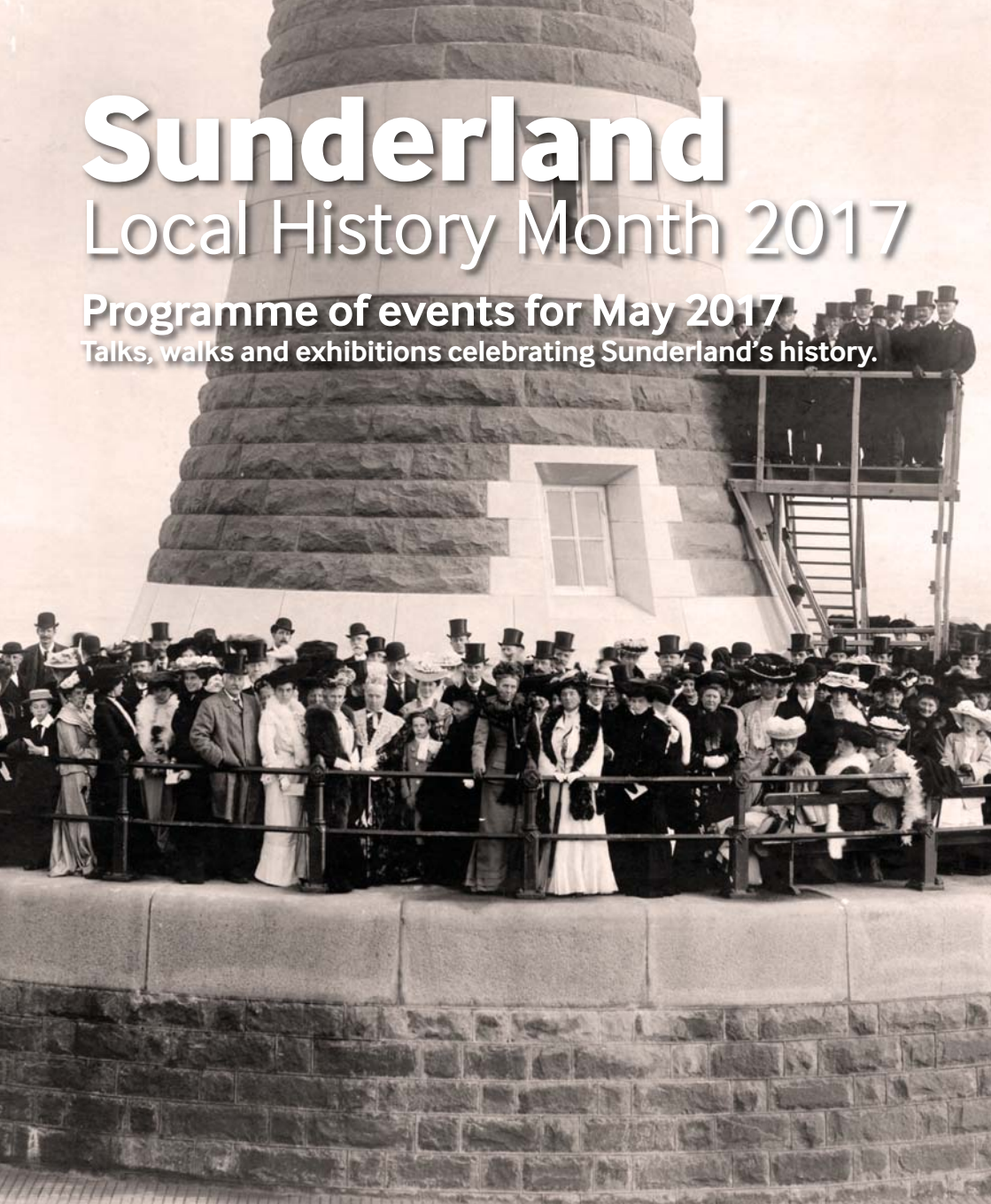


# Sunderland

## Local History Month 2017

Programme of events for May 2017  
Talks, walks and exhibitions celebrating Sunderland's history.



