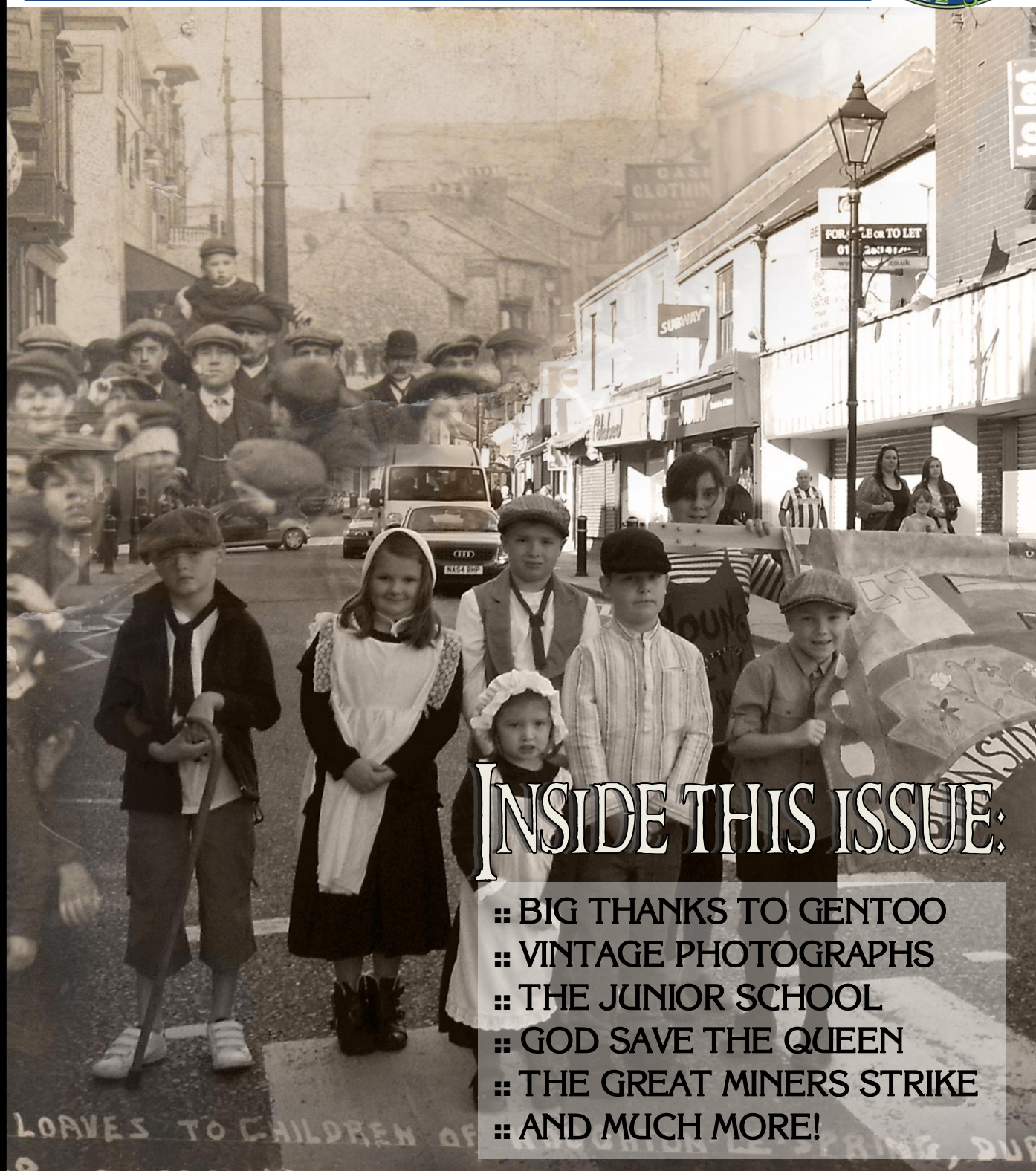


SPRING 2013 | VOL 2 ISSUE 4 | ISSN 1757-3890

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 the Society via www.houghtonlespring.org.uk/contact

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.



@ **WEB UPDATES** @
WWW.HOUGHTONLESPRING.ORG.UK



WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTONIAN, the quarterly magazine of the Houghton-le-Spring Heritage Society. This is our ninth consecutive issue, numbered as Volume 2 Issue 4 and looks at the last of the Society's activities in the year 2012.

