



HOUGHTON FEAST

celebrate local culture

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

FRIDAY OCTOBER 6TH – SUNDAY 15TH 2023

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FOR THE DURATION

□ HOUGHTON FEAST FUN FAIR

All the fun of the fair for everyone young and old, featuring the latest thrill rides, such as Dodgems, Waltzers, Jump 'n' Smile Frogs, Miami and Tagada, plus family favourites including Hook-a-duck, Hoopla and side stalls. The Houghton Feast fun fair is organised by Mr John Murphy of the Showmen's Guild (Northern Section) on Rectory Field for the duration of the Festival. Please obey all signage and guidelines at the site.

VENUE Rectory Field, Dairy Lane, Houghton-le-Spring, DH4 5BH

DATE & TIMES

Fri Oct 6 th	6:00pm – 10:00pm
Sat Oct 7 th	1:00pm – 10:00pm
Sun Oct 8 th	CLOSED
Mon Oct 9 th – Fri Oct 13 th	6:00pm – 10:00pm
Sat Oct 14 th	1:00pm – 10:00pm
Sun Oct 15 th	CLOSED

CAR PARKS

- Station Road (93 spaces), DH4 5AH
- Brinkburn Crescent (80 spaces), DH4 5HA
- Imperial Buildings (44 spaces), DH4 4DJ
- The Old Rectory (32 spaces), DH4 4BB

LESSEE Mr John Murphy

FACEBOOK /funfairmurphys

□ LIGHT UP HOUGHTON RECTORY PARK

Bring all the family to see the community illuminations in Houghton's Rectory Park, including the new CRILL piece in honour of the new King. The lights and illuminations, which made a return to the park in 2021 after many years of absence, were funded by kind donations from the public. So wrap up warmly, bring a torch and be prepared for making magical memories with your children in the atmospheric park!

VENUE	The Rectory Park, Houghton-le-Spring, DH4 4BB	ORGANISERS	The Old Rectory & Houghton Residents C.I.C.
DATE & TIME	Daily from dusk	WEB	www.theoldrectory.co.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/TheOldRectoryHoughtonleSpring
CAR PARKS	Imperial Buildings (44 spaces), DH4 4DJ The Old Rectory (32 spaces), DH4 4BB		
FUNDED BY	Public donations, community fundraising and The National Lottery Community Fund		

□ JOHN MAWSTON: A LIFE OF SERVICE

Historical items from the collection of the late Councillor John Mawston, former Mayor of Sunderland and Chairman of The Houghton Feast Steering Committee, will be on display at Houghton Library for the duration of the Houghton Coronation Feast. Some of the items are very rare and include: Houghton Area Office ceremonial stone-laying mallet, leather-bound Freedom of the City of Sunderland scroll plus Houghton Urban District Council trinkets and visitors' book.

VENUE	Houghton Library, Newbottle Street, DH4 4AF	ORGANISER	Houghton Heritage Society
DATE & TIME	During the Library's published opening times	WEB	www.houghtonlespring.org.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/houghton.heritage
CAR PARK	Station Road (93 spaces), DH4 5AH	EMAIL	info@houghtonlespring.org.uk

□ PARISH CHURCH OPEN DAYS

The ancient church of St. Michael & All Angels' has been at the heart of our community for over a thousand years and will be opened daily during the Festival. The church is steeped in history and visitors are welcome to explore the many visual displays. Discover the story of the Apostle of the North, Bernard Gilpin our 16th century Rector, who was born over 500 years ago, and meet the Houghton dragons! Take this opportunity to view Gilpin's altar tomb as well as the colourful Gilpin stained glass window and other treasures including the Houghton Colliery lamp and the huge Risen Christ sculpture by Fenwick Lawson. Re-trace the footsteps of your ancestors and don't forget to sign the visitors' book. Refreshments will be available.

VENUE	Houghton Parish Church, Church Street, DH4 4DN	ORGANISER	St Michael & All Angels Church
DATE & TIME	Tue Oct 10 th – Fri Oct 13 th 11:00am – 1:00pm	WEB	www.stmichaels-hls-org.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/stmichaels-hls
CAR PARK	Imperial Buildings (44 spaces), DH4 4DJ	TEL	0191 512 1769

FEAST LAUNCH DAY

FRIDAY OCTOBER 6TH 2023

☐ HOUGHTON ART CLUB EXHIBITION

Day one of Houghton Art Club's annual exhibition of local artists' work in the hall of Houghton Methodist Church, Mautland Street. Art Club members will be on hand for advice and discussion. Some of the artwork is available for sale and light refreshments will be available. The exhibition continues on Saturday and Monday.

