

RAILWAYS ROUND DARTMOOR

Bernard Mills

When Brunel's first broad gauge line snaked its way into Devon in the 1840s Dartmoor was still considered to be something of a wilderness in which few roads existed, and those that did were mostly unmade tracks winding between isolated farms and villages. Even as the so-called Railway Mania took hold, attempts to access the high moorland were largely thwarted by its rugged terrain. The rail network laid down in the following decades shows routes encircling the fringes of the moor, leaving the interior to one or two enterprising and largely short-lived passenger services along with a handful of industrial and military examples. However, these geographical difficulties and the methods employed to overcome them, make the history of Dartmoor's railways particularly interesting, not only to the enthusiast but also to the millions of visitors to the National Park for whom evidence of many lines now survives only as well-used footpaths and cycle routes.

In *Railways Round Dartmoor*, the author applies his intimate knowledge of Dartmoor to provide the reader with a detailed history of its railways. Of particular interest are the many photographs from the author's collection taken when the lines were in use, or in the throes of being dismantled, comparing them with photographs of the same scene today. These, combined with historic photographs from the Dartmoor Trust Archive and other sources, create a book that will prove fascinating not only to the railway enthusiast but also to the general reader.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bernard Mills is a semi-retired railwayman still involved in part time work for GWR in the ticket offices at Plymouth, Totnes and Newton Abbot, chalking up 55 years of railway service all in the local area save for a six month secondment to Brit Rail Travel International in New York in 1975.

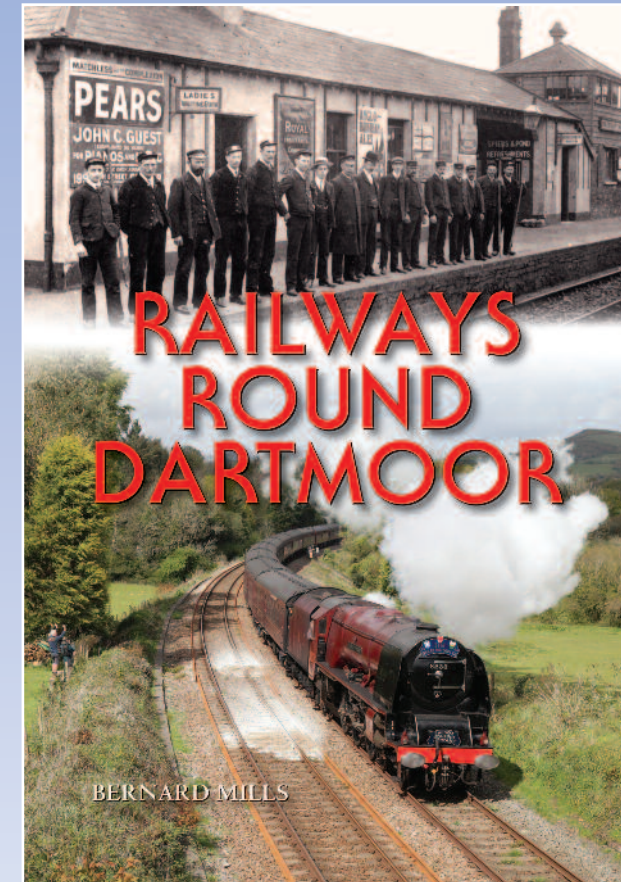
A life long railway enthusiast, Bernard has been photographing the railways of Devon for six decades. He has written a dozen or so best selling books on various aspects of the West Country railway scene including the ever popular Back Tracking Series featuring in detail the railways of Plymouth and its surrounding area. He is also a popular speaker on the subject.

Happily married for 34 years, Bernard lives in Buckland Monachorum in a house named 'Arten Gill' in honour of that celebrated structure on the Settle and Carlisle Railway.

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Dignitaries attending the opening of the Redlake Tramway 11 September 1911.



Above: Heathfield Station and the Candy tile works c.1920.



A mirror image reflection of Collett 0-6-0 3205 passing with the 1500 Totnes- Buckfastleigh.

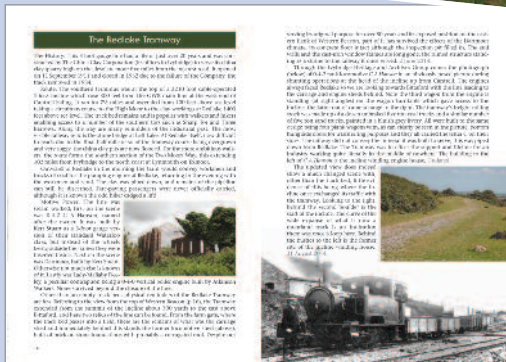


Left: A busy scene at Lustleigh, 1962.

Below: A Plymouth-bound train pulling away from Horrabridge up the 1 in 60 grade towards Yelverton.



Sturdily built of local materials the double track locomotive shed of the Rowtor Target Railway.



Example of a double-page spread.