



1 Hetton Hall

Hetton Centre is built on land where Hetton Hall once stood. The exact date of construction of the Hall is uncertain. A house here was sold on the death of John Spearman in 1725 to the Dowager Countess of Strathmore. The later house was built in the classical style and had a number of reputable owners including vicars, doctors and the colliery owner Nicholas Wood. By the end of the 19th century it was in a dilapidated condition and it was demolished in 1923.



2 Infants School

The Infants School was opened in 1872 and was built to hold 320 children. As early education was not compulsory the average daily attendance was 250 children. The school was initially supported by the Hetton Coal Company. It was built of limestone from one of the local quarries and was enlarged by a brick extension erected in the 1920s at the rear. The windows were built high in the walls to prevent children looking out and being distracted from their studies.



3 Sleepers from the Hetton Railway

The line was surveyed by the engineer George Stephenson in 1820 and completed by 1822 supervised by his brother Robert. It ran from the Lyons Colliery to the staiths on the River Wear at Sunderland. It was the first railway in the world to use moving locomotives. Later it was extended from Elmore Colliery and Eppleton Colliery. Stationary engines hauled the chaldrons full of coal over Warden Law, and 5 self acting inclines worked at points throughout its length. It closed in 1959.



4 Primitive Methodist Chapel

In 1823 Primitive Methodism entered Hetton. A dwelling house was used in 1823 and this was shortly followed a year later when a chapel was opened with a capacity of 500. With a rising population a new chapel in Union Street was opened in May 1858. At first there was an acoustic problem but this was remedied in 1865 when a gallery was installed. A Sunday school was as popular as the chapel and in 1923 the chapel had over 150 members and 306 Sunday School scholars.



5 Pavilion Theatre & Cinema

Ralph Barton (of salt works fame) built the Pavilion in 1909. It showed both silent films as well as live productions. The first manager was Mr. Linden Travers, father of the actor Bill Travers. Silent films were accompanied by live music from a trio. In 1923 the Hetton Choral and Amateur Operatic Society performed "Highwayman Love." The Three Musketeers film was shown in 1921 and the Prisoner of Zenda in 1922. The Pavilion closed in June 1959.



6 Nicholas Wood's House

Born in Ryton, by 1811 he started work as an apprentice manager at Killingworth Colliery. Here he met engineer George Stephenson and they became firm friends. He worked with Stephenson on many of his projects. He helped form the Institute of Mining and in 1844 he became a partner in the Hetton Coal Company and managed the Hetton Lyons pit. Due to his expertise on mining he became a member of the Royal Society. He died in 1865.

Hetton-le-Hole Heritage Walk

This circular walk starts and finishes at the Hetton Centre. It is an easy walk, not strenuous in any way, but care must be taken when crossing main roads. Please use pedestrian crossings where possible. It looks at a variety of heritage locations in the town. The varied locations reflect the life of a mining community which began in 1820 and continued well into the 20th century, looking at the people and places which gave it both character and importance.

Did you know...



Walking is a simple, free and green way to increase your fitness levels. Research shows that walking 1 mile in 15 minutes burns up the equivalent number of calories as running a mile in 8.5 minutes.

Regular physical activity not only improves fitness but also contributes to the well-being of the body. To help you, Hetton Local History Group have produced two further digital Heritage Walks which cover the boundaries of Hetton, describing the history of a number of locations within the township. Both walks can be downloaded from our website, (hettonlocalhistory.org.uk), and printed out prior to the walk or downloaded during the walk using a smart phone and QR codes. Please give them a go- you will enjoy the result.



7 Wesleyan Chapel

The Wesleyan Chapel in Front Street is a large stone building. It was built in 1824 and enlarged in 1888 at a cost of £875 including a new organ. The internal furniture was made of pine and the building was built to hold 500 people. The Sunday School, a small adjacent building, was built in 1859 and was said to hold up to 400 scholars. Additionally there was a reading room and library containing 380 volumes as part of the Sunday School. The building closed as a chapel in 1965.



8 Barrington School

This school, made of local limestone was erected in 1834 by subscription. This superseded most schools in County Durham. One of the main subscribers was the Honourable Mrs Barrington a member of the rich illustrious Co Durham family. Initially the school was mixed but it reverted to being a boys only school when the girls' school in Bog Row opened in 1893. It held an average daily attendance of 500 and by the late 1930s when it closed there were 120 boys in 4 classes. It converted to a supermarket in the 1970s.



9 Bob Paisley Memorial

Born in Hetton in 1919, as a school boy he excelled at football. He then worked as a miner, and as an apprentice bricklayer before becoming a professional footballer. Following army service he had a successful playing career with Liverpool, finally becoming manager in 1974. Under him Liverpool won 6 League Championships, 3 League Cups, 1 UEFA Cup, 1 European Super Cup, 5 Charity Shields and 3 European Cups. A great club manager, he retired in 1983 and died in 1996.



10 Hetton House

Hetton House is one of the principal houses of the town and certainly one of the oldest. It may well have been built as early as the 1720s and was bought by the Lyon family (Earls of Strathmore) in 1746. On a 1776 map it is shown as a single rectangular building within a substantial garden. The building comprises three adjoining sections, the largest is 18th century the middle part 19th century and the east section was built in the 20th century. Used as a house and later as Council offices it was finally closed in 2010.



11 Standard Theatre

In the 19th century people made their own entertainment often by having a mini theatre at the back of a public house. In 1840 the yard behind the Brewers Arms was known as Collets Theatre. In 1874 the Standard Theatre was built with a capacity of 800 people. Built on a hillside this unique theatre had a gallery, a raised balcony, along the upper side and stalls lower down. It lasted until 1916 when it was converted to a bus garage, hence the big door on the roadside.



12 Village Smithy

Built in the 18th century it is one of the oldest buildings in Hetton. Made of magnesian limestone with a red pantile roof, it was built alongside the lane leading from Easington Village to Houghton in order to maximise regular passing trade. The forge originally would have been heated with charcoal, then coal and coke. In the 1940s Elizabeth Emmett worked here as a blacksmith. The Smithy was open daily until 1989 when the current owner began to work in a more mobile way. Limestone Landscapes Partnership are going to restore the Smithy and make it available to the public by 2013.

This walk was developed by Hetton Local History Group with the support of Sunderland City Council through its Strategic Initiatives.

We hope participants enjoy the walk and get satisfaction from the information provided.

Further information regarding the history of Hetton-le-Hole can be obtained by viewing the website of the Hetton Local History Group at: www.hettonlocalhistory.org.uk

The local history group meets on the last Monday of each month at 7pm in the Eppleton and Hetton Community Hall.



Hetton Local History Group
2013

Supported by the Heritage Lottery

"All Our Stories" initiative

