

History

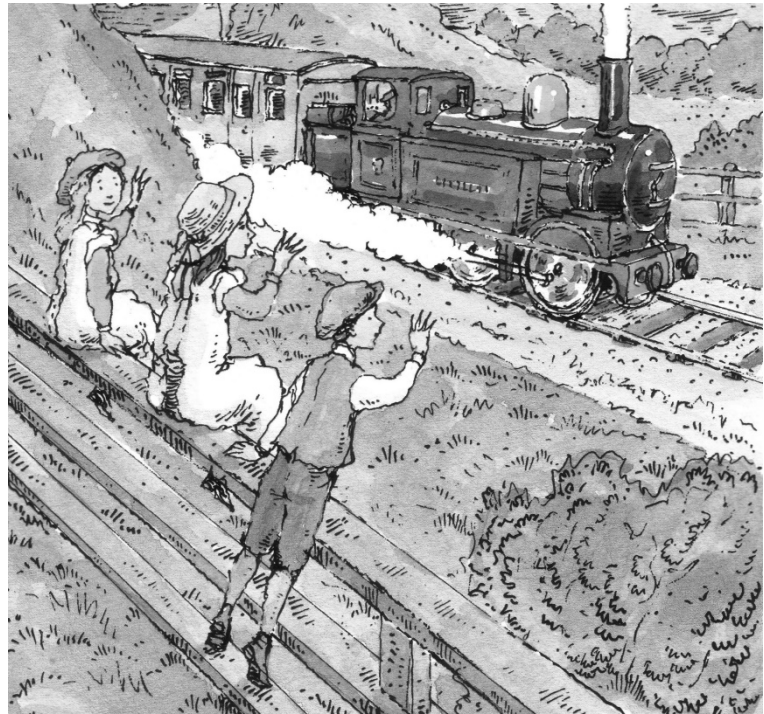


Find out about Alton Station's past...

Hello! Welcome to Alton station. My name is Johnny and I lived here over 100 years ago with my Dad, Mum and two older sisters Lily and Rose.

I've lived at the Station for as long as I can remember. When I was a baby, dad got the job as the **Station Master** at Alton. I loved living at the station - there was always something going on. Our station is part of the North Staffordshire Railway. Every day 5 trains travelled along our railway line which was called the Churnet Valley branch line.

Every morning my sisters and I climbed to the top of the hill to wave at the first train of the day. After we'd waved at all the passengers we'd race down to the station for breakfast. Once I was running so fast I nearly bumped into the Earl of Shrewsbury (say 'Shrows-bree') on his morning walk! He's very important round here and owns both Alton Towers and Alton Castle. Good thing I missed him!



Fact:

A **Station Master** is the person in charge of the station.



Can you spot Lord Shrewsbury's castle on the hill?

Our station was one of the busiest on the line, especially at weekends. Even before Alton Towers theme park was started in the 1980s, hundreds of people from all over the country came to Alton for day trips to visit the famous garden at Alton Towers.

I loved watching all the people; some of them had such strange accents. Mummy says that they all sound different because they live in different parts of the country. One boy I spoke to said he'd travelled all the way from London to see the gardens with his family. He told me that in London they have a railway underground. Imagine that!

When it was very busy dad made me help out Billy the Station Porter. His job was to carry the luggage for the First Class passengers (they're the posh ones!) Sometimes if they were nice they even gave Billy big tips for doing it.



At the weekend in the winter when it's not busy Dad let me help Jim who drove the second train of the day. I loved helping Jim he was so funny and clever. He knew everything about trains. Did you know that the first railway line opened in 1825 and that the first locomotion train travelled at 19km an hour! Sometimes Jim even let me drive but most of the time I helped the other men shovel coal into the furnace to heat the water to make the steam to power the engine.

I worked hard at school as I wanted to be an engineer and design trains, just like **Dr Rudolph Diesel**. He's just invented a new train that has a Diesel engine and doesn't use steam. Cool huh?

In the box below draw your own steam engine with its train.

