

## Michael Baker – Editor, North Star



I was born in Thornton Heath 1937, and had my first journey on GWR later that year, although I don't remember it, and then almost every year after that to relations in Shropshire which involved Paddington to Shrewsbury behind a King (what luck!), as far as Wolverhampton then anything from a Castle, through Star, Hall to a Churchward mogul to Shrewsbury, then LMS to Hadnall on line to Crewe, just possible I travelled behind a LNWR Princes of Wales. I lived on the Southern and thought electric multiple units very dull - learned my mistake afterwards.

My first job was as a trainee newspaper reporter and photographer, then National Service in the RAF where they very decently stationed me, first at Hereford, then at Abingdon, so more WR journeys. To art college in 1958, Croydon first, then Chelsea, finally Liverpool at the height of Beatlemania where just about everyone, although not me, was in a pop group of some sort.

I became a college lecturer, then travelled overland to Nepal, twice, and wrote a book about it. In 1967 met Maeve and married in Dublin 1968. Settled down to teaching in Croydon, London, then Swanage, retiring in 2002. I have three sons William, Daniel, and Sam (who died in 1996), and four grandchildren.

In the meantime I edited Great Western Echo for 31 years for the Great Western Society, and then took up North Star for the Friends. I've written and published over 50 books on transport, trains and buses, places and people, for National Trust, Times Educational Supplement and many magazines.



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