

LAST DAYS OF STEAM SOUTHERN REGION

Roger Malone

By the mid 1960s steam had pretty much disappeared from railways in the South West of England save for a small pocket on the Southern Region which survived until 1967. To one enthusiastic teenager living in Plymouth, the nearest place to see working mainline steam was in Weymouth, Dorset, with other operations such as the Somerset & Dorset Joint Railway and the Isle of Wight also in their final throes of steam. And so, armed with camera loaded with Kodachrome transparency film, the fifteen-year-old Roger Malone set out to record the final months in these outposts of steam.

Now, over 40 years later, these images are again seeing the light of day in this fascinating new book. The colour photographs taken all those years ago capture the essence of the times, as the last embers died in the fireboxes of elderly locomotives 'put out to grass' in sleepy westcountry pastures. Added interest comes from the author's memories of those days, the locomotives he found and captured on film.

Over 150 photographs appear in the book taken at locations in Devon, Dorset, Cornwall, Somerset and Hampshire, and including Weymouth, the Isle of Wight, Bournemouth, Corfe Castle, Eastleigh, Launceston and the Exeter area. A section contains photographs taken at the famous Barry scrapyards where so many locomotives ended the days.

Anyone with an interest in railway history will be fascinated by this unique pictorial memoir.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Roger Malone is a Devon-based journalist with a love of photography and a life-long fascination with steam. This happy combination began in the mid-sixties, and continues through to capturing the current main line steam scene. His first book for Halsgrove was *Railway Moods: Devon*.

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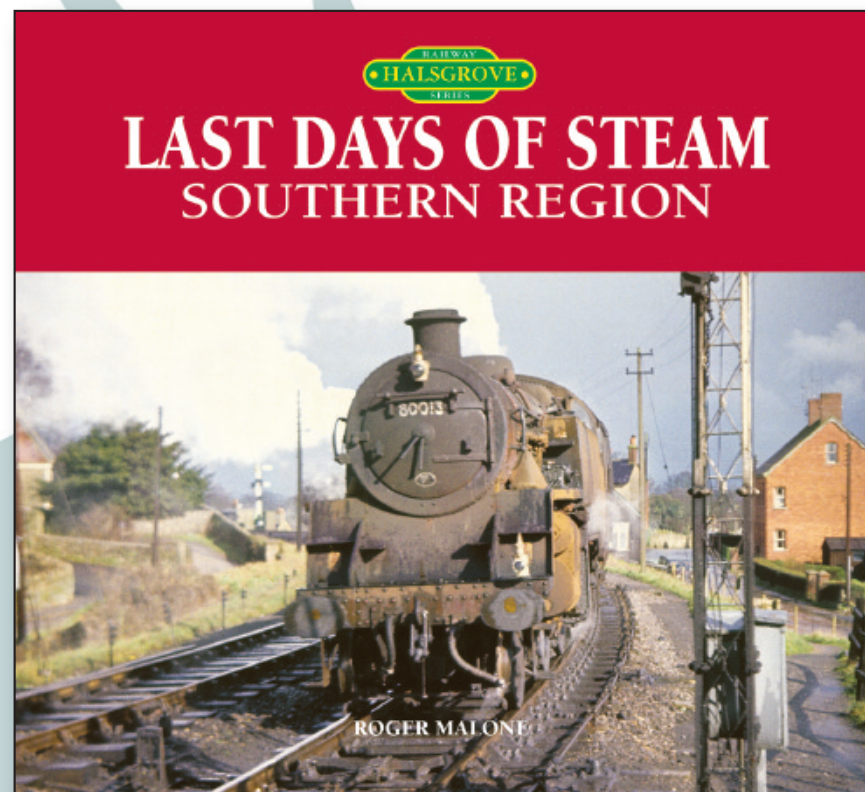
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Halsgrove Sales Contacts:

Sue Rhodes-Thompson – DDI 01823 653770 suet@halsgrove.com

Roger Start – DDI 01823 653773 rogers@halsgrove.com

Marie Lewis – DDI 01823 653771 mariel@halsgrove.com

Andrew Stirling – Mobile 07971 572468 andrews@halsgrove.com

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No 41283 has arrived at Lydford station, which was shared by the SR and GWR. 5 September 1965.



Example of a double page spread



Right: Battle of Britain Pacific No 34089 602 Squadron heads along the single track of the Swanage branch between Corfe Castle and the seaside terminus. 18 June 1967.

Below: A brace of BR Standard Class 4 2-6-4Ts. No 80152 piloting No 80016, prepares to depart from Eastleigh with an enthusiasts' round trip to Salisbury. 17 September 1966.



The day's work is done. DS234 retires to its shed, and the shunter kindly poses for a photograph beside the locomotive. September 1965.



Top right: Merchant Navy Class Pacific No 35003 Royal Mail was in light steam. 10 June 1967.



Bottom right: The low sun highlights the wheel and high running board of BR Standard Class 4 2-6-0 No 76011 in this broadside of it on Bournemouth motive power depot's turntable, behind the up platform. 10 December 1966.