Fact:

Dr Rudolph Diesel isn't a reindeer silly! He's an inventor who designed an engine that runs off fuel instead of steam. It's also faster than a steam engine.

Unruly Rulers

Who were the Saxe-Coburgs and Windsors?

Saxe-Coburg was the surname of German Prince Albert who was Queen Victoria's husband. When Victoria died **Saxe-Coburg** continued as the royal family surname. It changed to **Windsor** in 1917 because England was fighting against Germany in World War One and the King was worried British people wouldn't like a German royal family anymore - so he changed them to **Windsors**, after the castle.



King Edward VII

He loved shooting game and had an eye for the ladies! A granddad by the time he became king, he wanted peace not war.



King Edward VIII

A romantic and selfish king. Married the woman he loved and 6 months later gave the throne away to his brother, George.



Queen Elizabeth II

Good queen Lilibet has been on the throne the longest of all the rulers! She loves animals and has 5 corgis. Woof woof!



Prince William

1837 Queen Victoria

A good queen who was never 'amused'. She ruled more than a fifth of the earth's population as Empress – Wowza!



1901

1910 King George V

A boring but good king. He loved stamps but also loved his country, always trying to do the best for it.



1936

1936 King George VI

A very good king who loved his people. Even when Buckingham Palace was bombed in World War Two he stayed in London with his family to show everyone was in it together!



1952

Who's next???

Prince Charles





Meet Queen Victoria

– who ruled when Alton Station was built.



Hi Vicky!

So when did you become queen?

I became queen on the 20 June 1837 when I was 18.

What's your nickname?

Some people call me The Grandmother of Europe. I had 9 children who married different European princes and princesses. I had 42 grandchildren in total!

What is your favourite thing to do?

I loved visiting Scotland. I even built a castle so that I could go all the time!

What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?

How dare you, I am never naughty. Everyone must be well behaved at all times.



History of steam travel

Before trains, horse drawn carriages were the fastest way to travel – but the roads were awful! The first steam engine was invented by Richard Trevithick in 1804. This engine was used to transport iron in South Wales. A man called George Stephenson who worked at a coal mine designed his own steam engine for the coal mine owner. George's engine was so good, Parliament gave him permission to build the first railway line in 1825.

Then in 1829 there was a competition to design the best steam engine. The winner was a steam engine called The Rocket designed by George Stephenson and his son Robert that travelled at 47km/h. People had never seen anything so fast! The fastest horse drawn carriage only travelled 11km/h. After that Parliament decided that railways should be built across the country so that people and goods could travel faster. Some people didn't like the idea of trains, they were worried that the trains passing animals in the fields would scare the animals so much they'd die or be sucked up by the whooshing air! That sounds silly today – but it was all new then.

Alton Station was built in 1849 as part of the Churnet Valley railway line (there's a river called the Churnet). Station buildings were a new way to show off. Lots of stations were designed by important architects (say 'ark-i-tects').

Alton Station was designed by an architect from London called Henry Arthur Hunt. He designed Alton Station to look Italian, even though all the other stations on the railway line were in the Tudor style. The Station Masters House looks a bit like a **Campanile**. Can you see the balcony, where the station master could look out for trains?

Fact:

Italianate style is a type of architecture invented in the 1800s that was inspired by the old Roman and Greek buildings in Italy.

A **Campanile** is an Italian bell tower.

