

Sunderland's Blue Plaques

Commemorative plaques, which can be found on buildings of all styles and dates, are one of the most effective means of celebrating our history and the historic environment.

The City of Sunderland now has approximately 78 commemorative blue plaques spread out across the city, which mark buildings, places of interest or influential people with connections to the city.

This booklet gives details of those plaques within the city. Please note this list is not exhaustive. If anyone has any information relating to other blue plaques which are not included on the list then please contact the heritage team at info.heritage@sunderland.gov.uk

A detailed map showing the location of blue plaques within the city can be found at www.sunderland.gov.uk/heritage-blue-plaques

Guidelines for erecting blue plaques in Sunderland

This information is intended to provide practical guidance in the process of installing a blue plaque within Sunderland.

Although permission is not required from Sunderland City Council, it is good practice to seek advice and guidance before starting the process of erecting a blue plaque.

Blue Plaques should be erected to commemorate historically important people or events linked to a particular place within Sunderland. There is a set of criteria (set by English Heritage) against which to consider erecting a blue plaque in order to ensure that the people or events commemorated are of sufficient local historic importance or eminence to warrant recognition. For full details please visit <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/blue-plaques/>

Blue plaques should identify historically important people or events and places linked to a particular place within the City of Sunderland.

- The person should be deceased and at least ten years should normally have passed since their death
- The person should have made a significant contribution to the history of Sunderland or be eminent through their profession or calling
- Their time in Sunderland must have been a significant period, either in duration or importance, within their life and work
- The plaque is situated on the building with which they are associated, either as their home or place of work and in a prominent position. If the building is Listed then Listed Building Consent and/or planning permission will be needed from Sunderland City Council before proceeding. Please visit www.planningportal.co.uk
- There should only be one plaque dedicated to that person within Sunderland

Events to be commemorated should:

- Have occurred at least twenty years ago
- Be instantly recognisable to the majority of the general public
- Have significance to the City of Sunderland

Locations or particular buildings should:

- Be known locally or nationally as of especial significance and worthy of lasting recognition
- Have some visible remains intact

Funding

An estimate of the current cost of a plaque is approximately £350. This covers the cost of manufacture only. The erection of the plaque will also need to be considered by the individual or group who is responsible. Sunderland City Council is unable to provide funding for Blue Plaques however; the following websites provide more information about funding that may be available to local community groups:

www.hlf.org.uk

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

www.sunderland.gov.uk (Community Chest)

<https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/13134/Area-Committee-Funding>

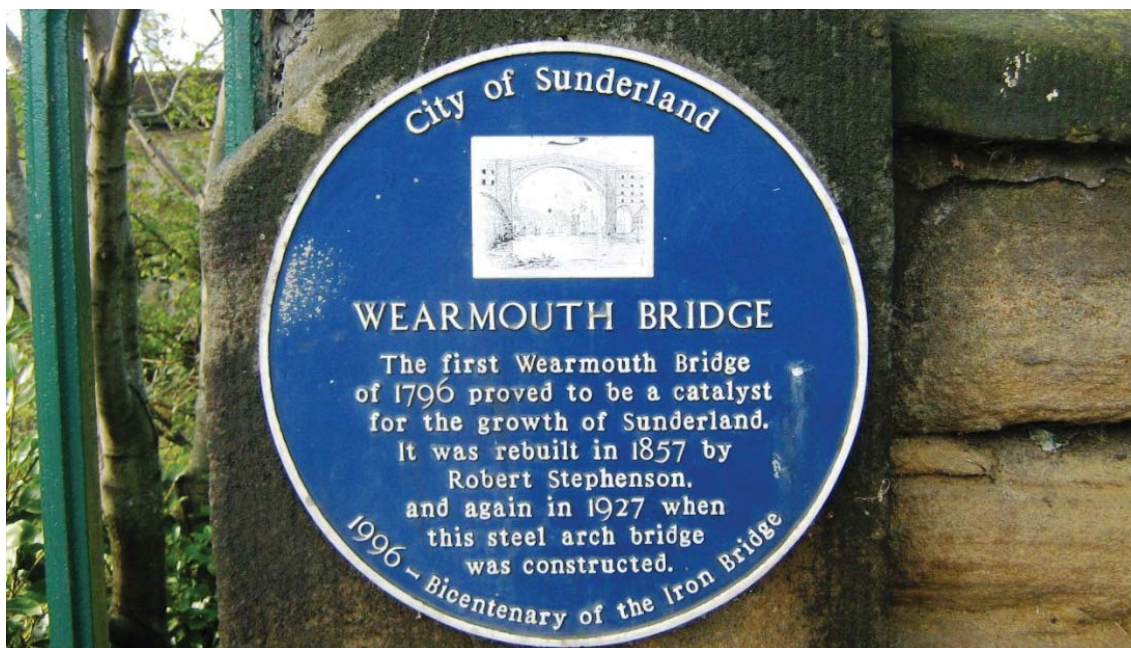
Private sponsorship or donations is another possible source of funding to investigate, particularly if there is a connection to a specific subject of interest.

Promotion of the plaque

Once the plaque is installed groups or individuals may wish to consider an unveiling ceremony which is an opportunity to promote and launch the plaque to the general public. Contact with the local media will attract public interest.

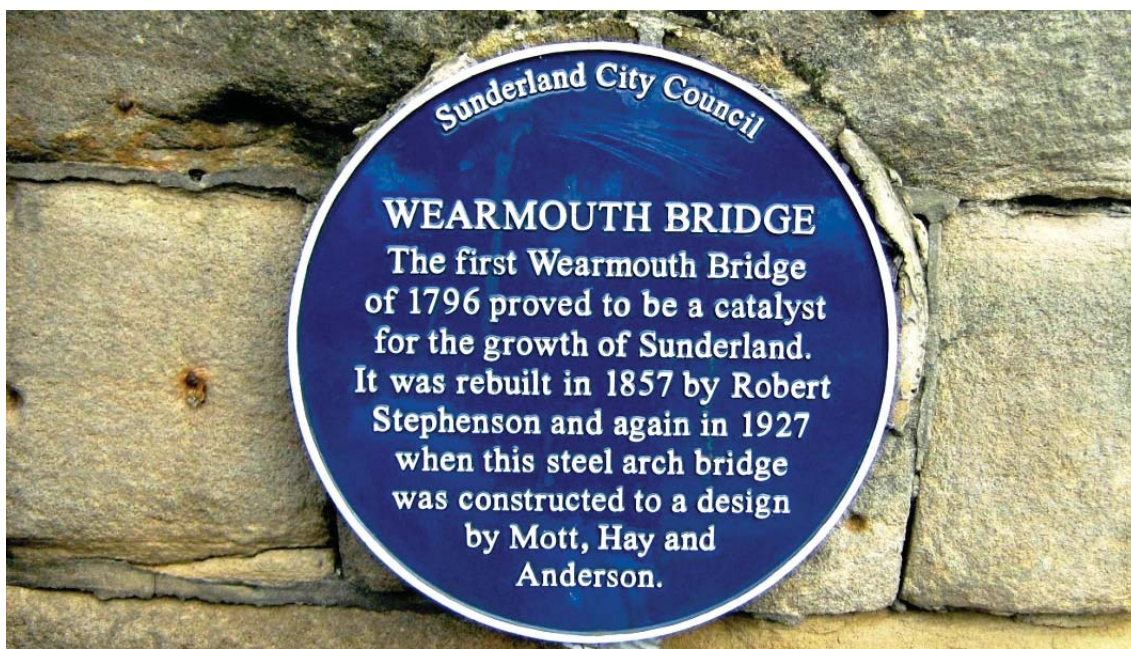
Information regarding blue plaques should be forwarded to Sunderland City Council's Heritage Team for inclusion on a city-wide list.

For further information please contact info.heritage@sunderland.gov.uk or telephone 0191 561 8413.



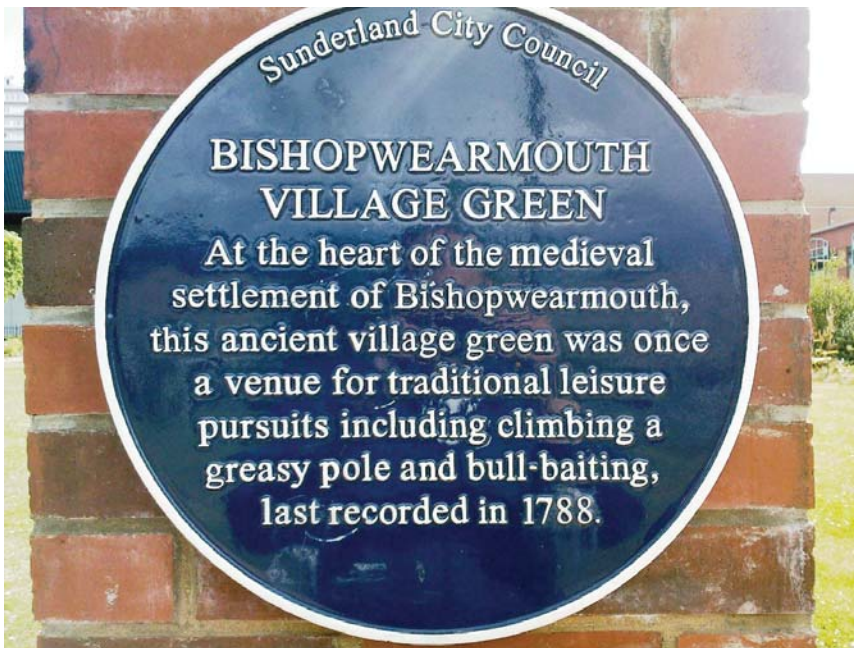
1. Wearmouth Bridge 1 – SR1 3AH

The first Wearmouth Bridge of 1796 proved to be a catalyst for the growth of Sunderland. It was rebuilt in 1857 by Robert Stephenson, and again in 1927 when this steel arch bridge was constructed.



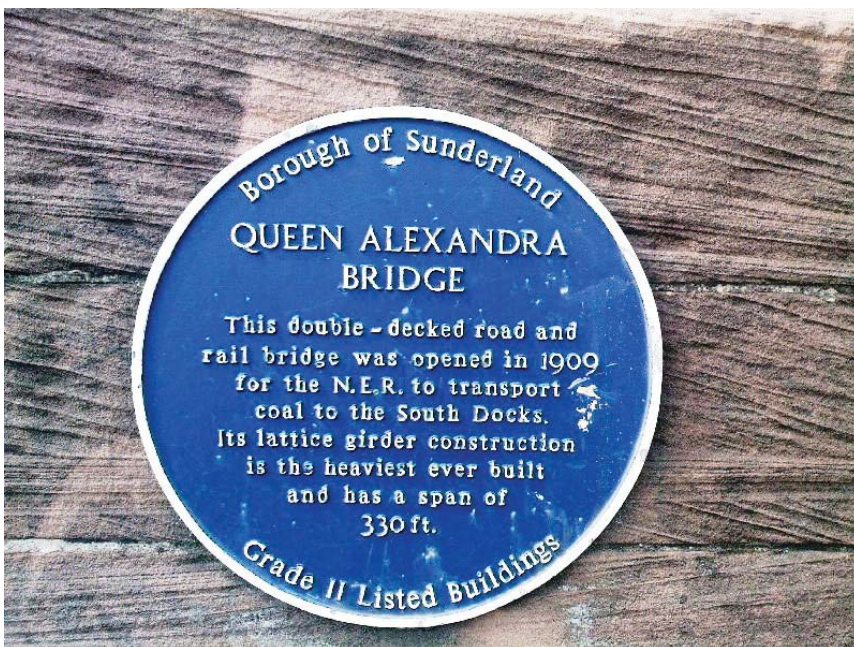
2. Wearmouth Bridge 2 – SR1 3AH

The first Wearmouth Bridge of 1796 proved to be a catalyst for the growth of Sunderland. It was rebuilt in 1857 by Robert Stephenson, and again in 1927 when this steel arch bridge was constructed to a design by Mott, Hay and Anderson.