# Introduction

## Talks, walks and exhibitions

Local History Month aims to increase awareness of local history, promote history in general to local communities and encourage all members of the community to participate. Activities happen across the UK and include trips, library exhibitions and local lectures. It is a great way for groups to highlight local history and for local people to get involved.

This Local History Month has been organised by members of Sunderland Heritage Forum and Sunderland City Council to promote local history in Sunderland.

The Sunderland Heritage Forum was established in 1997 with the aim to promote and provide access to the heritage of Sunderland and to pursue objectives, which were of common value and interest to all of the heritage and history groups of the City.

For further information on Sunderland Heritage Forum, contact Stuart Miller on 0191 528 5339 or Janet Robinson on 0191 561 8413.

Front cover image:  
Opening of Roker Pier Lighthouse by the Earl of Durham 1903 (photo courtesy of Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens)

# Programme

## Tuesday 2 May to Wednesday 31 May Local Studies opening times

### City Status display

*Local Studies Library, Fawcett Street, Sunderland SR1 1RE*

Sunderland celebrates 25 years since receiving City Status on 20 May 1992. A small display featuring some original documentation and newspaper articles of the time will be available to view.

For more information contact Local Studies on 0191 561 8439 or email [local.studies@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:local.studies@sunderland.gov.uk)

## Tuesday 2 May to Wednesday 31 May Library opening times

### Bernard Gilpin Display

*Houghton Library, 74 Newbottle Street, Houghton DH4 4AF*

As part of the yearlong 'Gilpin 500' celebrations which commemorate the 500th anniversary of the birth of Houghton-le-Spring rector Bernard Gilpin, there will be a display throughout May in the foyer of Houghton library.

For more information contact Janet Robinson on 0191 561 8413 or email [janet.robinson@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:janet.robinson@sunderland.gov.uk)

## Tuesday 2nd May to Friday 5th of May 3pm to 6pm

### Can you hear me?

*The Canny Space, Holy Trinity Church, Grange Terrace, Sunderland SR2 7AQ*

Free entry, donations welcome

Exhibition focused on the younger generation and how recent political decisions are impacting on their futures.



Cargo liner Kenilworth Castle at Corporation Quay 1949

**Every Tuesday in May  
2.30-3pm and 3-3.30pm**

### **Ancestry Taster Sessions**

*Local Studies Library, Fawcett Street,  
Sunderland SR1 1RE*

A short introduction on how to use the Ancestry website to investigate your family history. Booking required. Contact Local Studies on 0191 561 8439 or email [local.studies@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:local.studies@sunderland.gov.uk)

**Every Wednesday & Saturday in May  
9.30am - 12noon**

### **Archives of the River Wear Commissioners**

*Sunderland Antiquarian Society,  
6 Douro Terrace, Sunderland SR2 7DX*

All members and visitors are welcome to inspect the archives, library and collections. A display of photographs and artefacts relating to the River Wear Commissioners will be available to view. No booking required.

[www.sunderland-antiquarians.org](http://www.sunderland-antiquarians.org)  
email: [sunderlandantiquarians@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sunderlandantiquarians@yahoo.co.uk)  
Telephone 0191 435 5219

**Every Thursday in May 10am-12 noon**

### **Ancestry Taster Session**

*Houghton Library, 74 Newbottle Street,  
Houghton DH4 4AF*

A short introduction on how to use the Ancestry website to investigate your family history.

Booking required. Contact Houghton Library on 0191 561 6383 or email [houghtonlibrary@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:houghtonlibrary@sunderland.gov.uk)

**Wednesday 3 May, 1.30-2.30pm**

### **Battle of Arras 1917 – Illustrated talk and handling collection led by John Sadler of the Time Bandits**

*Pottery Gallery, Sunderland Museum &  
Winter Gardens, Burdon Road, Sunderland  
SR1 1PP*

The talk will cover the creation of the vast Wellington Tunnels, the local men involved and illustrations of the restored tunnel complex.

