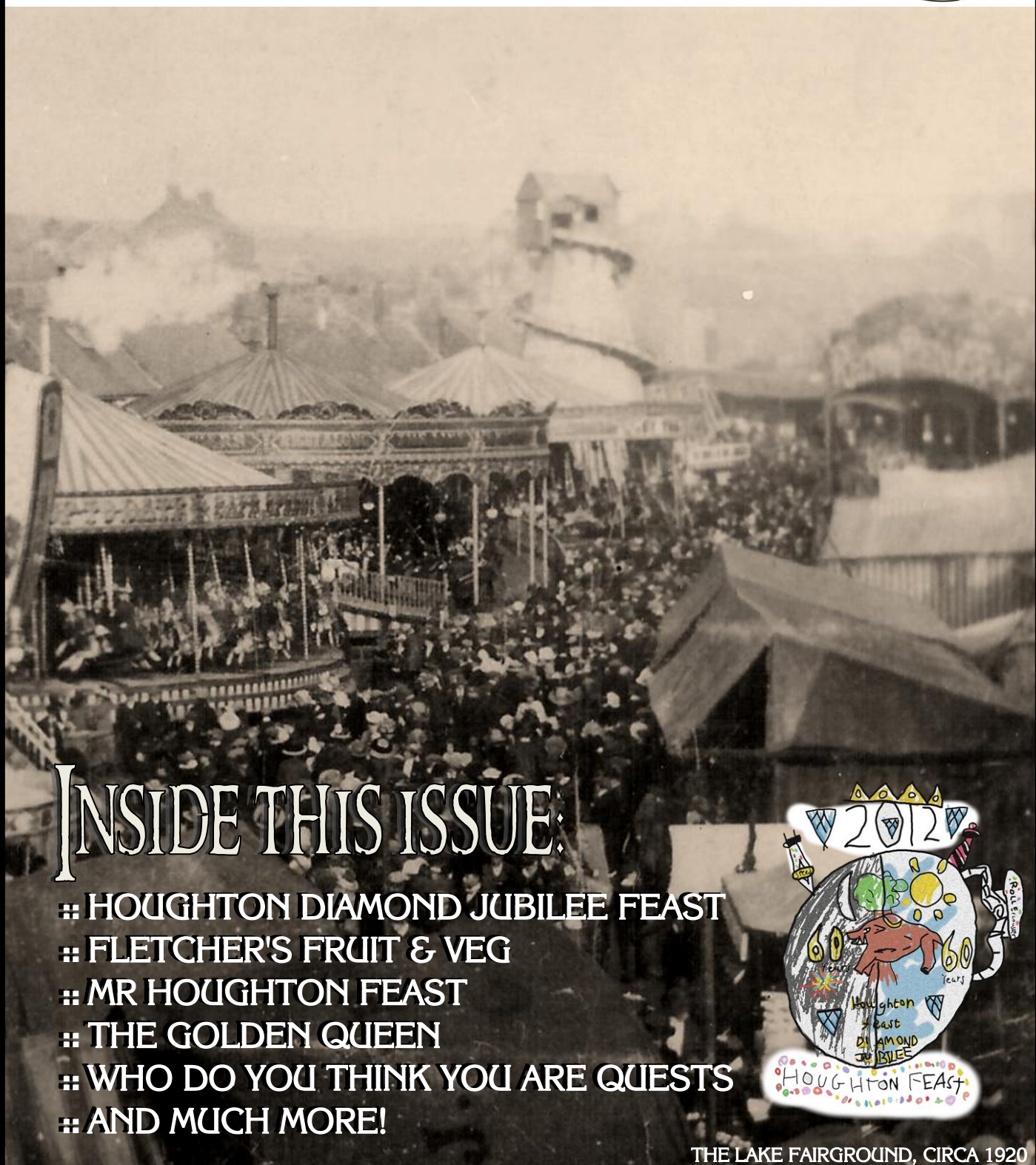


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THE HOUGHTONIAN



QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF HOUGHTON HERITAGE SOCIETY



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THE LAKE FAIRGROUND, CIRCA 1920



www.HOUGHTONLESPRING.ORG.UK

CAN YOU HELP?

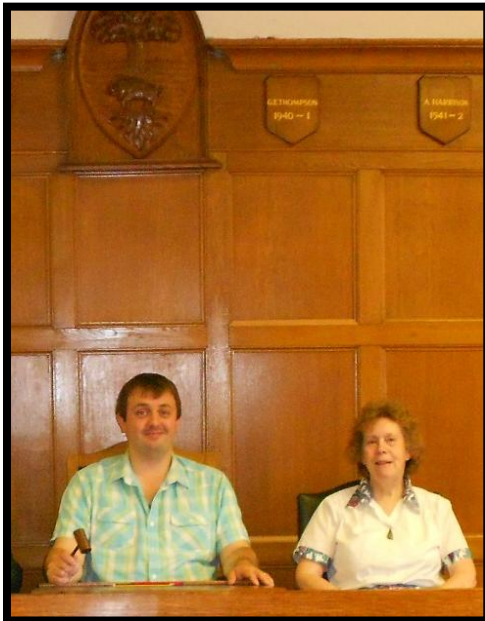
If you have any old photographs of Houghton-le-Spring that you would like to share, please contact Paul Lanagan via www.houghtonlespring.org.uk

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.





WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTONIAN, the quarterly magazine of the Houghton-le-Spring Heritage Society. This is our eighth consecutive issue, numbered as Volume 2 Issue 3 and, as is usual for this time of year, celebrates Houghton Feast with a bumper edition!

THE SOCIETY HAS been very active over the summer, supporting and attending many events as well as organising several visits for Society members. One such visit was to the old Rectory (shown above) where Society Chairman Paul Lanagan and Secretary Joan Lambton took up their places in the Houghton Urban District Council Chamber. We have also been very active in many local Diamond Jubilee events, including the very successful Homelands Estate 'Street Party Without a Street', which was broadcast live on BBC throughout the day! The Society's exhibition for the September Heritage Open Days was rather special this year, as many members of our popular Facebook group used the opportunity to meet each other for the first time. The social side of the Society will be further explored in the next issue when we have some very special news to share!

HOUGHTON HERITAGE SOCIETY became a member of the British Association for Local History, a national charity which promotes local history and serves local historians. Find out more about this esteemed organisation at: www.balh.co.uk

THANKS MUST BE extended to Houghton Ward Councillors Kath Rolph and Dennis Richardson for their swift help in actioning pressing heritage issues raised by Houghton Heritage Society, namely the encroaching ivy growth on the Rectory archway (now the churchyard entrance) and for helping to further the Society's proposition of relocating the WWII Treasures and memorabilia from the demolished Council Offices into Houghton Library, a civic building where the items can be easily seen by the public – and children in particular! The Society is still pursuing the missing Victorian Gilpin Thorn Plaque (of which we now know the full inscription) and the missing 1953 Coronation Noticeboard.