3. Bishopwearmouth Village Green – SR1 3PU

At the heart of the medieval settlement of Bishopwearmouth, this ancient village green was once a venue for traditional leisure pursuits including climbing a greasy pole and bull-baiting, last recorded in 1788.



4. Queen Alexandra Bridge – SR5 2BS

Opened by King and Queen and was designed to be a dual road bridge and rail bridge to take coal to the South Docks. The lattice girder construction is still the heaviest every built.



5. Bishopwearmouth Panns – SR1 3AH

A Scottish Army camped here during the Civil War, occupying Sunderland, unopposed, from 1644-47 for the Parliamentary cause. The army overcame the Marquis of Newcastle's Royalist forces in a series of battles, notably at Offerton, Hylton and South Shields.



6. Pann's Bank – SR1 1XS

Pann's Bank has been the commercial heart of old Sunderland since the 16th Century. Used by a succession of industries until the shipyard closures of the 1960s, the ensuing dereliction has now been transformed to attract new uses.



7. The Pann Field – SR1 1XS

This area became known as the Panns in the 16th Century when it was the centre of the salt industry. Sea water was boiled in huge pans 20ft or more across and 6ft deep: a furnace below repeatedly boiled the pans dry for 3 days to produce salt.



8. Hind Street Burial Ground – SR1 3QD

In 1988, to facilitate building Sunderland's Inner Ring Road, human remains buried between 1806 and 1851 in Hind Street Churchyard, were removed and re-interred in the Cemetery at Bishopwearmouth.



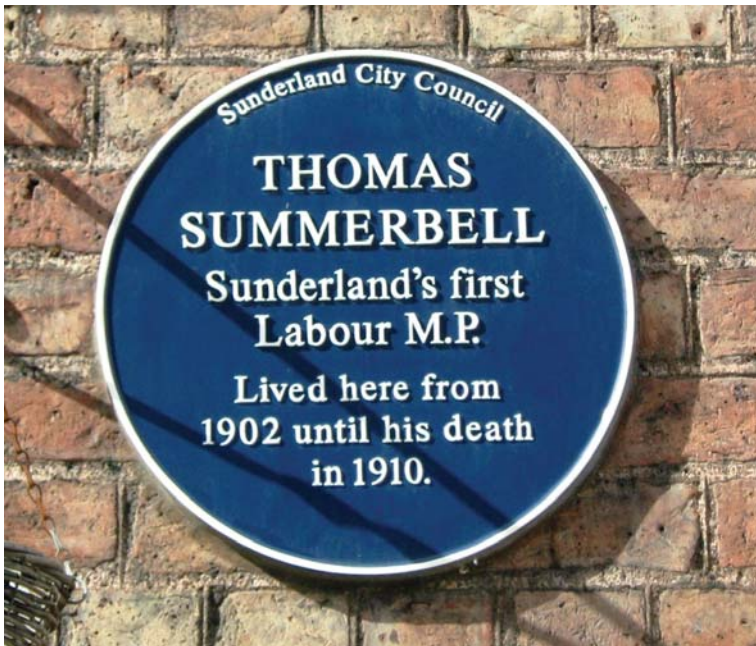
9. Fawcett Street Station (1853-1879) – SR1 1QB

This drinking fountain marks the entrance to the former terminus of the Penshaw Branch Line. The station closed to passengers when the Central Station opened.



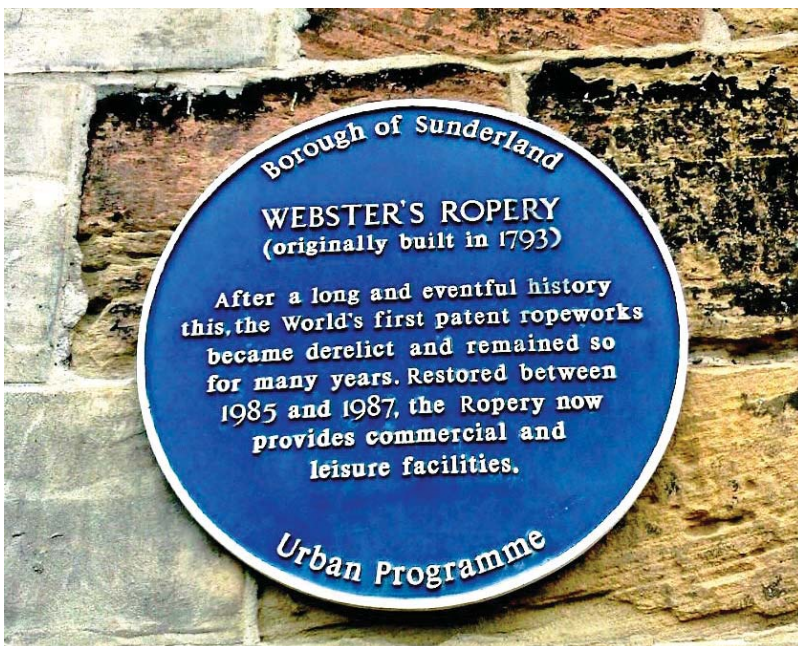
10. Strawberry Bank – Tunstall Road SR2 9BB

The name Strawberry Bank is taken from Strawberry Cottage, Tea and Pleasure Gardens, which were located nearby in the 19th century and celebrated for their flowers and fruit, especially strawberries.



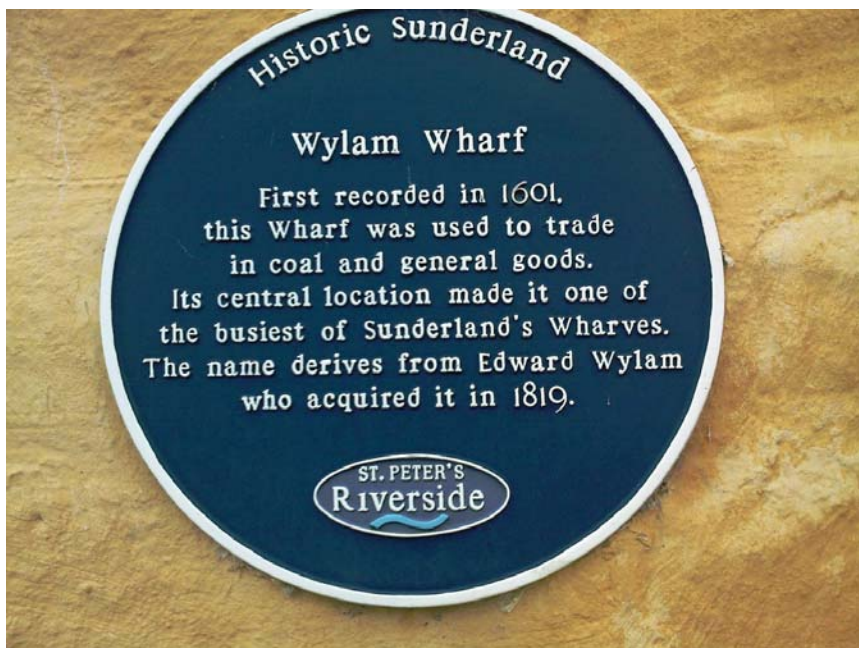
11. Thomas Summerbell – 14 Vincent Street SR2 8EU

Sunderland's first Labour M.P. Lived here from 1902 until his death in 1910.



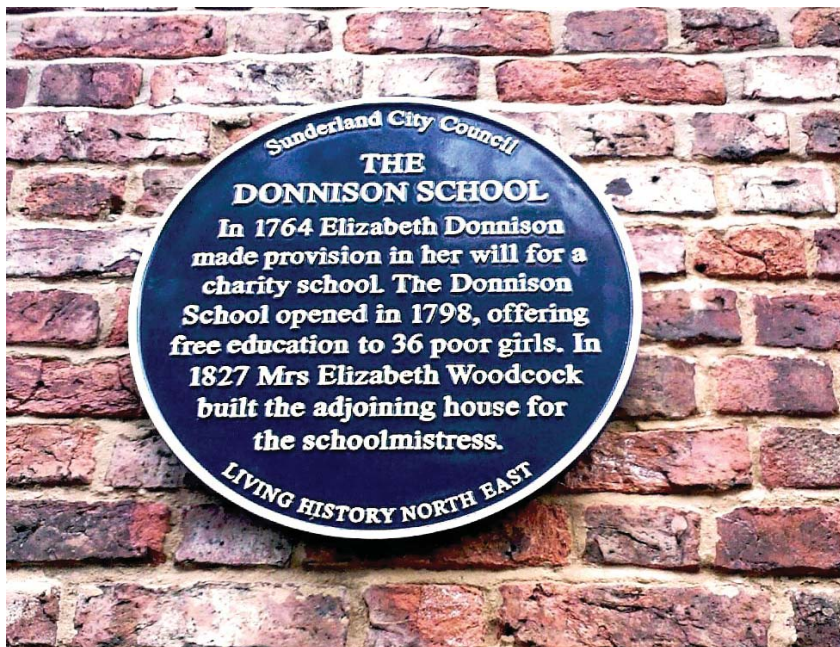
12. Webster's Ropery (originally built in 1793) – Ropery Road SR4 6DJ

After a long and eventful history this, the World's first patent ropeworks became derelict and remained so for many years. Restored between 1985 and 1987, the Ropery now provides commercial and leisure facilities.



