

## Gravesend, Kent. 12th September 2024

### Some history of Gravesend

In March 1617, John Rolfe and his Native American wife Rebecca (Pocahontas), with their two-year-old son, Thomas, boarded a ship in London bound for the Commonwealth of Virginia; the ship had only sailed as far as Gravesend before Rebecca fell ill, and she died shortly after she was taken ashore. It is not known what caused her death. Her funeral and interment took place on 21 March 1617 at the parish church of St George, Gravesend. The site of her grave was underneath the church's chancel, though since the previous church was destroyed by fire in 1727 her exact resting place is unknown.

The half mile wide reach of the Thames at this point had a reputation as the busiest waterway in the world. The main office of the Custom and Excise, the Port of London's Health Authority, and the Trinity House pilot's base are all at Gravesend.

The first Railway in Gravesend was the Gravesend and Rochester Railway linking Denton and Strood, utilising the route of the Thames and Medway canal through Strood tunnel. In 1849 the South Eastern Railway (SER) opened the route from London to Strood including Gravesend Central Station (the current Gravesend). In competition with the SER the LC&DR opened a branch from Farningham Road (Fawkham Junction) to Gravesend West in 1886. The branch shut altogether in 1968 (to passengers in 1953) but part of the route was utilised for Eurostar trains until the opening of the St. Pancras route.

### The Pubs

1. **Robert Pocock** 181 -183 Windmill Street DA12 1AH. JDW. Exit station on down side up station approach, cross to Railway Place, then left to Windmill Street. Selection of Ales all at rock bottom prices. Leave 11.00
2. **The Goose** 23-25 King Street, DA12 2DU 01474 566684. Turn left out of JDW then left into King Street. The Goose is on the left hand side. Walking time is about 5 minutes. Leave 11.50.
3. **The Rum Puncheon** 87 West Street DA11 0BL 01474 354434. Left out of the Goose along King Street and right into the High Street, left at the end into West Street, pub is on the right hand side. Leave 12.30
4. **Three Daws.** Town Pier DA11 0BJ 01474 566869. Left out of The Rum Puncheon along West Street to reach Three Daws on Thames riverfront. Turn left out of the Three Daws, continue along then right into Harmer Street. Turn Left into Milton Road then right into Wellington Street. The Jolly Drayman is on the left hand side. Leave 13.30
5. **The Jolly Drayman.** Wellington Street DA12 1JA 01474 352355. The walk from here to Gravesend Station takes approximately 10 minutes. Leaving the pub, cross the adjacent railway bridge then right into Saddington Street. At the end turn right then left into Manor Road. Walk along Railway Pl. to the station approach. 13.40 to end.

### Food

Opportunities for lunch are somewhat limited. The Three Daws does have an extensive menu from small plates to mains and sandwiches.

### Trains

Quickest journey from London is Southeastern's HS1 from St Pancras Intl. 00.02 & 00.32, journey time 23 mins. Thameslink trains from St Pancras are half hourly, journey time 1 hr 14 mins. From Charing Cross/Victoria journey time is about 1 hr to 1hr 15 min.

24th July 2024