IN THIS ISSUE we reflect on autumn and winter 2012, which proved to be as busy for the Society as the preceding summer months. We contributed to another Gentoo Fun Day (for Hallowe'en), placed a wreath on Houghton's Cenotaph for Armistice Day, had a stall at a local Christmas craft fair where Billy Purvis the clown made a rare appearance...and let's not forget the Houghton Diamond Jubilee Feast, which was one of the most successful festivals in recent years. The Society played a bigger role than ever before; we had exhibitions in the Broadway and Good Grub Café, an Olympic Fun Tent where Paralympian Hazel Robson kindly displayed her medals, the mega-popular Haunted Houghton Walk, another eventful Houghton Heritage Walk which had attendees from Hong Kong and USA, plus the task of distributing a tonne's worth of Houghton Feast brochures (I salute those brave members who kindly undertook this challenge). Despite all the hard work, there was still time for some fun and we joined in with the annual Carnival Parade and had a lot to eat with numerous meals, banquets and feasts at our annual Houghton Feast!

THE YEAR ENDED with our Annual General Meeting, which was held in the old Houghton Urban District Council chamber in the Rectory building (shown above). Thanks are extended to the Society's members who came along.

I do hope you enjoy this issue and have a peaceful Easter.


PAUL LANAGAN, CHAIRMAN
H-L-S HERITAGE SOCIETY

THE HOUGHTON HERITAGE website has undergone a massive transformation over the Holidays. Regular visitors will know how much it has changed from the old-style 'framed layout' to the new 'button format'. This has taken many hundreds of hours and involves all the old pages having to be re-made with new images and text, while the heritage articles are also revamped/updated and put online as printable PDFs.

The site is expected to be finished by the late summer 2013. Our efforts will result in a website that is a lot easier to navigate, is more user friendly, particularly for those on tablets, as well as being more interactive – just have a look at the links to Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and Flickr. Speaking of Flickr, one of the biggest changes to the website is the removal of the 'updated pages' blog – now, just keep an eye on our Twitter feed to see what the updates are.

We would like to thank all of our visitors for their patience while the transition is in progress. In the meantime, if you cannot find what you are looking for, use the new Google search box on our home page.

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 IF YOU ARE reading a printed or photocopied 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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HOUGHTON LIBRARY – TELEPHONE
0191 561 6383 FOR DETAILS.

A SAD FAREWELL



KATH ROLPH

WE'RE SAD TO report the news that Kath Rolph, a Ward Councillor for Houghton-le-Spring, died on December 21st 2012 aged 59 years, following a brave battle against cancer. Kath's husband, Jim Davidson said: *"Kath was always an optimist, and she worked right up to the end, still involved as a councillor until two weeks before she died."* Fellow Houghton Councillor, Dennis Richardson, said: *"She was good at everything, and she was*

meticulous when it came to detail. She has left a hell of a pair of boots to fill."

The Heritage Society wishes to pay tribute to Kath for her years of service to Houghton-le-Spring and in particular the assistance she gave us in rescuing Houghton's WWII Treasures (above) from the Council Offices before their demolition in 2011. Kath was also a fellow member of the Houghton Feast Steering Committee (pictured below, fourth from left, at a meeting in July 2012).

Kath is survived by her husband, Jim, 59, son Ian, 21, and daughter Ruth, 19.



BIG THANKS TO

gentoo

Living for a new generation



THANKS TO A grant from Gentoo's Aspire fund, Houghton Heritage Society is now on a firm footing to be able to continue putting on exhibitions, displays, talks and the Houghton Heritage Walk. Heritage Society Chairman, Paul Lanagan, said: *"The grant of £115 will first and foremost be used for public liability insurance, as without this we could not operate. The remaining funds will be put towards our website which received 79,000 unique visitors in 2012."*

Gentoo Aspire's main aim is to enable local people to improve their community. The

grants are designed to be easy and accessible to anyone living or working with local people in the City of Sunderland. They support a range of different activities which compliment the work of Gentoo, a social housing provider.

HOW TO DONATE

If you would like to support Houghton Heritage Society with a donation, please complete the form at the back of this magazine or see the link on the [HH website](#).



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Can you help solve these Genealogical & Heritage Quests?