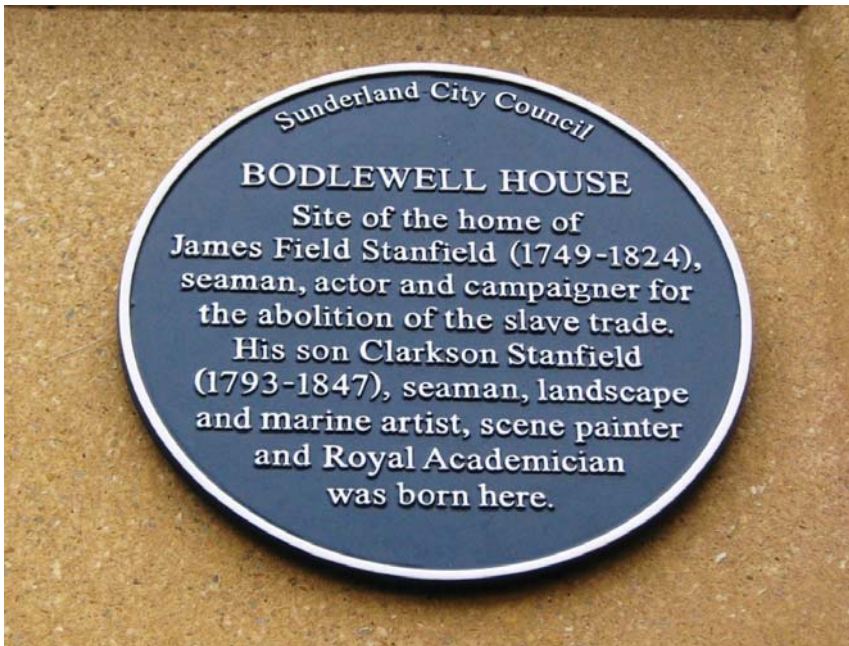
13. Wylam Wharf – SR1 2JR

First recorded in 1601, this Wharf was used to trade in coal and general goods. Its central location made it one of the busiest of Sunderland's Wharves. The name derives from Edward Wylam who acquired it in 1819.



14. The Donnison School – Church Walk SR1 2BJ

In 1764 Elizabeth Donnison made provision in her will for a charity school. The Donnison School opened in 1798, offering free education to 36 poor girls. In 1827 Mrs Elizabeth Woodcock built the adjoining house for the school mistress.



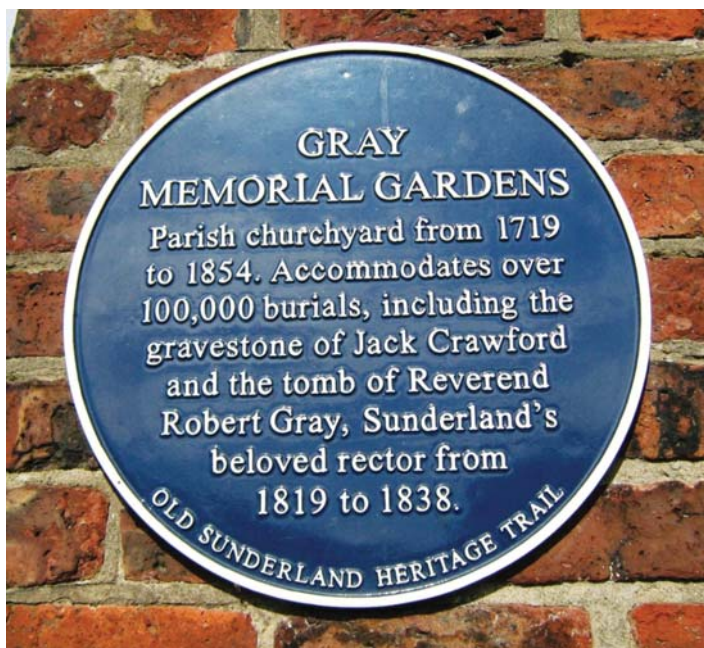
15. Bodlewell House – SR1 2AS

Site of the home of James Fields Stanfield (1749-1824), seaman, actor and campaigner for the abolition of the slave trade. His son Clarkson Stansfield (1793-1847), seaman, landscape and marine artist, scene painter and Royal Academician was born here.



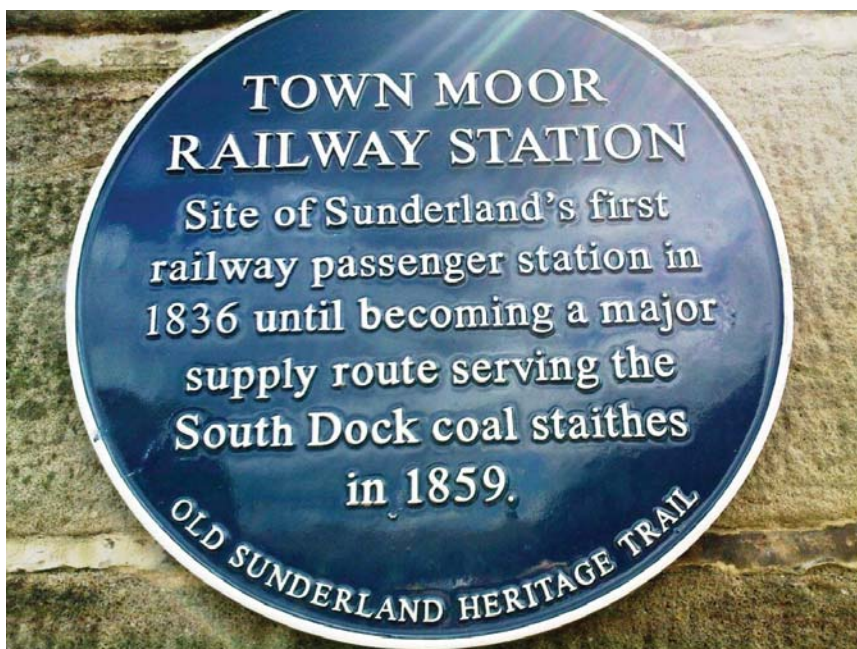
16. Church of Holy Trinity – Church Street East SR1 2BB

Grade I Listed Building built in 1719, the first Parish Church of Old Sunderland. Housed Town's Council Chamber and Library. Now a venue for concerts and events.



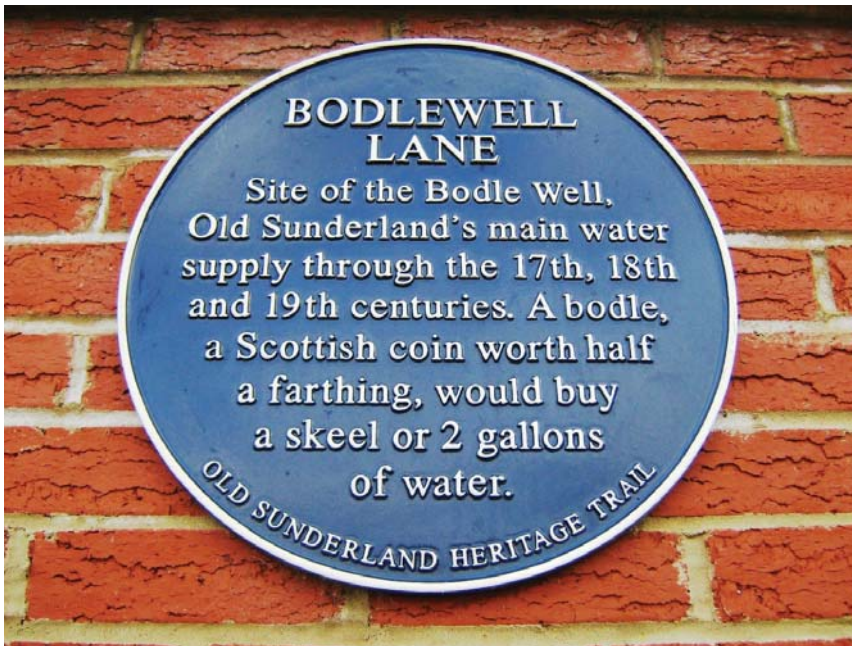
17. Gray Memorial Gardens – SR1 2JT

Parish churchyard from 1719-1854. Amongst over 100,000 burials, contains the gravestone of Jack Crawford and the tomb of Reverend Robert Gray, Sunderland's beloved rector from 1819-1838.



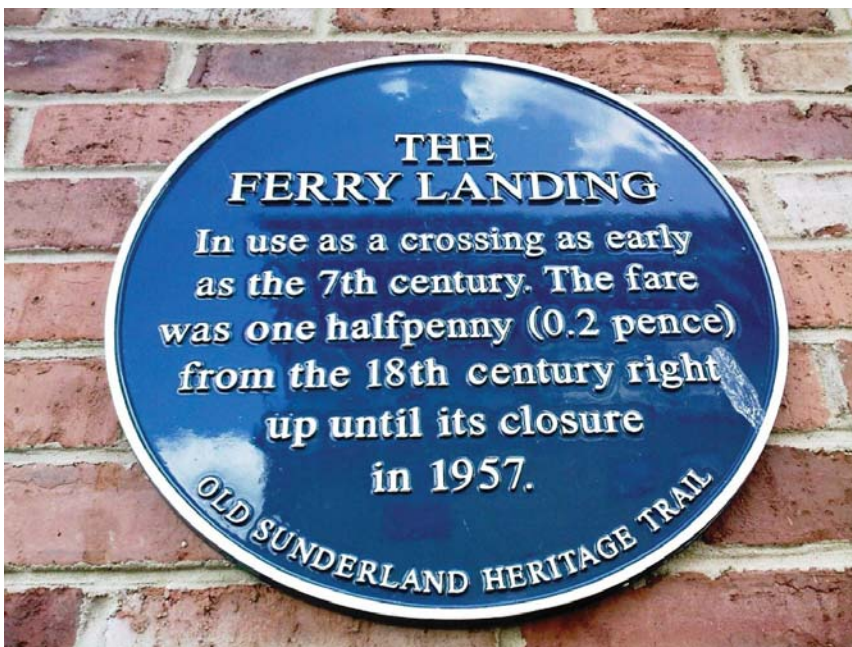
18. Town Moor Railway Station – SR1 2DX

Site of Sunderland's first railway passenger station in 1836 until becoming a major supply route serving the South Dock coal staithes in 1859.



19. Bodlewell Lane – Bodlewell Lane SR1 2AT

Site of the Bodle Well, Old Sunderland's main water supply through the 17th, 18th and 19th Centuries. A bodle, a Scottish coin worth half a farthing, would buy a skeel or 2 gallons of water.



20. The Ferry Landing – SR1 2BU

In use as a crossing as early as the 7th Century. The fare was one halfpenny (0.2 pence) from the 18th Century right up until its closure in 1957.



21. St John's Chapel/Church - Prospect Row SR1 2DX

Built 1769 by local coal fitter John Thornhill to ease overcrowding at the Parish Church. It became a separate parish church 1876 and a garrison church 1832-1919. Demolished 1972.



