

COLLECTING MEMORIES

The memories of people in our own families and local communities can be a rich source of information about the past. Head of Steam – Darlington’s Railway Museum is commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the closure of North Road Works by creating an online collection of memories. Former employees and relatives of former employees are invited to contribute to the collection by completing a memory form like the one below.

Students can look at this example and use the template overleaf to collect memories about their own topic from family members, people from the community or their school.

50 YEARS OF MEMORIES



North Road Works in Darlington opened on 1 January 1863 and employed approximately 150 people. By 1910 Darlington had become a regional centre for locomotive building. The Works closed on 2 April 1966 after 103 years and 3 months in operation. Find out more here: <https://northroadworksmemories.wordpress.com/about/>

Name Keith Martin

Time Worked at North Road Works 1957 - 1963

My first job was as an office boy. My first wage packet was the princely sum of £2.10s (old style money).

My apprenticeship as a fitter started July 1958. Over the next five years I probably worked in most of the departments covering every aspect of steam locomotive overhaul, including working in the Shell Shop on various machines producing new parts for the locomotives being overhauled (the name Shell Shop came from when shells and munitions were being manufactured here for the War Effort).

When the apprentices were working in the Erecting Shop the old timers would have a laugh at us by sending us to the stores to get:- a left handed hammer! A right handed spanner or go for a long stand! Another standing joke was 'Don't stand still too long or you might get painted!'

The worst job I can remember was when I was working in the tender repair shop. As an apprentice we had to go inside of the tender body with a candle! A bucket full of bolts with asbestos string round them, covered in a tarry black substance and put them through holes while the fitter outside put nuts on and tightened them up with a pneumatic drill, which was extremely noisy and bad for your ears. There was very little health and safety around in those days!

Please return this form to Head of Steam – Darlington Railway Museum, North Road Station, Darlington, DL3 6ST or by email museumstudycentre@darlington.gov.uk

MEMORIES OF



MUSEUM
IN YOUR CLASSROOM

Name

Contact details

MEMORIES

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary

Please indicate if you would be willing to be interviewed about your memories (please tick)

YES NO

Please return this form to