was probably an old clinic and it was down a short lane on the left hand side of the road as one headed north towards Newbottle. My hazy recollection also summons up the name 'Gasworks Lane' but I could well be wrong there and guilty of mixing it up with something out of Coronation Street! I have had a go on Google Earth but what I see bears hardly any relationship to the Houghton I can vaguely remember from forty-five years ago. I can recall one local name: the nurse or health assistant was called Mrs Parsons and I think her father was a local councillor. My purpose in getting in touch is just to try to find out some basic details which I hope to include in a write-up I am doing for the family. Was the clinic where I think I remember it to have been and was it really called Gasworks Lane? Is it still there masquerading as something else or did it go a long time ago? I hope this isn't too much trouble. I gather that I really couldn't have chosen a busier in time in Houghton to send in my query! I have lived in a village in Scotland for forty-odd years and know how these fetes can take over one's life but I'm glad to know that my memory is still more or less intact. I shall look forward to getting the images. Meanwhile, enjoy the Houghton Feast. Best wishes.

*Michael Lawrenson
Scotland*

PAUL LANAGAN REPLIED:

Dear Michael, Thank you for your email regarding the old clinic on Gasworks Lane, also known as Sunrise Lane on modern maps. This road was an offshoot at the northern end of Newbottle Street and ran west down to the gasworks. The clinic, which was a square-shaped J, and can still be seen on Google Maps. Indeed, it is listed as Sunrise House, Sunrise Lane, Houghton-le-Spring, DH4 5AL. Most people's recollections of the building have negative connotations - teeth extraction and sunlight treatment - have a look at the postings in the HH Facebook group! I have attached a photograph which was taken in September 2011. The building now appears to be in use as commercial premises. I hope this information of interest to you. I would be interested to hear of your recollections of working in the building, such as the snow in 1963, as I will then be able to add them, with the recent photos, to the HH website.

BEADLE ABOUT

Dear Houghton Heritage Society, My grandfather John William Beadle, I believe was interred at Hillside Cemetery September 1919. Born 21st March 1880 married 7th may 1906. Any information you can supply would be gratefully received. His wife was Elizabeth Ann beadle, Nee Leckenby. Looking forward to your contact.

*John W. Beadle
Victoria, Australia*

THE KEPIER 1927

Hi all, just found your site researching the family tree. My mother, Elsie Spearman, was born in St Michael's Kepier in 1927. Daughter of Ada and Jim Spearman. Ada's mother, Mary Watson nee Fatherley was housekeeper at the Kepier. I understand if I go back a generation Michael Fatherley was publican at the Black Boy Inn in Newbottle. Does anyone have any info?

*Richard Craven
Scarborough, N. Yorkshire*

MR THOMAS HUSBAND

Hello Paul, While looking through the Houghton Colliery Banners page on the Houghton Heritage site, I came across the name "Thomas Husband". This made me remember a Thomas Husband Street in Houghton, but for the life of me I can't think where it was. A Google search has thrown up nothing, except for references to a development there, which makes me think that the original street may no longer exist. It may have been near a North Street and a South Street - Google searches show plenty of these (in East Rainton, West Rainton and Newbottle, for the former at least), but none in Houghton. Have these been redeveloped, too? Best regards.

Steve Howarth

PAUL LANAGAN REPLIED:

Dear Steve, Thank you for your email. Thomas Husband Street was located between Seaham Road and Kirklea Road, next to Ryhope Street and Earsdon Road. You can see the modern location on Google Maps. You may have read my recent article about Houghton's seven colliery banners, where I mentioned the 1923 banner had Thomas Husband's portrait on. What I hadn't linked in, until I read your email and checked my Houghton Colliery Time Line, was the 1921 incident in which Thomas Husband was killed at Houghton Colliery. When I get time during the week I will ensure this reference is added to the Banners article. Thank you once again for mentioning this.

BURIED AT HILLSIDE

Looking for information relating to: John Atkinson; George Atkinson; Ernest Lawson; Ralph Lawson; and Samuel Paisley, all possibly buried at Houghton Hillside Cemetery.