ENJOY THIS ISSUE and enjoy Houghton Diamond Jubilee Feast!


PAUL LANAGAN, 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:

- :: **Houghton & Seaham Star** – details of Paul Lanagan's weekly heritage articles in the newspaper.
- :: **Houghton Colliery** – the time line has been updated with details of Houghton's pit ponies.
- :: **Build a Miners' Safety Lamp** – a new cardcraft activity in the School Zone, with a printable template for making a miners lamp like the one used to transport the Olympic flame.
- :: **Houghton UDC Garage Plaques** – details of garages featuring plaques from the Houghton Urban District Council Ratings Department.
- :: **Church Street: House by House Guide** – the Church Street directory has been updated with more residents and occupants from the Censuses – with grateful thanks to our President, Dr Jack Morley.
- :: **Pitmatic Words & Phrases** – a new print-at-home booklet, 'We're Not Mackems: A Pitmatic Dictionary' has been added to the website and features local words and phrases as compiled by members of Houghton Heritage Society on the ever popular Facebook group.

* * * * *

 **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!**

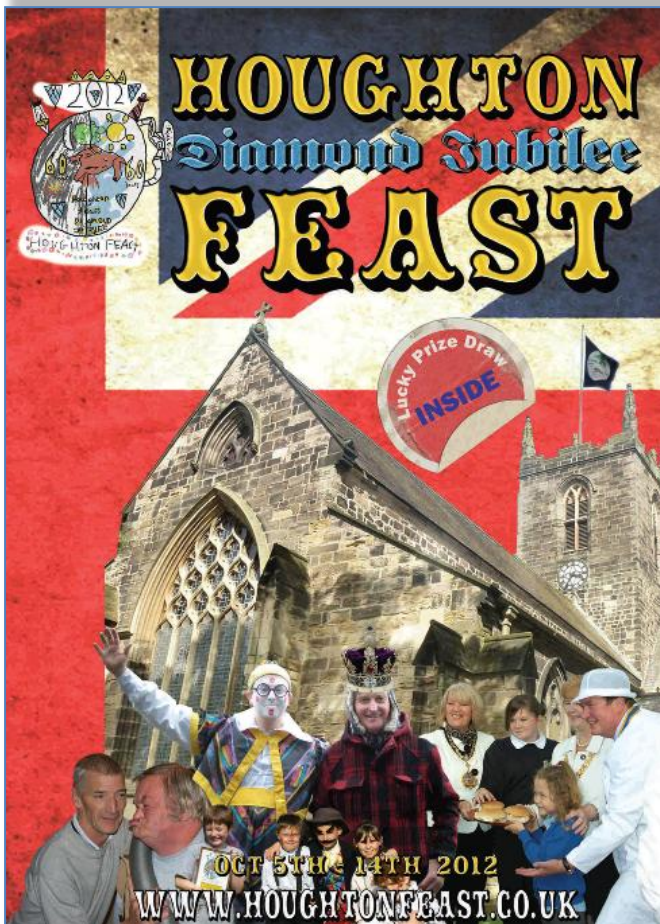
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**FOR INTERNET ACCESS AT
HOUGHTON LIBRARY –
TELEPHONE 0191 561 6383 FOR
DETAILS.**



AND THE LUCKY WINNER IS...

Nine year old Bradley McCarthy was presented with a framed version of his winning design in the Houghton Diamond Jubilee Feast logo competition during the summer. His fabulous logo is used on the cover of the commemorative Houghton Feast brochure.



HOUGHTON'S DIAMOND JUBILEE FEAST

Following the mega-success and popularity of last year's Houghton Feast brochure, the Society has worked with fellow Houghton Feast Steering Committee members to compile a 60 page commemorative programme of events for this year's Houghton Diamond Jubilee Feast.

The 60 page brochure, which features welcome messages, vintage Jubilee and Coronation photographs, a programme of events for the 63+ Feast events, Festival highlights plus opportunities to win free prizes and a £20 Houghton shopping voucher, are being distributed freely via shops, surgeries, libraries, schools, community centres and public houses.

Last year people were complaining that the brochures weren't out in time – in fact they were! They were flying off the counters quicker than they could be replenished!

Grab your copy before it's too late!

HOUGHTON FEAST HIGHLIGHTS

FESTIVAL DURATION

42ND STREET – PRODUCTION BY ZAZZ at Houghton Dance & Performing Arts Academy, Newbottle Street. Find out more at: www.zazzuk.com or 0191 584 0764

JUBILEE & OLYMPICS HERITAGE EXHIBITION - Old photographs with a Royal celebration and sporting theme to acknowledge this Jubilee and Olympic year will on display from the Houghton Heritage Society's collections in the Good Grub Cafe, 14B Newbottle Street.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 5TH 2012

7:00 PM – OPENING CEREMONY, ILLUMINATIONS, FEAST TATTOO & JUBILEE BEACON in the Broadway – plus a fireworks finale! Facepainters, musicians, balloon artists and storytellers will be in the Broadway from 6:00 PM as people are bound to be there early to secure their space!

SATURDAY OCTOBER 6TH 2012

9:00 AM – HOUGHTON HERITAGE PHOTO EXHIBITION - Old photographs from the history of Houghton will be on display in the Broadway next to the Gavioli Organ, including Houghton Feast, Hillside Cemetery, Rectory Park, trams, public houses and more. Members of Houghton Heritage Society will be present offering searches of their genealogical records for your ancestors. The Society will also be taking items for inclusion in the Houghton Heritage Diamond Jubilee Time Capsule.

2:00 PM – 46TH 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 7TH 2012

10:30 AM – CIVIC CEREMONY in St Michael's Church. Please note that the service is starting later than the usual time.

MONDAY OCTOBER 8TH 2012

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

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

SATURDAY OCTOBER 13TH 2012

10:00 AM – HOUGHTON HERITAGE WALK visiting buildings and sites of interest. Book via the **HH** website.

2:30 PM – HOMICIDE IN HOUGHTON 7. Bestselling author Sheila Quigley presents an investigation of the fictional murder scenes from her Houghton-based novels. The free tour, which is not for the faint-hearted, will end with refreshments while Sheila reads an exclusive preview from her next novel. Book via the **HH** website.

9:00 PM – HAUNTED HOUGHTON. Dare you join local historian Paul Lanagan and his fellow ghost hunters on an intimate sequel to the first Haunted Houghton walk which had an unexpected 200 in attendance at the Feast 2004? This scary look at Houghton's most haunted locations will finish at the most haunted building. Over 18s only. Admission by way of a £5.00 donation to Houghton Heritage Society. Book via the **HH** website.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 14TH 2012

12:30 PM – HOUGHTON FEAST BOXING TOURNAMENT. Houghton v North East Select at Rainton Meadows Arena. The pupils of Houghton Boxing Club will be out to show their skills against young boxers from around the northeast in their home town for the very first time. Tickets are £12.00 and are available from Ken Allen at the Boxing Club in Wheeler House, Newbottle Street (telephone 07780008118), or pay at the door.