ALAN'S THOUGHTS

Hello again, a few of my thoughts in response to readers' questions and queries in the Houghtonian magazines of 2012. Regarding the restriction on brewing mentioned in the letter 'Along Hall Lane', I wonder if the land had earlier belonged to Robinsons the brewers and when it was sold on Robinsons included this condition in the sale documents and it has come down to the present day, just a thought. Regarding Junction Row, the correct name for the hospital was 'The Northern Isolation Hospital'. I was in there for about 6 weeks in 1936 when I had Scarlet fever. My parents used to walk through the fields from Sedgely Road twice a week on Wednesdays and Sundays to see me. They had to stand outside the windows and look into the ward as visitors were not allowed inside. The Southern Isolation Hospital was close to Rainton Bridge. The Grammar School letter from Sheila Wheldon regarding Thomas Arthur King. I was taught Physics by Mr King from 1944 to the early part of 1949. My two brothers, Tom and Harold, were also taught Physics by Mr King. Tom from 1930 to 1937 and Harold from 1936 to 1943. Mr King was an excellent teacher and I liked him very much. The Physics Laboratory was between the Art Room and the Chemistry Laboratory and these were all in the upstairs part of the building. After Mr King died the teaching of Physics for us was taken over by Mr Stavers for the remainder of the year but I am not sure who took over after that as I left in July 1949. The following transcription is regarding by oldest brother Tom who attended Dubmire School and then Houghton Secondary (Grammar) School. The transcription has been kindly provided to me by Paul Robson who runs the 'All Things Bournmoor' website and is from a newspaper cutting contained in a scrapbook of cuttings collected by the late Revd. A J Gadd, former Rector of Bournmoor Church where Tom was a member of the Church Choir for about 9 years. "Sunderland Echo, September 18th, 1937. Scholastic Success.

Mr Tom Vickers, eldest son of Mr and Mrs H. Vickers, of 34 Station Avenue North, Fence Houses, has won the Higher School certificate of the Northern Universities with distinction in pure mathematics and chemistry and the Board of Education has awarded him, as a result, a State Scholarship, the maximum value of which is university fees and £100 per annum for three years. He has been accepted as a student ready for mathematical honours at King's College, Cambridge. In addition to the State Scholarship, he has been awarded a Kieper Exhibition, while a year ago he was awarded a Durham County Council University Exhibition. He has been attending Houghton-le-Spring Secondary School." After being awarded his degree Tom worked for a short time with the then Ministry of Supply following which he worked at the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington, Middlesex. Tom is now 93 years of age and earlier this year there was a video made which appeared on YouTube in which Tom was interviewed by his granddaughter, Harriet Vickers. The video was made in connections with Alan Turing and the development of the ACE computer. If you do a Google search for 'Alan Turing video Youtube' you will find the video in the list. There are also some shots of Tom at the Science Museum in London where the ACE computer is now located. Fatherly family: there was a much earlier 'Fatherly Terrace' at Fence Houses located to the rear of the first section of Front Street as you travel from the Wellington PH, possibly demolished in the late 1960s or early 70s. Gouge Ice cream. Gouge had premises behind Front Street Fence Houses, approximately behind the Newbottle Co-op. Gouge was very active in the years following WW2. For General Beckwith, I believe that the best source of information will be Douglas Smith. Did you ever hear any more about the mining subsidence at the rear of Station Avenue South at Fence Houses? Kind regards

*Alan Vickers
Wearside*

SHEPHERSON VIPOND

Dear Sirs, I wonder if you could help me with information or pointers regarding the following: Shepherdson Vipond, 1855 - 1876. Born and died at Houghton le Spring, but only appearing on the Census record for 1861. Also spelled variously as Shepherdson and Shephardson. I can find absolutely no information at all, except for birth and death dates. Any information would be gratefully received. Thank you very much indeed.

Ms E Jackson

NORAH SMITH B. 1902

I have just found your site and will certainly spend more time looking through it. I came across a request for information on Norah Smith, born 1902. If this is the person in my family tree, she was born Norah Gallagher in Houghton and in 1911 lived in Lambton St. Newtown. She married James Smith. Her father was William Gallagher, born in Port Clarence, Middlesbrough and her mother was Sarah Swindles born in Birstal Yorkshire about 1868 but moved to Croxdale Durham as a child. I am Sarah's great granddaughter by her first husband, William Fisher. Norah had among other siblings. Brothers William & Tommy and sisters Susan Ann & Sarah Gallagher, also a half brother John George Fisher. I remember meeting Norah when she was in her late seventies and living in sheltered housing at either Hetton or Easington Lane. I don't know how old the request is but I hope this is of some use. Regards,

*Olive Smith
New Zealand*

LOCO NO NO?