For more information and to book a free place contact Janet Robinson on 0191 561 8413 or email [janet.robinson@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:janet.robinson@sunderland.gov.uk)



Ned Corvan portrait

**Thursday 4 May, 2-3pm**

### **Mr Corvan's Music Hall - talk**

*Pottery Gallery, Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Burdon Road, Sunderland SR1 1PP*

Ned Corvan was the first North East professional singer/songwriter. A writer of around 120 songs and anti-establishment to the core, Ned was a huge star throughout the region. On two occasions Ned lived in Sunderland and often performed at the 4,000 capacity Wear Music Hall.

Award winning writer and internationally produced playwright Ed Waugh will speak about the rise of Victorian music hall and the importance of Ned Corvan in helping to shape North East culture.

For more information and to book a free place contact Janet Robinson on 0191 561 8413 or email [janet.robinson@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:janet.robinson@sunderland.gov.uk)

**Friday 5 May, 2pm**

### **Sunderland Heritage Action Zone**

*Meet at Holy Trinity Church (Canny Space), Church Street East, Sunderland SR1 2BB*

What's a Heritage Action Zone? Find out what it means to be a Heritage Action Zone and see where Sunderland's Heritage Action Zone will be located on this walk around the city centre. Tell us your views about what's important in the area and share your memories of Old Sunderland.

For more information contact Jules Brown, Historic England, email [jules.brown@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:jules.brown@historicengland.org.uk)

**Saturday 6 May, 11am-12.30pm**

### **Sunderland Empire Theatre Tour**

*Sunderland Empire Theatre, High Street West, Sunderland SR1 3EX*

Offering a unique opportunity to find out more about our Edwardian theatre and experience behind the scenes action before curtain up! Tours may also include access to dressing rooms and the stage, allowing you to see the set and lighting up close and personal. Concluding with tea and coffee, £6 fee.

Book online, call 0844 871 3022 or book in person at the Box Office.

Tours do not include show ticket. Tours are subject to availability and routes may change. Tours may involve a number of stairs. Backstage access is subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. Non-show tours can also be arranged. Please contact us for further details.

**Sunday 7 May, 5.30-8.30am**

### **Dawn Chorus**

*Washington Old Hall, The Avenue,  
Washington Village, Washington  
NE38 7LE*

Join us for an early morning stroll around the gardens and find out which bird sings which song.

Booking essential - tickets available at visitor reception or pay on the day £5.

For more information contact 0191 416 6879 or email [washingtonoldhall@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:washingtonoldhall@nationaltrust.org.uk)  
Please dress appropriately for the weather.

**Sunday 7 May, 5.30-8am**

### **Dawn Chorus – walk led by Paul Anderson from the Durham Bird Club**

*Tunstall Hill, Leechmere Road (please meet at upper car park near the old changing rooms off Leechmere Road)*

Tunstall Hills Protection Group is offering a dawn chorus guided walk on Tunstall Hills led by Paul Anderson of the Durham Bird Club.

Come and discover some fascinating facts and be prepared to see and hear a wide range of bird species around Tunstall Hill Local Nature Reserve. The cost is £1 per adult, with children under 16 going free. Children under 16 are very welcome but must be under adult supervision at all times. Warm clothing is essential for this early morning event.

For further information email [tunstallhills@gmail.com](mailto:tunstallhills@gmail.com)

**Monday 8 May, 10- 12noon**

### **River Wear Commissioners 300th anniversary archive handling session**

*Pottery Gallery, Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Burdon Road, Sunderland SR1 1PP*

A chance to handle and explore some of the River Wear Commissioners most important historical documents, including plans and photographs showing the development of the River Wear over the past 300 years. The session will be delivered by Alan Hayward, archivist from Tyne & Wear Archive Service.

To book a free place contact Janet Robinson on 0191 561 8413 or email [janet.robinson@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:janet.robinson@sunderland.gov.uk)

**Tuesday 9 May, 1.15-5pm approximately**

### **Places of Worship tour**

*Meet at the reception of Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Burdon Road, Sunderland SR1 1PP*

A tour of St George's church, St Johns church and the Sikh Temple via a vintage bus. All visitors must wear appropriate headwear when visiting the Sikh temple.