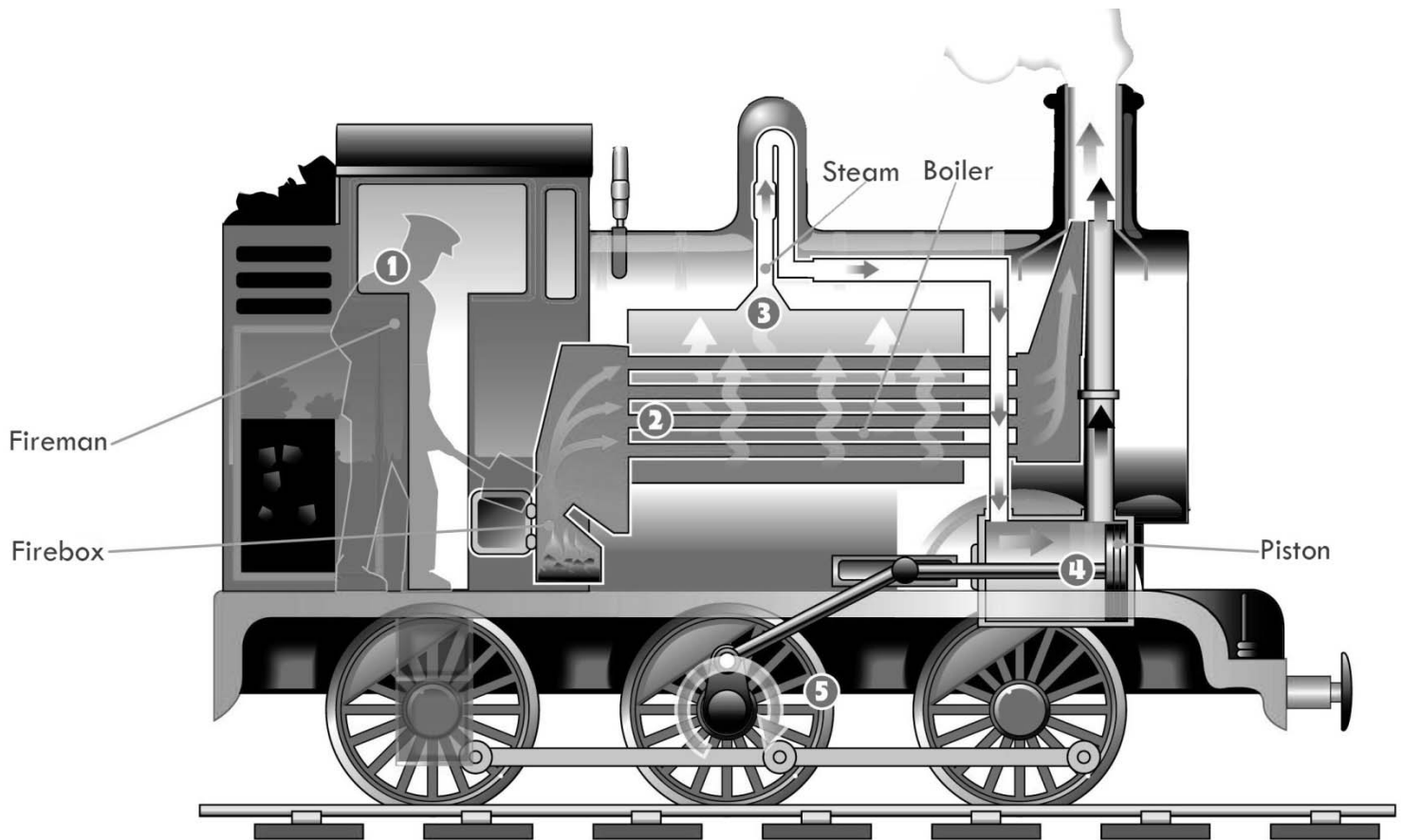




How do steam engines work?

The **engine** pulls the **train** which means all the carriages.

Look at the diagram below and follow the numbers to see how a steam engine creates power to move.



1. The Fireman feeds the firebox with coal
2. The fire heats the water in the boiler to make steam
3. The steam makes the pressure in the boiler rise
4. Steam pressure moves the piston forwards
5. The moving piston pulls a connecting rod that turns the wheels.

