

Year 6 Local Study and Chronological Knowledge Beyond 1066

How did Darlington contribute to the development of the railways?

Year 6 have been learning about our local history. Darlington played a significant role in the development of the railways thanks to the engineering genius of George Stephenson and the business minded Edward Pease. We contacted 'Head of Steam' and asked for a tour around Darlington to look for evidence of our engineering past.

Look at the pictures below and read about what you can expect to see if you look hard enough!



Many of the shops on North Road were once houses, built for the railway workers.



The Railway Tavern was one of the first places built so passengers could buy tickets and had a place to wait. In the very early days of railways, there were no stations!



Above the kebab shop is a sign. The sign shows that this used to be a huge house where George Stephenson and Edward Pease planned out the Darlington Stockton Railway.



There is lots of artwork around the town celebrating our past. This one shows Edward and Joseph Pease.



This is a tally house where people would count the number of carriages a train was pulling.



Here, it looks like a plain wall, but this is known as a coal drop. The coal drop was where coal was dropped from one carriage to another below.



Ever wondered why a lot of the streets of Darlington are made from this greyish stone? It is a waste product from iron making that has been recycled into paving stones.



Down this path is the Skerne Bridge. It is the oldest railway bridge in the whole world. Look at the picture below to see what it was like in the past.



The Locomotion 1 pulled people across the Skerne Bridge and thousands of people came to watch. It looks a lot different from the Darlington we live in today.



Here it is! Locomotion 1. The actual train that George Stephenson built almost 200 years ago. It has been at Head of Steam all this time, but it may be being moved to Shildon. We are going to write letters to prevent this from happening because we want to keep it in Darlington where it belongs.



Many streets are clues to Darlington's past. Here we have Stephenson Street. I wonder who this is named after!



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This is a coco palace. This was a place that the Quakers set up to try and stop people from drinking alcohol. We had no ideas that these places existed.