For more information and to book a free place contact Janet Robinson on 0191 561 8413 or email [janet.robinson@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:janet.robinson@sunderland.gov.uk)

Funded by East Area Committee SIB

**Tuesday 9 May, 7.30pm**

### **Yemen – Land of the Queen of Sheba**

*Fulwell Community Centre, Chapman Street, Fulwell, Sunderland SR6 9HZ*

Talk led by David Grainger of Wearside Field Club. Non-members welcome (£2 admission)

For more information contact Wearside Field Club Chairman Stuart Miller on 0191 528 5339 or email [smiller@wea.co.uk](mailto:smiller@wea.co.uk)



**Wednesday 10 May, 1-3pm (drop in)**

### **Textile Demonstration**

*Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens,  
Burdon Road, Sunderland SR1 1PP*

Join the members of the Sunderland branch of the knitting and crochet guild as they demonstrate these traditional skills. Bring along your own work for some top tips.

For more information contact the Museum Learning Team on 0191 561 2323 or visit [www.seeitdoitsunderland.co.uk/sunderland-museum-winter-gardens](http://www.seeitdoitsunderland.co.uk/sunderland-museum-winter-gardens)

**Saturday 13 May, 10am-5pm**

### **Heritage Act Conference**

*Wallsend Memorial Hall, 10 Frank Street,  
Wallsend NE28 6RN*

The Tyne & Wear Heritage Forum's second annual conference will be held at the Wallsend Memorial Hall.

Tickets available online at [www.twhf.co.uk](http://www.twhf.co.uk). For more information contact Tony Stephenson on 07951 407 607 or email [qinfo@twhf.co.uk](mailto:qinfo@twhf.co.uk)

**Saturday 13 May, 10-11.30am  
approximately**

### **East End guided walk**

*East End area*

Meet at Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens reception to begin the walk led by Anthony Hindmarch. Discover interesting facts along the way about the Edwardian Post Office, Bodlewell House, Trafalgar Square and the Phoenix Masonic Lodge.

For more information and to book a free place call 0191 561 4578 or 0191 561 8413.

Please wear suitable clothing and shoes for the walk.

**Saturday 13 May, 2pm**

### **The History of Sunderland Museum - talk**

*Pottery Gallery, Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Burdon Road,  
Sunderland SR1 1PP*

Talk by Elsie Ronald. Sunderland has had a museum since 1810 and was the first publicly funded museum in the country, outside London in 1846. The museum has had 3 previous homes before moving into the present building in 1879.

Members £1 non-members £2

For more information contact Elsie Ronald, email [fosumsec@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fosumsec@yahoo.co.uk)

**Wednesday 17 May, 1.30-2.30pm**

### **Wearside Campaign of 1644 – illustrated talk and handling collection led by John Sadler of the Time Bandits**

*Pottery Gallery, Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Burdon Road, Sunderland SR1 1PP*

This important aspect of the Civil War will be discussed, highlighting the events occurring in the North East.

For more information and to book a free place contact Janet Robinson on 0191 561 8413 or email [janet.robinson@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:janet.robinson@sunderland.gov.uk)

**Wednesday 17 May, 1-3pm (drop in)**

### **Textile Demonstration: Mat Making with Kath Price**

*Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens,  
Burdon Road, Sunderland SR1 1PP*

Join Kath Price as she demonstrates the traditional skill of mat making in the Textile Traditions Gallery. Bring along your own work for some top tips.



1950's at Beamish (Photo courtesy of Beamish Museum)

For more information contact the Museum Learning Team on 561 2323 or visit [www.seeitdoitsunderland.co.uk/sunderland-museum-winter-gardens](http://www.seeitdoitsunderland.co.uk/sunderland-museum-winter-gardens)

**Thursday 18 May, 1.30-2.30pm (drop in)**

**Remaking Beamish – 1950's**

*Pottery Gallery, Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Sunderland SR1 1PP*

Beamish is celebrating a £10.9 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Remaking Beamish project. The centrepiece will be a reconstructed 1950's town. Come along and find out more from Beamish staff, see the plans and handle 50's objects donated to the museum.