VENUE	Methodist Church, Mautland Street, DH4 4BH	ORGANISER	Houghton Art Club
DATE & TIME	Friday October 6th 2023 9:30am - 4:00pm	WEB	www.houghtonartclub.webs.com
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/Houghton-Art-Club-613535218708029
CAR PARK	Pottery Yard (48 spaces), DH4 4BA	TEL	N/A

☐ THE FUN FAIR: A SPECIAL OPENING

Children and carers from local Special Educational Needs & Disability schools will welcome the Right Worshipful, the Mayor of Sunderland, Councillor Dorothy Trueman, to The Houghton Coronation Feast fairground for the official opening of the fun fair. This event was first held in 2001 and has seen thousands of SEND children enjoying supervised free rides thanks to the generosity of Murphy's Fun Fairs (please see other event listing for opening times of the fairground for the general public). If you would like to involve your SEND school, please contact the organisers by e-mail no later than September 29th 2023.

VENUE	Rectory Field, Dairy Lane, Houghton, DH4 5BH	ORGANISERS	Murphy's Fun Fairs & Houghton Heritage Society
DATE & TIME	Friday October 6th 2023	FACEBOOK	/funfairmurphys
ADMISSION	By invitation only	EMAIL	info@houghtonlespring.org.uk
SPONSOR	COSTA, Newbottle Street		

OPENING CEREMONY

FRIDAY OCTOBER 6TH 2023

☐ THE GAVIOLI ORGAN

The Gavioli 86 key trumpet barrel organ, which dates from 1886, will be in operation at intervals throughout the night giving The Broadway an old time musical atmosphere as we await the start of the official Houghton Coronation Feast Opening Ceremony. The organ is being presented by Mr Michael Houlden whose family has owned it for over 80 years.

VENUE	The Broadway, Houghton-le-Spring, DH4 4BB	ORGANISER	Sunderland City Council
DATE & TIME	Friday October 6 th 2023 6:00pm - 8:00pm	WEB	www.mysunderland.co.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/VisitSundUK
CAR PARK	Station Road (93 spaces), DH4 5AH	TEL	N/A

☐ FACE PAINTING & FUN

Regally decorated stilt-walkers will be entertaining the crowds in The Broadway as we eagerly await the launch of The Houghton Coronation Feast! Fantastic face painters and a balloon modeller will also be around to occupy the children until the main show kicks off at 7pm. Keep your eyes peeled for the costumed characters!

VENUE	The Broadway, Houghton-le-Spring, DH4 4BB	ORGANISER	Sunderland City Council
DATE & TIME	Friday October 6 th 2023 6:00pm – 7:00pm	WEB	www.mysunderland.co.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/VisitSundUK
CAR PARK	Station Road (93 spaces), DH4 5AH	TEL	N/A
SPONSOR	Sunderland City Council, Coalfield Area Committee		

☐ OPENING CEREMONY 2023

The Houghton Coronation Feast will be launched with a spectacular community show in The Broadway as we continue celebrating the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. Houghton Pipe Band, Zazz dancers, and The Houghton Feast Children's Choir will entertain the gathered crowds! At the conclusion of the outdoor show, the Houghton Feast illuminations in The Broadway will be switched on by the Right Worshipful, the Mayor of Sunderland, Councillor Dorothy Trueman. This event is not to be missed: live entertainment by the community for the community - and best of all it is free!

VENUE	The Broadway, Houghton-le-Spring, DH4 4BB	ORGANISER	Sunderland City Council
DATE & TIME	Friday October 6 th 2023 7:00pm – 8:00pm	WEB	www.mysunderland.co.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/VisitSundUK
CAR PARK	Station Road (93 spaces), DH4 5AH	TEL	N/A
SPONSOR	Sunderland City Council, Coalfield Area Committee		

FESTIVAL DAY

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7TH 2023

☐ HOUGHTON HERITAGE PHOTO EXHIBITION

Rare and unseen vintage photographs of Houghton will be displayed to celebrate the festival's theme of 'King of Coal'. The images will be erected outdoors on the Rectory Park railings in The Broadway and come from the vast collections of Houghton Heritage Society.

VENUE	Rectory Park Railings, The Broadway, DH4 4BB	ORGANISER	Houghton Heritage Society
DATE & TIME	Saturday October 7 th 2023 9:00am - 4:00pm	WEB	www.houghtonlespring.org.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/houghton.heritage
CAR PARK	Brinkburn Crescent (80 spaces), DH4 5HA	EMAIL	info@houghtonlespring.org.uk

☐ GRAND DISPLAY OF MINING BANNERS

Members of Houghton & Lambton Banner Group will be on hand in the Welfare Hall to share their knowledge about the history of the many mining banners on exhibit there. The Houghton Colliery banner is the town's 7th and was made in 2004 using funds raised by Patricia Simmons and the late George Rowe. It is paraded every year at Durham Big Meeting but this is your chance to see it up close in its home town. Free entry to the public with a free public car park nearby with 80 spaces.

