

Memories of North Road Locomotive Works

Some of the best items in our collection were written by our own customers and this file of memories is no exception!

January 2013 marked the 150th anniversary of the opening of North Road Locomotive Works. We decided to mark the occasion by asking local people with connections to the works to come forward with their memories. The response was amazing and you can read all of the submissions and see many of the photographs we collected in this file.

North Road Works opened on 1st January 1863. Initially the works covered an area of 6 acres and employed 150 men. Following expansion it occupied 27 acres and provided jobs for over 3,000 workers. But in April 1966, after more than 103 years of locomotive building and repair in Darlington, changes to the railway industry forced the closure of North Road Shops.



North Road Locomotive Works Foremen, April 1929

Despite it being nearly 50 years since production ceased the people of Darlington had not forgotten North Road Works and were keen to record their stories. From the manager, to the apprentices and a man who worked in a shop over the road all aspects of working life at this local industry are covered.

Anyone with even a fleeting interest in locomotives, or the social and economic history of Darlington, will find these reminiscences fascinating.