*Mr Geoffrey Atkinson
Houghton-le-Spring*

QUEST FEEDBACK

Hello Paul, I trust that you are well. I have found the latest 'Houghtonian' and there are a few points that I can make that may help you. The Lindens - when I remember it Mr Patterson (of Patterson Lamps at Team Valley Trading Estate, makers of miners safety lamps) lived there. Houghton Miners Project - you will need to remember that, following nationalisation, Houghton Colliery was also the location of a Mining Training Centre for which there were classrooms on the surface and a mining training gallery underground in the Main Coal and Five Quarter seams. I spent three months there in 1950, I think that there were 20 or 24 of us there in two groups at that time. Adults spent one month there. The training centre closed at the end of 1964. Hole Lot of Trouble - I am a bit puzzled by this. The information that I was given three weeks ago was that the houses concerned were in Station Avenue South, your article says Station Avenue North, I am wondering which is correct. The article also says that the problem has been caused by Lambton D pit Shaft No 4. I worked at Lambton D in 1955 and there was no shaft No 4 and there is no such shaft shown on the mining plans. Can you enlighten me any further please? Do you know the numbers of the houses that are affected by any chance? Junction Row - the houses are no longer there however the name lives on. It was the location of three roads although the name is taken from the 'Junction engine'. It is at the junction of the road leading from the Bee Hive PH at Fence Houses that leads towards Herrington Burn and Shiny Row. A road then leads off from this and goes through Success and then on passing the City of Sunderland College and to Herrington Burn. Another road leads away from Junction Row and comes out on the A183 road that runs from Bournmoor to Shiny Row. Regards.

*Alan Vickers
Sunderland*



**Keep reading for more Family Tree
Quests only in the HOUGHTONIAN**

HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING Remembered

HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING REMEMBERED IS YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES AND MEMORIES OF HOUGHTON IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS.

HARRY SMITH SHARED THESE MEMORIES OF HIS FATHER, WILLIAM SMITH (PICTURED BELOW WITH THE CHILDREN) BACK IN 2010. HARRY'S MEMORY OF OLD HOUGHTON – AND HIS WIT – ARE SECOND TO NONE. WE ARE SURE YOU WILL ENJOY THESE RECOLLECTIONS OF THE MINING SETTLEMENT AT SUNNISIDE.

THE PHOTO OF North Row back street pressed the memories button again. In that snap of our back street one of the least interesting bits might seem to be those big poles with the cables strung across. Really these were monumental in the history of, if not Houghton in general, then Sunnyside in particular. These lumps of wood and wire brought electricity to North Row about 1951 or 1952, just as television reached this far flung outpost of the Empire. A couple of the swanky ones in the street actually had their TV-sets in before the electricity was switched on, but I'm not mentioning any names. It was no secret though, as you needed an aerial nearly as big as the Angel of the North attached to your chimney. All this mind, when, a few yards away across that back street, Homelands had electricity from day one in 1938 or so!

Those hatches built into the back walls of North Row were there so loads of coal could be shovelled into the coalhouse. One of the better perks of being a miner was the allowance of coal they got. Every few weeks the coal motor dropped about 15 cwt of coal under that hatch. Us kids could make a bit of pocket money shovelling it in. I must have shifted a few cwt. in my time at about tuppence a ton.

Also in the wall, lower down, those patches of newish looking bricks were where the metal shutters were, to give access to that house's midden. Before flush toilets were fitted just before the War, all household waste, including human, went into these middens. Then every week or so the 'midden man' came down the back street with his horse and cart to empty them. I don't know why, but us kids would stand as close as the man would let us, as he opened up the shutter, and shovelled this 'moras' from the midden onto his cart. Then as he shut the shutter with a loud clang the horse would take a few paces forward then stop at the next one. Someone had to do the job I suppose, but thinking about the washing facilities available at the time and the lad at going home at the end of his shift to his missus, the term 'true love' springs to mind.

Clicking away through the Houghton Heritage site and the memory gets a nudge now and again. That snap of Sunderland FC travelling through Houghton after the cup win in 1973 reminded me I was at Wembley that day. But I also have snatches of memories of the one before that in 1937 (that Raich Carter again).

Apparently my old dad heard that you would be able to hear a commentary of the match on one of these new fangled wireless sets. So, knowing a fellow member at the Comrades had an interest in an electric shop, arranged to buy one for about sixpence a week. For years I thought the word hire, in hire-purchase, was 'higher' and so this was a posher way to buy stuff.

