

Key words

OS Map –
Air shaft -
Coal pit -
Human geography -
Physical Geography -

Stephenson was a pioneering railway engineer and inventor of the 'Rocket', the most famous early railway locomotive.

George Stephenson was born on 9 June 1781 near Newcastle-upon-Tyne. His father was an engineman at a coalmine. Stephenson himself worked at the mine and learned to read and write in his spare time. He gained a reputation for managing the primitive steam engines employed in mines, and worked in a number of different coalmines in the northeast of England and in Scotland.

In 1814, Stephenson constructed his first locomotive, 'Blucher', for hauling coal at Killingworth Colliery near Newcastle. In 1815, he invented a safety lamp for use in coalmines, nicknamed the 'Geordie'.

In 1821, Stephenson was appointed engineer for the construction of the Stockton and Darlington railway. It opened in 1825 and was the first public railway. The following year Stephenson was made engineer for the Liverpool to Manchester Railway. In October 1829, the railway's owners staged a competition at Rainhill to find the best kind of locomotive to pull heavy loads over long distances. Thousands came to watch. Stephenson's locomotive 'Rocket' was the winner, achieving a record speed of 36 miles per hour.

The opening of the Stockton to Darlington railway and the success of 'Rocket' stimulated the laying of railway lines and the construction of locomotives all over the country. Stephenson became engineer on a number of these projects and was also consulted on the development of railways in Belgium and Spain.

Stephenson died on 12 August 1848 in Chesterfield in Derbyshire. His only son Robert was also a railway engineer and worked with his father on many of his projects.

Useful websites

<https://gkluk.com/history/>

<https://claycrosstoday.co.uk/>

<https://www.claycross.gov.uk/uploads/1960s-clay-cross-official-guide.pdf>

We will look at these definitions together in lessons. Can you find them out yourselves at home?

Local area study



George Stephenson ©

George Kenning

George Kenning was born in Clay Cross in 1880 and died a rich man in 1956 leaving a multi million pound business with branches all over the UK. George was the second son of Frank and Ann Kenning his father Frank had a mining accident in 1878 and swore never to go down the mine again. Instead he started selling pottery door to door and set up a hardware shop on King Street Clay Cross. The building was used until Sept 2016 by Minorfern.