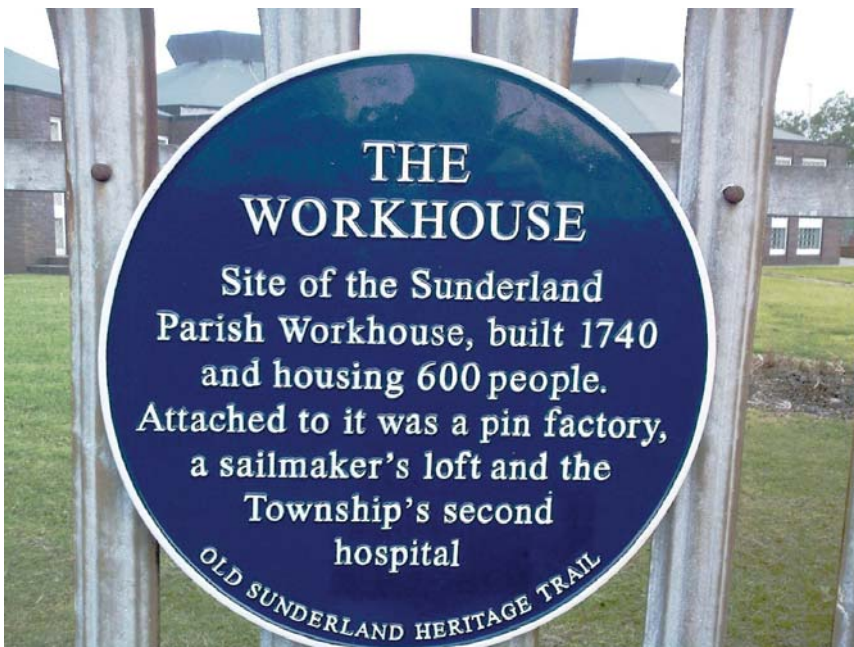
22. 10 & 11 Church Street – SR1 2BB

Built 1711 as part of a street of merchants' houses that linked the Parish Church with the commercial High Street and Riverside.



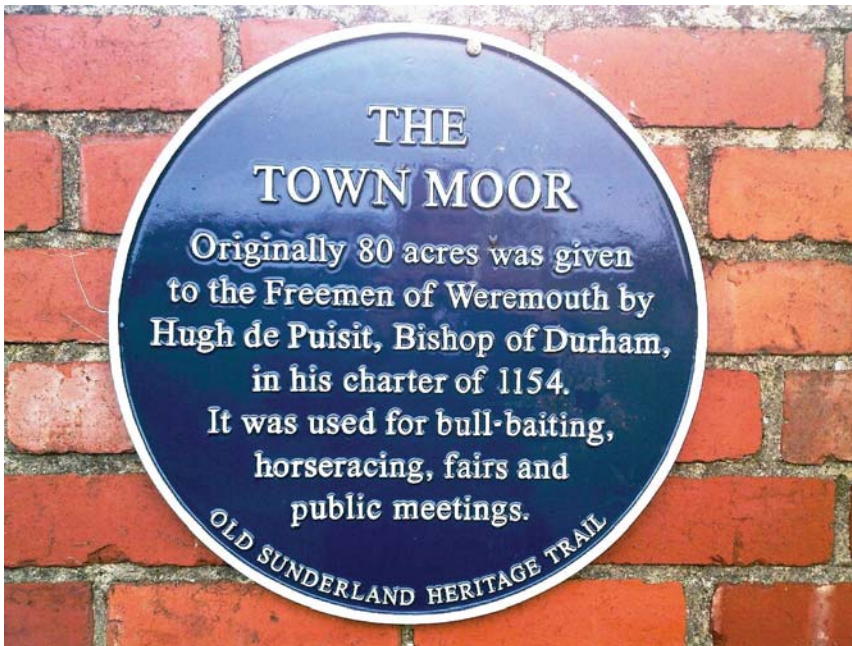
23. Prospect Row Mission – SR1

A children's mission since 1885, work continues today as a youth project. First public building to have outward opening doors in response to the Victoria Hall disaster.



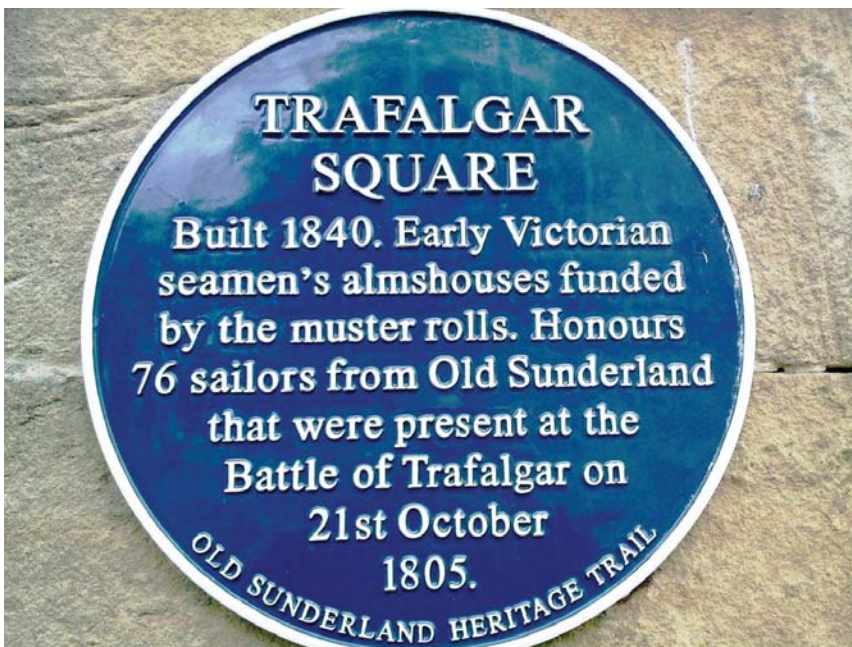
24. The Workhouse – SR1

Site of the Sunderland Parish Workhouse, built 1740 and housing 600 persons. Attached to it was a pin factory, a sailmaker's loft and the Township's second hospital.



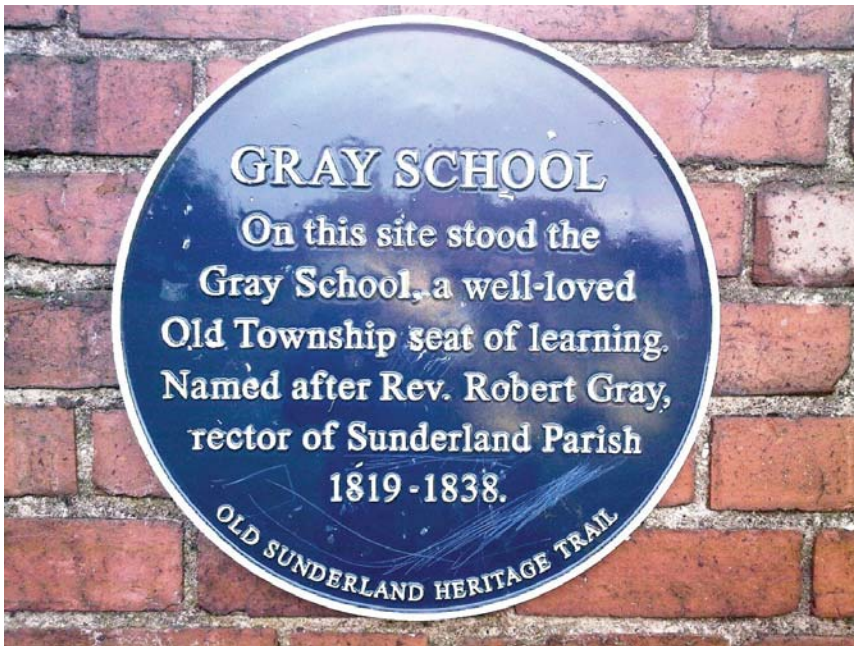
25. The Town Moor – The Quadrant SR1 2BW

Originally 80 acres was given to the Freemen of Weremouth by Hugh de Puisit, Bishop of Durham, in his charter of 1154. It was used for bull-baiting, horseracing, fairs and public meetings.



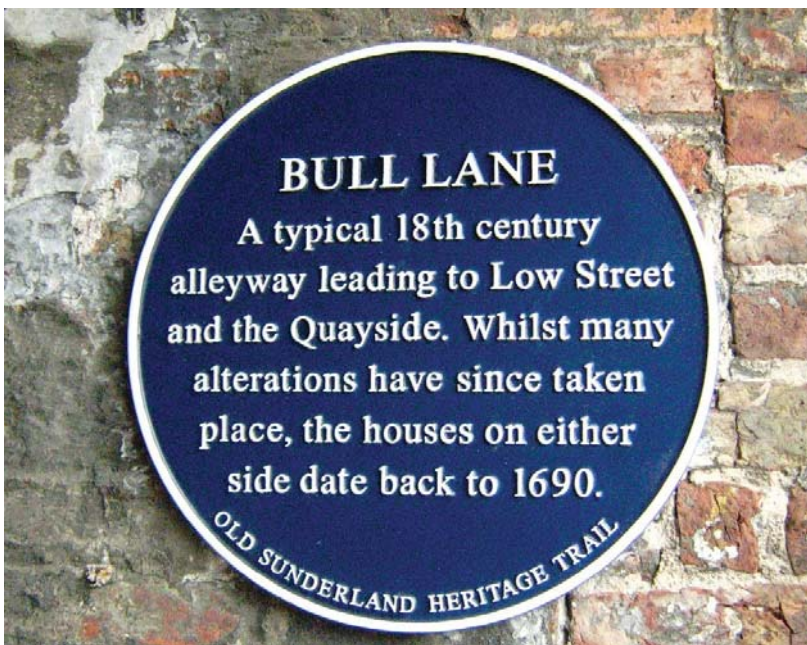
26. Trafalgar Square – SR1 2BJ

Built 1840. Early Victorian seamen's almshouses funded by the muster rolls. Honours 76 sailors from Old Sunderland that were present at the Battle of Trafalgar on 21 October 1805.



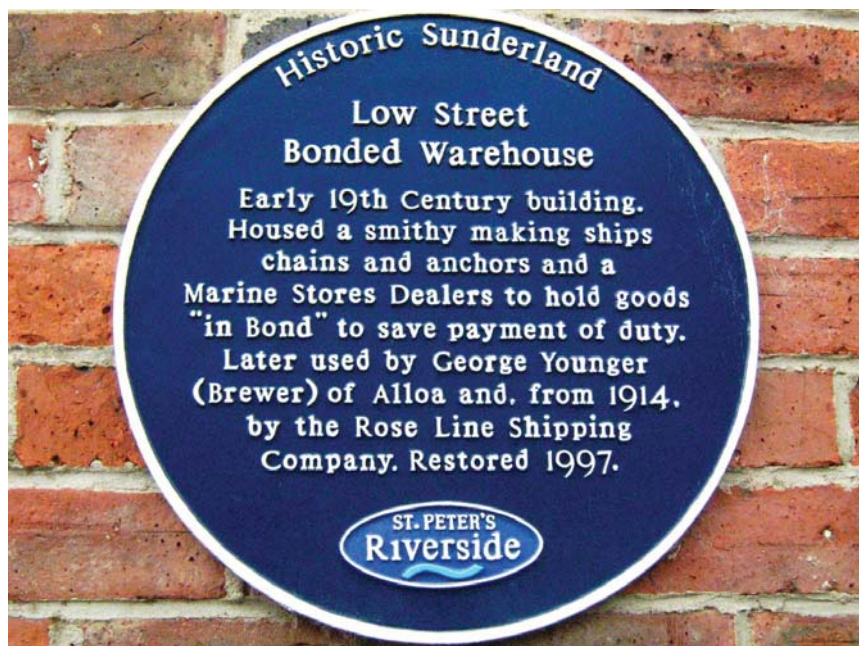
27. Gray School – SR1

On this site stood the Gray School, a well-loved Old Township seat of learning. Named after Rev. Robert Gray, rector of Sunderland Parish 1819-1838.