VENUE	Houghton Welfare Hall, Station Road, DH4 5AH	ORGANISER	Houghton & Lambton Banner Group
DATE & TIME	Saturday October 7 th 2023 9:30am - 3:30pm	WEB	www.houghtonfeast.co.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/HoughtonFeast
CAR PARK	Brinkburn Crescent (80 spaces), DH4 5HA	TEL	N/A

☐ HOUGHTON ART CLUB EXHIBITION

Day two of Houghton Art Club's annual exhibition of local artists' work in the hall of Houghton Methodist Church, Mautland Street. Art Club members will be on hand for advice and discussion. Some of the artwork is available for sale and light refreshments will be available. The exhibition continues on Monday.

VENUE	Methodist Church, Mautland Street, DH4 4BH	ORGANISER	Houghton Art Club
DATE & TIME	Saturday October 7 th 2023 9:30am - 4:00pm	WEB	www.houghtonartclub.webs.com
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/Houghton-Art-Club-613535218708029
CAR PARK	Brinkburn Crescent (80 spaces), DH4 5HA	TEL	N/A

☐ PARISH CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

The historical heart of The Houghton Feast, St. Michael's Church, will be throwing open its doors and is the ideal place to take time out from the festivities in the nearby Broadway, as you peruse the stalls and enjoy a hot coffee.

VENUE	Houghton Parish Church, The Broadway, DH4 4DN	ORGANISER	St Michael & All Angels Church
DATE & TIME	Saturday October 7 th 2023 10:30am - 3:30pm	WEB	www.stmichaels-hls.org.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/stmichaels-hls
CAR PARK	Brinkburn Crescent (80 spaces), DH4 5HA	TEL	0191 512 1769

☐ FAIRGROUND MODEL SHOW

The John Murphy Fairground Model Show is a special exhibition of fun fair models, named in honour of the late showman John Murphy who supported Houghton Feast for 70 years. Now in its 5th year, on display will be working and static models, many of which have been skilfully made by local fairground enthusiasts.

VENUE	The Old Rectory, Houghton-le-Spring, DH4 4BB	ORGANISER	Houghton Heritage Society
DATE & TIME	Saturday October 7 th 2023 11:00am - 4:00pm	WEB	www.houghtonlespring.org.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/houghton.heritage
CAR PARK	Brinkburn Crescent (80 spaces), DH4 5HA	EMAIL	info@houghtonlespring.org.uk
SUPPORTED BY	The Old Rectory (Centre for Social Enterprise & Community Business)		

☐ THE GAVIOLI ORGAN

The Gavioli 86 key trumpet barrel organ, which dates from 1886, will be in operation at intervals throughout the day giving The Broadway an old time musical atmosphere. The organ is being presented by Mr Michael Houlden whose family has owned it for over 80 years.

VENUE	The Broadway, Houghton-le-Spring, DH4 4BB	ORGANISER	Mr Michael Houlden
DATE & TIME	Saturday October 7 th 2023 12:00pm - 4:00pm	WEB	www.houghtonfeast.co.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/HoughtonFeast
CAR PARK	Imperial Buildings (44 spaces), DH4 4DJ	TEL	N/A
SPONSOR	Sunderland City Council Coalfield Area Committee		

☐ PIPES & DRUMS – LIVE!

Houghton-le-Spring Pipe Band, ably led by Pipe Major Paul Hamilton, will be performing in The Broadway and along Newbottle Street as the pipers and drummers make their way to the Carnival Parade starting point. The band has been contributing to the Feast for decades and this is your opportunity to see and hear professional local musicians for free!

VENUE	The Broadway, Houghton, DH4 4BB	ORGANISER	Houghton & District Piping Society
DATE & TIME	Saturday October 7 th 2023 12:30pm - 1:30pm	WEB	www.hls-pb.co.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/ Houghton-le-spring pipe band
CAR PARK	Brinkburn Crescent (80 spaces), DH4 5HA	TEL	N/A
SPONSOR	Sunderland City Council Coalfield Area Committee		

AN ANCIENT TRADITION

□ ROASTING OF THE OX

A roasted whole ox, prepared overnight by volunteers from The Houghton Feast Trust, will be served up in sandwiches in the grounds of The Old Rectory, near The Broadway, where the first oxen were roasted by Rector Bernard Gilpin to feed Houghton's poor in the 16th century. The ceremonial first slice of beef will be carved by the Right worshipful, the Mayor of Sunderland, Dorothy Trueman, at 1 o'clock where she becomes the 50th Mayor to carry out the honour.