WWW.HOUGHTONFEAST.CO.UK



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Can you help solve these Genealogical & Heritage Quests?

MORE SIXTIES PLEASE

I love the Houghton Heritage Society website. Having left Houghton 35 years ago it is bringing back a lot of memories. More of Houghton in the Sixties please!

June Pearson

THE HOTONIANS

Hello everyone, I'm new to Houghton Heritage Society. I am originally from Fence Houses and was a member of the Hotonians Juvenile Jazzband. I'm desperately trying to find some photos of the band from the early 1970s and wonder if anyone could advise if they have any they could share on here or where I would be able to get copies. Thanks!

Karen Howe

Dear Houghton Heritage Society, I use the word advice under subject on purpose, judging by the notes on the site your 10 day minimum suggests many specific inquiries, mine is for guidance and an idea on how to proceed with the following as a DIY project. My late wife was a Joyce, one of six children and, unfortunately, all deceased. Recently our children and their many cousins decided to trace their Irish roots through Joseph Joyce, their common grandfather. I was asked to help and at first there was very little info' to go on, no Bible, no marriage certificate etc, only a few facts. To cut a long story short, I did find a few documents which all led to Co Durham and the names of JJ's parents, Joseph again and Margaret McGowan. The LDS Mormon site was very useful and through trial and error, I traced JJ's birth, exact date of 4th September 1897, and the parents to Houghton-le-Spring, JJ's christening at St Michaels 20th Sept. The family lived there at 30 Prospect Row and the father's employment shown as a miner working in Washington. A further useful piece of info' was finding the birth of a brother, Daniel and also in H-le-S, same address and we think he is the brother who went to Oz, have sent some e mails to contacts there, but a long shot. I could not make further progress on that site and typed

your town's name as a search, so, here we are. One of the stories was that the Joyces had left Ireland because of the Famine. Researching that terrible time was an eye-opener, dreadful, but some of the articles proved that many of the emigrants went to England, I had imagined that the vast majority had gone to America. Further reading showed that most of the men were uneducated and had to seek work as labourers or miners, apart from the attitude towards the Irish at that time, therefore the family's Durham connection fits. That's the background, now to advice. The idea is not to create a family tree, the gang would like to find the village or town in Ireland where the original Joyces came from. The romantic notion is of course, Joyce's Country which is in Connemara, bordering on Mayo and Roscommon, latter having Lanagan connections as well! Having seen some 1800s marriage certificates courtesy of LDS, they do not give the names or addresses of the bride/groom's parents - that took care of using these as a source to trace back. When looking over your site and seeing the time and trouble so many of you have taken to record Houghton-le-Spring's history, the thought was that somewhere in your site there might be references to the Joyces. Some evidence or clues to lead us on and that, hopefully, you could tell me where to look in order to continue and complete this DIY project. That's the story and any advice or guidance will be appreciated. With kind regards.

*John
South Africa*

A BIG THANK YOU

A big thank you to Paul and Joan from Houghton Heritage Society for the illustrated talk Paul gave at Grangewood Care Home last night to the residents as part of Dementia Awareness Week. We had a lovely evening thank you again on behalf of the residents and staff.

*Susan Hodgson
Shiney Row*

THE COTTAGE HOMES?

To Paul Lanagan, I was told that my great grandfather was brought up in an orphanage in Houghton-le-spring in 1905. Is there a registry or a way in which I would be able to view/obtain these records? I am not sure which orphanage he was in as it was not spoken about. If you are able to help me that would be fabulous. My Great Grandfathers name was John Edward Raymond then it was changed by deed poll to John Edward Paisley in 1936. Thank you.

Jessica Pine

ICE CREAM TIME

Dear Paul Lanagan, I am researching my family history about the Dimambro family from Durham and surrounding villages (my grandmother was a Dimambro who moved down from Durham to South East, St Albans, Herts in 1938) and am aware there was an ice cream parlour in Houghton le spring. I am trying to obtain a photo of it and wondered if you can help me? I have read a few memories of the public on your Houghton le Spring website and am aware of your many books - do you have any book with a mention of and/or any photo of the Di Mambro ice cream that I could obtain? I would be so grateful for a reply - I wrote a book about my father's ice cream business Tominey's City Ices of St Albans in 2010 (his mother was a Dimambro) which contains a photo at the beginning of Dimambro Ice carts c.1900 at Vane tempest, Durham. I am now further researching Dimambros ice cream shops in the North East to put with my family history. I look forward to hearing from you. Best wishes,

Sharon Tominey

GREYHOUND DERBY

Can you help me find a photograph of my Dad and his Mam, taken in 1967? It shows his greyhound, Peggy, which won the Houghton Feast greyhound derby. I think it was published by the Journal newspaper.

Karen Hughes

REMEMBERING PEAR TREE PLACE

The Houghton Heritage website is the best thing since sliced bread! Paul, I've met up/got in contact with so many friends from my childhood and family members I haven't seen for God knows how long, thank you so much, it's brilliant! I was told today that there used to be a street of houses up behind where the Comrades is and there was prostitute house! Anyone remember that? Does anyone have any memories of Union Street in Houghton, as that's where my Mam and Dad had their first cottage after they were married

*Pauline Guerreiro
Houghton-le-Spring*

THE SEVEN SISTERS OF COPT HILL

Hi, I'm wondering if anyone can help me. I'm doing some research on the Seven Sisters, Copt Hill, and the myths. Does anyone have any information on this? Many thanks in anticipation.

*Kloe Grey
Houghton-le-Spring*

SEATON AVENUE

Big ask but I'm looking for photographs of Seaton Avenue from April 1982.

*Tony Sherlock Harrison
Burn Park Road
Houghton-le-Spring*

THE GILLOWS OF HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING

To: Paul Lanagan of Houghton Heritage Society. Re: St. Michael & All Angels Church. I'm descended from a line of the 'Gillow Family' 1300? Yorks- 1850 Lt. Eccleston Lancs. I note you have a ref. to Henry Gillow 1470, buried with his Mother. Have you any reference to his Mother's name? His parents' names are not known to me but ancestors and descendants are. The early genealogy family trees are not my work but are of 'Keith Gillow' internet. Even if you cannot help me with the query, thank you for your most interesting work on Houghton-Le-Spring's long history.

Elsie Abram

PHOTO FOCUS



THE LAKE FAIRGROUND at Houghton Feast, October 1963. The ride in the centre is Acquilla Toogood's Rock & Roll Waltzer and still attends the Feast to this day in its guise as Keith Turner & Son's Imperial Waltzer, having celebrated its 30th anniversary as such last year. The dominant building in the background is the children's Cottage Homes. Many of the resident children would look forward to the Feast as they could get easy access to all the fun of the fair over the wall at the bottom of the Home's garden. With thanks to Wilf Richardson for sharing.