28. Bull Lane – SR1 2BL

A typical 18th Century alleyway leading to Low Street and the Quayside. Whilst many alterations have since taken place, the houses on either side date back to 1690.



29. Low Street Bonded Warehouse – Fish Quay, Low Street SR1 2RQ

Early 19th Century building. Housed a smithy making ships chains and anchors and a Marine Stores Dealers to hold goods "in Bond" to save payment of duty. Later used by George Younger (Brewer) of Alloa and, from 1914, by the Rose Line Shipping Company. Restored 1997.



30. The Rose Line Building – Low Street SR1 2AD

Built in the late 18th Century as part of the thriving town centre this warehouse is made of rubble stone with a brick extension of about 1820. The Rose Line Company were the last occupants from 1912. It fell into disuse in 1986 and was restored in 1995.



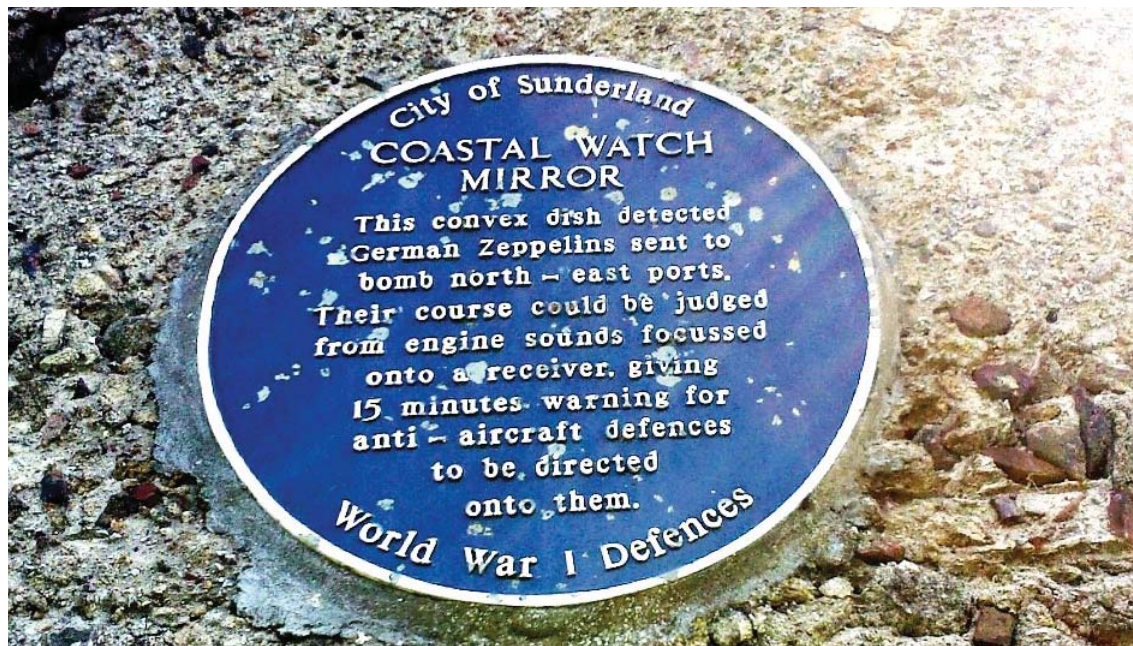
31. Customs House – SR1 2ED

Near this plaque stood the Elizabethan Customs House. It was demolished in 1935 when the Corporation Quay was built.



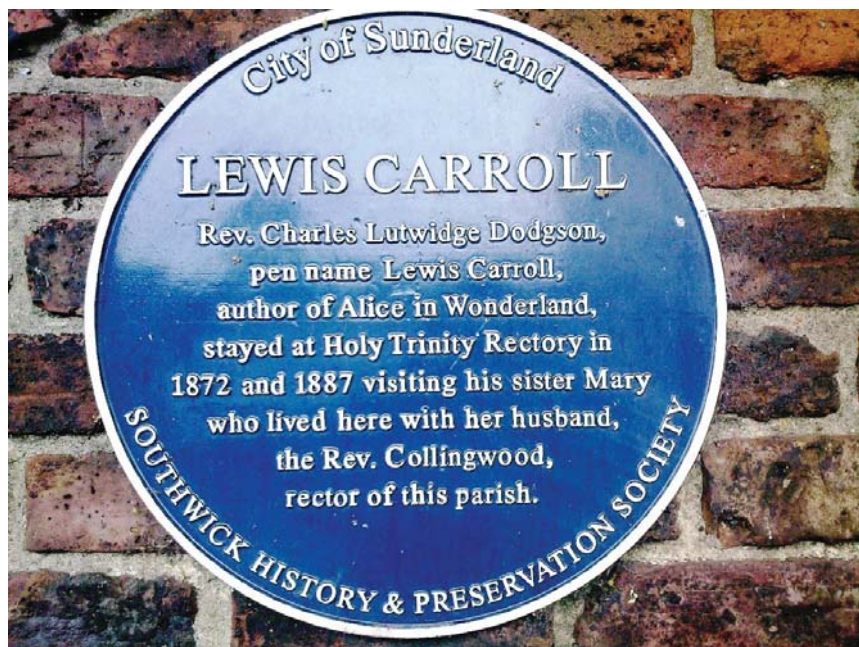
32. Old Lime Kilns Fulwell Quarries – SR5 1JB

For 200 years, until 1957, the Sir Hedworth Williamson Limeworks quarried a 140 acre site near here. The Quarry has been reclaimed but these early kilns remain as a monument to our Industrial Past.



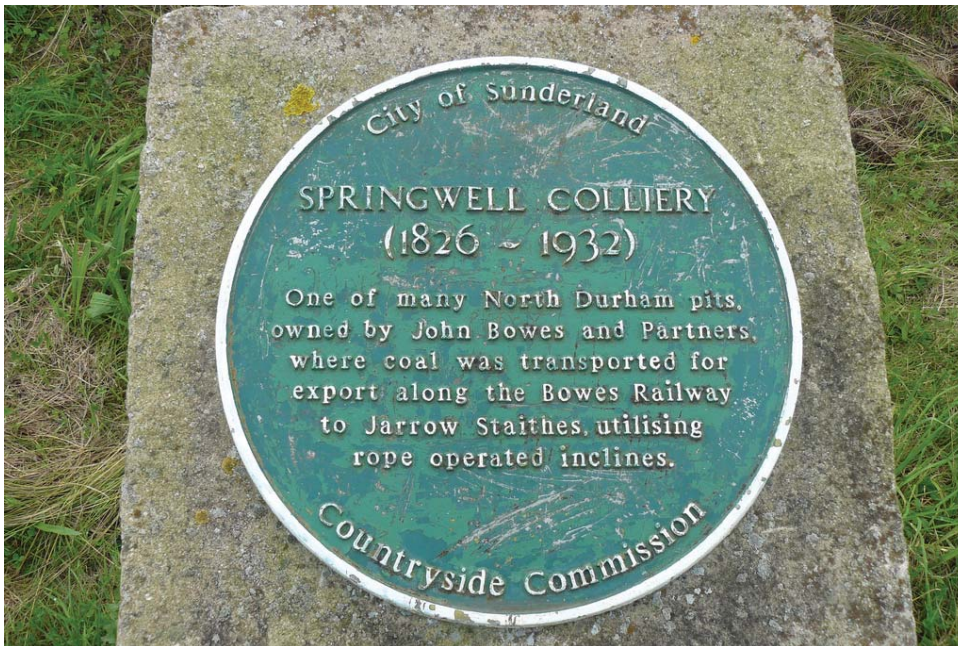
33. Coastal Watch Mirror – 10 Broomshields Close SR5 1SJ

This convex dish detected German Zeppelins sent to bomb north-east ports. Their course could be judged from engine sounds focussed onto a receiver, giving 15 minutes warning for anti-aircraft defences to be directed onto them.



34. Former Rectory of Holy Trinity Church, Lewis Carroll – SR5 2DR

Rev. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, pen name Lewis Carroll, author of Alice in Wonderland, stayed at Holy Trinity Rectory in 1872 and 1887 visiting his sister Mary who lived here with her husband, the Rev. Collingwood, rector of this parish.



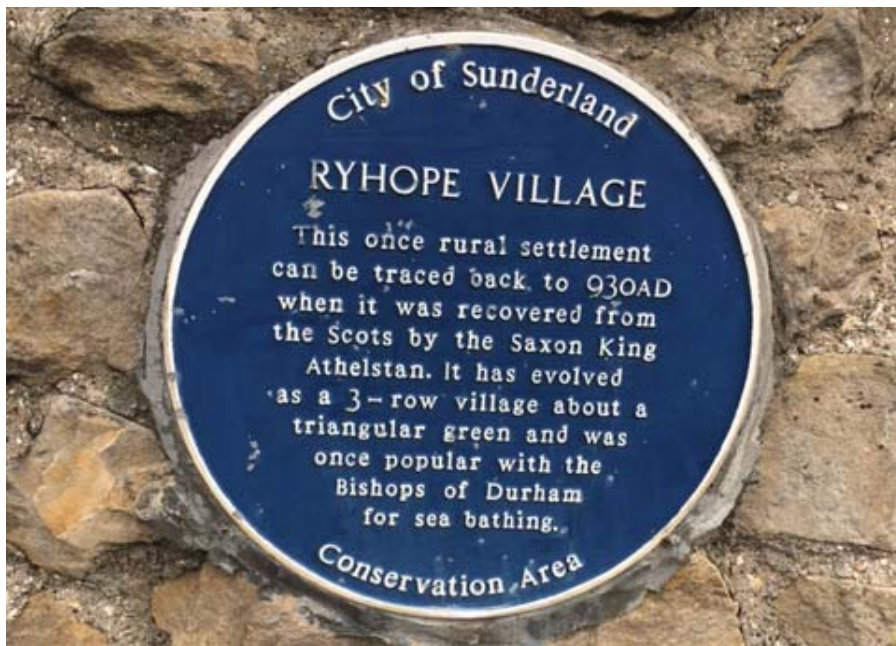
35. Springwell Colliery (1826-1932) – Springwell Road NE9 7QJ

One of the many North Durham Pits, owned by John Bowes and Partners where coals was transported for export along the Bowes Railway to Jarrow Staiths utilising rope operated inclines.