I do remember this great big box with loads of knobs and dials and two great big batteries being delivered to our back gate by a lad on a motor bike and sidecar with half the street out to watch. I do remember during that commentary crawling under the kitchen table when Preston scored first. I can't remember crawling back out, but I must have done or I wouldn't be sat here tapping away. However, in the weeks after the match with little else on except news and Bing Crosby singing 'Pennies from Heaven', father must have got a bit bored with it and so didn't bother paying those tanners.

Soon the lad on the motorbike and sidecar was back at our back gate to take away the wireless.

And yes, the whole street was out to see this.

HARRY SMITH, 2010





WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Can you help solve these Genealogical & Heritage Quests?

THE TANK BANKS

Hello, I am researching the Tank Banks of 1917-8 which raised funds for the War Bonds campaign. I have come across a reference to there being a tank bank in Durham in early April 1918. By 4th April £206,000 had been invested. Then I found out that the tank (named Nelson 130) went elsewhere. However, there was also information on a tank "Egbert" 141 coming to Houghton on the 4,5, and 6th April 1918. I was wondering if it was possible that information from the local newspaper are available on microfilm? If so, could this information be provided if I sent a cheque to cover the amount? I do have photographs of these tanks, should you want to swap the information? I look forward to hearing from you in due course. Thankyou

Richard Pursehouse

PAUL LANAGAN REPLIED:

Dear Richard, Thank you for your email. I had hitherto unheard of Tank Banks, though I had been well aware of Houghton's WWI efforts, e.g. Warship Week, however your email triggered a memory of a photograph of a tank in Houghton-le-Spring, simply described 'a tank outside Robinson's Brewery during the First World War'.

I have hunted it out and it is indeed Egbert. Policemen, some military and civilians stand in front of it. I have just discovered a Wikipedia page which contains an image of Egbert. It matches up perfectly with the H-L-S tank photograph, in fact you can clearly make out several of the painted white letters of the word EGBERT. Without your email I would never have been able to decipher the word. I suspect that many of the newspapers covering Houghton-le-Spring are housed at Durham Records Office, perhaps also Durham Clayport Library - such as the Durham Chronicle and Durham Advertiser.

See: www.durham.gov.uk There may be a mention in the Sunderland Echo (which is still in circulation), copies of which are housed and indexed by Sunderland Library's local studies section. Houghton, of course, wasn't a part of the Borough of Sunderland until 1974, but you still get the odd snippet and juicy nugget in the older newspapers.

HOUGHTON ROVERS

Hi Paul, Just looking at the photos of Houghton Rovers, pretty sure my grandfather is one of the players, standing behind the man who has the cup in front of him. John Miller, small man, he talked about playing footy and kicking the ball out of the stadium. Pop was also very involved in a gymnastic club of some sort for boys, he was always a very fit person. John emigrated to Australia around 1926, he lived in Lower Pottery Yard during this time with his family. His brother Tom Miller always lived in Newbottle to my knowledge. Cheers

Robyn Webster

BAPTISM RECORDS

Hi there, I wonder if you can help. I am looking for the baptism of Lucy Garvey, 1842/1843 in Houghton le Spring. I have spoken to Father at the church regarding the baptism registers and he informs me the PRs are deposited at Newcastle Archives. I have phoned them today and they don't have the years I am interested in. Would anyone from your Society know the whereabouts of the Baptismal Registers for 1841-1844? The Archives hold 1831-1840, they have a gap and then 1845-1863. Maybe these years have not survived, but, if anyone knows their whereabouts, I would be delighted to hear from them. Kind regards.

Carol Hird

HOLE IN THE WALL

With all this reminiscing I have started my family tree - it's more addictive than this site and in the last couple of hours I have found my great great grandfather who was born in 1818. But something intrigues me, in 1881 my grandfather is listed in the census as living at Hole in Wall Yard in Houghton le Spring - does anyone have any idea where this was?

