



▲ THIS was the sad state of Great Malvern railway station 25 years ago after a fire seriously damaged the 125-year-old listed building. The blaze was particularly ill-timed, as a major renovation project at the station had just been completed. The roof was almost completely destroyed, and the tea room, waiting rooms, ticket office and toilets were badly damaged. However, British Rail promised to restore the station to its former glory.

Station repairs hinge on stretched finances

"THE future of Great Malvern Station should be decided on Monday, when British Rail chiefs meet to discuss their plan of action," reported the *Gazette* 25 years ago.

"Last month's fire caused damage now estimated at £400,000 and BR is looking hard at its resources before making a decision.

"A spokesman said: 'While we

would like to restore the station to its Victorian splendour, the pressure in finance is severe and its future is currently hanging in the balance.'

"BR is currently sorting out what it describes as "complex insurance arrangements", but it is known that its main insurance normally only covers damage over £3.5 million.

"Area manager Mr David Mather

said: 'It's important that we take the right decision. We would like total restoration, but it's a condition of finance and it may be that we do the basic work first and then consider the trimmings. It will probably take several years to restore fully.'

"BR may also appeal to local conservation groups for help in restoring the station to its former glory."