FLETCHER'S FRUIT & VEGETABLE SHOP



I RECENTLY FOUND a delightful early photograph of Dorothy Fletcher (b.1918), known to older Houghtonians as a vivacious helper in her father Richard Fletcher's fruit shop in Newbottle Street during the 1930s and 1940s. I shall be pleased to pass on a copy of the photo to any of her descendants or relatives. I also request any corrections or additions to the following account of the Fletcher dynasty: Jane Patrick (b.1832) married John Fletcher, a whitesmith and iron founder, in her home town of Pickering in 1855, and they had two daughters and four sons. John Fletcher died in 1876, one year after the birth of the youngest son Richard. For reasons that still elude me, Jane moved to Houghton with Richard sometime in the 1890s, and purchased the large corner shop at 41 Newbottle Street, where they traded as fruiterers. Richard married Amelia Hopper in 1903, and they had four daughters, of which Dorothy was the youngest. All the family helped in the business which prospered. They sold the shop to Robert Wheatley the confectioner (in about 1938?), and moved to 65 Newbottle Street. Dorothy (Dot), a friend of my sister, was now playing a prominent role in the business. However, I understand she married Stanley Erswell in 1946, and went to live in Warwick. Richard died aged 78 in 1953. The business continued as a fruit shop, first under Jimmy Wakefield, then under David Johnston, and now as Devonport's Fruit & Flowers.

DR JACK MORLEY
PRESIDENT
H-L-S HERITAGE SOCIETY



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Can you help solve these Genealogical & Heritage Quests?

ON HOUGHTON'S CENOTAPH

Hi Paul, I checked out the HH website, looking at names of people who died in WWII and lived in Houghton-le-Spring at the time of their death. I was unable to find my grandfather's name on any of your sites. Could you advise where else I could look for his name, Joseph Ranson died 22nd March 1943 at the battle of Alemien, he was awarded the military medal. He was married at the time of his death and lived in Thomas Husband Street, Houghton. I don't suppose the families that were left bothered about putting names on memorials or anything like that. I would appreciate any information you have. Thanks and best wishes.

Christine Hall

PAUL LANAGAN REPLIED:

Dear Christine, Thank you for your recent email. I am sure you are familiar with the Houghton at War section of the Houghton Heritage Website. You will have noted that there is NO SCULPTURED MEMORIAL for those Houghtonians who were killed in action during WWII. There is a bound Book of Remembrance but I note that your Grandfather's name is not included. I have heard rumours that there are plans for a new WWII memorial in Houghton-le-Spring. The Heritage Society's view, and that of several others, is that there is space for panels to be included at the base of the present Cenotaph. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission may have further information that could be of use to you. The website is at: <http://www.cwgc.org> I have done a quick search and note he is commemorated on the MEDJEZ-EL-BAB MEMORIAL. See: <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2632877/RANSON,%20JOSEPH> It states that his parents lived at Philadelphia; I do wonder, therefore, if those on the Cenotaph are the individuals that lived in central Houghton and not the outlying villages? I do hope this helps.

THE FATHERLY FAMILY

Hello Paul, I was doing some genealogical research on the Fatherly family (sometimes it seems it is spelled "Fatherley") and I have come across a reference to my great grandfather, John, and his wife, Margaret, being the publicans at the Londonderry Arms on Colliery Row circa 1880 (from the 1881 Census data). I cannot find any reference to this pub in your article on pubs in Houghton-le-Spring. Was there one? If so, is it still there? Have you heard of the Fatherly family? John Fatherley was born on Colliery Row in 1854 and seems to have been one a MANY!! Fatherleys. Margaret (maiden name unknown) was born in Hetton in Durham but I have no idea where that is now - I think a suburb of Durham. Any info you might be able to give me would be much appreciated - and if you have any contacts with local people who are into family histories in the area, I'd be pleased to be put in touch with them. If there are any websites which might assist me in my tracking which you know of, I'd love to have them too. Hope this is not too much of a burden and there's no rush! Thanks in advance for your help. P.S. Enjoyed your site and the friendliness of it. I hope, one day, to visit to see where my ancestors lived their lives, but time is short since I am 75 now (alas).

*Peter Hill
Hamilton, Ontario
Canada*

PAUL LANAGAN REPLIED:

Hello Peter, thank you for your enquiry. The Londonderry Arms pub still stands at Colliery Row but is now known as JD STEWART. It is located on the corner of Front Street, where it intersects with Dairy Lane (which leads to Houghton centre). The Pub's full address is: J.D Stewart, FRONT ST, COLLIERY ROW, HOUGHTON LE SPRING, DH4 6LR I do not recollect when the name changed - nor why - but it was after 1999, as I took photographs (not digital) in the vicinity then. There is a relatively recent photo online Flickr. You will also be interested to know that

there is a Fatherly Terrace in very close proximity to the Pub. You can see the Street on this map: <http://goo.gl/maps/AadUj> The label which says "MEERU SPA & BEAUTY" appears on the map above where the pub is (hope that helps you to pin point it). The red label "A" is where Fatherly Terrace is. On the same map, if you follow the B1284 road down (south-easterly) you will come to the next village, Hetton-le-Hole, which you also mentioned in your email. I do hope this helps you.

JOHN DAYLEY

Looking for information on John Dayley who was buried at Houghton-le-Spring's Hillside Cemetery.

*Pauline Crosby
Spennymoor, Co Durham*

ROW OR ROWE

I would appreciate information on the ROW or ROWE surname of individuals from Houghton-le-Spring. Regards.

*Dr J. E. Curran
West Sussex*

ADA CHARLTON

Hello, I hope you may be able to help me with this inquiry. I'm searching for the grave of my mother, Ada M Charlton who, I believe, was buried in St Michael's detached churchyard, Hillside cemetery in 1951. My sister and I plan to visit the graveyard and search for our mother's grave. If you can give some advice on how best to proceed with this I would be very grateful.

*John Charlton
Kingston, Surrey*

MARGARET ROSE MCNEIL

I need help to find my aunty's grave plot as I've tried everything and can't find her. Her name was Margaret Rose McNeil and she died at 3 weeks old with a cleft palate. All I know is that she was buried in Houghton Cemetery under a tree. I would love to find her for my Grandmother who is now 91 years.

