

## A Look at What's Happening Around the Swanage Railway

Issue 13 – February 9<sup>th</sup> 2016

### DID YOU KNOW?

February 13<sup>th</sup> is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day when the keys to Swanage Station were handed over to founding members of what is now the Swanage Railway. More next month.

There may be few trains running, but much of what we do at this time of year is preparation towards the start of 7-day-a-week running, which in 2016 starts on Good Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, February half-term excepted.

-----ooOoo-----

When there are no trains, there is the Track Team!

Apart from work on the Norden-Worgret section, there is plenty to keep them amused on the Swanage-Norden running line.

They've lifted a couple of track panels by the Engine Shed and remade the bed to improve the drainage, but the job we've all been waiting for is sorting out the track where there is a speed restriction through Herston.



Not only is the track being stabilised, but a new set of crossing timbers is being installed. All being well, normal line speed should be restored soon.

While all this is going on, S&T volunteers Paul Norris and Roy Harrison were busy installing a solar-powered LED lighting device in the loop exit signal. Just something they knocked up at home, like the signal arm that S&T manager Tony North made in his shed, or on his coffee table!

The only heritage part is the cabinet, and that's nearly empty – that's modern technology for you!



And to complete the picture at Herston on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, we were moving stuff about on Herston Bank with crane FBC1.



-----ooOoo-----

Preparing our steam locos for service, fitter Frank Mead washes mucky residues out of the M7's boiler on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb.

Behind him, he's preparing the Standard Tank for a steam test. Fancy helping him? Get in touch!



-----ooOoo-----

Here's a sight you don't see too often. No, not Mick Hatton working, two unrebuilt Bulleid light pacifics side by side!



Granted, 257 Squadron on the left in Herston Works is short of a few major parts, like the boiler! Looks good, though from this angle!

Manston, on the right, is undergoing some winter maintenance and repairs to shunt damage, which will hopefully be completed in time for it to attend the West Somerset Railway's Spring Gala in March.

Also in progress in Herston works, 34010 Sidmouth's tender chassis is being worked on, and the N class 31874 is coming along steadily. BTW that was Mick applying paint to a smoke deflector for the 'N'.

Check out the Swanage Moguls web page at <http://swanagemoguls.com/> for news and details of how to contribute.

Check the Southern Locos web page at <http://www.southern-locomotives.co.uk/> for news and details of how to contribute to Sidmouth's restoration.

-----ooOoo-----

Carriage washing is being done on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the weeks before and after half term. Come and help, and enjoy the fun and the tea and biscuits!



It's all worth it. See the difference on the roof of this coach!

-----ooOoo-----

# Page 3

The nearest we can get to our usual Page 3 fare on Swanning Around is painting in the Driver's cabin.

It's a bit messy, but, unusually, we have some glamour in the form of the ladies doing the decorating!

Cleaner Laura Horswill lays on the filler while Sarah Bamber of the Tuesday Gang sands it off again!

The ceiling has been painted in genuine SR Buttermilk (or was it something left over in Paul McDonald's shed?!), so the place is already looking brighter.

p.s. now you may suppose that some of this is not strictly accurate – I couldn't possibly comment, I'm learning to be a proper journalist!



-----ooOoo-----

## **Project Wareham**

At the Norden level crossing and road/rail interchange site, work continues testing the crossing and associated signalling, and as this newsletter is published, work to install the removable barrier has started.

The barrier will have to be removable to allow movements such as this, where the lorry

transporting the T9 to its next engagement reverses out onto the Wytch Farm Road on Jan 29<sup>th</sup>.



Independent tester Dave Helliwell checks the electrics associated with track circuits at Norden with our own project engineer Mike Walshaw, on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan.

Further testing is in progress towards our goal of a functioning, certified system by the end of March. Watch this space!

-----ooOoo-----

At last! Class 33 "Hotdog" no. 33 111 is out of the Goods Shed! Still some finishing off to do, though.

Here it's pictured at Swanage on Feb 8<sup>th</sup> alongside operational 'Crompton' 33 201.



Hopefully, there should be some good news soon about our resident 'Crompton' no. 33 012 aka D6515, returning from wheelset rectification. Then, perhaps we'll have one of each Class 33 derivative on site.

You may want to visit the 71A Loco Group Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/71alocomotivegroup> to remind yourselves what D6515 looks like!

-----ooOoo-----

At Swanage, Small Works department has completed the new recycling compound, and the old bin shed has been removed. Here's recycler Mike Leach peering out of the new facility next to Gilbert Road.



And here's the old bin enclosure on platform 2 – gone!



-----ooOoo-----

In issue 12, Steven Duncalfe had just passed out for firing, and here he is again, on 29<sup>th</sup> Jan., this time with his father Pete,



rostered together for the first time. Pete as driver, Steven as shunter, on a departmental movement job.

Photo Andrew PM Wright

-----ooOoo-----

**Don't be a couch potato! Get in touch and enjoy a day (or more!) with like-minded people helping to keep the Swanage Railway running.**

-----ooOoo-----

On two days in January, the M7 and T9 were hired for photo charters organised by Neil Cave of TimeLine Events.

If you don't know what happens on a photo charter, you do now! The photographers request a number of staged run-pasts at various locations throughout the railway.

Here's a view of the photographers in action, with the T9 charging up New Barn bank.



Many thanks to Neil Cave and the photographer Peter Zabek for this fine image. Now you can see the difference between a proper photo and the stuff I usually supply for Swanning Around!

-----ooOoo-----

What's this? It's a signalmen's mutual improvement class.



Looks more like signalling inspector Alan Greatbatch directing musical chairs or pass-the-parcel!

Seriously, though, this was the first of more such classes, and was held at Harman's Cross Village Hall on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan.

The purpose is for the signalling inspectors and others to disseminate and discuss anything concerning signalling rules and regulations and associated matters, and for us to get to know other signalmen (and women!). And drink tea and eat cake! The Swanage Railway is now an organisation big enough such that it is now possible not to know others in your own department!

-----ooOoo-----

The new signing on lobby and locker room facility is now finished – hooray!

Just look at the new shower – posh or what? Will it look this good in six months – let's wait and see!



-----ooOoo-----

A new recruit to the crane gang is Robin, seen here in the workshop at Norden.  
Now I know we're desperate for volunteers, but someone who can hold a hammer might be more useful!  
At least he's read the rule book and comes with hi-viz!



Photo by Fraser White

-----ooOoo-----

One thing that you didn't know is that the Swanage Railway gets money for empty aluminium drinks cans.  
So don't put your cans in the council recycling, bring them to Swanage and put them in the blue bin by the white fish van attached to the Bird's Nest Buffet.  
That's this blue bin here.



If you can't tell if your cans are aluminium or steel, a magnet will stick to steel, and if you need one, the station shop will be happy to sell you a fridge magnet!

-----ooOoo-----

If you fancy 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](mailto:mike.whitwam@corfestation.f2s.com) or [volunteer@swanagerailwaytrust.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@swanagerailwaytrust.org.uk)  
You will get a prompt response.

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

-----ooOoo-----

If you 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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Swanning Around also appears on line at:  
<http://www.srstaff.co.uk/swanningaround>  
and  
<http://www.swanagerailway.co.uk/volunteers-diary>

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