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.

Walking is a simple, free and green way to increase your fitness levels.

Regular physical activity improves mood, helps relieve depression, and increases feelings of well-being.

Walking for just 30 minutes a day during the working week means reaching the Government’s recommended level of daily activity needed to transform your health.

Did you know...

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

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

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This walk was developed by Hetton Local History Group with the support of Sunderland City Council through its Strategic Initiatives Budget. We hope participants enjoy the walk and get satisfaction from the information provided.

The national charity working to create safe, attractive, enjoyable streets where people want to walk.

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 collery owner Nicholas Wood. By the end of the 19th century it was a dilapidated condition and it was demolished in 1923.

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 five years after opening 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.

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 staithes on the River Wear at Sunderland. It was the first railway in the world to use moving locomotives. Later it was extended from Elemore 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.

Newcastle && Cinema
The Pavilion Theatre & Cinema

Pavilion Theatre & Cinema
Ralph Barton (of salt works fame) built the Pavilion in 1899. 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 1959.

Nicholas Wood’s House
Born in Ryton, by 1811 he started work as an apprentice manager at Killingworth Colliery. Here he met enginewright 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.

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Directions for the Walk

Leave the Hetton Centre 1 and proceed east along Welfare Road to the A182. Cross the road via the traffic island to the old Infants School 2 on the other side. There is a blue plaque detailing information about the building. Go to the rear of the building and head north along the footpath named St. Cuthbert’s Walk for 200m and view the railway sleepers 3. Return via the same path and cross the road next to the butcher’s shop. Walk south for 60m to view the Primitive Methodist Chapel 4. Proceed in the same direction for 100m then turn left into Richard Street and walk to the top of the street. On the right look for a sign “Pavilion Works”. This is the old Pavilion Theatre 5. Return down Richard Street until you reach the main street of Hetton. Turn left and walk a short distance near to the trees. The end house (Laburnum House) next to the ruined church has a blue plaque giving details of Nicholas Wood 6. His grave is in the nearby churchyard.

Return to the main road and continuing south for 20m, view the Methodist Chapel and schoolroom on the other side of the road 7. Carefully cross the road using the traffic island and turn right past the Colliery Inn and walk down to the traffic lights to cross the road at the crossing. Having crossed the road locate the Nisa supermarket which originally was Barrington School 8. Return to the little Park and find the Bob Paisley Memorial 9. Leave the park by the entry to the bus station but turn left to the bus station junction then turn right along Park View. On the left is Hetton House 10. Continue down Park View to look at the brick building on the corner. This used to be the Standard Theatre 11. Follow the path down The Quay and pass closely by the old Bog Row School to the junction with the B1284 where the Old Smithy is located 12. Return to the bus station and the Hetton Centre.

Living Streets is the national charity working to create safe, attractive, enjoyable streets where people want to walk.

With our supporters we influence decision makers nationally and locally, run successful projects to encourage people to walk, and provide specialist consultancy services to help reduce congestion and carbon emissions, improve health, and make sure every community can enjoy vibrant streets and public spaces.

If you would like to find out more about our work, please take a look at our website or register for our e-newsletter at www.livingstreets.org.uk