Val Milnes

HOPPER ST BOTTLER

Dear Mr. Lanagan, Greetings from Iowa. I have a bottle that I am trying to research (and it may also be of interest to you). It is a very old

bottle and these are the particulars: Vintage: guessing 1840's-1870's Type: most likely water or soda Color: Black glass with olive green hues Condition: Slight wobble when standing; no chips, cracks or repairs; heavily whittled, thick and substantial. Size: 10 3/8" tall (263.5 mm) Weight: 1 lb. 6.75 oz. (645 grams) Holds: 2 1/3 cups (550 ml) Lip: 1 3/8" (35 mm) outer diameter; has threading on the inside for a screw top closure (long gone). It also has an applied collar under the lip (not sure why?) Neck: tapered Body: 9 5/8" (244 mm) circumference Mold Line: stops approx. 2" on one side and approx. 4" on the other side Comments: Difficult to photograph, but if you want another view, send me a message and I will email it to you. Embossing: Boldly embossed... WM THOMPSON HOPPER ST HOUGHTON LE SPRING Bottom Embossing: none Pontil: Looks like a cup bottom mold or post base mold? Meanwhile, I welcome your comments. Respectfully,

*Michael Sagnella
Decorah
Iowa, USA*

MISSING MEDALS

I would love to be so lucky to find my Grandad's medals. He served in the First World War and was wounded and discharged. Years ago his medals were loaned to someone to wear in the Remembrance Parade in Fence Houses and they were never returned. His name was Fred Moore and he served with the Green Howards then the RAMC. One day, maybe his medals could be returned?

Christine Ramshaw

PRE-BETHANY CHURCH

Has anyone got any old photographs of Nesham Place? I am trying to find out what was on the site before the nursery was built but before the Bethany Church. Thanks.

*Hazel Scotter
Houghton-le-Spring*

MYRE HALL

Hi folks, I've been trying to find a photograph of Myre Hall for a few years now, but with no success. The building that stood before they built the sheltered housing. My family moved to Hall Lane when I was 6 1/2 years old and the old Myre Hall building stood empty. That was summer 1971. I know that it was demolished and the current building was opened in early 1978 because my paternal grandfather moved in. Does anyone else remember this building - or better still have any photos? It looked like a stereotypical haunted house.

*Helen Davies
Houghton-le-Spring*

IN THE PAPERS

Hi, my name is Sophie Hardy and I am a student journalist at the University of Sunderland. I am currently writing an article about Houghton Feast and was wanting to know a bit of background information about the event. If it isn't too much trouble, would I be able to ask you if 2011 differed from previous Feasts? Have the recent government cuts affected the event at all? And what do you think was the highlight of this year's Feast? I would be extremely grateful if someone from your team could reply to this email. It will not be published, it is just a university assessment and will only be seen by myself and my lecturer. Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

*Sophie Hardy
Sunderland*

HAIL HAIL ROCK N ROLL

I would like information on the following people: Richard Hailles; Jane Hails; Mary Hails; Thomas Hails; and Richard Hails. Thank you.

*Lynda Minarzick
Texas, USA*



Keep reading for more
Family Tree Quests.

Pease Puddings

A RECIPE FROM THE THOMPSON FAMILY

This recipe makes a pan of pease pudding, which goes nicely with a ham sandwich made with stottie cake! The recipe was shared by Nicola Thompson, who said: "We never measured anything, just used our own judgement as to how many split peas to use." The photo below shows St Michael's Roman Catholic Church on Durham Road, around 1910. More recipes from the **Taste of Houghton** series can be found on the **HH** website.

INGREDIENTS

Yellow split peas x a quantity of

Ham shank x 1

Dried gelatin (if required)

METHOD

1. Soak the split peas in cold water for about 12 hours, overnight if possible.
2. Strain the split peas into a cloth and place in a pan with a ham shank and cover with cold water.
3. Bring to the boil and cook until the meat is tender enough to fall off the bone.
4. Remove the ham shank, tip the split peas out into the ham water and continue simmering and stirring (to avoid burning), until the mixture thickens.
5. Meanwhile, add a few small pieces of the ham from the shank.
6. The general idea is to use the gelatin that boils out of the ham shank bone to set the pease pudding, but if enough gelatin has not been generated in the boiling just add a couple of teaspoons of dried gelatin.





WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Can you help solve these Genealogical & Heritage Quests?