Can you help me? I am sure I have seen old photo of a loco standing on a crossing at the Wellington Pub, Bankhead. Is this true? Many thanks

George Humes

HOUGHTON SCHOOL

Dear Houghton Heritage Society, recently, I posted a message on

Durham Rootschat regarding Houghton-le-Spring Secondary School. I have a class photograph from approximately 1928 and a report book for that year for my father-in-law, Charlie Paisley. An Alan Vickers responded to my request for help in locating a photograph of the school around this time. He believes your society holds a photograph of the school taken in the 1940s, and he suggested I contact you to see if it would be possible for you to scan me a copy. If this is possible, I would be very appreciative, but if it's not, I do understand. Thank you,

*Carolyn Paisley
Canada*

HOUGHTON CEMETERY

Hello, my name is Joy Dunn my mother was born in Houghton le Spring and has this week passed away in Canada. She was 82 years old. Her Mother and Father are both buried in the Cemetery in Houghton: John Wood and Becca Wood. It was always my Mother's wish to go back home. My brother and I are planning a trip to England and would like to bring my Mother's ashes back to Houghton. We are not if it is not possible to put her with her parents. Kindest Regards,

*Joy Dunn
Canada*

WAR MEMORIALS

I have been trying to find a War memorial for the 1939 - 1945 war for the Houghton lads as my uncle Tot Dorn was killed in the last war. Try to put the photo of Fencehouses War Memorial on the heritage website, please.

Valerie Scott

THANK YOU

Hi Paul, just to say I received your book and thank you for the photos. Give my best wishes to all who keep the Houghton history alive. Have a great Xmas and New Year. Kind regards,

*Luke Dalglish
(old home boy)
Australia*

PHOTO FOCUS



VISITORS SITTING IN the Rectory Park next to the fountain, with the original archway entrance still in situ, circa 1950. What are your memories of Rectory Park which celebrates its 65th anniversary in April 2014?



TRAMS FROM THE Sunderland District Tramways fleet in the Broadway (then Durham Road), circa 1905. The tramcar on the left, number 20 with the open balcony, was a French model; by 1912 it was considered, along with its fourteen French siblings, to be worn out and all were replaced in 1913. The other tramcar, number 7, was an English model by the Brush Company of Loughborough.

Houghton Woods

Valerie Elliott

Paul Lanagan
Chairman

Ruth

Hayden Bateman
Houghton-le-Spring

Desmond Middlemas

Catriona Aird

Steve Glass

Gish Patterson
Houghton-le-Spring

Richard Leadbitter
Newbottle

Barry Cummings
Back in Blighty

Angela Brand

Derek Lawson

I am looking for relatives of the
Cave / Armstrong / Forster

Terry Wall

Billy Mckie

Joan Crawford
Down South

Mick McArdle
Houghton-le-Spring

Paul Lanagan
Chairman

Barry Cummings

Paul Lanagan
Chairman

SCHOOL DAYS IN HOUGHTON

REMEMBERING NEWBOTTLE STREET SCHOOL

NEWBOTTLE STREET Junior Mixed School in Houghton-le-Spring was opened in 1908 as a Council School and was in use for almost a hundred years. There had been a school with earlier origins in the vicinity and there is a record mentioning that the staff of Newbottle Lane Infants School (known as the Pit School) were given a day off for Houghton Feast in 1867. Only six children attended this school, however, and when the new Council School opened it became a training base for Houghton Colliery.

The official opening plaque for the new Junior School, which was similar to many installed throughout schools across the County, including the one in nearby Dubmire Junior School, read as follows: County of Durham Education Committee. This school was opened on 15 Dec 1908 by T. Richardson Esq., C.C.

Unusually, the school was set on a lower level than Newbottle Street and the neighbouring Gaiety and Empire theatres, adjacent to the bank of Station Road. The playground could be looked down upon by anybody sat on the benches which ran alongside the railings on Newbottle Street; it was quite a drop!

The school wasn't just used for the educating of children; a flyer printed by James C Hudson, a printer on Newbottle Street, shows that the Houghton-le-Spring Sub-Committee of Durham County Higher Education offered evening classes at the school. Commencing on September 24th 1917, every intending student had to be interviewed by the Organising Teacher, Mr Thomas S Elliott, and pass an examination before being allowed to attend!

Luke Daglish, 73, now of Queensland, Australia, went to Newbottle Street School during the War years and

remembers sailors visiting his school: *"It must have been around 1945. We had to write letters to the ship's crew and that day every kid got a tin of cocoa. I found out later that my father was in the Navy on the RN Deep Sea Rescue Tugs. I suppose that is why I joined the Merchant Navy at sixteen."*

These visits were, of course, to encourage the children to donate to the War Effort.