1878 - Frank Kenning runs hardware store

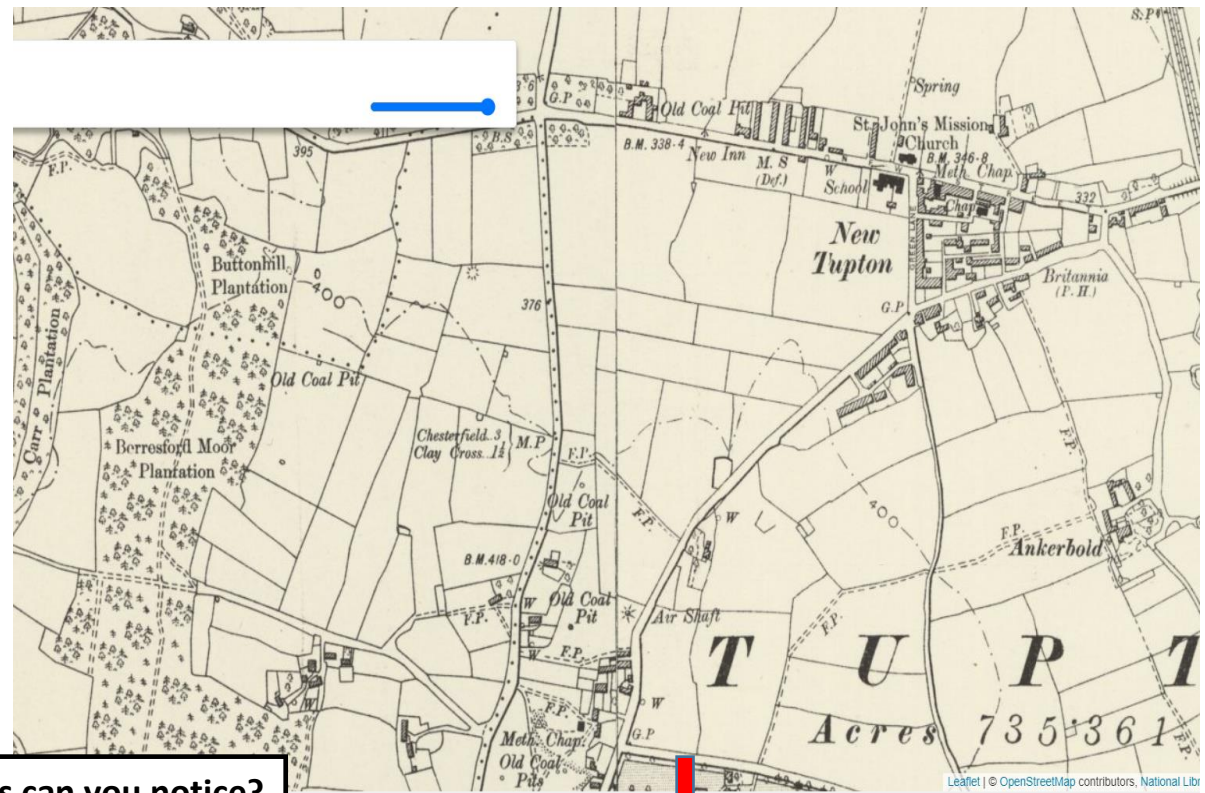
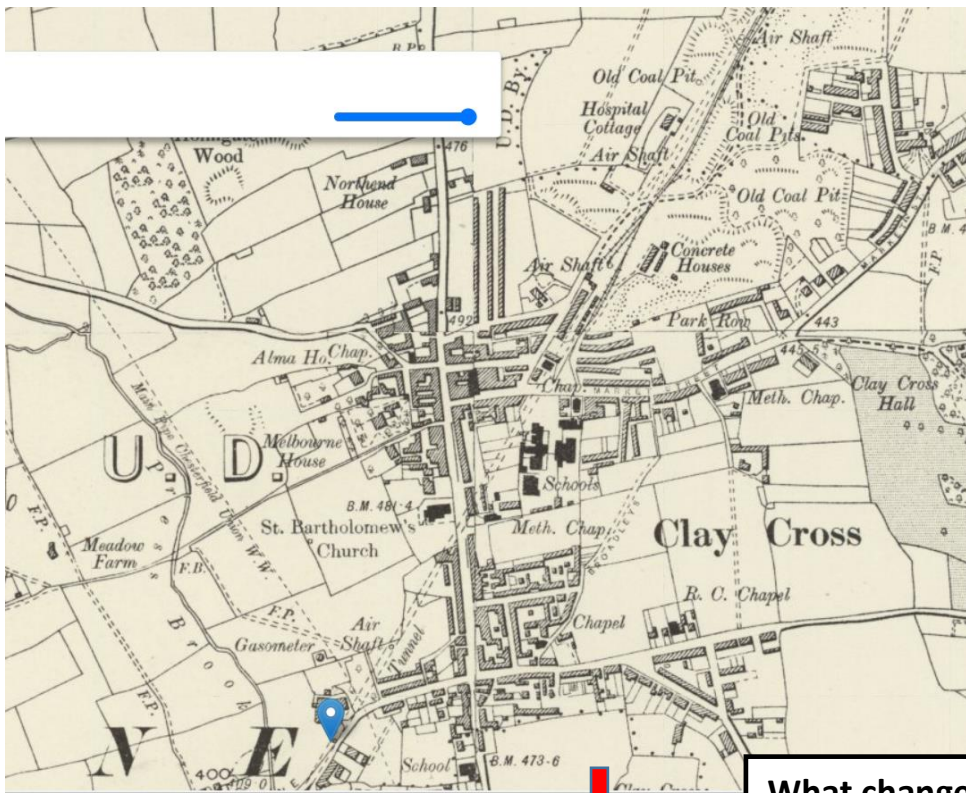
1926 - First Dealership under George (Son of Frank) Later Sir George