All proceeds from the sale of the tasty sandwiches will be used towards next year's event.

You can pre-purchase your beef sandwiches online at: www.oxsarnies.com

The sarnies are very popular and are therefore available strictly while stocks last.

The Houghton Feast Trust are proud that this event will be supporting the following local food banks:

[SPACE4 Food Store;](#)

[Hetton Food Bank;](#)

[Churchill Square Food Bank;](#)

and [Murton Salvation Army Food Bank.](#)

VENUE The Old Rectory, Houghton-le-Spring, DH4 4BB

DATE & TIME Saturday October 7th 2023 From 1:00pm

PAYMENTS Cash/Card/Apple Pay on the day

CAR PARKS Imperial Buildings (44 spaces), DH4 4DJ
Pottery Yard (48 spaces), DH4 4BA
Brinkburn Crescent (80 spaces), DH4 5HA

SPONSORED BY StaffPower Group

ORGANISER The Houghton Feast Trust

PRE-PAY ONLINE www.oxsarnies.com

SUPPORTED BY Sunderland City Council
Asa James Smith &
Simply Irresistible

□ DIGNITY CHARITY FAIRGROUND ORGAN

The Dignity Charity Fairground Organ, made by Dean Organ Builders of Bristol, will be making its second annual appearance at Houghton Feast. The organ will be playing at intervals throughout the afternoon in the Rectory Park. With grateful thanks to the team from Derek Moss Funeral Directors for bringing the organ along.

VENUE	The Rectory Park, Houghton-le-Spring, DH4 4BB	ORGANISERS	Houghton Residents C.I.C. & The Old Rectory
DATE & TIME	Saturday October 7 th 2023 From 1:00pm	WEB	www.theoldrectory.co.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/houghtonlespringresidents
CAR PARK	Brinkburn Crescent (80 spaces), DH4 5HA		

□ PRIMARY DASH ROAD RACE

Local primary schools will compete in the 20th annual road race along Newbottle Street for a trophy and medals. Racing of all kinds has always been a traditional part of Houghton Feast, so please show the young participants your support and cheer them on along the course which will end at St. Michael's Church archway in The Broadway. Schools wishing to register their involvement should contact Peter Dodsworth of Houghton Harriers no later than September 22nd 2023.

VENUE	Newbottle Street / The Broadway, DH4 4BB	ORGANISER	Houghton Harriers & Athletics Club
DATE & TIME	Saturday October 7 th 2023 1:45pm	WEB	www.houghtonharriers.org
ADMISSION	Free for participating primary schools	FACEBOOK	/HoughtonHarriersAC
CAR PARK	Brinkburn Crescent (80 spaces), DH4 5HA	TEL	07849403313
SPONSOR	Houghton R.U.F.C	E-MAIL	padodsworth@hotmail.co.uk

□ CARNIVAL PARADE 2023

Carnival time is a highlight of The Houghton Feast. Come along and watch this colourful community production starring the Queen of Eventide, our friends and family, local school children, the pipes and drums, classic cars, marching musical bands (Houghton Pipe Band, Houghton Brass Band, Pittington Brass Band and Get Set Samba Youth Band), Billy Purvis the Clown, the Zazz dancers, vintage steam vehicles and costumed characters. The procession starts at the Library car park and will travel along Newbottle Street into The Broadway (where you can listen to the narration) before ending at the Dairy Lane entrance to Rectory Park.

ROUTE	Station Rd/Newbottle St/The Broadway/Rectory Park	ORGANISER	The Old Rectory
DATE & TIME	Saturday October 7 th 2023 2:00pm	WEB	www.theoldrectory.co.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/TheOldRectoryHoughtonleSpring
CAR PARK	Brinkburn Crescent (80 spaces), DH4 5HA	TEL	0191 563 4401
SUPPORTED BY	Sunderland City Council		

☐ HOUGHTON FEAST GOT TALENT!

Get ready to be entertained after the Carnival Parade! We have the amazing Rock Choir joining us alongside our fabulous local talent! You can expect ballads to Beatles to Rock to Rap! Also traditional Ukrainian dancing and singing – and special performances from Houghton Pipe Band, Houghton Brass Band, Pittington Brass Band and Get Set Samba Youth Band - all brought together by your compere, Houghton's Mr Entertainment, Darren Oakes. Get your dancing shoes on and join in the fun and celebrations in the Rectory Park!

