

A Look at What's Happening Around the Swanage Railway

Issue 2 – March 6th 2015

Well, it's Issue 2 already and trains are running again, and that means lots of staff doing lots of jobs, not just on the trains, but right around the railway. But we still need more!

Running the trains is not all about the visible 'glamour' jobs on the steam locos, some of the more important people are those selling and checking tickets, and there's a feature on Booking Office Clerks (BOC) and Travelling Ticket Inspectors (TTI) in his issue.

First of all, some updates on last month, and most importantly (? Is that a real word?!), the refurbished porters room on Platform 2 at Swanage. You will remember from issue 1 that Lyn Wakefield was doing a splendid job of redecorating, well, here's the finished article. Well done, Lyn!



What a difference! Now let's keep it that way!

The loco shed signing-on point is soon to be moved into the new building, but there is still plenty to do to finish it, including making new lockers, and to upgrade the drivers' cabin. If you have some time to spare for the myriad of tasks, Paul MacDonald is awaiting your call! 07785-540942 or call the Ops manager on 07587-130381.



This is the external progress at March 6th.

There's been a bit of an issue with the



atmosphere inside the bothy toilet. Most people would just fit an extractor fan, but Tyler Herrington of the P'Way team doesn't mess about!

Actually, moving the door to the outside is the first job for the bothy upgrade, don't suppose the air quality inside will improve, though!

One of the main reasons for volunteering in an organisation such as ours is the satisfaction you get from the achievements that you are involved in, either wholly or in part.

When the trial service to Wareham starts in 2016, this will be the realisation of the most prestigious project on the Swanage Railway today. Yes! The glamour job! And you can be there for the tea and medals, alongside the rest of the orange-coloured staff. You may even get into SRM!

There is plenty for volunteers to do:

- Assisting Permanent Way with trackwork, cutting back, fencing, etc.
- Signal and Telegraph (S & T)
- Telecomms
- Ecological protection
- And much more!

Contact Rebecca in the Project Office on 01929-424338 for more info about taking part.

Right now, there are major works at Furzebrook solving the problem of clay contamination and clogged drainage.



In this picture, the track has been lifted and the sleepers, what's left of them, used to keep the workers warm! It's like the Somme, I've been told, and there might be alligators out there!

Picture courtesy Andrew P M Wright

Control of the site has been taken by Andrews Construction from Wareham under contract to make good the trackbed and drainage. No SR staff is allowed to enter the site without signing in through Imerys and Andrews, i.e. Keep Out!



March 6th, and the contractors are getting the ballast bed down, ready for re-laying the track.

Opportunities coming up:

We were hoping to run some DMU trips along the extension on members weekend, but this will not happen now. There won't be any track on the Furzebrook work site!

There will be CIVS weeks, with weekend working, in May and September, largely helping P'way. If you haven't got the prescribed safety clothing, you will be able to borrow some.

What's a CIVS week? I don't know, either! All will become clear when details and timing are published by Easter.

Watch this space and the web sites.

On the news front, the signalling system was fully commissioned on February 5th. I think that makes us unique in the heritage sector, with Network Rail's LED signals on our branch!

The DMUs have been stripped At Eastleigh, with focus on wheelsets and internal painting of the 121.

Up to 4000 tonnes of ballast may be arriving by train from mid-April, for the extension. More info in the next issue.

Page 3 Glamour Slot

With The Sun threatening to give up its Page 3 glamour (?) slot, perhaps we should take it on?

Well, try as I might, finding glamour on the railway isn't one of the easier tasks, but I shall persevere! Maybe next month! Watch this space! Perhaps the Interim General Manager will be obliging!

(with a suggestion, of course! What *were* you thinking?)

Now, some of us are public-facing, some of us are safety-critical, some are both. Those involved with collecting fares and checking tickets are mostly public-facing, but, more importantly, are also financial-critical, and this puts the jobs of Booking Office Clerk (BOC) and Travelling Ticket Inspector (TTI) up there with the glamour jobs, at least as important as any other on the railway.

In my own experience, I can tell you it's quite fun being a TTI!

Yet we are always short of bodies, particularly for the yellow timetable and evening services, for ensuring that our revenue is protected.

So if anybody fancies joining the railway to do an important job having fun interfacing with our customers, requiring minimal training without getting dirty, then this is for you! Don't forget to tell your friends!

Here are some of our most important people doing important work in the first week of 2015 services!



Interacting with the passengers - TTI Clive Hardy punches her ticket!



Mike Streeter renews his acquaintance with cash in Corfe booking office.



Don't know what TTI Roger Wild's friend in his top pocket is saying to our passengers. Suggestions on a fiver to the usual address!



Keith Mitchell in Swanage booking office knows how to soften the blow – get it on plastic!

Next issue, an item on Small Works. Here's Pat Cattle, the supervisor, doing it all himself. I think he needs some help!



Just look at some of his products. Those doors are for the new signing-on building.

Ongoing coaching stock cleaning (now at Corfe) 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

Don't forget the latest info on the N Class overhaul project on its Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Swanage-Railway-N-Class-31874-Overhaul-Project/841096652608162?fref=ts>

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.

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 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!

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.

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