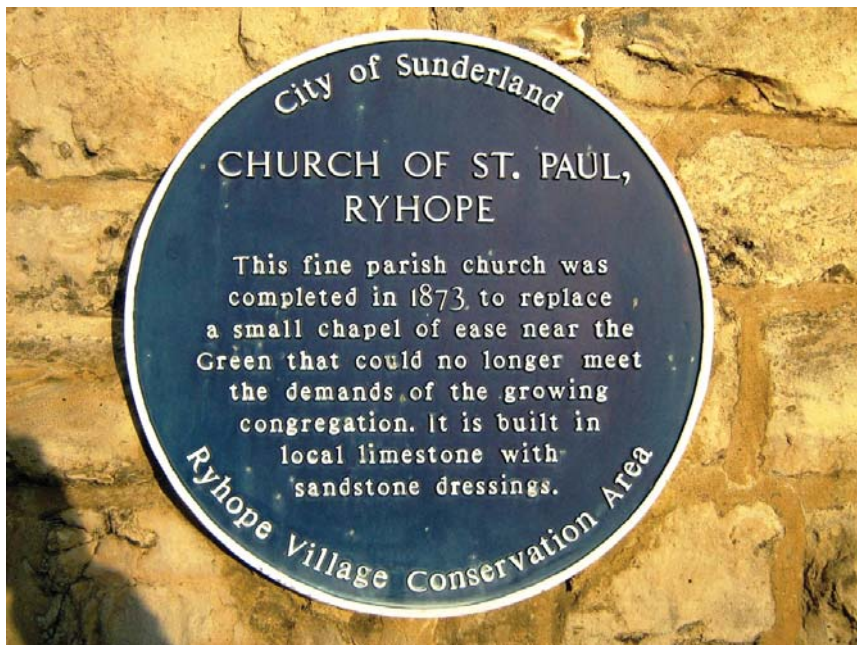
36. The Lighthouse Roker Cliff Park – SR6 9NS

This unique structure was originally built in 1856 on Sunderland's South Pier. It was dismantled and re-erected here in 1983 to allow for harbour improvements.



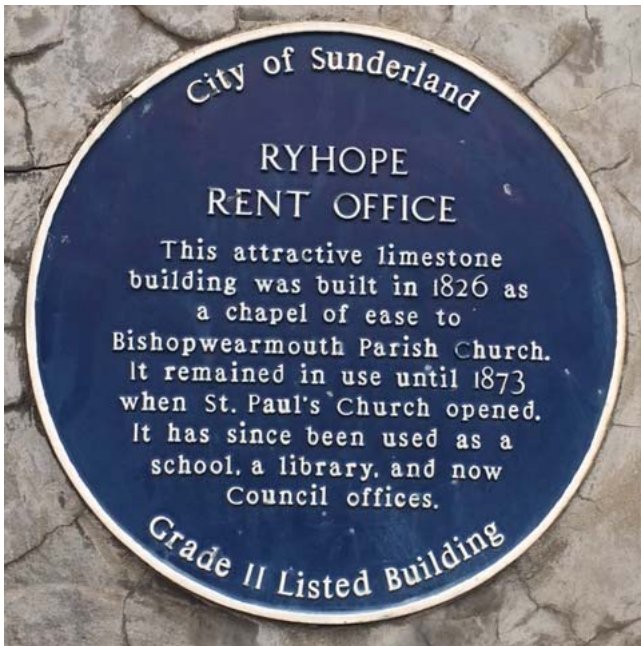
37. Ryhope Village – SR2 0NQ

This once rural settlement can be traced back to 930AD when it was recovered from the Scots by the Saxon King Athelstan. It has evolved as a 3-row village about a triangular green and was once popular with the Bishops of Durham for sea bathing.



38. Church of St. Paul, Ryhope – New Vicarage St Pauls, Ryhope Street South SR2 0HH

This fine parish church was completed in 1873 to replace a small chapel of ease near the Green that could no longer meet the demands of the growing congregation. It is built in local limestone with sandstone dressings.



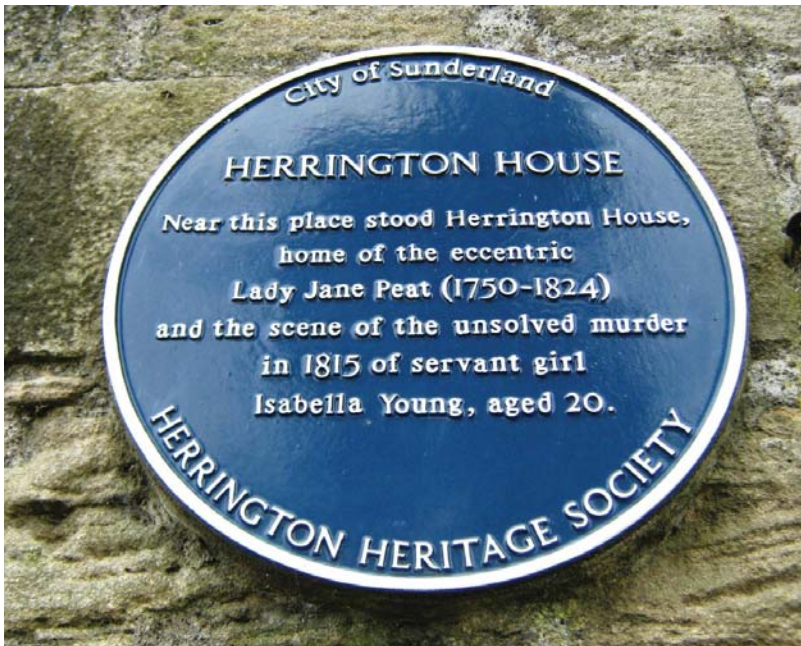
39. Ryhope Rent Office – Ryhope Street SR2 0RN

This attractive limestone building was built in 1826 as a chapel of ease to Bishopwearmouth Parish Church. It remained in use until 1873 when St. Paul's Church opened. It has since been used as a school, a library, and Council offices. Grade II Listed Building.



40. New Herrington Park – Crow Lane SR3 3TE

In this park stood ancient Herrington Hall from which in 1807 Anne Robinson (1785-1868) married Robert Surtees (1779-1834) historian of the county palatine of Durham.



41. Herrington House – Crow Lane SR3 3TE

Near this place stood Herrington House, home of the eccentric Lady Jane Peat (1750-1824) and the scene of the unsolved murder in 1815 of servant girl Isabella Young, aged 20.



42. Stephenson Trail Hetton Colliery Railway – DH5 9HU

George Stephenson's pioneering railway passed by here. The first to be built for use by steam locomotives, it remained in operation for 37 years. The artwork was designed by Roger Dickinson, with the help of local people.



43. Hetton Library – DH5 9PF

The library was originally built in 1873 as Hetton Infant School which was supported by the Hetton Coal Company. The school closed in the 1950's and the building was reopened as the local branch library in 1961.



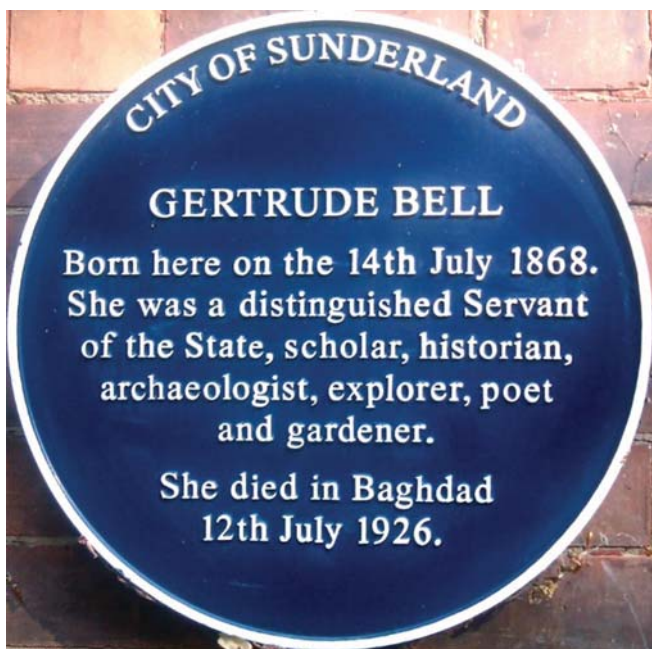
44. Hetton House – DH5 0AT

Built in the early 19th Century to serve as the rectory when the first chapel-of-ease was built as an adjunct to Houghton Church and Parish. Currently it provides accommodation for Hetton Town Council and an area office for the City Council.



45. Hetton Lyons Colliery – DH5 0RH

Opened in 1822, the Colliery and Railway were laid out by George Stephenson and built by his brother Robert who lived in a cottage in this row.



46. Gertrude Margaret Lowthian Bell – Dame Margaret Hall NE38 7BF

Born here on the 14 July 1868. She was a distinguished Servant of the State, scholar, historian, archaeologist, explorer, poet and gardener. She died in Baghdad 12 July 1926.



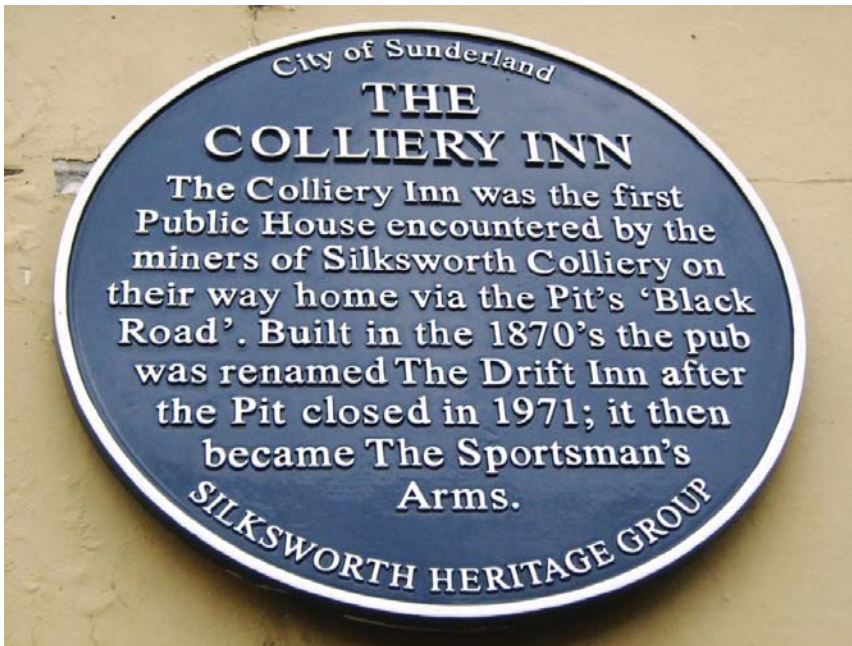
47. Bobby Gurney (1907-1994) – SR3 1HX

Born in Stewart St. Silksworth, Bobby first played for Silksworth Boys in the Sunderland and District Schools League. He played for Sunderland A.F.C. from 1925-1939 and was capped for England in 1935. His record of 288 goals scored for Sunderland A.F.C. still stands.



48. The Store – 2 Blind Lane SR3 1AU

This building was a Branch of the Ryhope and Silksworth Industrial and Provident Society which served the village from the 1880's to 1970's. The Department Store extended from Blind Lane to Byer's Court and sold everything from 'candles to coffins'.