VENUE The Rectory Park, Houghton-le-Spring, DH4 4BB
DATE & TIME Saturday October 7th 2023 From 2:30pm
ADMISSION Free
CAR PARK Brinkburn Crescent (80 spaces), DH4 5HA
SUPPORTED BY Houghton 41 Club
TC Events

ORGANISERS Houghton Residents C.I.C.,
The Old Rectory
& Fund A Fest
WEB www.theoldrectory.co.uk
FACEBOOK [/houghtonlespringresidents](https://www.facebook.com/houghtonlespringresidents)

☐ KIDS IN THE PARK FAMILY FUN

Brought to you by Houghton-le-Spring Residents, an afternoon of family fun in Houghton's beautiful Rectory Park after the Carnival Parade, funded by the community for the community. Everyone is welcome - bring the whole family for some children's crafts and activities and the best bubbles in town. The Puffing Billy train will be joining us to give rides around the park grounds. Houghton-le-Spring Residents & Funda Fest will also be presenting COMMUNITY GOT TALENT!, live music from the top of a double decker bus!

VENUE The Rectory Park, Houghton-le-Spring, DH4 4BB
DATE & TIME Saturday October 8th 2023 From 2:30pm
ADMISSION Free
CAR PARK Brinkburn Crescent (80 spaces), DH4 5HA

ORGANISERS Houghton Residents C.I.C.,
The Old Rectory
& Fund A Fest
WEB www.theoldrectory.co.uk
FACEBOOK [/houghtonlespringresidents](https://www.facebook.com/houghtonlespringresidents)

□ HOUGHTON FEAST CAR SHOW 2023

A free classic and vintage car show will take place in the grounds of Kepier Academy, Dairy Lane, after the Carnival Parade, from around 2:30pm. You can view close at hand the vehicles which were in the procession and you can even meet the owners who will tell you the story of their favourite wheels!

ROUTE	Station Rd/Newbottle St/The Broadway/Rectory Park	ORGANISER	The Old Rectory
DATE & TIME	Saturday October 7 th 2023 2:30pm	WEB	www.theoldrectory.co.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/TheOldRectoryHoughtonleSpring
CAR PARK	Brinkburn Crescent (80 spaces), DH4 5HA	TEL	0191 563 4401
SUPPORTED BY	Sunderland City Council		

□ HOUGHTON FEAST RUGBY MATCH 2023

Support the Wild Boars at the Dairy Lane ground at the special Houghton Coronation Feast Rugby Match. Come along and enjoy watching a skilled game played for the coveted Houghton Feast Trophy! The clubhouse on Dairy Lane has full social facilities including a bar, food, TV screens and car park. Houghton Boars will be playing against local rivals Seaham RUFC. Kick-off is at 2pm.

VENUE	Houghton Rugby Club, Dairy Lane, DH4 5BH	ORGANISER	Houghton R.U.F.C.
DATE & TIME	Saturday October 7 th 2023 2:00pm	WEB	www.houghtonrugby.co.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/HoughtonRugbyClub
CAR PARK	At the venue	TEL	0191 584 1460
SPONSOR	Houghton-le-Spring 41 Club		



DIARY DATE: HOUGHTON FEAST 2024

Houghton Feast, the ancient festival of Houghton-le-Spring, will launch on Friday October 4th and will run until Sunday October 13th 2024.

FEAST SUNDAY

OCTOBER 8TH 2023

☐ HOUGHTON FEAST CIVIC SERVICE

A grand service of thanksgiving for community life at the parish church of St. Michael & All Angels'. The service will be attended by civic dignitaries, public servants and the people of Houghton-le-Spring. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

VENUE	Houghton Parish Church, Church Street, DH4 4DN	ORGANISER	St Michael & All Angels Church
DATE & TIME	Sunday October 8 th 2023 10:30am	WEB	www.stmichaels-hls-org.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/stmichaels-hls
CAR PARK	Imperial Buildings (44 spaces), DH4 4DJ	TEL	0191 512 1769

☐ COMMUNITY HYMN SINGING

An opportunity to sing our favourite hymns and rejoice at The Houghton Coronation Feast. This traditional Houghton Feast event was established in 1949 by Rev Oswald Noel Gwilliam who was also at the heart of the 1967 Houghton Feast Revival.

VENUE	Houghton Parish Church, Church Street, DH4 4DN	ORGANISER	St Michael & All Angels Church
DATE & TIME	Sunday October 8 th 2023 6:00pm	WEB	www.stmichaels-hls-org.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/stmichaels-hls
CAR PARK	Imperial Buildings (44 spaces), DH4 4DJ	TEL	0191 512 1769

☐ DID YOU KNOW?

The date of Houghton Feast fluctuates slightly each year! Houghton Feast, or Michaelmas as it is also known, is meant to be celebrated on September 29th, however in 1752 the people of Houghton refused to accept the introduction of the Gregorian calendar and continued to celebrate Michaelmas according to the Julian calendar, on October 10th, eleven days behind the new calendar. Houghton Feast 2021 coincided with Sunday October 10th, but it won't happen again until 2027!

