



Swanning Around

A Look at What's Happening Around the Swanage Railway

Issue 1 - February 3rd 2015

Now, if there weren't enough news outlets from the railway, here's another one!

So what's this news sheet going to do that the others don't?

This one is more of a blog, and will tell you what activities are happening now, or in the very near future, of which you can be a part, and have fun getting satisfaction from helping the railway.

This will also include updates about projects that are presently off the news radar. You never know, there may be a project or activity in the pipeline that you may want to assist or even drive and claim some ownership of the outcome.

If that wasn't enough, there will be some light-hearted looks at everyday activities around the railway, and introduce you to some of the less well-known of our staff, going about their business (or not!).

For those of you sitting at home wondering what's going on around SR, look no further!

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If you are on more than one of the SR's distribution lists, you may get more than one

email. Bear with us, as there is no central emailing list.

If you are not receiving an email copy and would like to, send me your details, contact info at the end of this news sheet.

The railway in January and February is engaged in many maintenance and upgrading activities, too many to fully cover in this issue, but here's a flavour of what's going on.

Swanage

Staff facilities at the loco shed are being improved by the addition of a new signing-on and changing building at the back of the shed. As you can see, a start has been made, but this will take some time as there are only a few people working on it.

Timber frames have been constructed in sections at Herston, so not all the work is outside in the cold!

Still plenty of work to do to complete this building, and then refurbish the bothy, now just need the labour!

Contact Paul Macdonald on 07785-540942 or the Ops manager 07587-130381 if you can spare some time.



The basic frame is up – still lots to do! This is the scene on Jan 31st.

If you like getting down and dirty, there is a loco cleaning session on Feb 7th, to get some locos sparkling for the start of running trains on Feb 14th. Have fun with the gang, and enjoy tea and banter!

Here’s the gang, including Sygnets, having a well-earned break on 31st Jan.



Ongoing coaching stock cleaning on Tuesdays and Thursdays will keep you fit! If you can put up with the banter from the usual suspects, then contact Martyn Curtler on 07851 402207, e-mail martynandkathycurtler@tesco.net

Here, Guards David Chant, Martyn Curtler, and Andrew Patrick get stuck in – what a difference!



Would you work with this man? Can’t do Tues or Thurs? Phone him anyway, there may be a Saturday opportunity.

Harmans Cross

Not only is there the HX station team doing its stuff maintaining the furniture, but S & T is busy with signalling stuff, replacing the Up Starter outside the signal box and planting a tablet catcher for use by diesel drivers who don’t have enough arms!

The front of the box is being repainted as well while trains aren’t getting in the way of the scaffolding!



Spot the new concrete base for the starting signal. The old LSWR cast iron signal base was sunk 6 feet down, and a swine to get out! See it soon in the Corfe museum!

Here are regular S & T volunteers Richard, Graham, and Terry attempting to dig a hole for the tablet (token?) catcher. You know how many it takes!



Wot! Not another gas pipe!

Meanwhile, in Harmans Cross up side waiting shelter, volunteers Dave and Michael are at work refurbishing the platform furniture.



The station support group has working sessions every Monday and Wednesday, and if you think you can take pride in sorting out the gardening, send Jeff Gregory an email on jeff.gregory@swanagerailway.co.uk Or just turn up and search him out.



Here's Jeff waiting for you!

Now what about the N Class overhaul project?

There are working parties at Herston Works every Wednesday evening, starting around 16.30hrs, finishing by 22.00hrs. There may also be working parties on other days if there is enough interest. Contact Dan Bennett on d_bennett2000@hotmail.com to register your interest in turning

This:



Into this:



Check out the Swanage Railway Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Swanage-Railway-N-Class-31874-Overhaul-Project/841096652608162?fref=ts> for more up-to-date info.

A final look at refurbishment of volunteer facilities catches Lyn Wakefield decorating the staff room on the platform at Swanage. Good on yer, Lyn! I bet she could do with some help as well!



Of course, there are many more things going on than there is space for in this, the very first issue of this news sheet, so there will be plenty of new stuff in the next edition. Hopefully, this will include a start on features about projects where progress is not currently being reported.

Also, items about the Wareham Project and the Purbeck Mineral and Mining Museum will be coming up soon.

If you're bursting to boost your personal satisfaction rating by volunteering for something, or need more info about a project, department, or anything else on the railway, then contact **Volunteer Liaison Officer Mike Whitwam** on mike.whitwam@corfestation.f2s.com or volunteer@swanagerailwaytrust.org.uk or me, contact details below, you will get a prompt response, and we will put you in contact with the right people.

NOTE: All new volunteers MUST go through Mike Whitwam for induction and registration before they can start on the railway.

I can't do this all by myself, so, if you have an item of interest that falls within the parameters of this document or something amusing that you'd like to see included in this venerable publication, please email it to me, John Denison, at swanning.around@swanagerailway.co.uk or phone/text me on 07989-144665. Subject to appropriate editing, I will endeavour to include it in the next edition.

If you are reading a paper copy and would like to see the pictures in full size, go to a Swanage Railway web site or send me your email address to receive a personal copy of each issue.

If you are reading this and are not a member of the Swanage Railway, don't be put off! Contact us and volunteer (or at least make an enquiry)! You know you want to! You will be most welcome!

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