HOUGHTONIAN ISS 3

Many thanks for the copy of the 'Houghtonian' - much appreciated. Two responses regarding 'Who do you think that you are': The photo of the choirboys singing on the top of the tower - that is Mr Shenton conducting the choir. He actually played the organ for our wedding in 1958. Regarding Joe Graham - I knew him and he was the same age as me. He lived at Chilton Moor and I think that his father was called Dick Graham but I may be wrong on that. His uncle was Eddie Graham who lived further along the road from the Church. Regards.

Alan

RALPH IRONSIDE

Hi Paul, I wonder if you are aware of the references to Houghton le Spring to be found in Elizabeth Grant's 'Memoirs of a Highland Lady'? www.archive.org/details/memoirsofhighlan00smituoft Of particular interest to me is the description given on page 18 (36 of the PDF) of the area around the entrance to Ironside's "estate". This would be where my 9th Gt Grandfather, Ralph Ironside (1560) was born and spent his childhood. He attended Kieper School, and was sponsored to go to Oxford by Bernard Gilpin. It would be really great to be able to identify the area, and even the houses if they still exist, that Elizabeth Grant described in 1803. I see from Google Earth that you have a street named Nesham Place. Elizabeth's grandmother was a Nesham whom she mentions living "just across the street" from the Ironsides. I do realise that modern place names may not be a precise indication of location of previously owned property. Similarly, of course, with Ironside Street. Best Regards, and good luck for this year's "Feast".

Mike I Edwards

THE DAVISONS OF HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING

Hi Houghton Heritage, I am looking for burial records at Hillside cemetery belonging to the Davison family. Thanks & regards.

*Alan Davison
Australia*

THE WHEATLEYS

Paul, Thank you for responding to the request for info on the Wheatley and Moore families. My great grandfather George Moore (from Leamside) worked the Pit until 1926 and then came to the United States. I am searching for any family connections to the Moore and Wheatley families. My Great grandmother Josephine (from Houghton-le-Spring) and George where members of St. Michael and All Angels. That is all I have to go on. Thanks for welcoming me to the group. George Moore was born in 1884 and Josephine 1899. Josephine's parents were Thomas Wheatley (b. 1878) and Mary Frankland (b. 1877). George's parents were Thomas E. Moore (b. 1845) and Mary Jane Moore (b. 1854). I am afraid my branch of the tree was cut off once we came to the United States. I am trying to reconnect and planning a trip over by 2013. Ever thankful to God for you.

*Pastor Chris Bowen
Virginia Beach, USA*

THE WINSKILLS

I have an old photograph of a gentleman with this address on the back of dated 15/04/1947, to a Mrs Winskill, who is my nan (nee James). She was married to Thomas William Winskill in 1937. They had two sons Stanley and Thomas, Stanley being my father born 24 April 1945. I have recently requested BMD certificates for various people in the family but anyone with any information would be great.

Melanie Wilson

FEAST REMEMBERED

I remember as a child the fairground in the Lake then stalls along Broadway, up Church Street, and down into the Market Place where there was more shows, stalls also came out of the rear of the Lake and up the side of the Presbyterian Church.

*Richard Leadbitter
Newbottle*

GEORGE JOHNSTON

Dear Mr Lanagan, Firstly may I say how impressed I am with your web-page Houghton Heritage and all the work it must have taken. I am writing to ask if you can shed any light on an ancestor of my half sister Jacqueline who lives in Michigan USA. I have been researching her family tree and her great grandfather George Johnston b.1879 a Coalminer Hewer was living with his wife and children at 11 Hopper Street, Houghton-le-Spring with his family as listed in the 1901 Census. George had a brother Andrew Johnston b.1891 and living in 10 D'Arcy Street, Houghton-le-Spring with his parents William and Barbara Johnston and his siblings William and John, again as listed in the 1901 Census. In trying to find the date of Andrew's death, in the UK Soldiers Died in the First World War 1914-1918, I came across an Andrew Johnston a Private with the Warwickshire Regiment 9th Battalion who died in Mesopotamia on the 29th June 1917. Also on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission web-page there is an Andrew Johnston, again a Private with the Warwickshire Regiment 9th Battalion who died on 29th June 1917 and buried at Killee Cemetery near Bombay (Mumbai) India. Also, from information I found on your Houghton Heritage web-page there is an A Johnston listed on the Cenotaph in St. Michaels churchyard and also mentioned on the roll of Honour inside the Church. I am assuming that all these references are for the same Andrew Johnston but unfortunately none list his date of birth, age at death or names of parents. Are you, or any of your readers of the Houghtonian Magazine, able to help me confirm that this is the same Andrew from 10 D'Arcy Street that I have on the Johnston family tree? There appear to have been quite a lot of Johnston family members living in Houghton-le-Spring during the 1800's and if anyone has any further information regarding the Johnston family I would be very grateful. I was born in Thomabyon-Tees and now live in Spain

