

More on the Railway Station



Semley Station 1970's

- 1873 It has been decided by the Post Authorities to place a letter box at Semley Station.
Western Gazette 19 December 1873
- 1874 Hindon Petty Sessions
John Scammell of West Tisbury was summoned by the South Western Railway Company for trespassing at Semley Station, after the gates had been locked for the night. Mr Emblin, station-master, deposed that on Thursday 02 July, about half past eight o'clock, he observed the defendant trying to get in, and eventually he jumped the gates. He ordered him to leave, and insisted upon his going back. Defendant with an oath said he had never turned his back upon any man, and should not do so then. He (Mr Emblin) called a porter on duty to put Scammell off the premises and told him he would be summoned. Fined 10s and costs; in default, 14 days' hard labour
Western Gazette August 07 1874
- 1893 Hounds on the Line
The South and West Wilts pack had a narrow escape from being cut to pieces on Monday. The meet was at Sedgehill Green and Reynard, shaping a course for Motcombe, crossed the railway line a short distance below Semley station. Whilst the hounds were upon the line in pursuit, the down express train, due at Semley about noon, dashed round a curve in the road and put them in great peril. The driver (Melhuish of Exeter) saw the danger and, applying the brake, brought the train to a standstill, barely a moment too soon to prevent a disaster, and the huntsman leaping the fence drove the pack off the line.

Scarcely had the train re-started when the hounds, still on the line of their fox, re-appeared on the railway lower down. The engine was again checked, but the pack soon got upon less dangerous ground and the train proceeded. The occurrence occasioned much excitement among those by whom it was witnessed and much praise was bestowed upon the driver for the promptitude displayed by him in stopping the train.
Western Gazette December 22 1893
- 1896 Promotion
Mr J Ellen has been promoted from Stationmaster here to an important position on the staff of the Superintendent of the Line at Waterloo Station and commenced his new duties on Monday. He has been at Semley just over 12 years and for the last eight or nine years he has carried on the work of a post-office for the P.O. authorities, by permission of the Railway Company. Mr Ellen has also from the initiation of the Parish Council until the present time been chairman of that body.
Western Gazette 10 April 1896
- 1895 Appointments
Mr George Ralls, who for a number of years was in charge of the goods department at the Semley Railway Station, has been transferred to London. His successor is Mr C G Cull.
Western Gazette 11 January 1895
- 1898 Improvement
The London and South Western Railway Company have effected a great improvement at the Semley station by erecting a zinc roof, with glass sides, over the bridge which connects the platforms. The necessity for this has often been experienced in wet and windy weather, and the improvement will be greatly appreciated.
Western Gazette 12 August 1898
- 1900 Promotion
Mr J Ellen, formerly station-master here and now in the office of the Superintendent of the SW line at Waterloo, has been appointed station-master at Southampton Docks Station.
Western Gazette 16 February 1900

- 1914 Shaftesbury-Semley Motor Service
The much talked of motor service from Shaftesbury to Semley Station has at last been realised by the enterprising proprietor of the Grosvenor Hotel, Shaftesbury, Mr Borley, who has purchased two up to date motor 'buses of the latest style. Mr Borley is to be complimented on supplying this much felt want. The 'buses started in earnest on Wednesday, and to celebrate the occasion he invited the Mayor of the Corporation to accompany him on the first trip to the Station. The journey down and back was accomplished in 25 minutes.
Western Gazette Friday 27 March 1914
- 1916 Death
Considerable regret will be felt by a large number of the travelling public at the news that Mr George H Holter, who for nearly 20 years has held the post of station-master here, passed away on Ash Wednesday. The regret is equally felt by the many business people who use the station and the residents of the locality generally, and most of all by the railway staff by whom the deceased gentleman was much esteemed. (for more, see under Obituaries)
Western Gazette 17 March 1916
- 1924 Retirement
Mr R J Risdon who has recently retired from the position of stationmaster at Semley, was the recipient of gifts from the staff and public at a gathering held in the waiting-room at the Station on Monday evening. (for more, see Stationmaster's Farewell)
Western Gazette 16 May 1924
- New Stationmaster
Mr George Elsegood, from Eltham on the South-Eastern line, has succeeded Mr R J Risdon as stationmaster at Semley.
Western Gazette 06 June 1924
- 1929 Hounds hold up the Train
Passengers on the 2.30 train from Yeovil to Salisbury on Thursday afternoon figured in an unusual hold up incident between Semley and Tisbury. The local Hunt was operating in the neighbourhood and as the engine rounded a bend midway between the two stations, it was confronted a short distance down the slope by a number of hounds crossing the metals. From a speed between 50 and 60 miles an hour, the train was smartly brought to a standstill, the lives of several valuable animals being saved by a matter of a yard or two.
- The passengers surprised by the sudden application of the brakes and the unexpected halt, naturally looked out of the windows to investigate and were relieved, as well as somewhat amused, on seeing the innocent cause of their holdup. The driver, Mr W Pugsley, and the fireman, Mr Ferres, both of Yeovil, earned the gratitude of the Hunt for the prompt action which resulted from their keen look-out.
Western Gazette 03 May 1929

Semley Railway Station		
Year	Stationmaster	Source
1861	James Emblin, age 24, of Holborn Middlesex	1861 Census
1875	James Emblin	Kelly's Directory
1880	Edwin Wright	Kelly's Directory
1881	Charles Wright, age 63, of Stanstead Hertford	1881 Census
1889	John Ellen	Kelly's Directory
1891	John Ellen, age 40, of Sherborne Dorset	1891 Census
1896	John Ellen	W Gazette 10.4.1896
1901	George Holter, age 44, of Polegate Sussex	1901 Census
1916	George Holter	W Gazette 17.3.1916
1923	Richard James Risdon	Kelly's Directory
1924	Richard James Risdon	W Gazette 16.5.1924
1924	George Elsegood	W Gazette 6.6.1924
1925	George Elsegood	1925 Electoral Register