For more information contact Janet Robinson 0191 561 8413 or email [janet.robinson@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:janet.robinson@sunderland.gov.uk)

**Friday 19 May, 1-3pm**

**Walking with Heroes and Villains and discover the East End Heritage**

*Donnison School, Church Walk, Sunderland SR1 2BJ*

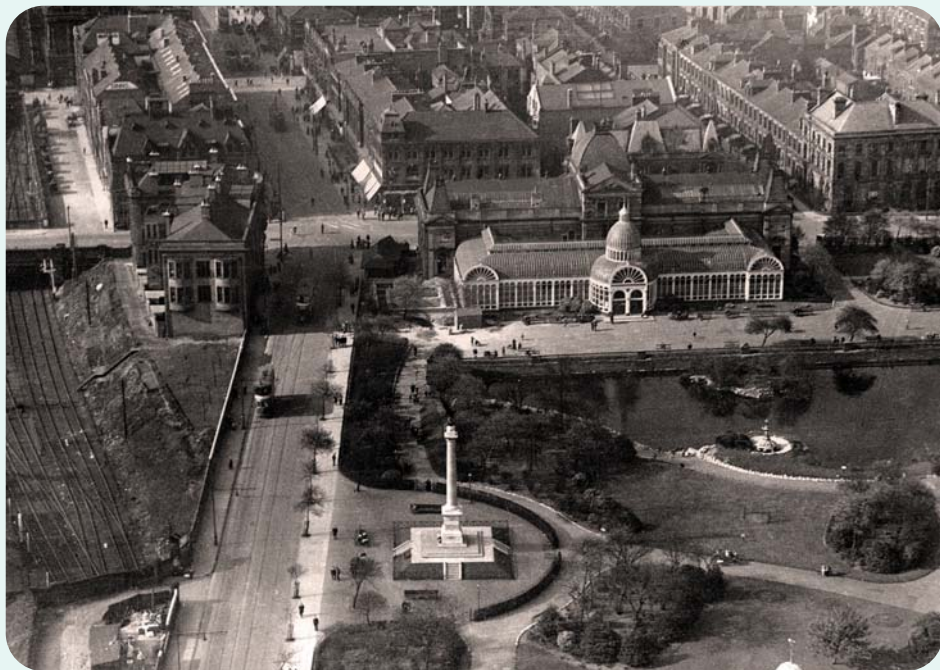
Enjoy a guided walk around the east end of Sunderland and you may encounter some of the areas notable heroes and villains, such as Mary Anne Cotton and Highwayman Drummond!

Walk starts at 1.00pm at The Quayside Exchange finishing at the Donnison School for refreshments. Walk will last approximately 1 hour.

For more information contact 0191 5654835 or email [volunteers@lhne.co.uk](mailto:volunteers@lhne.co.uk)

[www.donnisonschool.org.uk](http://www.donnisonschool.org.uk)

Funded by East Area Committee SIB



Aerial view of Mowbray Park Winter Gardens 1924  
 (photo courtesy of Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens)

**Saturday 20 May, 2-7pm**

**160th anniversary of Mowbray Park**

*Mowbray Park, Burdon Road, Sunderland*

Join us and find out about the history of the Park and the Battle of Camperdown. Free activities include arts and crafts, guided tours, drama productions, orienteering challenges, and finally, join in the celebration by flying your flag at Proms in the Park.

For more information contact Nicol Trueman, email: [nicol.trueman@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:nicol.trueman@sunderland.gov.uk)

Funded by East Area Committee SIB

**Saturday 20 May, 8.45am**

**Rocliffe to Ripon walk led by Brian Gray**

*Coach pick up point Fulwell Methodist Church, Blue Bell pub or The Barnes (Hipsburn Drive corner)*

A 7 mile walk arranged by Wearside Field Club – non-members welcome.

Coach fee approximately £11 for members and £13 for non-members.

For more information and to book a place contact Connie Bulmer on 0191 548 6066. Coach bookings must be made in advance of the walk.