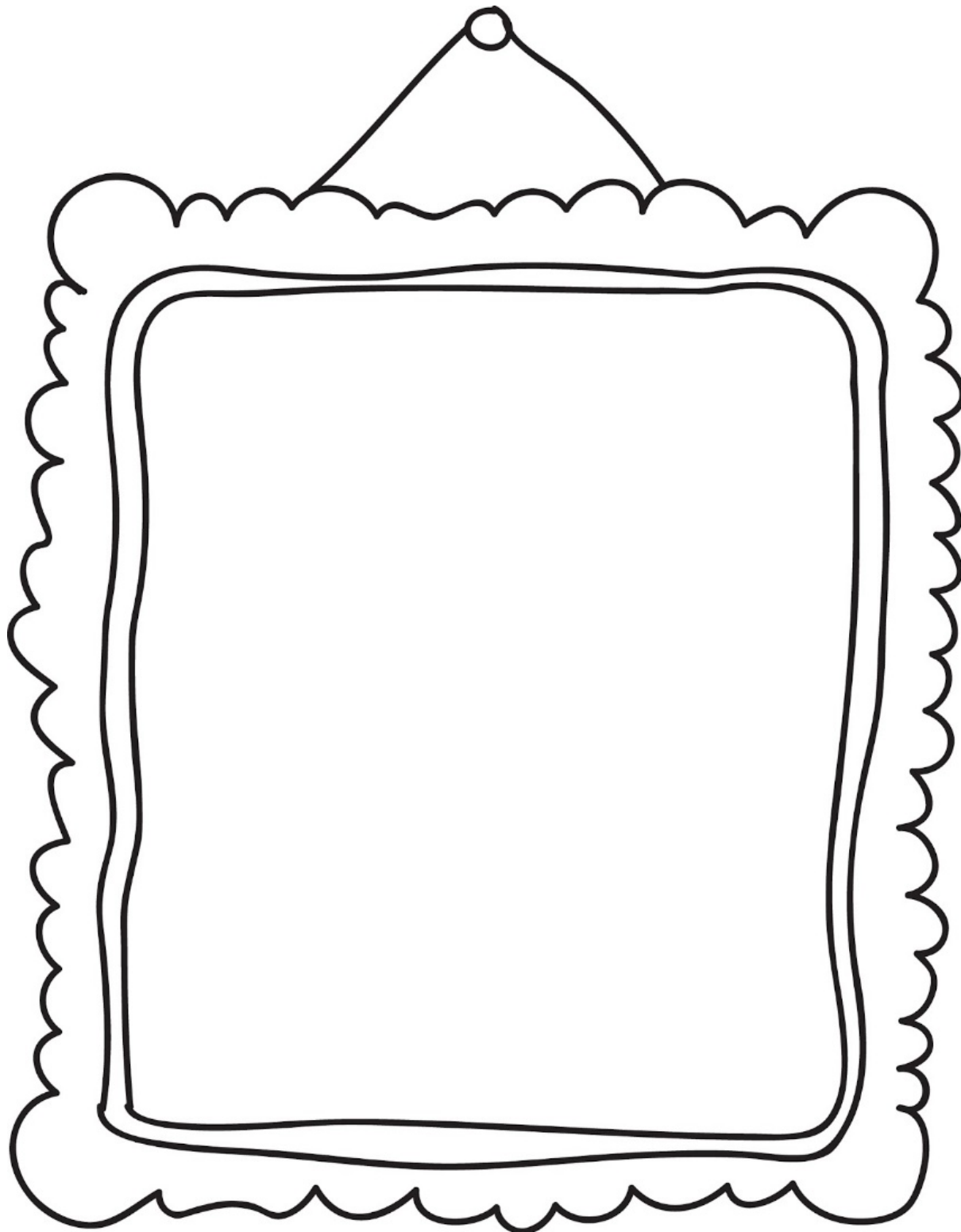
It wasn't easy being a Fireman. Imagine how hot it was shovelling coal into the firebox. I'm melting just thinking about it!



Buildings are quite easy to draw. They are usually made up of lots of geometric shapes, like squares, triangles and circles.

Have a go at drawing the front of Alton Station.

Please tell an adult where you are going so they don't worry about where you are!
And don't worry if you make a mess of your drawing, just use the other side.





What is Alton Station built from?

Stone is the solid foundation of the earth. It exists as huge mountains, rocks, stones or small pebbles washed smooth by water. There are lots of different types of stone, with different colours and textures. Some are better to build with than others.

