

# Holt

## **The Railway at Holt and some people associated with it**

The first train to run through Holt was reported in the Dorset Chronicle on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 1846. The Holt line became part of the Great Western Railway in 1851. The station dates from 1861, when it became Holt Junction, a changing place of the Devizes branch. It became a station in its own right in April 1874 but it was 3 years before there was a proper approach road. Goods yards were added in 1878. The last train to stop at Holt was on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1966.

Staff were appointed to be responsible for points and signals. They were called "section policemen" and were sworn in like policemen and even shared some of the parish duties with them. Their uniforms were not dissimilar in that they wore reinforced top hats and they carried truncheons. They needed to be reliable with good eyesight and hearing and were expected to be on duty at all times, in all winds and weather.

### **Site of Holt Station c2012**



### A list of people associated with the railway at Holt

SURNAME	GIVEN NAME	STATUS	ASSOCIATION
Bailey	George		Grandson of Thomas Bailey. Went to school via train to Trowbridge in 1890's
Bailey	Thomas		In charge of building the road.
Beavan	F.		Present at the celebrations held at the Institute in 1877. Gave some land for the improvement of access to the station.
Beaven	A. E.		Present at the celebrations held at the Institute in 1877.
Beaven	Edward		Organised and paid for chapel choir outings in the 1890's and 1900's
Beer		Mr.	Station master
Bryant		Mr.	Railway employee from 1872. Moved to Holt from Bradford on Avon in 1880 to live in one of 3 station cottages known as Foxhall Cottages. Died in 1908.
Bull		Mr.	Station master c1930's
Chalke		Mr.	Station master
Chapman	Robert		Land purchased from his executors for the provision of the approach road to the station. Died 1876?
Cornish	William	Mr.	Signalman from 1879-1923. Lived in Foxhall Cottages. A lay preacher.
Couzens		Mr.	Signalman. Lived in Foxhall Cottages
Cowman		Mr.	Station master from 1935
Daniell	C.		Present at the celebrations held at the Institute in 1877.
Derham	George		Station employee during Second World War
Deverall		Mr. & Mrs.	Proprietors of the Three Lions. Provided food for the celebrations to mark the completion of the approach road to the station in November 1877. The celebration was held in the Institute.
Deverall	George		Born 1828. Master carpenter who helped build the original wooden bridge over the river at Staverton and its replacement in 1881.
Gritton		Mr.	Present at the celebrations held at the Institute in 1877.
Hayward	J.		Present at the celebrations held at the Institute in 1877.
Hewett	S. E.		Worked in Goods Department
Hopkins		Mr.	Station master
House	E. C.		Present at the celebrations held at the Institute in 1877. Baker. Ham Green.
Hunt	J.		Present at the celebrations held at the Institute in 1877. From the brewery.

Jones	Gordon		Present at the celebration held at the Institute in 1877. From the mill
King	Fred		Station employee from 1912-1914, under Mr. Beer. Returned in 1930 until 1942.
Ladd	Tib.		Regularly collected skins from the station for Beaven's tannery c1905.
Mettitt	George		Signalman
Mortimer	Aaron		Coal business at the station in early 20th century
Pafford	J.		Grandson to Mr. Pyle. Went to school via train to Trowbridge 1910-1913
Perrott		Mr.	Staff member who fractured a leg after falling between buffers (1872)
Pullen	E.		Present at the celebrations held at the Institute in 1877.
Pyle	Edward		One of the first Section Policemen. In 1874 he became station master and served until 1881 when he took on the Cross Guns pub at Avoncliffe. He returned to live in Leigh Road in 1903 and died in 1914.
Russell		Mr.	Station master. He was the last to hold this position
Sartain	S.		Present at the celebrations held at the Institute in 1877.
Sawtell	J.		Rode on last train to stop at Holt Junction
Smith	Albert		Fractured knee after falling off goods shed roof.
Thorne	Robert		One of the first Section Policemen
Trent	Harry		Used to give 2 shillings to everyone to spend at the seaside from Beaven's factory when on annual outing by train from Holt
Wakeley	Frank		Killed during construction of bridge. (Possibly June 1862)
Webb	Frank		Railway employee. Described by Mr. Russell as one of the best railwaymen he had ever worked with
Williams	Charlie		Operated haulage business from the station
Yeomans	Tom		Signalman
Young		Mrs.	Worked at the Station Nurseries during First World War. She remembers seeing the train with King George V and Queen Mary on board.

Employees of Beaven's factory used to have annual outings from Holt to the seaside

*Some information taken from Holt Junction, a story of a village railway station – Holt Magazine 1966 and A last look at Holt Junction – Holt Magazine 1967*