and for medical reasons it is not possible for me to travel to visit Houghton-le-Spring personally. Yours in anticipation.

*Ana Fox
Spain*

POTTERY CREST

Hi Joan, My name is William Gilpin. I live in Canada and have read the first issue of the Houghton Newsletter. I found the article about the Gilpin Boar interesting. Joan, was your mother a Gilpin? And are there more than one issue of the Houghton newsletter? I believe that there is another Gilpin crest that has been put out by some heraldry company, giving also the history of the name. I believe that it's related to the poem that was written about Richard the Rider.

*William Gilpin
Canada*

KEEP SMILING

Hello, I'm from Pennsylvania USA. My ancestors, brothers Thomas and Walter Smiles, emigrated from Houghton-le-Spring to Pennsylvania in the 1840s. Long time ago, I know. But I wonder if there are still some Smiles families there. We are very rare over here.

Jack Smiles

AN EPIDEMIC?

Hello Paul, have you any idea if there was an epidemic in the Houghton or Hetton in the 1880s, more so about 1883? I have tried every avenue but got nowhere. The reason I am asking is I am researching my family tree and five members of the same family stem died all within a few weeks or days of each other and all were children. Many thanks.

*Lynn Perry
Tyne & Wear*



Keep reading for more
Family Tree Quests.



CENOTAPH REPAIRS

It has taken nearly two long years to reach this stage, but, finally, the trial re-carving of a sample of names on Houghton's First World War memorial in St Michael's church-yard, has been completed. Results are good, as can be seen from the photo-graph, so now Kath and Dennis are turning their thoughts to how the re-carving of the rest of the faded names might be funded. Officers are investigating the possibility of applying for a grant from the War Memorials Trust.

Text from: Houghton Ward Edition, Councillors' Update, March/April 2012

Sunderland Echo

War medal found on supermarket floor

Sponsored by LUMLEY CASTLE



Marie Holmes of Murton with the Durham Light Infantry war medal

WAR MEDAL FOUND

The Sunderland Echo reported on February 15th 2012 how Marie Holmes found a Durham Light Infantry regiment medal on the floor of the NISA Store on Morton Crescent, Fencehouses. The medal was found in August 2011 and Marie has advertised the discovery in the shop's window, contacted the police and also visited the DLI museum in Durham in the hope of tracking down the owner - all to no avail! The medal is engraved with the words 'George V Britain' and was awarded for bravery. If you know who it belongs to contact the Echo on (0191) 501 7208.

THE BIG 1 HUNDRED

The Lambton Miners Hall on Lambton Lane, Fencehouses, celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. It was erected by Durham Miners Association in 1912 and has two houses attached on either side - North House and South House - former residences of the colliery officials. When the nearby colliery closed in 1965, the premises were used as a sports hall by the YMCA, which stood just down the road. They are now used by Barrons Contracts & Custom Interiors.



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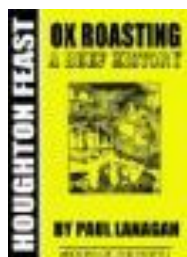
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To join the HH Group on Facebook simply click the link from the main website then follow the directions to join!

