

# THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND WARWICKSHIRE RAILWAY

Malcolm Ranieri

The Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Railway lies on the edge of the Cotswolds in the county of Gloucestershire, and its ten mile line runs through some glorious scenery with views across the Vale of Evesham and to the Malverns. The Railway from the early-1980s has gradually expanded from the village of Toddington to the current terminus at Cheltenham Race Course. Plans are in action to reach the tourist town of Broadway in the near future, which will be a train ride of fifteen miles.

The completely volunteer workforce have rebuilt the original Great Western main line from derelict condition to its current award-winning state; each year it carries over 70,000 passengers and is a major tourist attraction in Gloucestershire. The scenery is typical Cotswolds; rolling hills, woods, fields, ancient and attractive hamlets and villages, restored Great Western stations, not forgetting the second longest tunnel in preservation, culminating in the unusual Cheltenham Race Course Station on the outskirts of Cheltenham Spa.

Malcolm Ranieri has been a volunteer on the railway for over fifteen years and for the last two decades has photographed it in all its moods and in all seasons, glorying especially in the delightful Cotswold scenery through which it runs.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Malcolm Edward Ranieri was born in December, 1945 to an Italian father and English mother, and lived until his late teens at Haselor, a Warwickshire village. He still lives in his favourite county at Ettington, near Stratford upon Avon. He entered local government in 1962 and took early retirement in 1997, as Audit Manager at Warwick District Council. Photography has been an all-consuming interest for over 40 years, especially steam railways all over the world, though his interests encompass all forms of classic transport, and photography in general. Malcolm gained the Fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society in 1998, and also the Masters award of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain in 2000, and regularly exhibits in photographic exhibitions all over the country.

Since retiring Malcolm has taken up photo-journalism, reporting for magazines such as *Old Glory*. He has been a volunteer on the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Railway for over 15 years and is currently a Duty Stationmaster.

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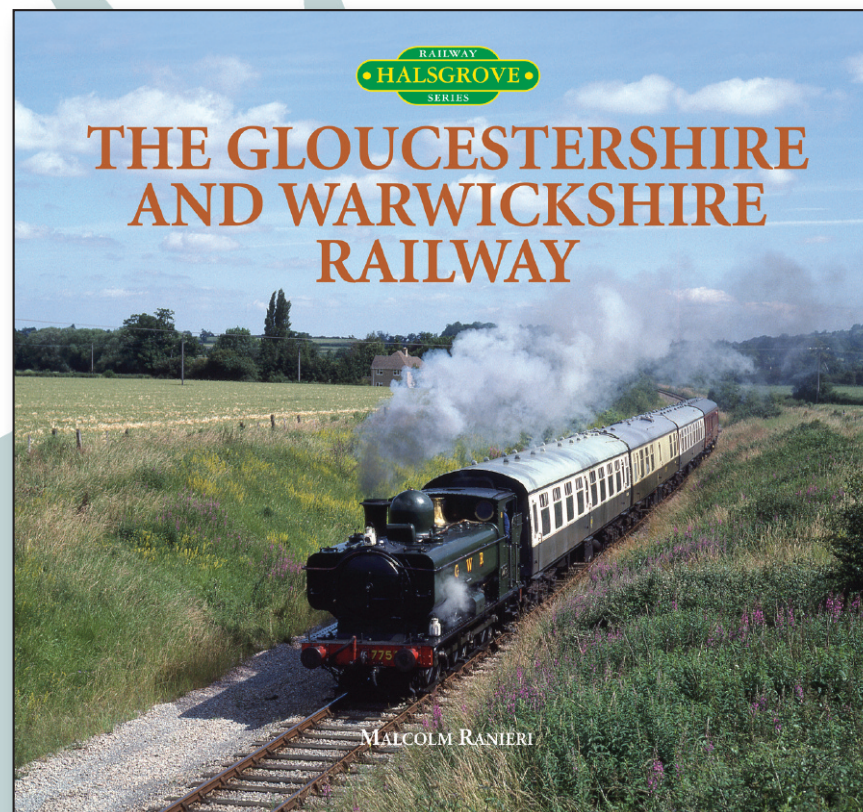
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Above: GWR 14XX no 1450 stands at night underneath the B4077 roadbridge at the north end of Toddington Station.

Above right: At Winchcombe, GWR no 4920 "Dumbleton Hall" catches the light at the end of the day.

Right: GER J15 no 65462 simmers away on Platform 2 at Winchcombe Station.



GWR 14XX no 1450 stands on Platform 2 at Toddington Station with its auto-railer coach awaiting the start of duty.



On a misty day with the sun breaking through, GWR Heavy Goods Engine no 2857 brings a freight train south from Broadway into Platform 1 at Toddington Station.

Example of a double-page spread.



Picking up the last of the evening light, GWR Hall class no 6990 "Witherslack Hall" blasts through Dixon cutting northbound.



Frost is melting as 7903 "Foremarke Hall" takes the first train of the day northbound from Winchcombe to Toddington at Chicken Curve.