FEAST MONDAY

OCTOBER 9TH 2023

☐ HOUGHTON ART CLUB EXHIBITION

The final day of Houghton Art Club's annual exhibition of local artists' work in the hall of Houghton Methodist Church, Mautland Street. Art Club members will be on hand for advice and discussion. Some of the artwork is available for sale and light refreshments will be available.

VENUE	Methodist Church, Mautland Street, DH4 4BH	ORGANISER	Houghton Art Club
DATE & TIME	Monday October 9 th 2023 9:30am - 4:00pm	WEB	www.houghtonartclub.webs.com
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/Houghton-Art-Club-613535218708029
CAR PARK	Pottery Yard (48 spaces), DH4 4BA	TEL	N/A

☐ GILPIN'S OPEN HOUSE (COMMUNITY HUB)

A warm and welcoming space is on offer at the Old Rectory for Gilpin's Open House. Call in for free soup and a cuppa, plus free wi-fi, a place to charge your devices, along with fun things to do including: scheduled activities, books, magazines, toys and games. All ages are welcome.

VENUE	The Old Rectory, Houghton-le-Spring, DH4 4BB	ORGANISER	The Old Rectory
DATE & TIME	Monday October 9 th 2023 1:00pm – 3:00pm	WEB	www.theoldrectory.co.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/TheOldRectoryHoughtonleSpring
CAR PARK	Imperial Buildings (44 spaces), DH4 4DJ	TEL	0191 563 4401
SUPPORTED BY	Sunderland City Council		

FIREWORKS NIGHT

☐ FIREWORKS CAFE

Hot soup and freshly baked buns will be available at the Bethany Christian Centre, Hetton Road, prior to the launch of The Houghton Coronation Feast fireworks. Everyone will be given a warm welcome by the Bethany team while awaiting the launch of the rockets. Free controlled parking for cars is available on site (subject to availability).

VENUE Bethany Church, Hetton Road, DH5 8PF
DATE & TIME Monday October 9th 2023 6:30pm
ADMISSION Free
CAR PARK At the venue

ORGANISER Bethany Church
WEB shorturl.at/iUX12
FACEBOOK /BCCHoughton
TEL 0191 512 1234

☐ FEAST FIREWORKS MUSIC SPECTACULAR

The must-see Houghton Coronation Feast Fireworks Spectacular choreographed with music! Rockets are being launched from the Durham Road playing fields and can also be viewed from Dairy Lane. PA systems will be set up at both locations. If travelling by car, please park in an appropriate place in the town centre as there is no car parking at the launch site. Road closures will be in operation - for full details see the local press or Sunderland Council website.

VENUE Durham Road, Houghton-le-Spring, DH5 8NF
DATE & TIME Monday October 9th 2023 7:30pm
ADMISSION Free
CAR PARKS Imperial Buildings (44 spaces), DH4 4DJ
Station Road (93 spaces), DH4 5AH
Brinkburn Crescent (80 spaces), DH4 5HA

ORGANISER Sunderland City Council
WEB www.mysunderland.co.uk
FACEBOOK /VisitSundUK
TEL N/A

FEAST TUESDAY

OCTOBER 10TH 2023

☐ GILPIN'S OPEN HOUSE (COMMUNITY HUB)

A warm and welcoming space is on offer at the Old Rectory for Gilpin's Open House. Call in for free soup and a cuppa, plus free wi-fi, a place to charge your devices, along with fun things to do including: scheduled activities, books, magazines, toys and games. All ages are welcome.

VENUE	The Old Rectory, Houghton-le-Spring, DH4 4BB	ORGANISER	The Old Rectory
DATE & TIME	Tuesday October 10 th 2023 1:00pm – 3:00pm	WEB	www.theoldrectory.co.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/TheOldRectoryHoughtonleSpring
CAR PARK	Imperial Buildings (44 spaces), DH4 4DJ	TEL	0191 563 4401
SUPPORTED BY	Sunderland City Council		

☐ HOUGHTON FEAST VARIETY SHOW

ZAZZ is pleased to present the 39th Houghton Feast Variety Show, featuring professional cabaret dancers, adult tappers and performances of ZAZZ's Disneyland Paris and London Shaftesbury Theatre shows. Tickets at £8.00 per person can be booked online. Patrons are welcome to bring their own refreshments. The show will be repeated on Thursday.