Fact:

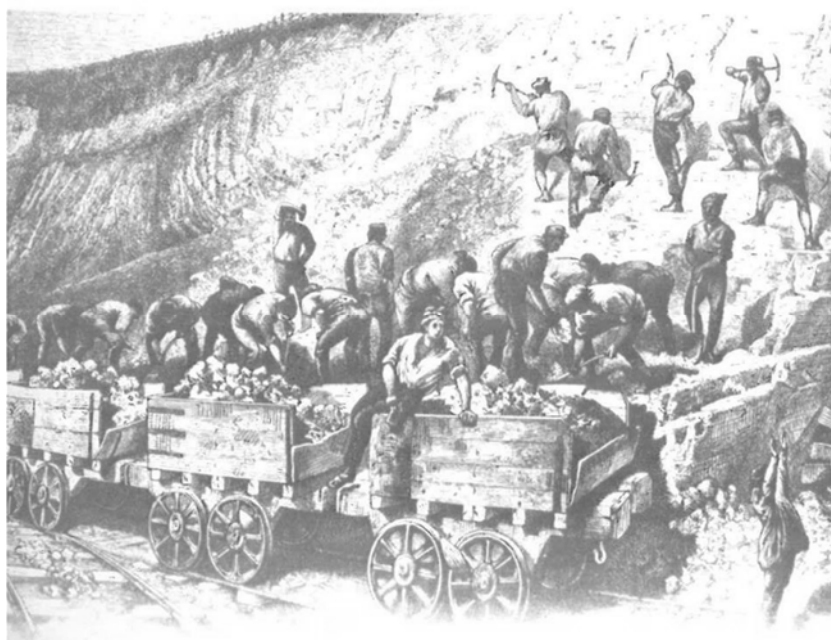
Some buildings were built from stone that was dug out of the ground when farmers ploughed the fields, other buildings were made from stone that was quarried and cut into neat shapes and sizes. There are still many stone quarries around the country today, where people get stone out of the ground.

Stone buildings were once cheaper to build than brick ones. Once we could transport bricks up and down the country on the canals and railways, brick buildings become cheaper and more popular – but stone still looked smart!



In medieval and Tudor times, stone was taken out of the ground by hand. By the time Alton Station was built in the 1800s, stone was blasted out of the ground with explosives - like it is today. The one in the picture shows what quarries look like now.

When the Victorians built railways it was all done by hand. They had to dig and cut away at land to make even ground for the track to be put down on. What hard work!





The knotty

Fact:

Can you find this symbol on one of the tiles on the fireplace? It is called the Staffordshire Knot. Some people say that the Staffordshire knot was invented by a hang man who had to hang 3 men but only had one piece of rope so he tied the rope into three hoops so all three men died together. How horrible!

Other stories say that a medieval princess created the symbol to show the joining of three local areas to make Staffordshire. Much nicer hey!



The Staffordshire knot is used on the Staffordshire flag, school badges, Staffordshire army regiment uniforms and even on the North Staffordshire Railway's company badge. The North Staffordshire Railway got given the nickname The Knotty!

This is what the badge for the North Staffordshire Railway looked like. Find the Staffordshire knots! Everyone who worked for the railway wore one as part of their uniform. Imagine that you have your very own railway. In the box below design a badge for your railway workers to wear



Quest



Discover more about Alton Station

Alton Station was built in 1849 as part of the North Staffordshire Railway. Follow this Quest to discover more about it.

Can you find the Ticket Master's window?

The ticket master sat behind this window and passengers brought tickets for their journey here.



How many archways like this can you find at Alton Station?

Write the number in the box below.

