

Best Website: Joint Gold Awards

www.dartmoor-railway-association.org

www.bedwyntrains.org.uk

live-departures.info	Device	Venue	Privacy Policy	Contact Us
Bedwyn Departures				
Bedwyn Live Arrivals Bedwyn Timetable Buy Tickets Click destination for service details:				
12:52	Newbury	PLATFORM 2	EXPECTED	On time
13:48	Newbury	PLATFORM 2	EXPECTED	On time

live-departures.info	Device	Venue	Privacy Policy	Contact Us
Bedwyn Arrivals				
Bedwyn Live Departures Bedwyn Timetable Buy Tickets				
12:42	Newbury	PLATFORM 1	EXPECTED	On time
13:35	Newbury	PLATFORM 1	EXPECTED	On time

live-departures.info	Device	Venue	Privacy Policy	Contact Us
Newbury Departures				
Newbury Live Arrivals Newbury Timetable Buy Tickets Click destination for service details:				
12:21	London Paddington	PLATFORM 1	EXPECTED	On time
12:22	Bedwyn	PLATFORM 2	EXPECTED	On time
13:10	Reading	PLATFORM 3	EXPECTED	On time

[Home pages shown for each website]

Judges' comments: *"Each in their own way supporting existing users and encouraging new users of their railways, Bedwyn evolving into so much more than a traditional RUG website, and Dartmoor reflecting its wider role since the restoration of regular mainline services in 2021."*

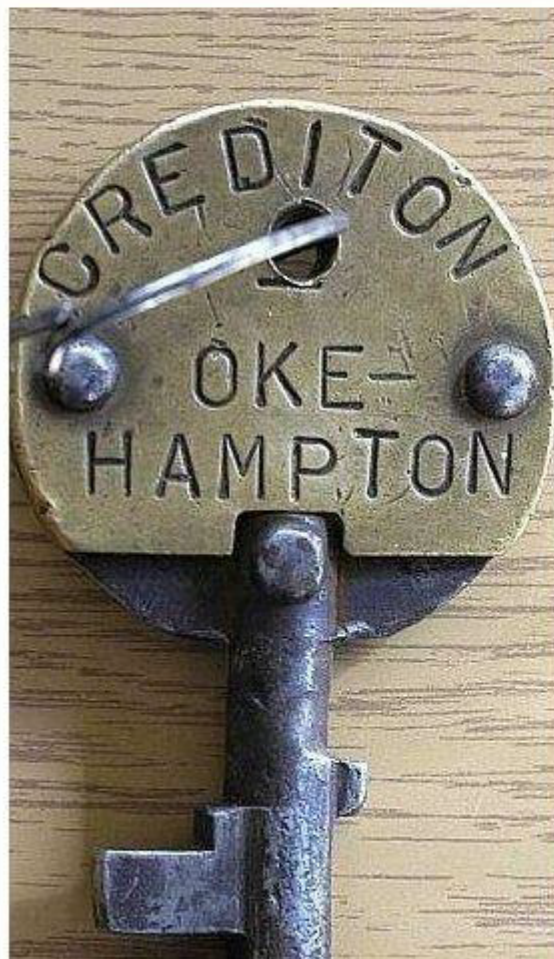
Annual General Meeting 2023 London

The Dartmoor Railway Association

Supporting the Dartmoor Line



*After nearly 50 years, daily regular passenger trains to Okehampton recommenced with the 0632 from Exeter on November 20th 2021, seen here arriving at Okehampton at 0710.
Photographer: @networkrailwest*



The Dartmoor Railway Association

The Dartmoor Railway Supporters' Association (DRSA) was formed in 2009 to support the Dartmoor Railway. In 2020 the Dartmoor Railway Community Interest Company went into administration and the Dartmoor Railway effectively ceased to exist. Subsequently ownership of the Aggregate Industries owned line was transferred to Network Rail to enable the reinstatement of an Exeter-Okehampton service operated by Great Western Railway. In preparation for the new challenges ahead, DRSA renamed itself Dartmoor Railway Association (DRA) in May 2021.

The objectives of DRA are:

1. To record and promote interest in Okehampton area railway history.
2. To support the 'Dartmoor Line' Exeter - Okehampton rail service, and Okehampton Station.
3. To explore the possibility of operating heritage rail services between Okehampton and Meldon Viaduct.
4. To support the Northern Route initiative, i.e. the reinstatement of the entire former London and South Western Railway Exeter - Plymouth route.