VENUE	ZAZZ Theatre, Newbottle Street, Houghton, DH4 4AF	ORGANISER	ZAZZ
DATE & TIME	Tuesday October 10 th 2023 7:00pm	WEB	www.zazz.co.uk
ADMISSION	£8.00 per person	FACEBOOK	/zazztheatre
BOOK ONLINE	https://bookingsorted.co.uk/sales/zazztheatre	EMAIL	info@zazzuk.com
CAR PARK	Station Road (93 spaces), DH4 5AH		

WEDNESDAY

OCTOBER 11TH 2023

☐ BERNARD GILPIN PHOTO EXHIBITION

In spring 2017, Houghton-le-Spring celebrated the 500th anniversary of Bernard Gilpin's birth, the town's 16th century Rector who is famous for his charitable acts and the founding of the famous Houghton Feast ox roasting. This is your chance to once again see the special photograph exhibition that was put together to commemorate the quincentenary. The images will be hung on the railings of The Old Rectory alongside the Bernard Gilpin blue plaque in The Broadway. Find out more about this great man at: www.bernardgilpin.co.uk

VENUE	Rectory Park Railings, The Broadway, DH4 4BB	ORGANISER	Houghton Heritage Society
DATE & TIME	Wednesday October 11 th 2023 9:00am - 4:00pm	WEB	www.houghtonlespring.org.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/houghton.heritage
CAR PARK	Imperial Buildings (44 spaces), DH4 4DJ	EMAIL	info@houghtonlespring.org.uk

☐ LIFE IN THE DURHAM COALFIELD

A talk about home life in the Durham coalfield by local author Margaret Hedley and a look at some of the equipment used in a domestic setting with Andrew Clark from Summerhill Books. Admission is free but places are limited and must be booked.

VENUE	Featherbed Books, 104 Newbottle Street, DH4 4AJ	ORGANISER	Featherbed Books
DATE & TIME	Wednesday October 11 th 2023 11:30am	WEB	www.featherbedbooks.co.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/featherbedbooks
CAR PARK	Station Road (93 spaces), DH4 5AH	EMAIL	nicole@featherbedbooks.co.uk
SUPPORTED BY	The Houghton Feast Trust	TEL	07501922840

THURSDAY

OCTOBER 12TH 2023

□ HOUGHTON FEAST BRASS BAND CONCERT

Houghton Brass Band is Sunderland's premier brass band. Formed in 1983 from players of the old Houghton Schools' band, the band has gone from strength to strength in recent years, which includes winning the national championships of Great Britain (third section) in 2015. The band returns to St. Michael & All Angels' Church for the Houghton Coronation Feast with a packed programme of music featuring some of the band's talented soloists.

VENUE Houghton Parish Church, The Broadway, DH4 4DN
DATE & TIME Thursday October 12th 2023 7:00pm
ADMISSION £8.00 (adults); £4.00 (under 18s) pay on the door
CAR PARK Imperial Buildings (44 spaces), DH4 4DJ

ORGANISER Houghton Brass Band
WEB N/A
FACEBOOK /HoughtonBrassBand
TEL 07707043395

□ HOUGHTON FEAST VARIETY SHOW

ZAZZ is pleased to present the 39th Houghton Feast Variety Show, featuring professional cabaret dancers, adult tappers and performances of ZAZZ's Disneyland Paris and London Shaftesbury Theatre shows. Tickets at £8.00 per person can be booked online. Patrons are welcome to bring their own refreshments.

VENUE ZAZZ Theatre, Newbottle Street, Houghton, DH4 4AF
DATE & TIME Thursday October 12th 2023 7:00pm
ADMISSION £8.00 per person
BOOK ONLINE <https://bookingsorted.co.uk/sales/zazztheatre>
CAR PARK Station Road (93 spaces), DH4 5AH

ORGANISER ZAZZ
WEB www.zazz.co.uk
FACEBOOK /zazztheatre
EMAIL info@zazzuk.com

FRIDAY

OCTOBER 13TH 2023

☐ GILPIN'S OPEN HOUSE (COMMUNITY HUB)

A warm and welcoming space is on offer at the Old Rectory for Gilpin's Open House. Call in for free soup and a cuppa, plus free wi-fi, a place to charge your devices, along with fun things to do including: scheduled activities, books, magazines, toys and games. All ages are welcome.

VENUE	The Old Rectory, Houghton-le-Spring, DH4 4BB	ORGANISER	The Old Rectory
DATE & TIME	Friday October 13 th 2023 9:00am – 12:00pm	WEB	www.theoldrectory.co.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/TheOldRectoryHoughtonleSpring
CAR PARK	Imperial Buildings (44 spaces), DH4 4DJ	TEL	0191 563 4401
SUPPORTED BY	Sunderland City Council		

☐ HOUGHTON COLLIERY REMEMBERED

To mark the 200th anniversary of the sinking of Houghton Colliery, rare and unseen photographs showing the life of the pit will be displayed. The images will be erected outdoors on the Rectory Park railings in The Broadway and come from the vast collections of Houghton Heritage Society. You can find out more about Houghton Colliery at: www.houghtonlespring.org.uk/colliery