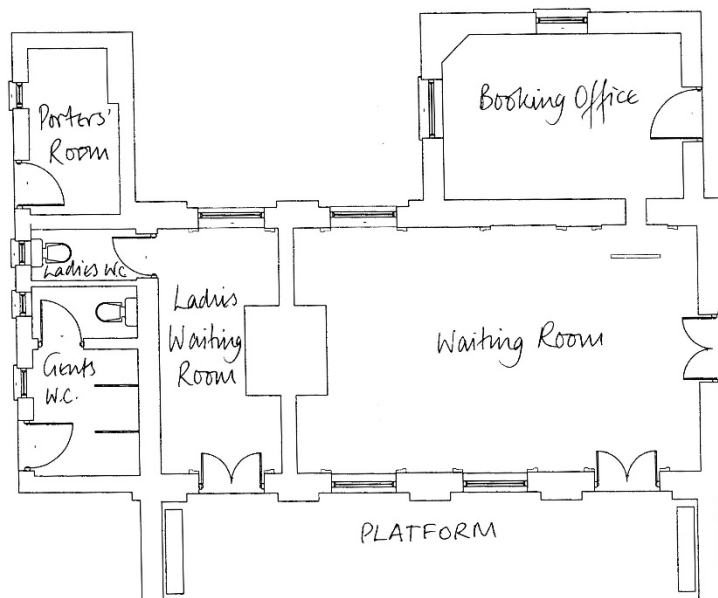


Can you see the castle at the top of the hill? You'll have to climb the hill behind to see above the trees.

It's called Alton Castle and was built in 1847 by Augustus Pugin for John Talbot, the Earl of Shrewsbury (he also owned Alton Towers). You won't find any rollercoasters here though!



Did you know that Ladies had a separate waiting room to sit in when they were waiting for their train? Look at the floor plan below and you can see what the station rooms used to be used for.



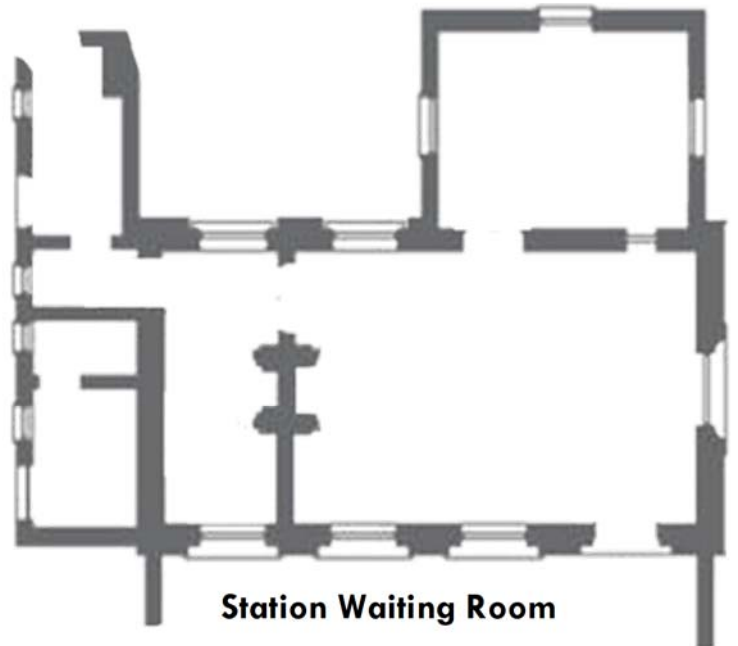


Living in Alton Station

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Alton Station has two buildings. The plans below show you the shape of each room on the ground floor for both buildings. Take a walk around each room and write on the plan what each room is used for.



Station Masters House

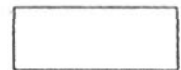


Station Waiting Room

We use these symbols to show where beds, tables and bathrooms are. Draw the symbols on to the floorplans to show where the furniture is.



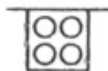
Bed



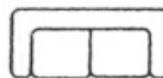
Rectangular (or a round) table



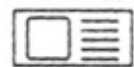
Bathroom



Cooker



Sofa



Kitchen sink



Can you find an example of each of these things inside Alton Station. Describe, or draw the object when you find it.

Your favourite chair

A large empty rectangular box for drawing or describing a favourite chair.

The fireplace (is it an open fire or does it have a stove?)

A large empty rectangular box for drawing or describing a fireplace.

Draw the pattern of a rug on the floor

A large empty rectangular box for drawing the pattern of a rug.

In the box below, draw a picture of the Booking Office (today's sitting room). Start with the room, then add some people in – Victorian or today's!