Harry Smith, 84, of Middlesbrough also has vivid memories of attending Newbottle Street School during the Second World War. *"One day at school an ARP warden came to show us some apparatus. In front of the assembled kids he demonstrated this gear, which looked like a bird table but with the board on top slanting forward so you could see it. He said if the Germans dropped any gas we might not be able to detect it ourselves. So this board, which was stuck in the ground near the school entrance, had special paint on it which would change colour if there were any gas about. Naturally, like most of the others, I didn't take my eyes off it for three weeks, and in class from wanting to sit beside the exit, now everyone wanted to sit by the windows! We soon as got back to normal, until one day a lad had been to the toilets, which were of course outside in those days, came back running through the school, still holding up his pants, screaming at the top of his voice "Sir! Sir! It's gone green, it's gone green!" Pandemonium and any gasmask will do! However, when it was sorted it was found the lad had got himself a load of plums and scoffed them the night before. It was his poo that gone green!"*

Cliff Brown, who was born in 1951, painfully remembers attending the school in the

post-War years. *"I don't remember a great lot about actually being at school, apart from being run over on the school crossing one day and ending up with an undiagnosed broken leg! The crossing lady on Newbottle Street was a Mrs Tremble."*

Cliff's other memories are less painful, including his abiding memory of the Junior school headmaster, Mr Smith. *"He was a jovial Pickwickian character who always told a joke whenever he came to see our class teachers. The teacher I remember most was Mr Crawford, who walked on water as far as that generation of Houghtonites is concerned."*

The school had a separate entrance for boys and girls, which was a common feature of schools from this period.

However, Cliff can recollect a more unusual aspect of the school: *"Our classroom was a prefab on the field next to the gasworks at the bottom of Station Road - the opposite side to the rest of the school!"*

It is unknown how long this prefab was in use, but it could be an indication of Houghton's post-War baby boom, where the old Edwardian classrooms were too cramped for the growing roll call.

These limitations of the outdated building also contributed to its demise. It closed in 1993 and was demolished to make way for a new row of shop units and Houghton Library, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2011.

By Paul Lanagan
Chairman



C1993



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Can you help solve these Genealogical & Heritage Quests?

HOUGHTON'S CENOTAPH

William Oxley married Hannah Scott, daughter of my great grandfather George Scott. William's name appears on the cenotaph in Houghton.

*Charles Scott
USA*

HODS FEEDBACK

Had a good day: first at the heritage photo gallery this morning, then on top of Penshaw Monument this afternoon. Nice to meet people you haven't met before from the heritage Facebook group – but you, need a bit bigger place next time! With regards to the photograph on Fyassbyuk.com where the spring has an arrow pointing to it, it went under the road down towards Grasswell bridge, came into view the other side, was open stream down to the curve in the road. It went under the road and was open right at the back of the Burnside Estate houses down to the main stream with the foot bridge over it. I fell in it a few times. Don't know what year it was piped in, but was still open stream until the mid 1960s.

*Norman Sweeting
Houghton-le-Spring*

THANK YOU

Me and Den went to the Houghton Heritage Society exhibition on Saturday - it was fascinating! Thanks to all concerned for making it possible.

Jean Carr

THANKS AGAIN

Just spent a lovely afternoon on the Houghton Heritage Walk. I thoroughly enjoyed it, thanks so much Paul - you're a mine of useful information.

*Val Milnes
Dairy Lane
Houghton-le-Spring*

BBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBB!

Oh how this weather brings back memories of the early 1950s when we had no central heating, no fitted carpets, no winter coats and

no thermal gloves. We played out in it and we were never ill. We had fun with odd socks on our hands because we hadn't any proper ones to wear and if you were lucky a clippy mat on the floor over the canvas! Anyone know the whereabouts of a lass called Silvia Patrickson? I went to school with her and we were good friends right up until we started working.

Anne Peel

COLLIERY ROW?

Does anyone know where Corving Row was in Fence Houses, turn of the century?

Dawn Finnigan

PAUL LANAGAN REPLIED:

Could this have been Colliery Row. I have never heard of a Corving Row.

*Paul Lanagan
Chairman*

NEW HERRINGTON PIT

Does anyone know how I can find photos of New Herrington Colliery from year 1900 to 1924, particularly of the horse keeper? There must be some knocking about. Also, any information about the horse keeper, William Connelly or William Connolly. Thank you.

Cheryl May Brown

HAVE A BUTCHERS AT THIS

Are there any old pictures of Market place? I am interested in the Wilson family butchers in early/mid 1800s.

Ian Ridley

HOUGHTON'S MAYOR

Hello, just wondering if you could help me out? Who is the Mayor of Houghton-le-Spring and what help has he or she really done? I could really do with some feedback if you don't mind.

Joseph Robert Service

PAUL LANAGAN REPLIED:

Houghton does not have and has never had a Mayor.

