

Crewe & Nantwich - 20th. August 2009

Culture

Crewe was named after the railway station, rather than the other way round. The town was founded as a "railway colony" in 1841 to provide houses for the employees of the railway works established shortly after the first railway lines were built in the area, though even from the start, it was called Crewe by many. Crewe was situated in the township of Monks Coppenhall which, with the township of Church Coppenhall, formed the ancient parish of Coppenhall. The railway station was named after the township of Crewe (part of the ancient parish of Barthomley) in which it was located. Eventually, the township of Crewe became a civil parish in its own right also named, rather confusingly, Crewe. This civil parish changed its name to Crewe Green in 1974 to avoid confusion with the adjacent town, which had been made a municipal borough in 1877. The railway station remained part of the civil parish of Crewe, outside the boundary of the municipal borough until 1936. So, throughout its history, the town of Crewe has neither been part of, nor has it encompassed first the township of Crewe, later the civil parish of Crewe, and later still the civil parish of Crewe Green adjacent to it, even though these places were the direct origin of the name of the town via the railway station which was also not part of the town before 1936. An old, local riddle describes the somewhat unusual states of affairs: The place which is Crewe is not Crewe, and the place which is not Crewe is Crewe." "

The origins of Nantwich date to Roman times when salt from Nantwich was used by the Roman garrisons at Chester (Deva Victrix) and Stoke-on-Trent as both a preservative and a condiment. Salt has been used in the production of Cheshire cheese and in the tanning industry, both products of the dairy industry based in the Cheshire Plain around the town. Wich and wych are names used to denote brine springs or wells.

In the Domesday Book, Nantwich is recorded as having eight salt houses. It had a castle and was the capital of a barony of the earls of Chester, and of a hundred (one of the seven sub-divisions of medieval Cheshire). Nantwich is one of the few places in Cheshire to be marked on the Gough Map, which dates from 1355-66. The salt industry peaked in the late 16th century when there were 216 salt houses, but the industry ended in 1856, when the last salt house closed. The last tannery closed in 1974, but the clothing industry remains important to the area.

Nantwich has suffered several disasters in its history, this was before Les went to live there. It was first recorded as an urban area at the time of the Norman conquest - the Normans burned the town to the ground, leaving only one building standing. Two hundred years later the town was attacked over a lengthy period by marauders from Wales, while in 1583 the Great Fire of Nantwich raged for 20 days, destroying most of the town, which was rebuilt, at a cost of £30,000 in 16th century money, £2,000 of which was personally donated by Queen Elizabeth I together with timber from the royal forest. Indeed, one of the main streets of Nantwich was re-named to reflect the fact that the timber to rebuild the town was transported along it (Beam Street). Many plaques in Nantwich now commemorate this.

During the English Civil War, Nantwich was the only town in Cheshire to declare for Parliament, and consequently it was besieged several times by Royalist forces. The final, six-week long, siege was lifted following the victory of the Parliamentary forces in the Battle of Nantwich on January 26, 1644, which has been re-enacted as Holly Holy Day on its anniversary every year since 1973 by the Sealed Knot, a registered charity devoted

to re-enacting English civil war battles for educational purposes. The name comes from the sprigs of holly worn by the townsfolk in their caps or clothing in the years after the battle, in its commemoration.

Wikipedia 2009

Bus Stations

The Pubs

1. **Gaffers Row**, 48, Victoria St., CW1 2JE. 01270 503820. Wetherspoons. Until 1055.
2. **Hops**, 8-10, Prince Albert St, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 2DF. 01270 211100. Belgian style bar. Usually has three hand pumps with local beer, if Coastal is on although it comes from Cornwall it is classed as local as it is brewed by Alan Hind who used to own and brew at the Borough Arms in Earle St., plus various continental beers on draught and bottled. No food except perhaps locally sourced pork pies. 1100 – 1200
3. **Black Lion**, 29, Welsh Row, CW5 5ED. 01270 628711. Weetwood & guests. Food. Under new management, times in GBG (page 75) no longer apply. 1230 - 1330
4. **The Vine**, Hospital St. Hydes and guests. Food 1340 – 1410
5. **Boot and Shoe**, Hospital St. Guests. Food. 1412 - ?

Trains

From Euston xx10 xx40 (trip now 1½ hours)

To Euston xx29 xx56

Wakefield Westgate 0745 Leeds 0804a 0825d Picc. 0919a 0930d Crewe 1006

Crewe 1528 Stockport 1558a 1628d Sheffield 1708 a 1721d Westgate 1746

There are no suitable trains to Nantwich - two hourly service. There is 1126 if going straight to Nantwich, but main party will not arrive until about 12:30.

Return trip leaves Nantwich at 1505 Crewe 1517.

To get to Crewe centre either walk see map or catch a bus from outside the station to the bus station (do not catch the 6 to Shavington unless you want a very long ride into town)

Bus to Nantwich is the 84 departing from the bus station (stand 12) every 15 minutes xx00, xx15 etc. After the Hops the intention is to catch the 1215. If you do not intend doing the first two pubs the bus stop is on Nantwich Road (4 on the map), don't wait at the stop opposite the Brunswick as the 84 does not come past there. If you are not catching the train back the 84 (from Nantwich Bus station) is again every 15 minutes Xx10, xx25 etc. alight at 3 first stop in Edleston Rd. (this is the nearest the 84 gets to the station).