Membership

Volunteers need to be DRA members, but we are also very keen to attract members who are not in a position to volunteer but who wish to support the association's



Service Information

Trains, buses, refreshments and parking.

Industrial Action

Latest news on strikes from GWR: "The RMT (on board and station staff) will strike on Thursday 20, Saturday 22 and Saturday 29 July. On these dates we will only be able to run a limited service, starting later and finishing much earlier than usual – and most of our network will have no service whatsoever. Trains that are planned to run will be subject to short notice changes and cancellations. We are also expecting there to be an impact on the days before and after strikes too, in particular Friday 21 July". As ever, please check with www.gwr.com/strike before travelling.

Exeter-Okehampton rail service

The Exeter-Okehampton rail service is operated by Great Western Railway. Rather than trying to reproduce the latest timetable and give up-to-date short term service information, we provide a few links so that potential travellers can get accurate information from the horse's mouth.

Look up basic train info and buy tickets at <https://www.gwr.com/travel-information>.

Check for service problems at <https://www.gwr.com/check>.



Tavistock bus service

[Dartline Coaches](#) operates the 118 bus service between Okehampton and Tavistock, the timetable for which can be seen at <https://bustimes.org/services/118-tavistock-okehampton>.

Other bus services to and from Okehampton

Following a number of changes recently, Devon County Council has now published the latest West Devon Area timetables at https://www.devonbustimetables.info/current/west_devon/.

In particular note the changes to Service 5 (Exeter - Crediton - Okehampton/Barnstaple/Chulmleigh) and Service 6 (Exeter - Okehampton - Holsworthy - Bude/Launceston).

[For those interested in some of the background to the changes, there's informed commentary at <https://busandtrainuser.com/2022/03/10/a-new-chapter-for-stagecoach/>.]



Okehampton Station Cafe

More properly called the Bulleid Buffet (*) after Oliver Bulleid, the Southern Railway's innovative engineer, the station cafe is run by Leanne Knight and her team from The Amazing Brownie Bakers of Lifton. From the 1st of November the cafe will move to winter hours which will be:

Monday to Saturday 0800 to 1600 (food served 0900 to 1500)

Sunday 1000 to 1600 (food served 1000 to 1500).

The Bulleid Buffet has a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/people/The-Bulleid-Buffet/100005065062565/>. They can be contacted on 07410 600160 or




Where To Go

On this page we suggest destinations and activities for visitors to Okehampton Station. The page is evolving, and contributions are welcome.

We strongly suggest looking at the [Visit Okehampton](#) website, for an overview of the attractions of the town and its environs. Visit Okehampton has also produced an excellent brochure 'Okehampton - The Gateway to the moor', which is available in hardcopy at many outlets including our shop, and can also be downloaded from their website.

The Okehampton and Meldon area, and the entire railway back to Coleford Junction, is contained on Ordnance Survey 1:25000 Explorer Map 113. Please note that the railway east of Okehampton is not very accessible.

For an overview of the Meldon area, particularly its industrial archaeology and geology, download our [Exploring Meldon](#)  (274kb) information sheet.

Much more detail about Meldon is to be found in Peter Keene's excellent 'Exploring a Dartmoor Valley - The Meldon Beneath our Feet', for sale in the DRA shop.

Tramlines footpath access.

Please note that safety issues have led to the closure of the of the useful flight of steps from Okehampton Station carpark to the Tramlines footpath. To reach the start of the footpath you have to exit the car park and immediately turn right. The area now comes within the Network Rail estate and their risk assessment led to the closure. We have been advised by NR that bringing the steps up to standard would be expensive.

Okehampton Castle

Originally built by the Normans before becoming the Courtenay family residence, Okehampton Castle was Devon's largest castle, and there are substantial remains. It is



Pony Magazine (and Pony Express newsletter)


From number 21, the Spring/Summer 2015 issue, DRA members had the option of receiving the Pony magazine electronically, thus reducing printing and postage costs and enabling the association to spend a higher proportion of subscription income on more direct support for the railway. As magazines and newsletters become 1 year old, we will make them available to download from this page. Pony Express newsletter number 5 was published on September 6th 2022; the current Pony issue, number 45, was published May 1st 2023.

Please note that Issues 1 to 20 are scans of printed copies, and are much larger files (up to 25 Mb) than the later issues.