*Paul Lanagan
Chairman*

GOSPEL HALL

Can any of the oldies remember the Gospel Hall at the bottom of George Street? My cousin used to go to Sunday School there but because we were Catholics my Dad wouldn't let me go. I used to sneak out on a Sunday afternoon and sit on the steps outside and join in with all the songs but I don't think my Dad ever found out. Have you any photos of the George Street, Robinson Street, Mautland Street area, which was demolished to make way for the new ring road? I think the area is now called Houghtonside. I spent many happy hours at my grandparents house in George Street and other relatives lived in Robinson Street, Hopper Street and Balmer Street. I lived in Balfour Street in the 1950s and used to play in the old cemetery. I don't remember the bluebell woods but remember going for picnics on the opposite side of the road but we called it "up on the moors". You had to be very careful as there was huge dips in the grass due to subsidence caused by old mine workings.

Christine Bradley

CAN YOU HELP ROWLAND?

Has anyone got information on a woman that worked in the fruit and veg shop in Mautland Street near where the Coop is now? She is married to Barry Walker, a friend of mine who I am trying to trace. If anyone knows anything about this family please let me know I will be most obliged. Barry Walker must be in his seventies now. The last time I saw him he lived up Church Street in Houghton before they put the A690 road through. Thanks for any help.

*Rowland Daley
Aka Ron*

HOUGHTON CUT

Does anyone have any photographs of Houghton Cut looking down over Sunderland Street and any photos of Pottery Yard?

Carole Allcroft

RACING DOGS

Fields with names: I can only recall a couple. The Store Field was the corner formed by Coaley Lane and railway on the school side. The store (co-op) used it to give their cart horses a break and hold cattle and sheep till ready for the slaughter house. Next to that was a three cornered field which some referred to as The Shoulder of Mutton field but most called it, wait for it, The Three Cornered Field. Surprisingly this field and its access was used for recreation and the like. Remember our old fella and his mates trained their whippets and greyhounds there. They got an old bike from somewhere (Shiney maybe), turned it upside down, removed the rear tyre and wrapped a couple of hundred yards of cord round the wheel rim and fastened some rags on the end of the cord as lure. Then taking a couple of dogs, one of the lads would drag the lure to the other end of the field As the one at bike started turning the pedals as fast as he could the whippets were let go. So with the lure hurtling down field the whippets racing after them, half the kids from Newbottle and Sunnyside chasing after them and every mongrel pet within sniffing distance after them! A good time was had by all.

*Harry Smith
Middlesbrough*

CATHOLIC SCHOOL DAYS

I remember from St. Michaels School - Miss Cain, Miss Dunleavy, Mrs Patty Parslow, Dennis Creegan, Miss Murdann, and Mr Graney (Mr Creegan came to Niagara Falls and visited with me and the family when my two were just small). There was a little fat lady who got mad at me for writing so big and then too small - she was very bad tempered. You will have to help me out with some of the others ladies as time has me not remembering them. Mrs Parslow had me for sewing as well and it took me two years to French seam a nightgown which was like a tent when I finished.

*Patricia Armstrong Crawford
Canada*

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

A LAST LOOK AT HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING'S
DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS IN 2012



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(1) The Diamond Jubilee Beacon was lit at the top of St Michael's Church tower on June 6th 2012. Revellers were treated to a short firework display. Before it ended, Paul Lanagan suggested to the Rector that the crowd sing the National Anthem - which they then did with gusto.

(2) Houghton Heritage Society's annual exhibition in the Broadway was attended by hundreds at Houghton Diamond Jubilee Feast 2012.

(3) The Society had the support of Paralympian Hazel Robson, who brought her medals along, much to the interest of families who came to the Olympic Fun tent on the Broadway.

(4) Heritage Society members were guests at the Queen of Diamonds

Banquet in St Michael's Church, part of the special Houghton Diamond Jubilee Feast events.

(5) The Mayor of Sunderland opened the Houghton Feast fairground for invited children from the area's special schools for free rides thanks to the generosity of the Showmen's Guild.

(6) Billy Purvis made another reappearance at the Houghton Feast Parade. This year he had help from the wild Gilpin Boar!

(7) Heritage Society members in the Feast parade. Peter and Joan are carrying the banner, while Feast Logo competition winner, Bradley, sees up the rear.



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Can you help solve these Genealogical & Heritage Quests?

THE WHEATLEYS

Hi, just got round to joining Houghton Heritage Society and seeing pictures of Penelope Wilton who is a cousin of mine, well a few times removed. I was a Wheatley before I married and Grandfather was Robert (Bob) who had the corner shop in Houghton. His father was also Robert Wheatley. The only other relative I had dealings with was Grandad's brother, George who had the Empire cinema in Houghton. I was born in Essex in 1945, Dad was stationed there during the war, married my Mam who lived in Clacton and they came up to the north east after he was demobbed. They lived at Easington lane with his Mam and his step-father before we moved to Elizabeth Street, when I was about 3. I went to Newbottle Street School and on to Houghton Grammar school. I have one brother called - guess what? - yup, Robert and a sister, Sue. My Grandfather married twice more after my Gran and she also remarried - that's the Wheatleys for you! There is a lot more and I have been wanting to join you for a while, so hope I can be of further help and finding out a bit more. I have a family tree that Dad got from a cousin which I am sure you may have seen but can send you a copy anytime - then you can see Meshsak, Shadrak and Aendigo Wheatley!