49. The Colliery Inn – The Sportsmans Arms, Silksworth Lane SR3 1BN

The Colliery Inn was the first Public House encountered by the miners of Silksworth Colliery on their way home via the Pit's 'Black Road'. Built in the 1870s the pub was renamed The Drift Inn after the Pit closed in 1971; it then became The Sportsman's Arms.



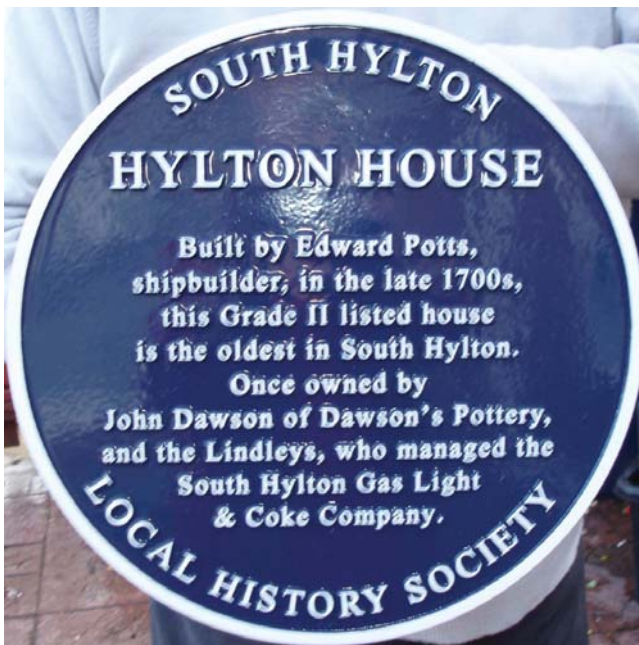
50. Silksworth Village School – Warden Law Lane SR3 2PF

Built as a Church of England School in 1852 by Mr E. Robinson, a local landowner who lived in Silksworth Hall, it also served for 20 years as a place of worship until the Parish Church was built. The School finally closed in 1967.



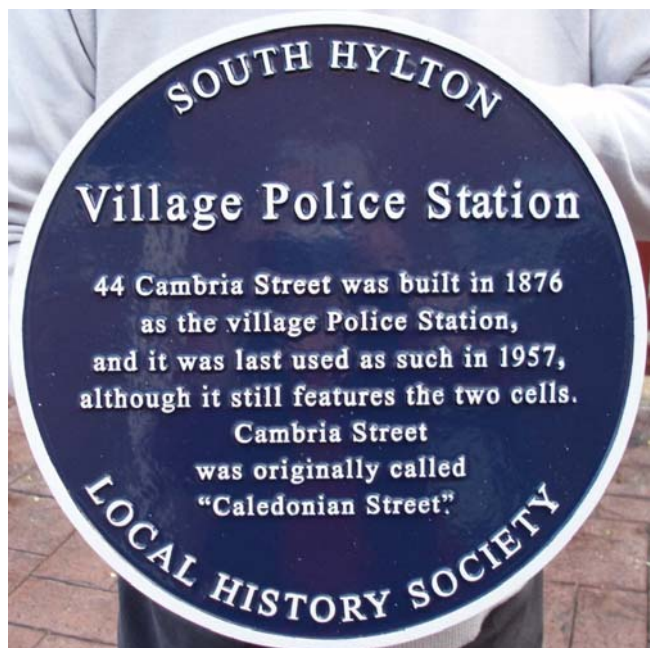
51. The Police House – 31 Silksworth Terrace SR3 2AX

This former Police House of the Durham County Constabulary was opened in 1887 with an office, interview rooms, cell and living accommodation above. From 1981 to 1997 it housed the offices of the Sunderland District Creamery; it became a florists in 1997.



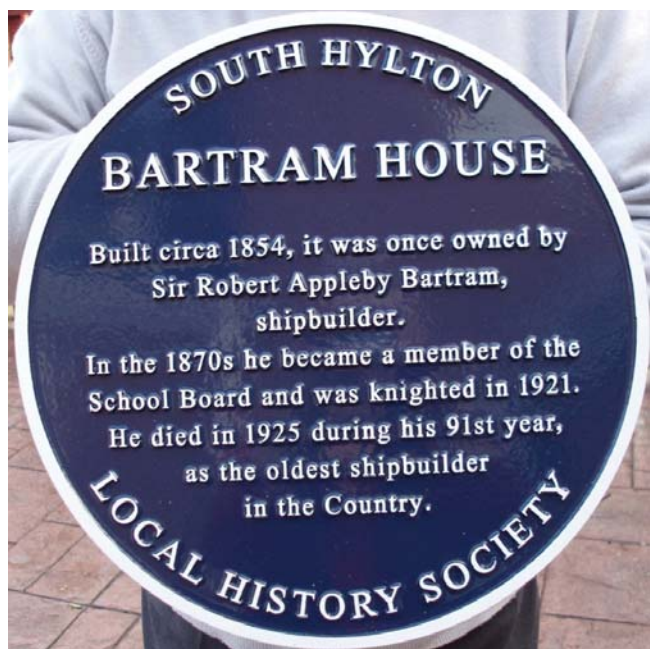
52. Hylton House – Hylton House, High Street SR4 0PP

Built by Edward Potts, shipbuilder, in the late 1700s, this Grade II listed house is the oldest in South Hylton. Once owned by John Dawson of Dawson's Pottery, and the Lindleys, who managed the South Hylton Gas Light & Coke Company.



53. The Village Police Station – SR4 0LT

44 Cambria Street built in 1876 as the village Police Station, and it was last used as such in 1957, although it still features the two cells. Cambria Street was originally called 'Caledonian Street'.



54. Bartram House – SR4 0PA

Built circa 1854, it was once owned by Sir Robert Appleby Bartram, shipbuilder. In the 1870s he became a member of the School Board and was knighted in 1921. He died in 1925 during his 91st year, as the oldest shipbuilder in the Country.



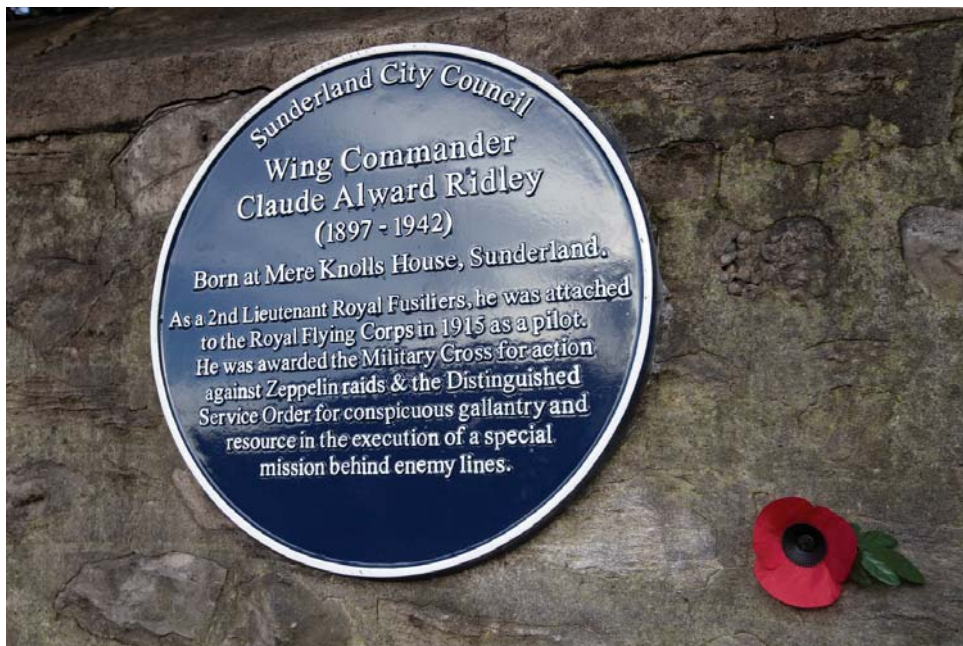
55. Thomas Hawksley Park – Thomas Hawksley Park, Sunderland SR3 1UY

In memory of adopted Sunderland Lad Thomas Hawksley who (in the West Area) built and supplied Sunderland's main water supply.



56. Ida Cook and Louise Cook – Chester Road, Sunderland SR4 7DR

Ida Cook (1904-1986) and her sister Louise Cook (1901-1991), residents of 37 croft Avenue, Sunderland, saved many Jews from Nazi persecution. In 1965 they were honoured as Righteous among the Nations by the state of Israel. Under the pen name of Mary Burchell, Ida was a prolific author for Mills and Boon.



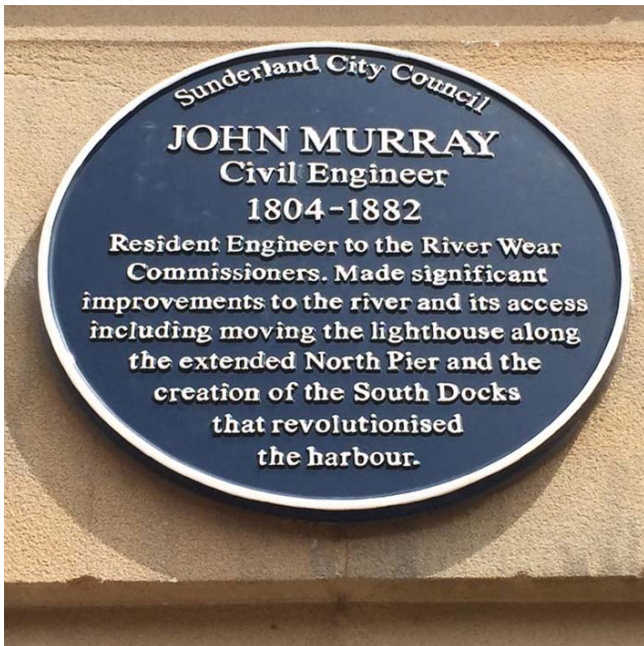
57. Wing Commander Claude Alward Ridley (1897-1942) – Chichester Road SR6 9DL

Born at Mere Knolls House, Sunderland. As a 2nd Lieutenant Royal Fusiliers, he was attached to the Royal Flying Corps in 1915 as a pilot. He was awarded the Military Cross for action against Zeppelin raids & the Distinguished Service Order for conspicuous gallantry and resource in the execution of a special mission behind enemy lines.



58. Captain George Allen Maling VC – Mowbray Road SR2 8EW

Born Carlton House 1888. Royal Army Medical Corps. Attached to 12th Battalion, Rifle Brigade, as Medical Officer. Awarded the Victoria Cross, 25th September 1915, for action above and beyond the call of duty during the battle of Loos in the First World War.



59. John Murray – Civil Engineer (1804-1882) – 4 St Thomas Street SR1 1NW

Resident Engineer to the river Wear Commissioners. Made significant improvements to the river and its access including moving the lighthouse along the extended North pier and the creation of the South Docks that revolutionised the harbour.