1944 - Kenning's in the War Years

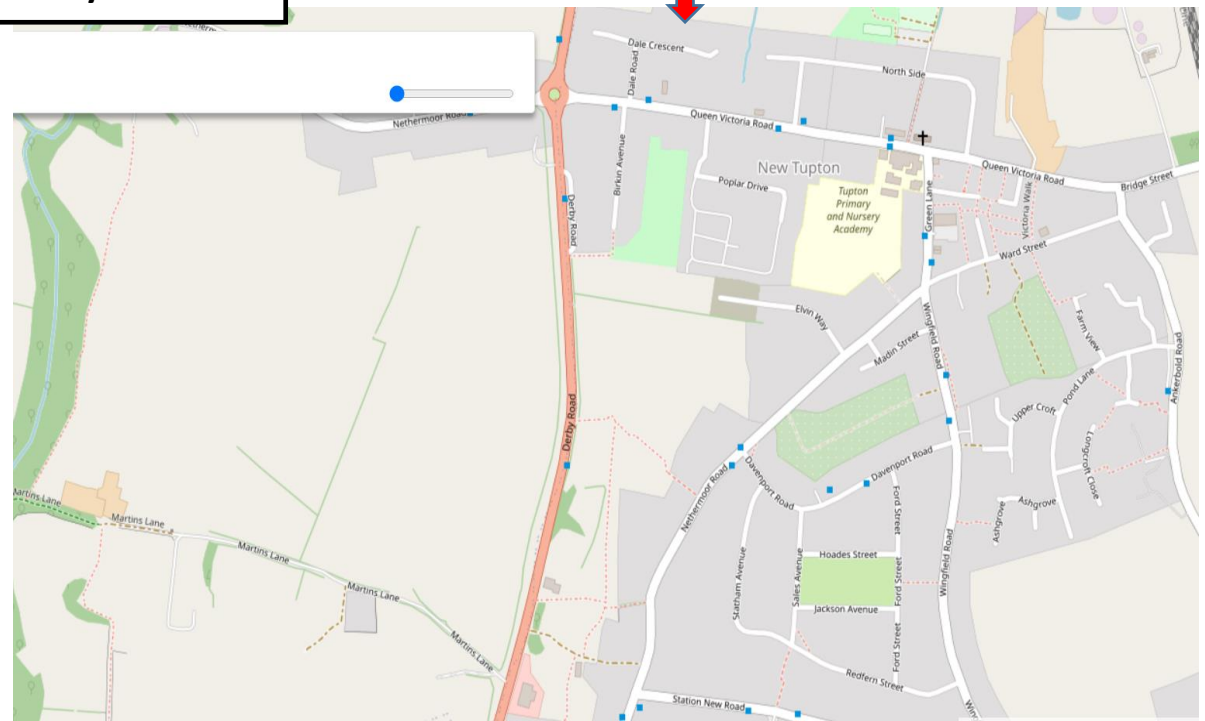
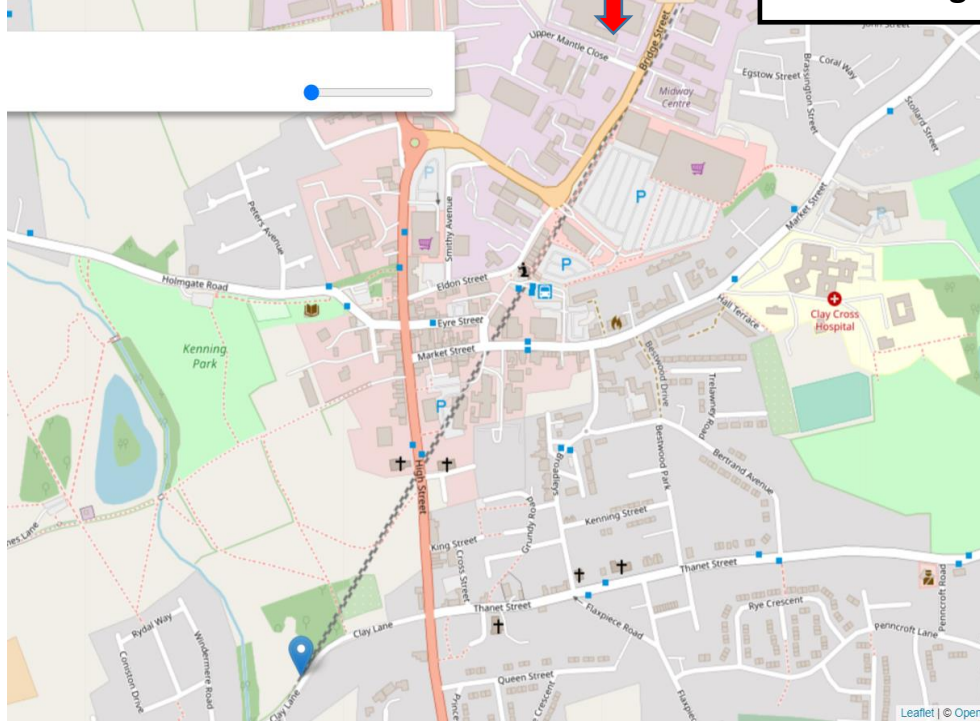
1950 - George Kenning (Son) becomes MD, develops The Kenning Motor Group

1978 - Kennings 100 Anniversary

1986/7 - Kennings is taken over and GK Group born



What changes can you notice?





Richard Arkwright

Summary

- Richard Arkwright was born into a large working class family.
- He began his working life as a barber and wig-maker.
- The first mill at Cromford was built in 1771.
- Cromford was chosen as a site because it offered flowing water for Arkwright to power his machines.
- It was chosen as a site because it offered flowing water for Arkwright to power many machines at once.
- In Arkwright's factory design the preparing, spinning, storing the cotton happened in one place. The cotton yarn was spun by the water frame machines.
- Weaving was done by hand.
- Arkwright's invention and factory system was so successful that people paid him money to use his designs. His mill inventions and designs spread to Scotland, Europe (including Cromford, Germany) and America

What was the Industrial Revolution?

The Industrial Revolution was a time when the manufacturing of goods moved from small shops and homes to large factories. This shift brought about changes in culture as people moved from rural areas to big cities in order to work. It also introduced new technologies, new types of transportation, and a different way of life for many. The Industrial Revolution began in Great Britain in the late 1700s. Many of the first innovations that enabled the Industrial Revolution began in the textile industry. Cloth-making moved from homes to large factories. Britain also had plenty of coal and iron which was important to power and make machines for the factories.