

THE LONDON NORTH WESTERN BRIDGE OVER HIGH STREET, LEAMINGTON SPA. COPIED FROM LEAMINGTON SPA COURIER 22.2.1851

The most important feature on the line, namely the wooden lattice bridge. Designed by Mr Dockray, resident engineer of the London and Birmingham Rly. Bridge composed of two wooden lattice girders 150` long, 17` deep and 26` inches wide. Girders rest on two Derbyshire stone piers 22` above street level, 138`9” between piers. Said to be the greatest in the kingdom. Made of strong oak walings. Bed of bridge covered with sheet lead to deaden the sound. Semi circular roof of corrugated iron. Ends of girders supported by massive stone piers 30` high, form an archway for trains to pass. Each end of pier is flanked by Italian tower of masonry. Lattice portion painted in oak, iron ties in bronze. The side panels in fawn, relieved in shades. The valance being tastefully painted in blue.

1.3.1851. Dinner held at Regent Hotel for Contractors and Celebrities

Dinner held for the workmen at the Angel Inn, Leamington.

At the Angel Inn about 220 persons, nearly all of them workmen who had been employed on the line, sat down to a most substantial and excellent repast, provided by the worthy host and hostess. As the company proceeded to occupy their seats, Messrs Johnson, Hewett @ Wills’ band struck up the old national air, “O the roast beef of old England”. They also played many appropriate and popular tunes during the evening. Upon the centre table was a baron of beef, weighing 216 pounds. This ponderous joint was soon reduced to a skeleton. It is calculated that 5cwts. of solid food was consumed. There were 65 plum puddings, 200 gallons of ale drunk and 12 lbs. of tobacco puffed away in pipes of every length.