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## SOMERSET RAILWAYS

*Colin G. Maggs*

Somerset is exceedingly rich in railway history. A stone-carrying railway opened in 1731 whilst the Midford-Radstock line used locomotive haulage as early as 1826. The great I.K. Brunel's broad-gauge lines in the area comprised the Great Western, Bristol & Exeter and the Wilts, Somerset & Weymouth Railway. The London & South Western and the Midland Railway served the southern and northern parts of the county respectively, and were linked by the Somerset & Dorset line – the much-loved "slow and dirty". Somerset also had two significant independent railways: the Weston, Clevedon & Portishead Light Railway and the West Somerset Mineral Railway, with its stupendously engineered incline allowing the line to drop from the heights of the Brendon Hills to the sea at Watchet.

Colin Maggs is probably better qualified than any other writer to tell the fascinating story of railways in Somerset, from their earliest days to the present, in this volume profusely illustrated with photographs from the author's unrivalled collection.



Colin G. Maggs has had 69 books published to date, has written countless magazine and newspaper articles and has appeared frequently on radio and television. Mr Maggs, who has lived in Somerset all his life, was awarded the MBE in 1993 for services to railway history and was awarded an honorary MA by the University of Bath in 1995.



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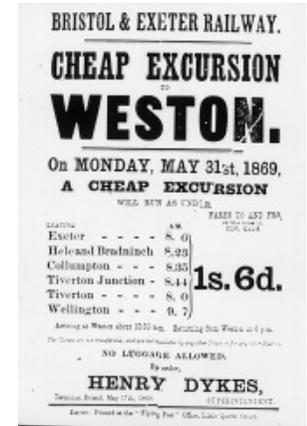
# FEATURE CHAPTERS AND GALLERY – SOMERSET RAILWAYS

*Feature Chapters:*

- Chapter 1 **Early Railways**
- Chapter 2 **An Outline Survey of Railways in Somerset**
- Chapter 3 **How a Railway was Created**
- Chapter 4 **Broad Gauge Lines: The Great Western Railway**
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- Chapter 10 **Minor Lines**
- Chapter 11 **Significant Accidents**
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0-6-0PT No 9681 on 6 March 1999 hauling a London & North Western Railway van built in 1916. It is on the North Somerset Heritage Trust line that hopes to re-open between Radstock and Frome. (Author)



Above: Passengers from Farrington Gurney Halt purchased tickets from the ticket office at the Miners' Arms, 1936. (Author's collection)

Above left: Arthur Gerrish, left, and Gilbert Drew, right, on a manually-operated 'pump' trolley which had to be worked in a standing position. (M Drew collection)



Left: No 4160 at Bishop's Lydeard on the preserved West Somerset Railway, working the 12.20pm to Minehead, 30 July 1996. (Author)



Example of a double page spread.



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