VENUE	Rectory Park Railings, The Broadway, DH4 4BB	ORGANISER	Houghton Heritage Society
DATE & TIME	Friday October 13 th 2023 9:00am - 4:00pm	WEB	www.houghtonlespring.org.uk
ADMISSION	Free	FACEBOOK	/houghton.heritage
CAR PARK	Imperial Buildings (44 spaces), DH4 4DJ	EMAIL	info@houghtonlespring.org.uk

☐ HOUGHTON FEAST 1988 (ONLINE EVENT)

Tune in to the Houghton Heritage Society YouTube channel at 8 p.m. to watch a premiere video of Houghton Feast 1988. We will get to see scenes from the ox roasting tent plus the wonderful floats and marching bands in the Carnival Parade as well as the busy Rectory Field fairground. This will bring back many childhood memories of the Feast in the 1980s. How many familiar faces will you spot?

PLATFORM	www.youtube.com/HoughtonHeritage
DATE & TIME	Friday October 13 th 2023 8:00pm
ADMISSION	Free
ORGANISER	Houghton Heritage Society

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 14TH 2023

□ THE HOUGHTON HERITAGE WALK

This illustrated guided walk around Houghton-le-Spring will be led by local historian Paul Lanagan and will visit many of Houghton's historical buildings and locations, including some on bumpy terrain. The Houghton Heritage Walk will end at the Wild Boar public house where many of the Heritage Society's archived photographs are displayed. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Please dress for the weather with appropriate walking shoes. All places must be reserved by e-mailing: info@houghtonlespring.org.uk and details of the meeting point will be sent by return e-mail.

VENUE Houghton-le-Spring town centre
DATE & TIME Saturday October 14th 2023 11:30am
ADMISSION £3.00 per person
CAR PARK The Old Rectory (32 spaces), DH4 4BB

ORGANISER Houghton Heritage Society
WEB www.houghtonlespring.org.uk
FACEBOOK /houghton.heritage
BOOK BYEMAIL info@houghtonlespring.org.uk

□ SUNDERLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Sunderland Symphony Orchestra will perform a one hour concert of delightful and uplifting light music in St. Michael & All Angels' Church. The Orchestra has established a loyal audience base and a high reputation for performing concerts with a variety of musical styles and genres. A lively and charming musical experience not to be missed within a glorious setting. The concert is free but please book your seat through Eventbrite.

VENUE Houghton Parish Church, Church Street, DH4 4DN
DATE & TIME Saturday October 14th 2023 7:30pm
ADMISSION Retiring collection
TICKETS www.eventbrite.co.uk
CAR PARK Imperial Buildings (44 spaces), DH4 4DJ

ORGANISER Sunderland City Council
FACEBOOK /sunderlandsymphonyorchestra
EMAIL events@sunderland.gov.uk

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 15TH 2023

☐ REMEMBERING RON YOUNG

A special photograph exhibition commemorating the late Ron Young, who was known for his many charitable associations in the Houghton district and for his decades of service to Houghton Feast and as the ox roasting co-ordinator. The photographs will be on display on the railings of The Old Rectory alongside the Bernard Gilpin blue plaque in The Broadway. You can find out more about Ron's life at: www.houghtonlespring.org.uk/people

VENUE Rectory Park Railings, The Broadway, DH4 4BB

DATE & TIME Sunday October 15th 2023 11:00am - 4:00pm

ADMISSION Free

CAR PARK Imperial Buildings (44 spaces), DH4 4DJ

ORGANISER Houghton Heritage Society

WEB www.houghtonlespring.org.uk

FACEBOOK /houghton.heritage

EMAIL info@houghtonlespring.org.uk

WITH THANKS

A great deal of time is given with unfailing enthusiasm to create a varied programme of events and thanks are extended to the following without whose assistance the 42 events at The Houghton Coronation Feast would not be possible:

- Bethany Church
- Featherbed Books
- Fund A Fest
- Houghton & District Piping Society
- Houghton & Lambton Banner Group
- Houghton Art Club
- Houghton Brass Band
- Houghton Harriers & Athletics Club
- Houghton Heritage Society
- Houghton R.U.F.C.
- Houghton Residents C.I.C.
- Mr Michael Houlden (Gavioli Organ)
- Murphy's Fun Fairs
- St Michael & All Angels Church
- Sunderland City Council
- Sunderland Symphony Orchestra
- The Houghton Feast Trust
- The Old Rectory
- ZAZZ Dance Academy

★DISCLAIMER★

All information correct at the time of going to press. The right to amend the programme content without notice is reserved. Please contact the individual event organisers with any queries before making plans to attend. Updates are also posted to the Houghton Feast social media channels.