



# Memories of

## Hetton's heritage

WITH its distinctive blue and yellow colours, the crest, or Coat of Arms, of Hetton Town Council embellishes civic documents and artefacts as well as having pride of place in many local buildings.

In this first edition of the Hetton Courier we take a look at the history behind one of the most popular public images of Hetton and its surrounding area.

The Centre of the Coat of Arms carries two key images –the 'Puffing Billy' and a lion rampant.

The steam engine represents the area's long links with the development of the locomotive industry and its essential links with the local mining industry.

In 1819 the owners of Hetton Coal Company had built a wagon-way from their new Hetton mine to the River Wear

at Sunderland. It was built in the style of a shorter but very successful line at Killingworth Colliery. George Stephenson was chosen as the engineer of the new eight mile long line (he had also designed the Killingworth track) and after long consultations with his brother Robert he decided to keep to the natural contours and to use both locomotives and stationary engines. The methods he adopted were still used until 1959, as was even some of the original machinery.

In 1822 the 'Puffing Billy', built by Stephenson, travelled the line when the first load of coal was transported over 17 trucks full of coal, weighing 64 tons.

A Hetton Lyons Colliery Locomotive (1822-1913) is on display at York Railway Museum

The Lion Rampant is linked with the Bowes Lyon Family – one of the



region's most notable families and major landowner (with that family having strong ancestral links with the late Queen Mother).

On the crown at the top of the Coat of Arms are three ears of corn – to represent Hetton's long established agricultural community.

If you have an article or picture about the area's heritage that you would like featured send it to Hetton Town Courier 'Memories of' at the address below.

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Delivered quarterly to households across Hetton Town Council's area and promoted via the council's popular website - [www.hettontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.hettontowncouncil.gov.uk) - the Hetton Town Courier can

open up whole new markets and audiences for you.

The next edition is due out in September and the deadline for advertising and editorial is mid August.

To find out how you can advertise at competitive rates to around 5,000 homes in the next edition of the Hetton Town Courier, or how you could promote your organisation and its activities, contact Hetton Town Clerk, John Price.

**By phone:** (0191) 553 6600.

**By email:** [john.price@hettontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:john.price@hettontowncouncil.gov.uk)

## No one misses out

Hetton Town Council aims to deliver the *Hetton Town Courier* to every household in its area.

If you know someone who has not received their copy please complete the coupon

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