*Helen Melvin
Houghton-le-Spring*

LAIDLER'S PIT

Someone was asking about the whereabouts of Laidler's Pit as mentioned in Durham Records for 1815-30. We have just found a mention of the pit in the 1928 list of Abandoned Mines which covers all abandonments since records began. It says: *Laidler's Pit in the Parish of Painshaw. Between Waggon Hill and Painshaw Station to the west of Whitehill Pit and close to Painshaw Tile Works.* We assume the brick kilns marked on the 1856 map just to the west of Painshaw Colliery (Whitefield Pit) now appear to have been under the two houses now called Whitefield are on top of what was quoted as being Painshaw Tile Works. The cottages numbered 8 to 11 are either very old (pre 1856) or have been replaced on the same site and appear to have been within the Colliery area. Information came courtesy of the Durham Mining Museum Webmaster at www.dmm.org.uk

*Roy Lambeth
County Durham*

JACKIE MACDERMOTT

I am wondering if there are any relatives of Jackie MacDermott (used to sell fruit n veg) out there. He died a few years back as I remember going to his funeral. He was my Mam's cousin.

*Kay Lyness
Houghton-le-Spring*

CHEEKY MINERS AND A MINOR!

When I was a lad I lived at 108 Newbottle Street sadly it was demolished. Has anyone any photos of the area in the 50s and early 60s? I remember a grocers/flower shop & the miners/labourers coming home from work dropping pennies in my sisters pram every time they got her to say bugger!

*Chris Watts
Cambridge*



**Keep reading for
more Quests!**



HAUNTED HOUGHTON

SATURDAY OCTOBER 13TH 2012 AT 9:00 PM

FIVE POUNDS PER PERSON

BOOK ON 01912684688

INFO@HOUGHTONLESPRING.ORG.UK

DARE YOU JOIN ?



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Can you help solve these Genealogical & Heritage Quests?

DELICIOUS ICE CREAM

Dear Sir/Madam, I was recently told that there was once an ice cream seller in the Houghton area by the name of Gouge. Can you please confirm if this is true, as I cannot seem to find anything on any web site. Yours sincerely

Mr J Fair

PAUL LANAGAN REPLIED:

Dear Mr Fair, Thank you for your enquiry. That is correct and he was known as Gougie. We did hope to have an article on the ice cream business for the Heritage website, however when we approached the family in September 2009 they declined to assist, saying they "weren't interested". This was a shame, as we felt that Gougie's icecream van was a much loved aspect of our heritage.

THE HOMELANDS ESTATE

I'm enquiring about a lady called Annie Foster who lived in Holmlands in the mid 60's. She married a man called Bewley Marlow. Does anyone have information?

Tanya Marlow-Fleming

THE BETTY PIT & MORE

Dear Houghton Heritage Society, regarding the enquiry by Paul Sykes in Volume 1, Issue 5 of the Houghtonian, the old shaft behind the Bee Hive public house is the former 'Betty Pit' - one of the pits owned by John Nesham. There was another Nesham pit not too far along the road leading to Junction Row, called the 'Jane Pit'. Regarding the enquiry in 'Quests' regarding Manor House, Penshaw, in the late 1940s and early 1950s it was used as Group Offices for the 'E Group' of the No 2 Area in Durham Division of the National Coal Board. I worked there for a few weeks in 1958 or 1959. The offices housed the Group Mining, Mechanical and Electrical Engineers and also the Accounts and Wages Departments. It was in later years that the North Eastern Electricity Board took over the premises.

*Alan Vickers
Sunderland*

THE ALMSHOUSES

Dear Mr Lanagan, Concerning The Reverend William Sharpe, a benefactor of the almshouses at Houghton-le-Spring. Mr Sharpe was born in Houghton-le-Spring the son of John Sharpe, and matriculated at University College, Oxford, in 1743, when he was 19. He took his BA in 1746 (MA 1749) and was ordained deacon in 1747. He served his Title at Houghton-le-Spring, and then served churches at Sedgfield, County Durham, and Bishop's Stortford, Herts. He became Usher, or sub-Master, of Sherborne School in 1760. He was presented to the living of Long Burton by the Earl of Northumberland in 1763, but did not come into residence until 1767, having relinquished his role at the School in 1766. Sharpe took an interest in the (unsuccessful) attempts to find coal in the parish, publishing A Treatise upon Coal in 1769. Two or three years earlier he had published The Hard Case of a Country Vicar in respect of Small Tythes. He died away from Long Burton, though still in office, in 1784, and was buried 'in the North of England'. [Source: Canon C H Mayo, MA, FRHistS. The Registers of Long Burton 1580 - 1812 (1894)]. Long Burton (or Longburton, as it is usually rendered these days) is a village due south of Sherborne on the main road to Dorchester. Its remarkable parish church began life as an outpost of the Abbey here in Sherborne, and was served by the monastic community. It achieved independent status in 1405. By the time of my arrival in 1993 it was part of a much bigger Benefice, which has since been dismantled. It seemed good to the people of Longburton to rejoin the Sherborne Benefice, and we hoped that the formalities for this could be completed in 2005 - 600 years after its independence, and exactly 1300 years after the Abbey's foundation by St Aldhelm as the first cathedral of the western West Saxons. However, the Order in Council was not signed until 2006. Today St James the Great, Longburton, is the vibrant centre of the village community, and has this year been redecorated, re-ordered and

given a much needed new heating system! I hope this helps a little with your researches. Yours sincerely.

*The Reverend Canon
Eric Woods MA
Vicar of Sherborne with
Castleton and Rector of
Lillington and Longburton*

THE ORIGINAL BEEHIVE, SEDGELETC

Why would my great grandfather be resident at the Beehive Inn with his wife, son and mother-in-law in 1871? He was an agricultural labourer so I don't see the connection. His mother was at Bog House Farm - maybe he was working there?

*Liz Hall
Co Durham*

THE MILLER FAMILY

Dear Houghton Heritage, Have been looking at the Houghton le Spring site, very interesting, a lot of time gone into this site, must be a passion. Anyway I am trying to verify details and information that my uncle researched regards the Miller family from Newbottle. Supposedly all family details are in one of the churches in Houghton le Spring. The family is also supposed to have lived for generations at a house called Lower Pottery Yard. I have looked at the history of High and Lower Potteries and am not convinced this was the case. I know that my grandfather John and his brother Tom worked in the mines for a time, their father Robert also did a stint as a beer boy, but became an alcoholic by the time he was 13. The Miller boys, John, Tom, William were known for their strength and gymnastic abilities. I have a great photo of the three of them doing a pose. I am looking for verification of the information I have and to add extra to the family as needed. I have looked at the burials and both Hillside Cemetery and St Michael and All Angels Churchyard have a number of Millers interred there. My father is Robert Miller b. 16/11/1926, his siblings are Lillian b. 16/6/1915, since passed away, John b. 16/12/1919. Irene b. 28/4/1923.

They were all born in Newbottle supposedly, christened at The Vicarage, 1 Front Street. The family came out to Australia in 1928, Lillian was left behind to live with Jane and her husband. My Grandfather was John Miller b. 1/12/1894, married Lily May Clarke, other siblings were: Jane, Martha, William, Susan, Sarah and Thomas b. 4/11/1900. His father was Robert Miller b. 27/12/1849 married to Emma Kershaw. Other siblings to Robert were John b. 12/6/1835, Edward b. 6/6/1837, Joseph b. 29/12/1840, Thomas b. 1/9/1844. Any help with this would be great, or even if I am referred on to someone else. I have names going back to 1510, but my Aunt Irene is a bit skeptical about all the information being correct. Will wait to hear from you. Thank you again, I really enjoy the site. Kind Regards.