[Issue 43 Winter 2021/2022](#)  (4.9Mb)

[Pony Express 4 November 2021](#)  (303Kb)

[Issue 42 Summer 2021](#)  (1.4Mb)

[Issue 41 Spring 2021](#)  (1.4Mb)

[Issue 40 Winter 2020/21](#)  (2.9Mb)

[Pony Express 3 September 2020](#)  (218Kb)

[Issue 39 Spring 2020](#)  (3.2Mb)

Stock Movement Day

Paul Vodden

Spring is the time of plans and projects - Leo Tolstoy

By the middle of March the secret was out. Okehampton would once again become a living, breathing railway destination. Much to do to get to that point!

Wednesday 17th March 2021 – a 'normal' station maintenance day – or was it? After remaining stationary since January 2020 the 31452 type 31 diesel and D4167 08 diesel shunter had to be fired up by RMS locotec in readiness for their move to Meldon to make space for Network Rail engineering works at



Okehampton Station. DRSA volunteers had ably assisted RMS charging up batteries over the preceding weeks and those present for station maintenance sprung into action assisting on the day. Naturally it was not a textbook mission, with much head scratching going on to start the 31, in particular, as many procedures had to be carried out in



the correct sequence before the start button could be pushed. Several relays after a long lay-up were jammed and needed coaxing back to life. When all checks were completed and with many fingers crossed both locos came back

to life with a cloud of smoke, spluttering into that familiar rhythmical chug, much to everyone's delight and relief 'time for another brew'.

Rosie's Diary – Driver Training

by Rosie



carriages, and I did not mean to disturb the robins which were trying to nest there, but there were lots of other snug places in the pipes and under the rubbish for miskies. Then I went down below the Signal Box where Christine certainly needed my help as she went through smelly nibbled papers. You remember that my father was a terrier.

Anyway I have a lot to do and so when a wagon was by my nose with a four legs space I thought someone would offer me a ride, but no



This will only be a short article because my paws are so hard worked at the station, up to five days a week. Not only do I patrol the platforms and check over all the new orange 2 legs, but my rodent patrols have extended to the Bude Bay line and a basement! The track was well grown over under the sleeper



luck. On another occasion I tried charming the Driver, no luck. So I took all the Colas Drivers up the line to show them the route, and even pointed out the way to good pasties over Bridge 613, Meldon Viaduct. My efforts may pay tasty future dividends.



Back at the station I was having to restrain one of my two legs when he spotted a Boys Own Awayday Roadrailer with seats for mates at the back. Good job the virtual police were on duty everywhere.

I was puzzled when I spotted that the Okehampton ground frame now has its own lights. But I suppose the new drivers eyesight might not be as good as our Tom and John.



At the end of a day I like nothing better than to lie where I can keep an eye on everything. But I am also dreaming of the train which will take me to Exeter and beyond to the beach at Teignmouth, then a salty sea ride to a canine café terrace at Shaldon. Just so long as the drivers know the way from Okehampton!



DARTMOOR RAILWAY
ASSOCIATION

The Dartmoor Pony

The Magazine of the
Dartmoor Railway Association

No.43 Winter 2021/22 £2.50



The Dartmoor Line is Open!



Image 74 / 170





Image 91 / 170



Peter Ritchie and Graham Parkinson hard at work in the



Image 5 / 170



Rail grinder in Okehampton Platform 2, pending departure

Work in Progress - DRA volunteer activity



This page showcases the activities of the DRA's volunteers. It relies heavily on the contributions of volunteers, especially team leaders. Carriage and Wagon reports are by David Bell unless otherwise stated. Thank you to all our contributors.

Note that there is also coverage of the restoration of brakevan LDS55625 on its dedicated [page](#).

Our content management system's mechanism for limiting file size resulted in the unplanned loss of reports between sometime in 2015 and April 2018, including vital information on David Bell's 79th birthday cake. We now periodically remove reports into archive pages, as follows:

[Archive page 5](#) 2021

[Archive page 4](#) 2020

[Archive page 3](#) Sept 2019 to Dec 2019

[Archive page 2](#) Dec 2018 to Sept 2019

[Archive page 1](#) Apr 2018 to Nov 2018, plus a jumble of earlier, departmental volunteer reports.



Community Rail Day at Meldon Viaduct July 5th 2023