Glenys Gibson

MYSTERY GARDEN

Hi Paul, regarding the 'mystery garden' photograph on the Houghton Heritage website, looking at the photo and the angle it looks like Gregory Terrace area, which in 1911 was a strip of allotments and what looks like small outbuildings according to the OS map of the time. I've been trawling the maps of the area trying to look at when Wellington House was around - I can only find it on the 1901 census but it looks like the building may have been around from around 1870s until the late 1950s/early 60s. It was the home of Robert Fatherly who was a grocer/draper (possibly who Fatherly Terrace was named after?) Who knows, it could be

the mystery house from the other photo on your site! Hitting a brick wall trying to find out any info.

Dawn

BRILIANT WEBSITE

I spent all afternoon looking through your brilliant web site and remembering many memories of my childhood and young life in Houghton-le-Spring. My mam and dad, Jim and Betty Gettings, lived and died in Houghton and some of my family still live near while I and my husband have lived in Spain for over 10 years. We were still able to recall memories from your photos! Keep up the good work and thank you from other expats in Spain.

*Elizabeth Mary Wilson
Spain*

PIT PONIES

As a young lad I worked in Houghton Pit and well remember the ponies, their stables underground and bales of 'choppy', their main hay food. They all had their own temperament and were normally named after a particular trait or marking. They were not neglected or badly treated, quite the contrary; they were looked after by the lads who worked with them. To the putters they were their main tool and a bad pony was as much use as a blunt saw. My farther, Gordon Cummings, was a shot firer at Houghton and directly my boss; he didn't give me a second chance at anything, told once and that was it! There was one pony called Bart - bugger used to bite if you were not careful! I don't know if you have heard any stories about the sixth sense that the ponies had, many a miners life has been saved by a pony refusing to pass a particular spot, and finding a few minutes later that a roof fall had taken place. They knew a thing or two.

Barry Cummings

HOUGHTON PIT

My dad, Gordon Cummings, worked at Houghton Pit until November 1963 as a shot firer. I can remember going to Houghton Pit on Fridays to get his pay and

to pay his union dues. We were allowed to go so far down the pit to have a look and to this day there is a notice on a piece of wood, written by dad and signed by him stating not to feed the ponies. Jam sandwiches were the main thing miners took to eat in those days. Not good food for ponies. He then moved to Staffordshire to work in the mines. He started work at Chatterly Whitfield Colliery in Staffordshire, which is now a museum. Can anyone remember the fresh fish man who used to come round Newbottle with a horse and cart?

*Avril Elliott
Staffordshire*

SWANNS & DIXONS

Dear Houghton Heritage, I belong to the Dringhouses Local History Group here in York (we have a website) and I researched and wrote the chapter in our recent publication ("Discovering Dringhouses") 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. My phone number is attached if you would find it useful to phone me. Very many thanks for any help you or another

member of your Society may be able to give. With best wishes.

*Elizabeth Smith
York*

NEWS & DISCUSSIONS

I love looking at the news and discussions in the Houghtonian magazine. I grew up in number 3 Shakespeare Street, Houghton-le-Spring, in the 1940s and 50s when my father Billy Robson worked at Herrington Pit.

*Maureen Brown
London*

REALLY GOOD

Hello, I've just discovered the Houghton Heritage website as I'm researching my family history. I think it is really good - thank you!

Vee Jordan

BRILLIANT AFTERNOON

Hello Paul, just a note of thanks for the brilliant afternoon you organised at Houghton. Keep up the good work!

*Pat Burn
Silksworth*

HIGH QUALITY

Dear Paul, the more I visit our Houghton-le-Spring website, the more I realise what an enormous amount of high quality effort you have expended, and continue to expend, in exploring the heritage of my birthplace. I am fascinated by the wealth of information you are generating.

*Dr Jack Morley
President
Houghton Heritage Society*

FYASSBYUK.COM

Paul, the Houghton Heritage group is the best thing on Facebook! Thanks for setting it up.