A large empty rectangular box for drawing a picture of the Booking Office, including the room and people.



Station Master's Word Search

Now have a go at the word search. Think about different parts of the building and what might have been here in the past. The words to find are at the bottom of the page.

V A N H E K C A R T G J F R
 S P A S S E N G E R S K Y A
 R I E A N R E T S A M E R I
 E R D U P T A N E I F I I L
 J J S T A T I O N N O I V W
 T R E C H U R N E T T G E A
 E R S S T A H T Y I M L R Y
 A T A E S C B Y T O A O I Y
 L R C V A A P O R T E R W E
 T E T R E O L S I L T K Q L
 O E I A I L A N G I S S Y L
 N S U K N N I C H S P V H A
 N O S E T H S R O T I S I V

TRAIN
 PASSENGERS
 TRAVEL
 SIGNAL

RAILWAY
 STEAM
 SUITCASES
 MASTER

PORTER
 TRACK
 STATION
 VISITORS

VALLEY
 ALTON
 RIVER
 CHURNET

How many of these words did you find? Put your score in the box.

| |
|----|
| 16 |
|----|



Can you answer these questions correctly?

1. What year did the first railway line open?

1624

1825

1990

1240

2. How much did it cost to travel third class?

Two pounds a mile

One pound a mile

50 pence a mile

A penny a mile

3. What attraction did people come to visit at Alton?

Alton Mill

Alton Station

Alton racecourse

Alton Towers

4. Who looks after the station?

Station Chief

Station Master

Station Boss

Station Care-taker

5. How fast did the Locomotion train travel in 1825?

100km an hour

59km an hour

25km an hour

19 km an hour

6. Who invented the first Diesel engine?

Mr Barry Diesel

Dr John Parker

Dr Rudolph Diesel

Mr Alfie Diesel

7. What railway line was Alton Station part of?

North Staffordshire
Railway

Great Northern

Arriva

Great Western

8. What is the name of the river near Alton Station?

River Churnet

River Tamar

River Severn

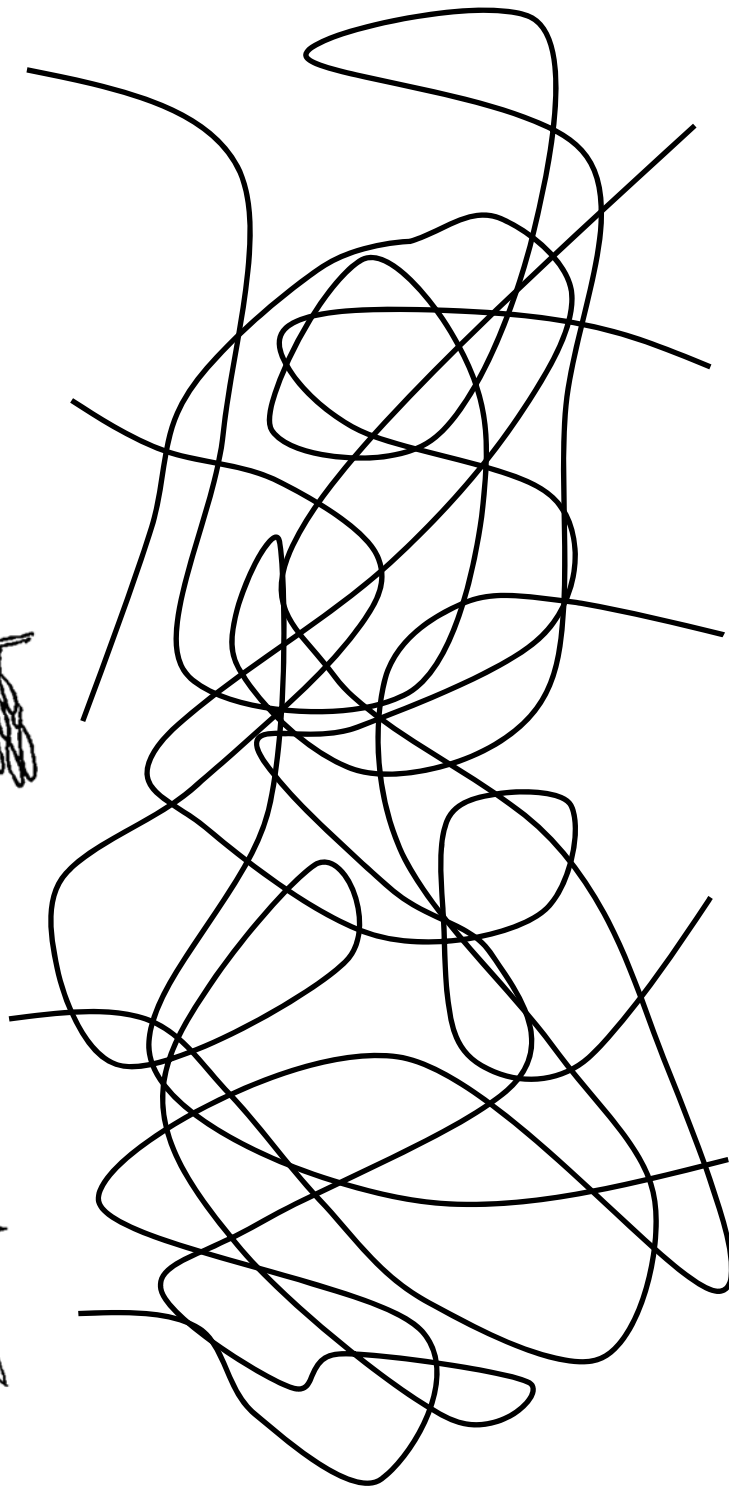
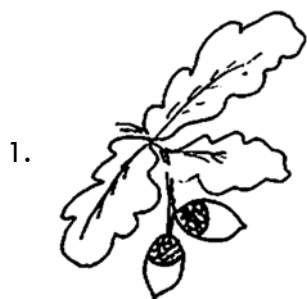
River Thames

