

IMAGES OF HOME COUNTIES RAILWAYS

CLASSIC PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE MAURICE DART COLLECTION

Maurice Dart

In this new volume of photographs from the Maurice Dart Collection the author covers the railways in the area widely known as the Home Counties which for this volume take in Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Middlesex and Oxfordshire together with north and west London. The inner city is not included. Locations of places in each county are as recorded in the RCH *Handbook of Stations* from 1938.

As this book features images from the author's personal collection, the layout follows the order in which the collection is arranged. This follows locomotive wheel arrangement and types from the largest downwards in decreasing order of size, with a few exceptions. It is a system that was used in the past by several notable authors that presents a markedly different layout to the now standard practice of following routes geographically.

As wide a variety of locations as possible is included to cover the locomotive scene on the main line, on branch lines, in goods yards and at locomotive sheds. In this way the book will appeal not only to railway enthusiasts but also to those seeking photos of local areas and will help readers to recall the magic and nostalgia of the sight of working steam locomotives.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Maurice Dart was born in Plymouth and, apart from a period in Gibraltar, he has lived in Devon and Cornwall for all of his life. The interest in railways was bred into him almost from birth and has stayed with him. He was educated at Sutton High School, Plymouth followed by Plymouth & Devonport Technical College and worked as a chemist in the China Clay industry for thirty seven years. Through his work connections he gained an intimate knowledge of the Lee Moor Tramway and of China Clay railway operations by the main line railway companies. Following retirement he works as a volunteer on the Bodmin & Wenford Railway mainly in the shop or escorting visiting enthusiasts around the railway. His other main hobby is Folk Dancing, which has taken him to Ireland, Jersey, Portugal and Eastern Europe and he dances with Trigg Morris Men from Bodmin. On his dancing trips abroad he managed to find time for railway photography. He also likes to play snooker and enjoys eating out.

Also in this series:

Images of Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys Railways

Images of Bristol, Somerset and Dorset Railways

Images of Wiltshire Railways

Images of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Railways

Images of Industrial and Narrow Gauge Railways - Devon

Images of Industrial and Narrow Gauge Railways - Cornwall

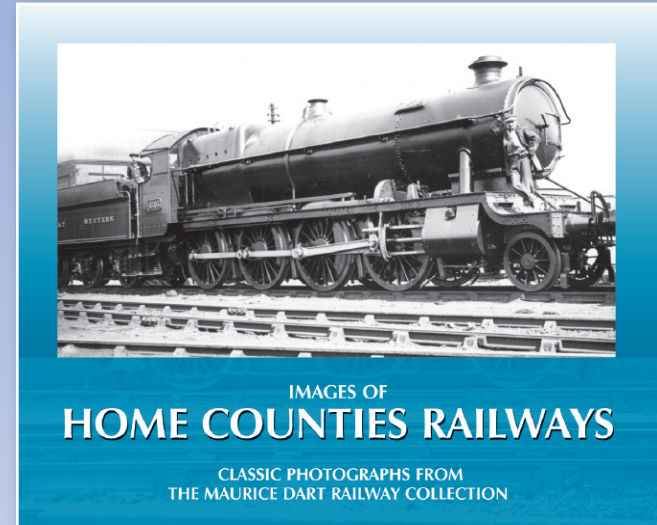
Railways - Cornwall

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Reading's DRC W16W has arrived at Faringdon on a Southall Railway Club trip in April 1955. (Rail Archive Stephenson/Photomatic)



Two locos at Bletchley on 15 March 1952 are locally based Ivatt 4MT 43005 and Bedford's 4P 3-cylinder Compound 4-4-0 41038.



On 26 December 1920 Reading's 4300 class 5374 is being lifted back on to the track following a derailment at Little Johns which is the name of a nearby farm on the north side of the line on the Tilehurst side of Reading West. Damage has been inflicted to the parapet of the underline bridge. I have no further details of this incident. The loco ran as 8374 from January 1928 to July 1944 and was withdrawn in June 1948. (M. Whitehouse Collection)

Example of a double-page spread.

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5700 AND 8750 CLASS 0-6-0 PANNIER TANKS

These were the workhorses of the GWR and worked in yards all over the system. They also worked trip goods and local passenger trains. The Condenser fitted 9700s worked goods over the widened lines and also acted as Carriage Pilots for empty stock workings at Paddington.

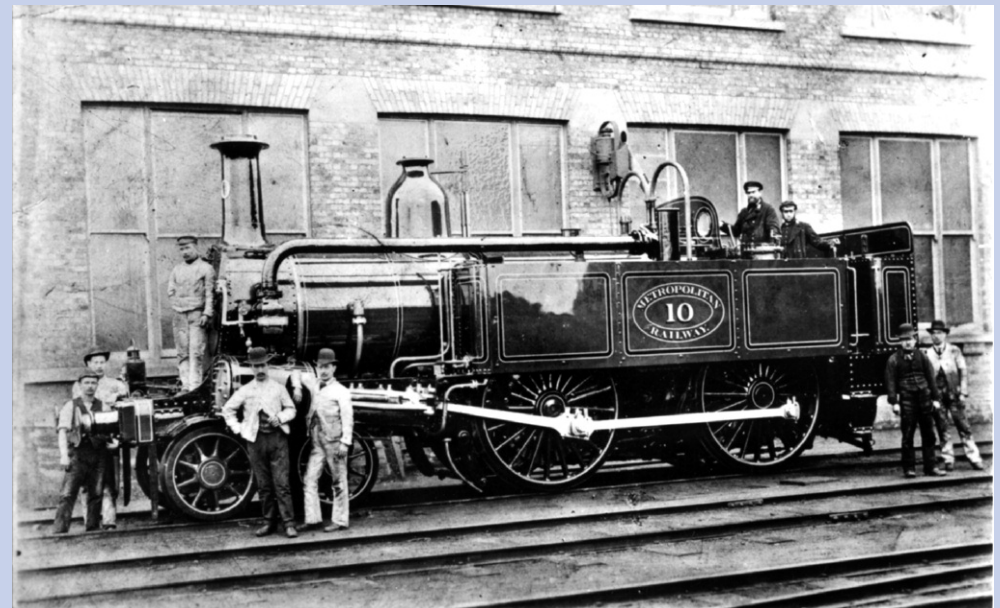
Above: Carrying a DID (Didcot) shed stencil 5700 class 5744 fitted with a spark Arrestor shunts in one of the yards at Didcot on 12 October 1949.

Left: Carrying a smokebox number of 550, LTE 99 rex 5700 class 77151 rests at Neasden LT shed with two other members of the class on 12 June 1969. This loco was very familiar to me as it resided at St Blazey shed for many years.

5700 and 8750 Class 0-6-0 Pannier Tanks

Before the 9700s were built 5700 class 8700 was fitted with condensing apparatus as a trial. In this condition it is at home on shed at Old Oak Common in 1933. 20T Loco Coal wagon 53482 is on the coal stage in the right background. A. G. Ellis

8750 class 8764 is at home at Old Oak Common in the mid-1930s. G. L. Turner



Metropolitan Railway 'A' class 4-4-0T 10 fitted with Condensing gear at Neasden shed around 1880. The Running Foreman is standing by the cab steps. (London Transport)