60. Charles William Alcock – 10 Norfolk Street, Sunderland SR1 1BH

Born here in 1842. A renowned footballer and cricketer, Alcock was Secretary of the Football Association for 25 years, working to establish the 'one universal game'. In 1870, he organised and played in the first ever international match, England vs Scotland; and in 1871, he created the world's first national football tournament, The FA Cup.



61. 160th (Wearside) Brigade Royal Field Artillery – DH5 8HH

Houghton Hall was the original HQ of the Brigade and home for the initial 750 locally raised volunteers in 1915. The brigade served with distinction in many famous battles of the First World War. Lest we Forget



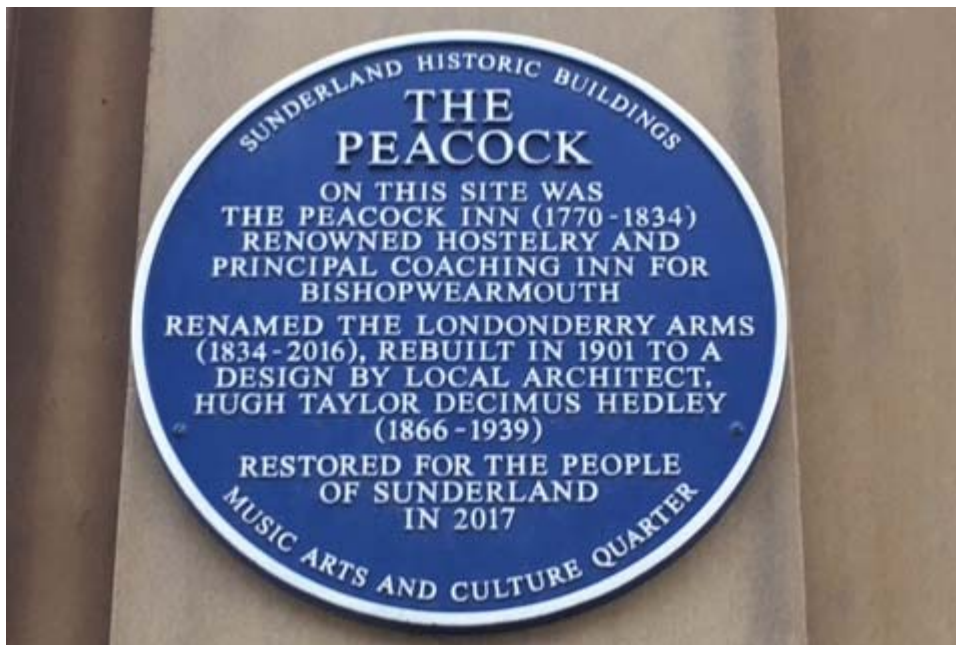
62. Harry Watts The RNLI headquarters – Sunderland Marina SR6 0PW

15 June 1826 – 23 April 1913 Born and raised in Sunderland, Harry was a renowned sailor and diver who rescued over 40 people from drowning and assisted in the rescue of a further 120. Described as a 'True Hero'.



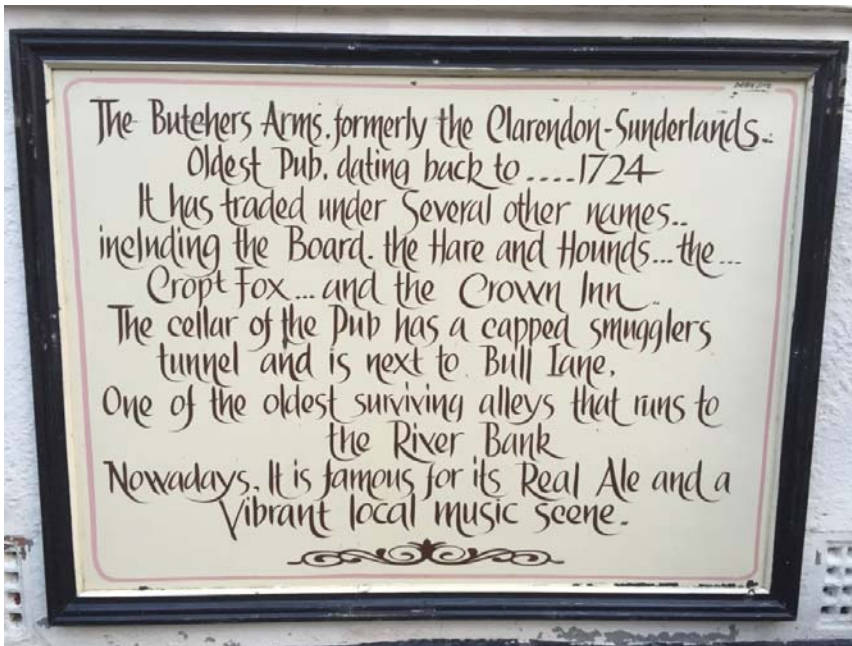
63. The Dun Cow – High Street West SR1 3HA

There was a pub called the Dun Cow on this site from at least 1834. The present building has one of the most stunningly ornate backbars in Britain and was designed in 1901 by Benjamin Ferdinand Simpson (1860-1940). Restored for the people of Sunderland in 2014.



64. The Peacock – 286 High Street West SR1 3ES

On this site was the Peacock Inn (1770-1834) renowned hostelry and principal coaching inn for Bishopwearmouth. Renamed the Londonederry Arms (1834-2016), rebuilt in 1901 to a design by local architect, Hugh Taylor Decimus Hedley (1866-1939) Restored for the people of Sunderland in 2017.



65. The Butchers Arms (White plaque) – 144 High Street East SR1 2BL

Formerly the Clarendon-Sunderlands. Oldest Pub dating back to 1724. It has traded under several other names including the Board, the Hare and Hounds, the Croft Fox, and the Crown Inn. The cellar of the Pub has a capped smugglers tunnel and is next to Bull Lane, one of the oldest surviving alleys that runs to the River Bank. Nowadays, it is famous for its Real Ale and a vibrant local music scene.



66. Exchange Buildings (1812-1814) – High St East SR1 2AX

Built by public subscription to the design of John Stokoe. It was the civic, commercial and cultural centre for the port of Sunderland and the scene of great social events welcoming, among others, the Duke of Wellington in 1827. Restored in 2002. Bicentenary 14 May 2014.



67. The British Day School – 36 Norfolk Street SR1 1EA

A meeting here in October 1879, when the building was the British Day school, saw the formation of what is now Sunderland A.F.C. – originally called Sunderland and District Teachers' Association.



68. Blue House Field – SR2 8PD

The first home ground of what is now Sunderland and District Teachers' Association, the Club made their home here from its foundation in 1879 until 1881.



69. The Cedars (Near Victoria Gardens Pub) – SR2 8AT

Sunderland A.F.C. are believed to have played as many as four matches at a pitch here in 1881 making it the Club's second home ground.



70. The Dolly Field, Horatio Street – SR6 0NJ

The Dolly Field, Horatio Street In 1883-84 this was Sunderland AFC's fourth ground. Appley Terrace and Givens Street now stand on the pitch which ran along Cooper Street. The Club won its first trophy here and used The Wolsey as its changing rooms.



71. Newcastle Road – SR5 1JB

Sunderland A.F.C.'s sixth ground, used between 1886-1898. Sunderland's first league game took place here on September 13 1890. The 'Team of All The Talents' won the league title in 1892, 1893 and 1895. England beat Wales 4-1 here on March 7 1891.



72. Roker Park – 4 Roker Park Close SR6 9TN

Sunderland's seventh ground and home to the club from 1898-1997. Seven full internationals were played here including a World Cup quarter final in 1966. Sunderland brought the league title here in 1902, 1913 and 1936 and the FA Cup in 1937 and 1973.



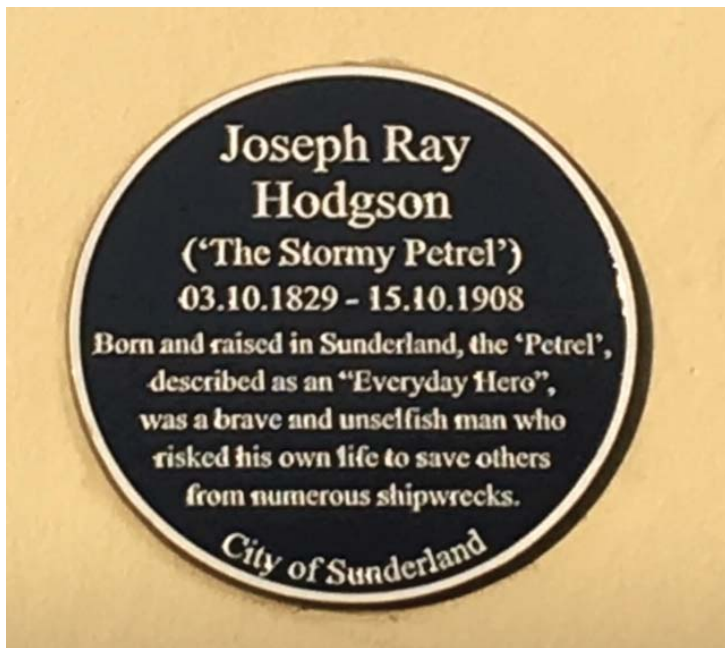
73. Abbs Field – SR6 9HX

Sunderland AFC's fifth home ground and the place Sunderland first wore red and white but in halves not stripes. The Club's first game here was on September 27 1884 and they stayed until 1886.



74. The Grove, Ashbrooke – 7 Willow Bank Road SR2 7NL

This was Sunderland AFC's third and final ground on the south side of the river. Playing here between 1882-83. The Club's first recorded game here was on November 4 1882.



75. Boar's Head – High Street East SR1 2BL

Joseph Ray Hodgson (The Stormy Petrel) 1829-1908 Born and raised in Sunderland, the 'Petrel', described as an "Everyday Hero", was a brave and unselfish man who risked his own life to save others from numerous shipwrecks.



76. Fatfield Colliery – NE38 8AE

Explosion at Fatfield – 18 August 1708, At 3am in the morning near this place occurred a deep mine explosion. The souls of 69 people were lost, including men, women and children. None of the names of the lives lost were recorded. A willow tree and an avenue of elm trees were planted to mark this tragic event. This plaque is their memorial.



77. RAF Usworth – Washington Road SR5 3HZ

On this day (15 Aug 1940) Hawker Hurricane aircraft of 607 (County of Durham) Squadron R Aux AF by Flt Lt Francis Blackadder DSO succeeded in defeating the largest daytime raid by the German Luftwaffe on North East England during the Battle of Britain. During this time The Three Horseshoes public House was used as the Officers' Mess. Per Ardua Ad Astra.



78. The Firestation – High Street West SR1 3ET

Opened in 1908 Sunderland Central Fire Station was designed by local architects, W & T R Milburn. "An elegant façade with rusticated arched entrances for the fire engines and flaming torches between the windows above". It closed as a fire station in 1992 restored with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the people of Sunderland in 2017.