To find the answers skip a page...



Which leaf belongs to which tree?

Match the leaf to the correct tree.



Horse Chestnut

Willow

Pine

Ash

Oak

Did you match them correctly? Put your score in the box.

Look out for these when you go for a walk!



Answer sheet:

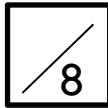
Quiz answers:

1. 1825
2. A penny a mile
3. Alton Towers
4. Station Master
5. 19 km an hour
6. Dr Rudolph Diesel
7. North Staffordshire Railway
8. River Churnet

Fact:

When trains were first invented people were scared about travelling in this new way! They were used to travelling in carriages pulled by horses. It was very strange for them to travel using the power of steam!

How many did you get right?



Imagine you lived here 100 years ago. Write an acrostic poem describing life at Alton Station. Each line has to begin with the letter shown, so that the lines spell 'Alton Station'!

A

L

T

O

N

S

T

A

T

I

O

N

Plum cake

Here's a simple recipe for you to try. You might need the help of an adult.

8 plums (take out the stones)
1 cup caster sugar
4 large eggs
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 cup olive oil

2 tbsp plain yogurt
1 tsp lemon zest
2 cups self-raising flour
1 tsp baking powder

Preheat the oven to gas: 5, fan: 190°C

- Line a rectangular baking tray with greaseproof paper
- Chop the plums in quarters
- Crack the eggs into a bowl and beat together, add the sugar and mix together until thick
- Add the olive oil and vanilla extract into the mixture (keep mixing!)
- Mix in the lemon zest and yogurt
- Sift the flour and baking powder into the mixture folding it into the mixture
- Pour the mixture into the tray and press the plums in on top
- Bake in the oven for 35-40 minutes
- Cut into slices and eat! Mmmmm!





Design your own tile floor

Have you seen the tile floor here at Alton Station? Tile floors are pretty to look at but are also easy to clean, imagine how dirty the floor got with all the passengers muddy shoes!

Each different shaped tile is used to make a pattern. The tiles here are used to make a hexagon (that means a six-sided shape) with a star inside it. Clever stuff! Have a go at using different shapes to make your own patterned floor.