*Robyn Webster
Australia*

ALFRED BREWER

Hi, I'm trying to trace the grave of my grandfather and wondered if you could help. He was a young curate at the church and died in 1923. His name was Alfred Brewer. He had a full size horizontal stone (possibly marble) memorial with writing along the sides. I have a photo of the memorial stone and it looks as though it was near a proper path in the graveyard. As he didn't originate from the Durham area, his family had difficulty in visiting the grave and I am trying to see if it still exists and if it is being looked after. If I need to contact the church wardens then please could you point me in their direction? Many thanks for any help you can give. Kind regards,

Jacquie Rusalene

PAUL LANAGAN REPLIED:

Hello Jacquie, I have a wealth of information on this poor chap, who was buried at Houghton Hillside Cemetery and commemorated in the south transept of St Michael's Church, which I will send by email.



Keep reading for more
Family Tree Quests only in the
HOUGHTONIAN

WELL DONE, MR HOUGHTON FEAST



HOUGHTON HERITAGE SOCIETY is very keen to acknowledge and commemorate local anniversaries, achievements and Heroes of Houghton. One such Hero is Mr Houghton Feast, or John Mawston as he is sometimes known. John was recently made Life President of the Houghton Feast Steering Committee having been permanent Chair since 1976. He first became involved with the Feast when he joined Houghton Urban District Council in 1955 and more so in 1967 when he was Council Chairman at the time of the great Feast Revival. The Society presented John with a framed certificate of recognition for his services to Houghton Feast which follows last year's greatest honour, when John was granted the Freedom of the City of Sunderland at a special ceremony alongside Sir Peter Vardy and Sir Bob Murray.

THE GOLDEN QUEEN



IN JUNE, Houghton Heritage Society made a surprise presentation to Jean Holland in the Golden Lion pub on the 30th anniversary of her time there as a barmaid. As the above photograph shows, Jean was shocked to be presented with a framed photograph, which was taken during the commotion of last year's Houghton Feast. Her response is unprintable but Jean was very grateful for the gesture.

Houghton Heritage Society likes to ensure that significant local anniversaries are marked. We helped to commemorate: John Mawston's 50th anniversary as a public servant in 2005, plus Houghton Feast anniversaries - showman John Murphy's 60th annual appearance, White's Mammoth Gavioli Organ's 50th anniversary appearance, and Keith Turner's 30th anniversary appearance with the Waltzer.

HEROES OF HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING If you know of anyone who has achieved a significant milestone or heritage-related achievement, please get in touch with Houghton Heritage Society. The Committee will consider all suggestions.



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Can you help solve these Genealogical & Heritage Quests?

THE FENWICKS

I am interested in John Fenwick of Biddick who married Ruth Steel. John Fenwick of Biddick who married Jane Mace, and Jane (Mace) Fenwick.

*Barbara Wright
Dalton-in-Furness
Cumbria*

ALONG HALL LANE

Dear Houghton Heritage, can anyone tell me what was on the old Bernard Gilpin School site before the original school? Was it a brewery (my mortgage states that I'm not allowed to brew any alcohol in my house due to some clause of a brewery)? I know this sounds weird but since moving in to my house nearby sixteen years ago, I have experienced paranormal activity and I am curious to know why. My son has witnessed a small boy on the upstairs landing and my mate's son saw something. Last night my step-daughter was staring and shaking at something in my bedroom! I've not seen anything but have heard footsteps upstairs when I've been in alone. I felt a presence today and had to take a second glance as my peripheral vision picked up movement. It's very spooky!

*Louise Heron
Houghton-le-Spring*

PAUL LANAGAN REPLIED:

This is very interesting. Houghton Council Intermediate School, later named Houghton Secondary Modern School (HSMS), then Bernard Gilpin Comprehensive School, opened near Hall Lane on February 1st 1932. The 1920 OS map shows that area as being just fields with no immediate buildings nearby; indeed, Hall Lane was just a small lane/track, long before the Racecourse Estate appeared. I suspect the field was owned by the Robinson family who owned the large brewery nearby.

BRUCE'S YARD

Hello Paul, I am researching my family tree and have my late mothers birth certificate stating that she was born at 1 Bruces yard off Sunderland St, to Robert and Hannah Brown (formally Atwell) in 1914. I don't suppose Bruces yard still exists but where might the location have been? Many Thanks.

*Alan Gettings
Houghton-le-Spring*

THANK YOU

Dear Paul, I have just read your latest on how you keep out of mischief- whew! How do you keep it all up? Anyway, thanks a million for all your dedicated work.

*Helen Cater nee Graham
(of Graham's Stores,
Fencehouses)
New Zealand*

GRANDAD RALPH (UNKNOWN)

Dear Paul, I wonder whether you can help me track down my Great Grandfather. (Unfortunately I have little information. I know he died in WW1 and was based at HMS Victory in Portsmouth. He lived on Easington Lane. He was called Ralph but I don't know his surname. I know this is a long shot but would appreciate any help.

Anna Etchells

POP TO THE OFFIE, SON

My nana used to live in Ryhope Street, the Aged Miners' Homes behind and above the Jolly Farmers pub. She used to send me down to the 'off licence' hatch with a note for two bottles of Makeson stout - my reward was a bag of crisps. These were happy days.

*Colin Hughes
Houghton-le-Spring*

THE HATCH (AGAIN)

I was born in the Market Place, right opposite the Jolly Farmer pub and used to go to 'the hatch' inside the pub - you could buy sweets from it - and I used to try and catch sight of my grandad in the bar! Just memories of loads of flat caps and laughter with lots of smoke in the air. What I would now give for 10 minutes back then.

Donna Thomas

PADDOCK STYLE SCHOOL

Just wondered if anyone has any pics of Paddock Stile School? I went there from 1953 to 1960 - did anyone attend at that time?

Avril Elliott

PAUL LANAGAN REPLIED:

A photograph has recently been uploaded to the Society's very active Facebook group.

THE WHEATLEYS

Hi Paul, could I ask you a question please? I was looking at your Wheatley family tree and wondered if you could show me where my family should be on it. My grandad was called Thomas Wheatley and he had two brothers called George and William aka Winkle. My grandad met my nana who was called Ina Forrester at the fruit shop owned by Robert Wheatley, as they both worked there at the time. They married and had my mother who they named her Avril Wheatley. I would be very grateful for any information you have, thank you.

John Rochester

NEWBOTTLE COUNTY SCHOOL

When I went to Newbottle School it was all boys, and teachers Messrs Gardener, Hope, Gammie and Woodley. Then the War came along and the men went off one at a time. Us lads were then looking forward to having women teachers. Talk about being careful what you wish for! Bloody Hell and say no more. Auld Woodley was the last to go and the Germans soon packed in after that!

