

Preface to the Sixth Edition

This edition has been further updated to include construction and inauguration of the heritage train and approval of the planning application to extend the current running line to Blackmoor and Wistlandpound.

RIP GORDON A. BROWN

Sadly, Gordon passed away on 7th March 2020 during preparation of this edition.

He achieved many accomplishments in his life. He was chairman of the Freight Forwarders Association and served on Woking Borough District Council being elected Mayor in 1978.

He was a lifelong L&BR enthusiast publishing his first booklet on the railway around 1960. As recorded below, this book first published in 1964 and updated and republished several times since, was the next step. No royalties have been taken from recent issues of the book published by Surrey Group allowing much needed funds to be raised for development of the railway.



(Photo by Geoff Kingate)

Gordon joined Surrey Group shortly after it started and was elected chairman in 1992. He subsequently became Chairman of the L&BR Association in 1997 and 1998 but, after his car skidded on some farm mud and ended up upside down in a North Devon field on his way to a meeting at Woody Bay, he felt it was time to stand down as chairman of the Association.

In the early days of developments at Woody Bay he loaned a substantial amount of money to the project to facilitate completion of the car parking facilities which was necessary before the station could open to the public.

He was re-elected chairman of Surrey Group in 2000 and 2001 and he remained active as a committee member until 2016. I remember him most for running meetings efficiently and often bringing up useful suggestions. Surrey Group continued to maintain contact with him for the past 4 years after he was taken into care. He is sorely missed as a leading light of our railway.

This book is not only dedicated to the memory of Gordon but also to the following Surrey Group members who have made significant contributions to Surrey Group and to the Railway:

PETER CANNON
DAVID BRADBURY
BOB BROWN
GERALD CHANDLER
RICHARD BULLOCK

Phil Rawstron
April 2020