Val Hughes

* * * * *



**MORE QUESTS IN
THE SUMMER 2013 EDITION**

THE GREAT MINERS' STRIKE



DURING HOUGHTON FEAST, Burnside Primary School recreated a 1912 photograph where the hungry children of Houghton's miners were given 1,000 free loaves of bread courtesy of Bruce & Tucker during the Miners' Strike on Good Friday April 5th 1912. On the preceding Monday a riot had broken out in Houghton and a newspaper later reported: *"The shops in the town were boarded up yesterday, and the streets were paraded by a strong force of police. When the mob attempted, late on Monday night, to rush the Empire Theatre, the manager promised he would give them a free view of one film. As the men were leaving the theatre, they raided a pork butcher's shop, carrying of pork-pies and hams, while many of them walked with strings of sausages round their necks. Next, they smashed a grocery and provision shop. The women were as prominent in the rioting as the men, and carried off apronfuls of goods. The crowd also tried to break into an ice-cream shop, but the Proprietress [Mrs Nelide Rianil] kept them at bay, with a pail of dirty water, which she declared was vitriol, and which she spread about with a mop. Her husband came to her assistance, and threatened to shoot the rioters with a gun."*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY HOUGHTON ART CLUB

Houghton-le-Spring Heritage Society sends fraternal good wishes to Houghton Art Club in its 25th anniversary year.

1987-2012





IN FLANDERS FIELDS...

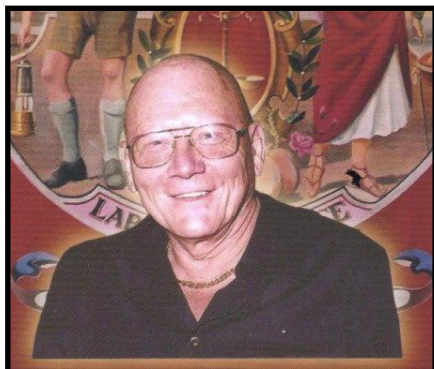
IN NOVEMBER 2012 we placed a poppy wreath on Houghton's cenotaph in remembrance of all the brave souls who lost their lives in conflicts around the world.

Sadly, several weeks later the wreath was noticed to be missing despite having been secured to the memorial with a piece of wire.

The Society hopes to lay a replacement soon.

CLASSIFIEDS

IN MEMORIAM DAVE GUY



1946 - 2012

Due to illness, the Durham Miners' Gala of July 2012 was the first Big Meeting to be missed by David Guy during his presidency of the Durham Miners Association. Sadly, David died shortly afterwards on July 25th aged 66 years.

David Guy was the president of the Durham Miners Association for over 26 years and from 1989 the president of the National Union of Mine Workers north-east area.

His death leaves a great void in the coalfield as he was also chairman of the trustees of the north-east coal industry social welfare organisation and the miners' representative on the northern regional TUC council.

David was born in the mining town of Seaham, Co Durham, the son of a mining family. On leaving school he started work at Dawdon Colliery where his union activities commenced when he was elected onto the Dawdon Miners Lodge Committee. In the late 1970s he was elected Lodge Treasurer. In the 1980s he was elected onto the NUM Durham Area Executive Committee and he played a very active role in the great strike of 1984-85.

Dave was also active socially in the mining communities - he was a past chairman of Dawdon Working Men's Club.

Obituary extracts from
www.morningstaronline.co.uk

Seaham & Houghton
STAR

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Twitter using @houghtonheritag
(no 'e' at the end). If you're not on
Twitter you can still see our tweets in the
feed on our website home page.

LOCAL HISTORY MONTH MAY 2013

May 2013 is designated Local History
Month and Houghton Heritage
Society will be contributing to the
Sunderland event along with other
members of Sunderland Heritage
Forum.

THE HOUGHTON HERITAGE WALK
FRIDAY MAY 24TH AT 6 PM
GUIDED BY PAUL LANAGAN

LINDEN TRAVERS 100

SATURDAY MAY 25TH AT 1 PM
CELEBRATING HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

For further details of what is planned
please visit the Events website at
www.houghtonleespring.org.uk/events

**The next issue of the HOUGHTONIAN will be available
to download in Summer 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):

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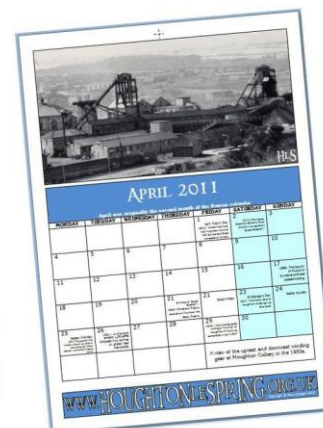
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THE HOUGHTONIAN

PUBLISHED BY BOOKS OF THE NORTH

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VOL 2 ISSUE 4 SPRING 2013

ISSN 1757-3890

V002IS04VE02



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