*Harry Smith
Middlesbrough*

THE SWALWELLS

Dear Houghton Heritage Society, I am doing my family tree and wondered if you have you any information on a family called Swalwell, in particular a John Swalwell from Fence Houses who was a farmer. Mary Jane Swalwell was born 16th February, 1886. I would grateful for any information - I have got some pictures of her if that is of interest. Thanks you.

Graeme Greaves

GENERAL BECKWITH

Hi, I was wondering if you could help me. My Grandfather William Beckwith (it's a name kept for as long as anyone in our family can remember) passed away a few years ago. He had been trying to trace back our family, however unfortunately his records where lost in his passing. Before he died he passed on the information that he had traced a link to General Beckwith and his wife Priscilla Maria. I've been trying to find out more information and trace my family to them or his brother John, however I'm struggling to find any link past them and was wondering if you could help? From the information on the burial registers (shown below) it sounds as though either William, or an unnamed sibling had a son: *John Beckwith JP, of Silksworth House, and of Trimdon, died at the age of 87 years on April 23rd 1891, following a few days' illness. John was the brother of the late General Beckwith, and uncle of Captain Beckwith JP, chairman of the Houghton-le-Spring Highway Board. He was a bachelor, and had earlier lived in India. He was buried at Houghton Hillside on April 27th 1891 in the Beckwith grave, the memorial stone of which remains erected on the rock face.* According to Herrington Hall's archives (where General William once lived), William and Priscilla died childless. I was wondering if you had any information on this Captain Beckwith which you could help me with? Or alternatively, if you could point me in the direction of where I might find information it would be much appreciated. Thanks very much.

Jennifer Beckwith

USHERWOOD HOUSE

Anyone know of a House called 'Usherwood' on Gillas Lane around 1926?

*Dina Salter
Australia*



Keep reading for more
Family Tree Quests.

THE STREET PARTY
.... without a street!



HOMELANDS ESTATE
DIAMOND JUBILEE PARTY



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Can you help solve these Genealogical & Heritage Quests?

NEWBOTTLE EX-PAT

My name is Lynette Young and my family lived in Newbottle, Philadelphia, Houghton-le-spring for many, Many generations. I am trying to gain some information about my Newbottle genealogy. Although I was born and raised in Sunderland for twenty six years, I am now living in San Diego, Southern California, U.S.A. Yours,

*Lynette Young
San Diego, USA*

NEWBOTTLE CHURCHYARD

Dear Paul, I take my neighbour's dog for a walk through Newbottle churchyard and particularly in the summer meet people searching for their ancestors graves. Is there a project to record the gravestones? The stones are getting damaged and broken by vandals. I would be happy to spend a couple of sessions a week making a start on recording the inscriptions if someone sets me off in the right direction as I have been grateful for other's hard work in other cemeteries when I have been looking for family members. Yours.

*Wendy Costello
Newbottle*

PAUL LANAGAN REPLIED:

I am sure they were recorded around 2001 and made available in a pamphlet.

NEWBOTTLE PICS

Does anyone have any pictures of Newbottle before the new houses were built? Or the old buildings where the farmer stored his corn and the coal yard?

Alison Elves

THE THOMPSON FAMILY

Dear Paul, the book and much appreciated 'extras' arrived safe and sound. I would like to make this personal thank you for your extremely interesting book and hope this reaches you at this email address. My granddad, Charles Herbert Thompson lived 100 years ago at 37 Britannia Terrace, Fence Houses. His grandfather was John Thompson who came over from Northern Ireland as part of the Lord Londonderry move, with his wife Jane McCulloch (and all the various ways of spelling McCulloch - McCulloch,

McCulloch, McCulloch, McCulloch, McCulloch) and two sons John & Richard. Having difficulty in going back to the Irish records, I tried to discover more by searching sideways, and the results have been very interesting - I now think by one branch or another I must be related to everyone in the area! The Irish families intermarried in Ireland and continued to do so once they arrived in Co Durham so the following names all appear in my family tree and I would be interested to know if any of them ring bells with you. THOMPSON, McCULLOUGH, MINNIS, ADAIR, BLACKWOOD, LYONS, DIXON, GIBBNEY, McCHESENEY plus quite a few more! My great grandparents were John Thompson & Mary Ann Curry. Mary was born on 25th April 1844 at the Nags Head, West Rainton, a place which I guess has long since disappeared, but I gather from Internet searches quite a few births took place there. Have you any idea why? Mary's parents were George Curry & Elizabeth Purvis, and although I found their marriage in May 1836 by the time of the 1841 census Elizabeth can be found on her own as George was 'inside'. In 1840 he had been found guilty, but recommended to mercy, of feloniously assaulting Joseph Barwick and stealing fourpence-halfpenny. For that he received 12 months hard labour in the house of correction. Report from Newcastle Courant, Friday 23rd October 1840. Thank you once again for the interesting and informative book about Houghton-le-Spring, and I look forward to Volume 2. Best Wishes.

*Patsy Beech
nee Thompson*

THE WELLY

Does anyone know anything about Wellington House (was in Dubmire, just behind where Lilley's newsagent is now?) I found out that R Fatherly (local grocer and draper) lived there in 1911 but would love to find out more about it. From OS it looks as if it was around from late 1800s to possibly early 1960s

*Dawn Finnigan
Houghton-le-Spring*

THE JOLLY FARMERS

Does anyone know what is happening to the former Spring Inn pub in Houghton's Market Place? Workmen have been there all this week.

*Sarah Gardiner
Houghton-le-Spring*

THE WILKINSONS

Dear Paul, I rang your number on Monday in the evening and I'm now following up my phone call with a quick e-mail. My father John Thomas Wilkinson was born in Houghton Le Spring in the 1920s. His father, also John Wilkinson, was a miner and lived at 13 or 18 High Hillside. His mother's maiden name was Annie Harkness. Apparently his parents parted company in his early years, and he was sent to live in a home. Typically, when he was 14 he was placed in the Army - the 15/19 Royal Hussars. He met my mother in the late 1930s. He was captured at Dunkirk and escaped from his POW camp four times. He was freed by the Russians in 1945. When my parents married, they moved to Slough. I only met my paternal grandfather twice and never met my father's mother. In 1964 my mother and father emigrated to Australia. My mother died in 2005 and my father died in 2009. I guess, like many people in the same situation, I am trying to re-forge some connections. I'm trying to find out more about my father's relations - and wondered if you might have come across any Wilkinsons who lived at High Hillside in Houghton during the 1920s. If you have come across any such information, in your research, I would be glad if you could let me know.

*John Wilkinson
Australia*

HOUGHTON SCHOOL PICS

Has anyone got any photographs from Houghton School 1981/1986 (Davenport) to share?

