

- GREAT WESTERN STAR -

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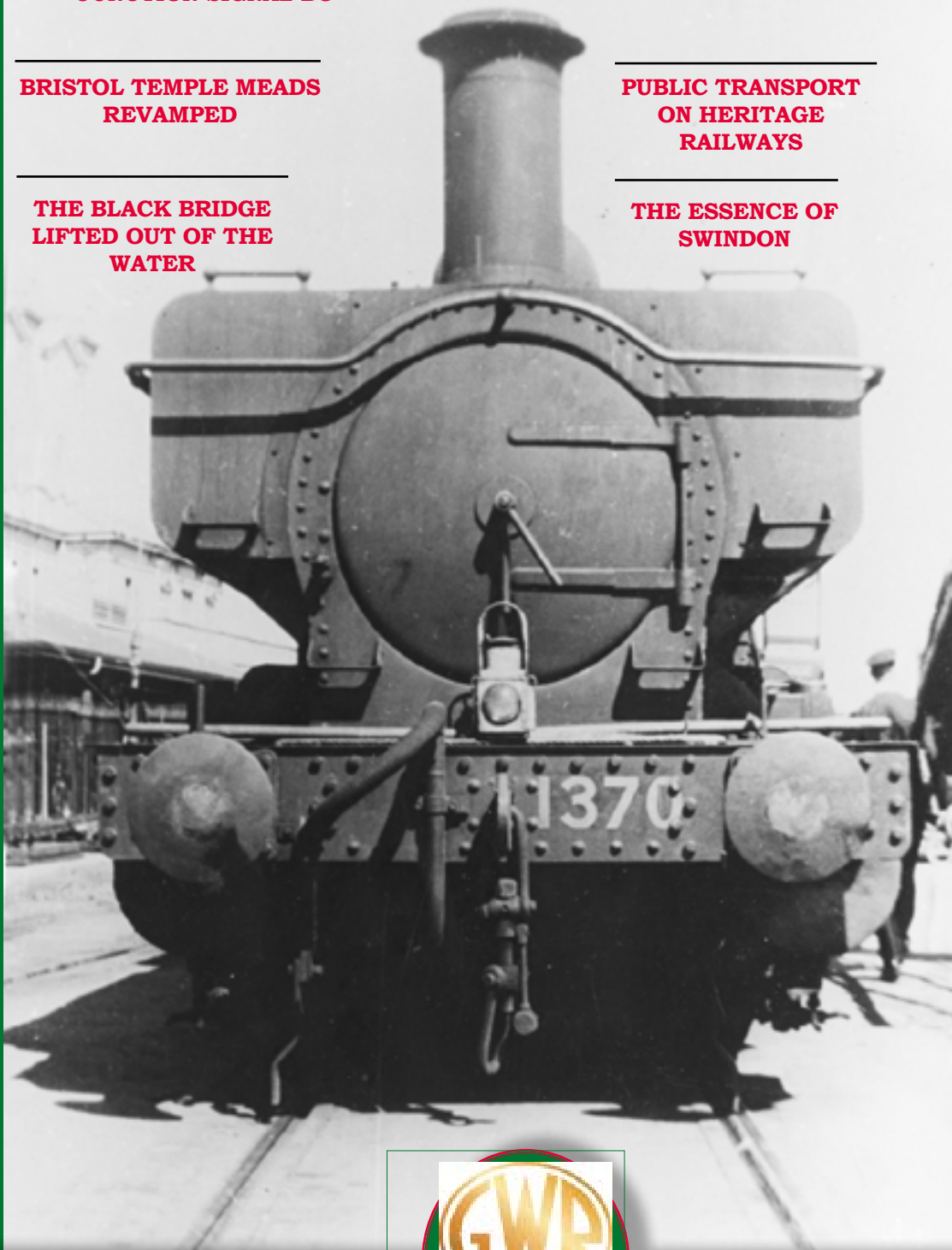
RESTORING 4110

**BRISTOL TEMPLE MEADS
REVAMPED**

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT
ON HERITAGE
RAILWAYS**

**THE BLACK BRIDGE
LIFTED OUT OF THE
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EDITOR'S THOUGHTS



Welcome to the fourth issue of **Great Western Star**.

Once again, we have a truly varied range of articles in 134 pages of copy. My thanks to all who have contributed - please keep them coming because after all, it is **YOUR** magazine.

The enthusiasm by modellers who have never written an article about their model railway is truly amazing. The authors of the two layouts featured in this issue are very different and their layouts are equally different but both show just how diverse our interest in the hobby really is. The Essence of Swindon is a diorama concentrating on a very special part of the history of the Great Western. I am sure that, as it did for me having made many visits to Swindon Works in the late 1950s, it evoked many memories of a time now, sadly, long gone. I would love to hear readers' comments and make no apologies for including so many photos of this very interesting layout. In contrast, Clive Burchell's N Gauge layout portrays a very busy country railway with many excellent working models, many built by his wife, as the fair is in town.

The All Party Parliamentary Group has recently issued a very thought provoking report on the state and future of our Heritage Railways. Time after time, these valuable parts of not just our railway history but also our social history have come under different forms of attack, not least the present environmental threat to our supply of steam coal. It is for these reasons that I have featured the report in full (minus one Table) as I believe that it should be made widely available to all members of the railway preservation movement. Again, I would welcome your comments.

Network Rail has been frequently criticised over the years for not always getting things right. However, three contrasting stories in this issue show just what a great job they do when they get it right! The manual - yes, MANUAL - lifting of the Black Bridge, the restoration of the World's largest mechanical signal box and the investment in the very important Bristol Temple Meads station show a great respect for our Great Western Heritage.. Long may it continue!

Don't forget our Website - www.greatwesternstar.com. We are adding new videos and our Railway terminus section provides a constantly updated coverage of news, not just GWR but also a wider range of stories, sometimes from outside the UK, depending upon its topicality.

We hope you enjoy your read and we look forward to receiving your comments. Please feel free to send in any stories or articles - we are always happy to receive them. From this issue onwards, you will only be able to read each very interesting magazine if you subscribe. This can be simply done by going to our website and completing the form. Don't miss out on this key record of all things Great Western - after all, where else can you read in one place about the history of the railway that we all love, the work that is continuing to preserve that history and heritage and how it is being replicated in model form.

Happy reading and do get in touch - after all, it's **YOUR** magazine!

Rodney Pitt, Editor