**Saturday 20 May, 10-3pm**

### **Last Chance to look around Hylton Castle**

*Hylton Castle, North Hylton SR5 3PA*

Hylton Castle will open its doors for the last time before construction work begins to transform the gatehouse into a living, working building for local people and visitors to share stories of the past.

This will be the last time visitors will be able to stand inside the castle entrance and look up to the open skies above.

See detailed plans of the new designs and conservation work, find out how you can get involved and create the local history of the future by adding to our time capsule.

Young people from Castletown Primary and Castle View Academy will be performing in the morning.

For more information on performance times, parking and wet weather arrangements please visit [www.hyltoncastle.org.uk](http://www.hyltoncastle.org.uk)

For more information contact Elanor Johnson on 07785777866 or email [Elanor.johnson@qsunderland.gov.uk](mailto:Elanor.johnson@qsunderland.gov.uk)

**Monday 22 May, 10-12noon**

### **River Wear Commissioners archive handling session**

*Pottery Gallery, Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Burdon Road, Sunderland SR1 1PP*

A chance to handle and explore some of the River Wear Commissioners most important historical documents, including plans and photographs showing the development of the River Wear over the past 300 years. The session will be delivered by Alan Hayward, archivist from Tyne & Wear Archive Service.

To book a free place contact Janet Robinson on 0191 561 8413 or email [janet.robinson@qsunderland.gov.uk](mailto:janet.robinson@qsunderland.gov.uk)

**Monday 22 May, 7pm**

### **Buddle and Londonderry – an unlikely partnership**

*Hetton & Eppleton Community Hall, Office Place, Hetton-le Hole DH5 9JG*

Talk by Alan Heesom.

Entrance fee £2, includes refreshments.

For more information contact Alan Jackson on 0191 526 2804 - Hetton Local & Natural History Society.

**Monday 22 May, 1-3pm**

### **Proggy, hooky, clippie – a woman's tale**

*Donnison School, Church Walk, Sunderland SR1 2BJ*

Talk by Margaret Atkinson as part of the Lovell Lectures at Donnison School.

Admission £2.50, members £2.

For more information contact 0191 565 4835 or email [Volunteers@lhne.co.uk](mailto:Volunteers@lhne.co.uk)  
[www.donnisonschool.org.uk](http://www.donnisonschool.org.uk)

**Tuesday 23 May, 2.30pm**

### **A Walk Around Historic Sunderland: Ashbrooke - a Victorian Middle Class Suburb"**

*Pottery Gallery, Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Burdon Road, Sunderland SR1 1PP*

A talk about a walk around Ashbrooke delivered by local historian John Tумman. There will also be an opportunity to purchase local publications produced by the Sunderland Heritage Forum.

For more information and to book a free place contact Janet Robinson on 0191 561 8413 or email [janet.robinson@qsunderland.gov.uk](mailto:janet.robinson@qsunderland.gov.uk)



Pre-war image of Roker Pier Lighthouse

Built between 1885 and 1903, Roker Pier and Lighthouse represented a 'triumph of engineering'. In 2012 extensive restoration of the pier, tunnel and lighthouse began. Come and find out more at this illustrated talk by Matt Storey.

Free and open to all. Easy access and pay parking available.

For more information contact Stuart Miller on 0191 528 5339 or email [smiller@wea.org.uk](mailto:smiller@wea.org.uk)

### **Thursday 25 May, 6.45pm**

#### **Commemorating 500 years of Bernard Gilpin**

*Keiper Hall, Houghton Parish Church, The Broadway DH4 4DN*

Talk by Brenda Graham.

Entrance fee £2, includes refreshments.

For more information contact Brenda Graham on 0191 584 1943 or email [brenda\\_graham@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:brenda_graham@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Tuesday 23 May, 7pm**

#### **One Voice Community Choir – singing songs from Sunderland**

*Arts Centre Washington, Biddick Lane, Fatfield, Washington NE38 8AB*

Listen to the community choir sing songs from the region and join in with a sing-a-long session.

Pay what you decide.