*Jan Wilson
Houghton-le-Spring*

TITLE HERE

Dear Mr Lanagan, I belong to the Dringhouses Local History Group here in York and I researched and

wrote the chapter in our recent publication about the Swanns and Dixons of Ashfield. I have been wondering for a long while how I could access extra information about VCSWC and the mining industry on the Durham coalfield, and was delighted to see your Society mentioned in the most recent BALH publication! So: I am wondering if you have any information about this gentleman. He married Fanny Annabella Swann, born 1837, of Ashfield, in 1869. I have a copy of their marriage certificate - his signature is just amazing! He was a mining engineer from Wortley, near Sheffield, and they lived at Houghton-le-Spring, where he had a very long and distinguished career extending into the 1920s; there was an Annabella Pit nearby, and I don't think this was a coincidence. Also, I would love to learn more about what Fanny Annabella's life was like after her marriage; it must have been quite a shock to her to find herself removed from the elegant circles of York and the green spaces of Dringhouses. I do emails at my local library on a somewhat irregular basis, usually about once a week. Very many thanks for any help you or another member of your Society may be able to give. With best wishes

Elizabeth Smith

THANK YOU

Dear Houghton Heritage Society, thank you for my Houghton-le-Spring in Old Photographs book which came today - I thought it was a summons!

*Karen Bilton
Newbottle*

PAUL LANAGAN REPLIED:

You are welcome! Congratulations on winning one of the summer's many 'where is this?' competitions!

CAN YOU SMELL GAS?

Question for those of a certain age: did there used to be gas storage tanks behind Halliwell Street and Cross Street, or is it my imagination? Thank you.

Michael Dean



SEPTEMBER 2012 SAW another bumper turnout for the Heritage Open Days (HODs) exhibition and heritage walk. Hundreds visited the photographs in Houghton Methodist Church, Mautland Street, while a special Olympics and Jubilee themed selection was displayed in the Good Grub Café, Newbottle Street. Members of the Society had spent the preceding month renaming many of the Café's dishes, such as Nesham Plaice (fish cake and chips), Dimambro's Cappuccino, the Houghton Feast (beef dinner), and Lambton Worm Pie with Chips. The menu – along with the dishes – has gone down a treat! Thanks are extended to all who came along and patronised the exhibitions and heritage walk.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS





THE HOUGHTON HERITAGE WALK

SAT OCT 13TH AT 10AM

0191 268 4688

INFO@HOUGHTONLESPRING.ORG.UK

FREE ADMISSION!



THE VALIANT LITTLE TAILOR



TO HELP SUPPORT the daily opening of St Michael & All Angels Church to visitors throughout the summer months, Houghton Heritage Society donated a hand-made tablecloth for use on the welcome table. The Society's Secretary, Joan Lambton, spent hours hand crafting and stitching the cloth in time for the start of the season at Easter. Ten copies of the Houghton-le-Spring in Old Photographs books were also donated to help raise funds for the Church.

THE GOLDEN GIRLS



HOUGHTON'S VERY OWN Paralympic hero, Hazel Robson (left), will be supporting Houghton Heritage Society during Houghton Diamond Jubilee Feast and will be appearing in the Broadway on Saturday, October 6th from 9:00 AM as well as leading the Feast Carnival Parade later in the day.

HOUGHTON HERITAGE SOCIETY'S Patron, Penelope Wilton O.B.E., will be back on screens as Mrs Isobel Crawley in ITV's popular drama, Downton Abbey, which returns with its third and much anticipated series from Sunday September 16th 2012.

A BUSY SUMMER



1



2



3



4



5

HOUGHTON HERITAGE SOCIETY members have been very busy over the summer months promoting and sharing Houghton's history with all and sundry. A top priority this year has been young people and Gentoo's Fun Days afforded the perfect opportunity!

(1) Society members watched the Houghton Colliery banner being paraded through Durham.

(2) The Society's Heritage Base at the Groundworks Elba Park Fun Day, August 18th 2012.

(3) Billy Purvis the clown making a rare appearance at Houghton outside of Houghton Feast for the Gentoo Jubilee Fun Day at Rectory Field, July 25th 2012.

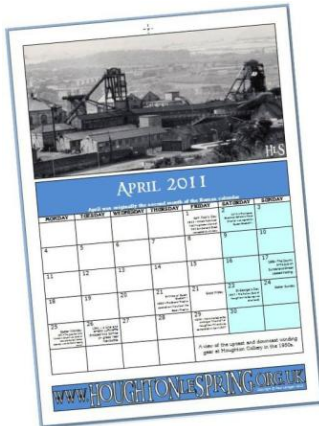
(4) Members of the Society at the Heritage Base for Gentoo's Olympic Fun Day, August 8th 2012.

(5) A child colouring in one of the Houghton Heritage activity packs at Gentoo's Jubilee Fun Day at the Rectory Field.

Further photographs can be seen on the **HH** Facebook group.

CLASSIFIEDS

2013 CALENDER AVAILABLE SOON



The Houghton Heritage 2013 calendar will be available for purchase from the HH website in November. Please buy a copy and help to support our work.



Find us on
Facebook

To join the HH Group on Facebook simply search for **HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING HERITAGE GROUP** in the search box on Facebook!

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Annual General Meeting of Houghton-le-Spring Heritage Society will be taking place on Friday November 2nd 2012 in a very special location in Houghton not normally accessible to the public – the old Rectory. If you would like to come along, please get in touch. As the venue is an ancient building it sadly does not have easy access for those with limited mobility. Proposals or nominations should be sent to the Secretary at least a month in advance of the AGM. The Committee will be taking a meal afterwards and guests will be welcome to join in. Contact details can be obtained via the HH website.



AVAILABLE WEDNESDAYS

Featuring a Houghton Heritage page by Paul Lanagan in every issue.

Currently priced at 30p and featuring truly local news, it is a great read! Available in all good newsagents across Houghton-le-Spring and Seaham.

www.houghtonstar.co.uk

The next issue of the HOUGHTONIAN will be available to download in January 2013. 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 (min £20):

Thank
You

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

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

CONTACT NUMBER/EMAIL _____

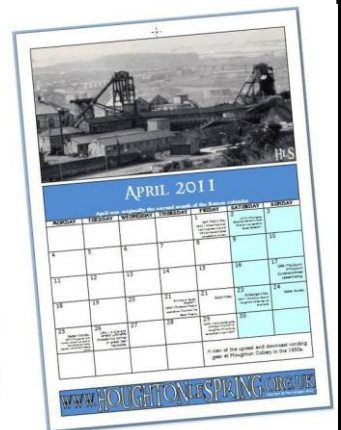
CHEQUE SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO: Houghton-le-Spring Heritage Society

COMPLETED FORM SHOULD BE RETURNED TO:

Houghton Heritage Society, 120 Burn Park Road, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne & Wear, DH4 5DQ



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