



westpark Street names

Artwork in the residential area of Westpark takes the form of naming the streets and placing short verses on each street sign. There are three main areas of housing, each with a separate theme relating to the industrial and agricultural history of Darlington and the surrounding area.

The text on the street signs is designed to be read many times, either glanced at in passing or reflected upon during a stroll around the houses. Each text can be read by itself, or as a connecting narrative, relating to the overall themes. This reflects how we gradually absorb road signs or historical notices – deepening our involvement when we feel receptive, passing them by when we do not.

The Peases & the Railway

The Peases were a nineteenth century Quaker dynasty from Darlington of great significance to the Industrial Revolution. Coming from a background in the textile trade and moving into the coal industry, the wealth and vision of Edward and Joseph Pease and their family was instrumental in the development of the railways. They provided funds to enable both George Stephenson and Timothy Hackworth to develop steam engines, which subsequently transformed the landscape, changing the speed with which both goods and passengers could be transported.

Edward Pease Way

Ned's way cuts through work to wisdom, through hospital, park, and school to home.

George Stephenson Drive

When Darlington had need of George what marvels rocketed from his forge!

Catcastle Court

Left to lichen and the lark, this quarry reopened to furnish Westpark.

Locomotion Lane

The first train fired by skill and chance led the world on its tireless dance.

Timothy Hackworth Drive

Though history likes to simplify, don't leave this pioneer behind.

Belah Court

There Bouch's triumph used to stand, the highest viaduct in the land.

Paradise Way

In this staithe hundreds of passengers dined to mark the first train journey's end.

Sans Pareil Square

The first and last of Hackworth's creations shared this name – and his innovation.

Swinbridge

This stone skew bridge across the Gaunless saw steam shift from doubt to dauntless.

Rainhill Way

At Rainhill Rocket won the trial and shrouded Hackworth's Sans Pareil.

Chaldron Court

This coal cart's load became the measure doling out our blackest treasure.

Bleath Ghyll

One week snowed in upon this hill, a whole train dug good cheer from chill.

Raisby Lane

That flint tool found in Raisby's earth was the seed that led to masonry's birth.

The Colling Brothers & Shorthorn Cattle

Just as the Peases helped to develop the railways, so the Colling brothers, working on farms outside Darlington, played an important part in the accompanying agrarian revolution by developing modern breeds of cattle. In order to feed the growing population of the new industrial towns and cities, livestock needed to mature young and give a high meat yield. The shorthorn cattle bred by Charles and Robert Colling became the first clearly identifiable breed reliably to do both, and descendants of their herds sold all over Britain.

Collingsway

Two brothers produced the finest stock to feed the cities' dens of folk.

Bakewell Mews

Improver Bakewell first saw the need for more meat's met by the beasts you breed.

Teeswater

This was the North-East's standing breed that gave the Colling men the lead.

Skerningham Avenue

This old farm housed the choosy father of Charles and Robert, best of farmers.

Holderness Drive

These cattle had Celtic ancestors mixed with Roman and Danish steers.

Colpitts Lane

Miss Colpitts was young Charles's catch – in love and business both his match.

Hubback Square

Hubback was the humble sire upon whose back was built the future.

Old Favourite's Walk

She was the finest heifer, called Old Favourite, and mother of them all.

Wildair Close

Her line was carried near and far like dandelion or sycamore.

Comet's Garth

This well-shaped bull was roan as Mars, and briefly shone: a breeders' star.

Red Rose Close

Her thorny blooms sway everywhere a bull breaths out in calm or care.

Shorthorn Lane

This is the breed that Teesside planned and proved the first across the land.

John Fowler & the Steam Plough

John Fowler brought the new technology of steam to bear on the growing of crops. Funded by the Peases, he developed a machine to plough faster and more efficiently than horses. Just as the steam train gave way to diesel, his steam plough was the forerunner of the steam tractor and the modern machinery of the farmyard that followed. As with Stephenson, Hackworth and the Colling brothers, his ingenuity helped place Darlington at the centre of a century of radical transformation that still shapes our lives today.

John Fowler Way

John Fowler had prophetic nous and saw that steam could drive our ploughs.

Winding Way

Three Boro mayors made winding gear – John learnt their skills for two short years.

Turf Close

He watched the Irish famine eat, so built a plough that drained the peat.

Research Road

Stephenson's factory was the place where Pease told John his mind could race.

Jeremiah Drive

John worked with Jeremiah Head so no field felt a horse's tread.

Tillage Green

By 1856 steam power could till an acre in an hour.

Steam-Plough Place

His horseless steam-plough won the award – both fame and workload quickly soared.

Hunt Mews

John's stress found an ironic balm: he rode, fell, met with final calm.

Elizabeth House

He hoped his industry might please Lizzie, the daughter of Joe Pease.

Invention Row

From plough to tractor, steam gave way, but Fowler's genius broke the clay.

Alderman Leach Drive

This is the lesson of Alderman Leach: learn as you grow; grow as you teach.

The Old Coal Road

Before the railways' iron rule coal passed here on the spines of mules.




Caring,
Sharing,
Daring



WHERE SHARING TOO

westpark

Garden Village
Darlington

To A1(M)

John Fowler
& the Steam
Plough

The Colling
Brothers &
Shorthorn
Cattle

The Peases &
the Railway



SNCI