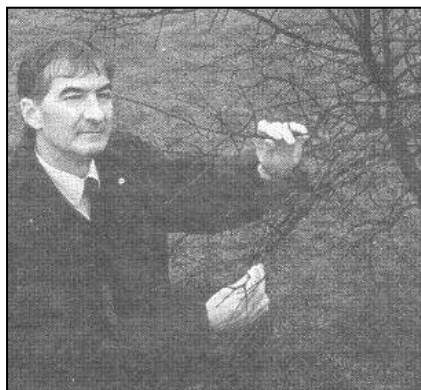
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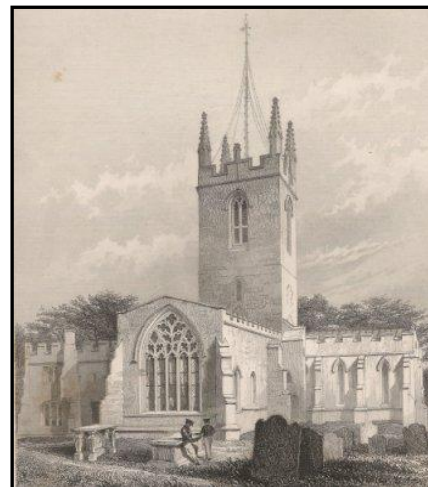
PETER TATE

1946 - 2011

Houghton Heritage Society was sad to recently hear of the passing of Peter Tate on November 14th 2011. Paul Lanagan, Chairman of Houghton Heritage Society, said: "I was actually on composing a letter to Peter about his work on the Gilpin Thorn when I heard that he had sadly passed away back in November. It came as a great shock as he was one of my Heroes of Houghton."

In the 1990s, the original Gilpin Holy Thorn was in a sad and sorry state - at one point it was vandalised - Peter, a forestry officer with Sunderland Council, took some seeds, froze them and planted them - and a couple of seedlings grew! They were planted on the land between the old Rectory and Houghton Area Office and the Gilpin Thorn tradition continued, as shown above in the photograph from the Sunderland Echo. Pat Taylor, a member of Houghton Heritage Society, left a small tribute on the Society's Facebook forum: "Peter was a nice lad, one of the best." You can find out more about the holy Gilpin Thorn and its link to the crucifixion of Christ in the Rectory section of the HH website:

www.houghtonlespring.org.uk/park



HOUGHTON PARISH CHURCH is open daily between 11:00AM and 1:00PM from April until October. It is the ideal time to visit and see some of Houghton's oldest heritage, including memorials, plaques, stained glass windows, interpretation boards and historical remains.

POSTCODE FOR SAT NAV:

DH4 4DN

The next issue of the HOUGHTONIAN will be available to download in June 2012. Send us your details and get a copy sent directly to your Inbox!

SUPPORT US

I would like to support the work of the Houghton-le-Spring Heritage Society and include a donation of £ ____.

☐ I WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS.

☐ I WOULD LIKE TO RECORD THE FOLLOWING IN THE REGISTER OF BENEFACTORS:

Thank
You

NAME [please tick] ☐ Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Miss _____

ADDRESS _____

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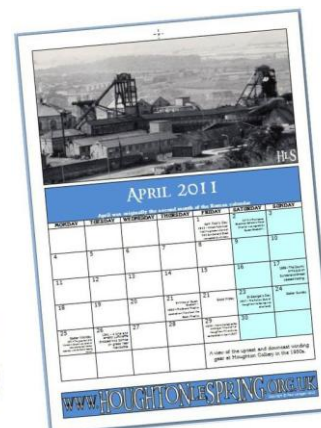
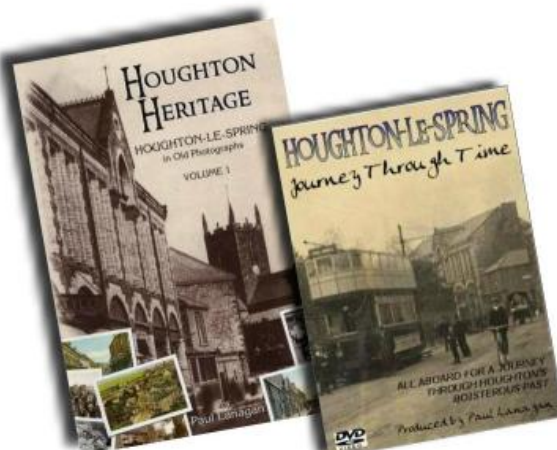
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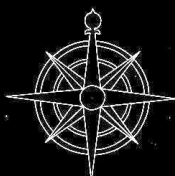
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