For more information contact Carol Bell on 0191 561 3455 or email [acw@qsunderland.gov.uk](mailto:acw@qsunderland.gov.uk)

### **Wednesday 24 May, 2.30pm**

#### **The Restoration of Roker Pier and Lighthouse**

*Sir Tom Cowie Lecture Theatre, University of Sunderland, Prospectus Building, St. Peters Way, Sunderland SR6 0DD*

### **Thursday 25 May, 6.30pm**

#### **Houghton Heritage Walk**

*Meet at the steps on the corner of Mautland Street next to Lidl.*

As part of the yearlong 'Gilpin 500' celebrations the walk will visit many historic locations around the town of Houghton-le-spring.

The walk will also look at the story of Bernard Gilpin, known as the Apostle of the North and Father of the Poor for his many good deeds. The walk will end at the Wild Boar pub where many of the Heritage Society's archived photographs are displayed.

For more information visit [www.houghtonlespring.org.uk/events](http://www.houghtonlespring.org.uk/events)  
Sturdy footwear is advisable.

**Friday 26 May, 2pm**

### **Two against Hitler – talk by Stuart Miller**

*Pottery Gallery, Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Burdon Road, Sunderland SR1 1PP*

Ida and Louise Cook, residents of 37 Croft Avenue, Sunderland, saved many Jews from Nazi persecution.

Under the pen name of Mary Burchell, Ida was also a prolific author for Mills and Boon. This talk will outline the lives and careers of these two fascinating women.

For More information and to book a free place contact Janet Robinson on 0191 561 8413 or email [janet.robinson@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:janet.robinson@sunderland.gov.uk)

**Saturday 27 May, 10-4pm**

**Sunday 28 May, 12-4pm**

**Monday 29 May, 10-4pm**

### **Meet Your Neighbour Festival**

*Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Burdon Road, Sunderland SR1 1PP*

Explore the food, fashions and culture of Poland and Eastern Europe in this colourful family festival. Brought to you by ICOS (International Community Organisation of Sunderland).

[www.facebook.com/InternationalCommunityOrganisationOfSunderland](http://www.facebook.com/InternationalCommunityOrganisationOfSunderland)

For more information contact the Museum Learning Team on 561 2323 or visit [www.icos.org.uk](http://www.icos.org.uk)

**Saturday 27 May, 10.30am-3.30pm**

### **Open Day**

*Donnison School, Church Walk, Sunderland SR1 2BJ*

Meet Elizabeth Donnison and discover the history of this wonderful charity school. Come along and learn about early

education in the East End of Sunderland and partake of some fine Georgian Fayre as refreshments.

For more information contact 0191 565 4835 or email [Volunteers@lhne.co.uk](mailto:Volunteers@lhne.co.uk) [www.donnisonschool.org.uk](http://www.donnisonschool.org.uk)

Funded by East Area Committee SIB

**Saturday 27 May, 11am-4pm**

**Sunday 28 May, 11am-4pm**

**Monday 29 May, 11am-4pm**

### **Steaming Open Days**

*Ryhope Engines Museum, Waterworks Road, Ryhope, Sunderland SR2 0ND*

Come along and see the engines running each day. Visitors who arrive at 11am can help start the engines!

Excellent Tearoom with a variety of home baked goods. Disabled access is available to the majority of the site. Free admission and parking.

For more information contact Keith Bell, email [info@ryhopeengines.org.uk](mailto:info@ryhopeengines.org.uk)

**Saturday 27 May – Sunday 4 June, Museum opening hours**

### **History Heroes Family Trail**

*Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Burdon Road, Sunderland SR1 1PP*

Follow the trail to find out amazing facts about Sunderland's history heroes including Jack Crawford, Harry Watts and Margaret Dryburgh.

Answer the questions, complete the challenges and claim a themed prize. £2.50 per entry.

For more information contact the Museum Learning Team on 561 2323 or visit [www.seeitdoisunderland.co.uk/sunderland-museum-winter-gardens](http://www.seeitdoisunderland.co.uk/sunderland-museum-winter-gardens)

**If you require this leaflet in an alternative format (Braille, large print, audio tape) or in your own language, please contact the Communications Team on 0191 520 5555 or e-mail [communications@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:communications@sunderland.gov.uk)**