

Welford and Weston Local History Society
www.welfordandweston.org.uk

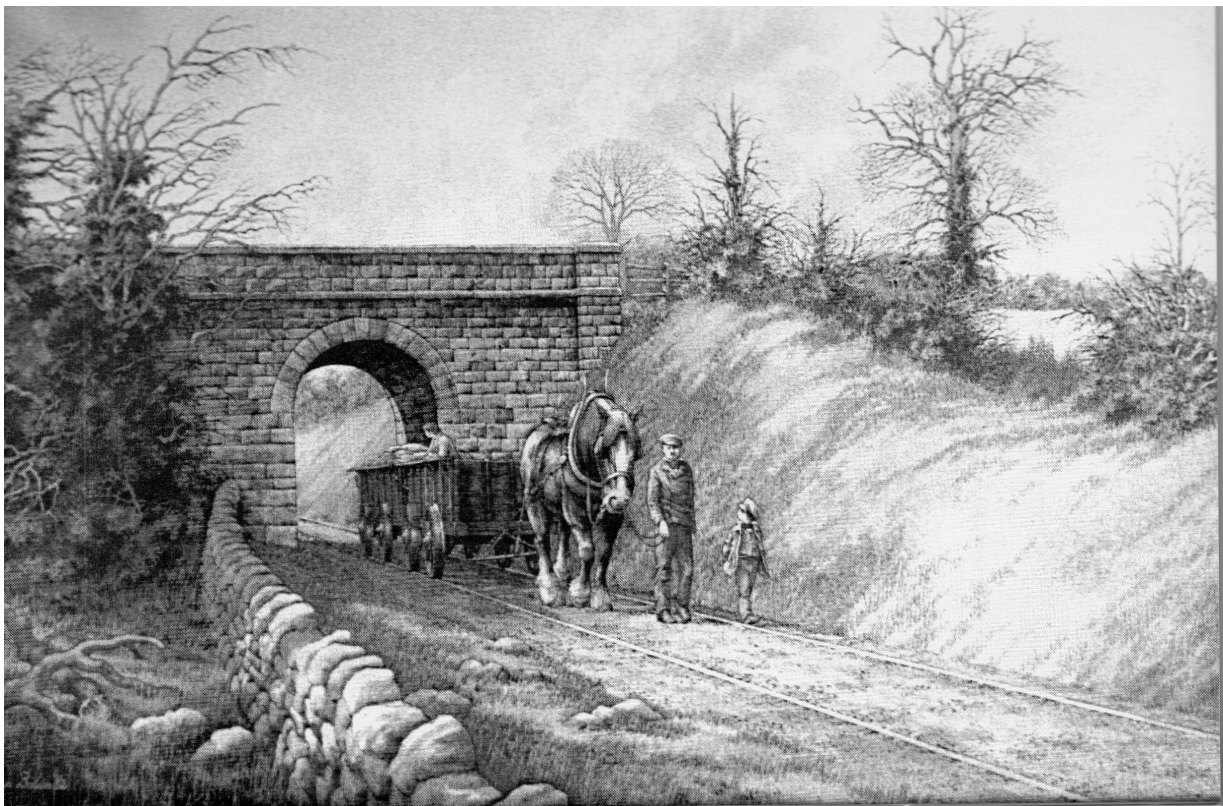
Newsletter 42 – October 18th 2017

***Our next meeting is on Friday 24th November, and is entitled,
The Stratford and Moreton Tramway***

Most of you will have heard of George Stephenson (1781-1848) and the Stockton and Darlington railway. The Act of Parliament, that gave the go ahead to this venture, was given Royal Assent on April 19th 1821. But, how many of you have heard of William James (1771-1837) and the Stratford and Moreton tramway? The Act of Parliament, that gave the go ahead to this venture, was given Royal Assent just 6 weeks later, on 28th May, 1821.

In both of these groundbreaking 'infrastructure projects' the traction power was initially envisaged as being provided by horses, which would pull carts or wagons along an iron track. However locomotives were being developed in the North East of England at the same time, and when the Stockton and Darlington railway eventually opened in September 1825, the carts were drawn by a locomotive engine, named 'Locomotion'.

When the Stratford and Moreton tramway opened just a year later in September 1826, horses were still used to draw the wagons. You may wonder why this was the case.



The fascinating story of how the Stratford and Moreton tramway came to be built and the vision shown by our own local railway pioneer William James, will be given in an illustrated talk at our next meeting on 24th November, by Jackie Checketts assisted by Brad Plimmer.



William James (1771-1837)

We do hope you can make this meeting.

Kind regards, Brad

*Mike Banning-Lover 750480, Christine Harby 01926 490782, Sue Hook 751400,
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