

A Look at What's Happening Around the Swanage Railway

Issue 10 – November 6th 2015

Into November, the train service is now weekend only, but there is still plenty to report, with some firsts and lasts featured.

Santa Specials start soon after the end of this month, and I'm sure Liz Sellen will be most grateful for your help! It's fun! So contact her now!

-----ooOoo-----

It's November 1st, and the last customer is served in the Norden Nest buffet car. After eleven years, since May 2004, it is looking tired and it has to be moved to improve line-of-sight from the platform to the new road crossing.



The Norden Station Infrastructure Team (can't they have a simpler name?) of (l to r), Mike Brown, Roger Stevens, and Ian Diffey get to be the very last customers, ably served, as always, by Peter Sykes.

The vehicle is due to be lifted out this month – more next time.

The catering facility at Norden will be temporarily out of service while the catering requirement going forward is assessed, and decisions made about replacement. This will take into account the effect of the forthcoming service to Wareham and any proposed upgrades to the station facilities in general.

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In Issue 9, we promised to reveal what Albert Schweitzer had to do with the new level crossing. Well, the answer is: **“nothing at all!”**

Any tenuous connection is with the name of the equipment supplier, Schweizer Electronic of Switzerland, and this level crossing installation is a first for them in this country.

The equipment has been delivered, (that's some of it here)



and installation work is due to start on November 16th, when the civil engineering works by Andrews are completed and the site vacated. Should be some good stuff to report next time!

The Wareham Project Management team contract is due to expire at the end of March 2016 and there's still an enormous amount of work to be done, much of it administrative.

The team is now starting to prepare for the handover to the Swanage Railway management team. This Project Integration Phase, as it is called, is due to take place in the first three months of 2016, so everybody has to start thinking about it now, to ensure a clean and effective handover.

This has to work, so I expect the managers are going to need a lot of help! (hint!)

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Who's Who?

If you've been on Swanage station at almost any time throughout the year, you may have seen David and Ann Ensor and Peter West (I) manning a stand fundraising for the Swanage Moguls Fund. David takes some fine photos, and these are available as prints, fridge magnets, etc.



David and Ann have been supporting the railway in many ways over the years, David previously seen in issue 5 in the Goods Shed and Ann having previously been involved with on-train catering, amongst other things.

David, I have observed, is also currently being seen on shed as a cleaner.

It's not that easy to get on Page 3, David!

Who didn't know that we have volunteer electrical engineers? Well, you do now!



Barry Leyman (I) and Paul Smith are the railway's authorised electricians, and are seen here in the Norden Gates Relay Room getting their fingers into the Wareham project.

They usually work together, so perhaps one does the amps, the other does the volts?

I first came across these two gents some months ago, soon after their appointment, assessing the electrics in the Norden Nest.

Hmmm, kiss of death there, then! Better keep them away from the bothy kettle!

-----ooOoo-----

Page 3

It had to happen! Steam fitter Billy Johnson on page 3 doing another glamorous job in the shed pit!



What was he going to do with that spanner he's waving at me? I didn't hang around to find out!

-----ooOoo-----

Where and what is Herston?

A question that no-one asks, but I'm going to tell you, anyway!

The Swanage Railway is hamstrung for space within the railway's boundary, and as the organisation and its operations are far more intensive than ever existed in British Railways days, external premises have been leased to

provide some of the facilities expected for an business of this size.



The Herston facility consists of a number of the units within the Purbeck Business Centre in Victoria Avenue at Swanage, just across the field from Herston Halt, providing workshop and office space for many departments, including S & T, Electrical, Telecomms, Small Works, etc.,.



Small Works is busy preparing the fencing for the Norden level crossing area, outside some of the office space for the infrastructure departments.

Also in the Herston workshop, Small Works Supervisor Pat Cattle (taking a break from power tool safety training!) and volunteer David Budd (r) pose with a loco cleaning platform that they are constructing for Operations.



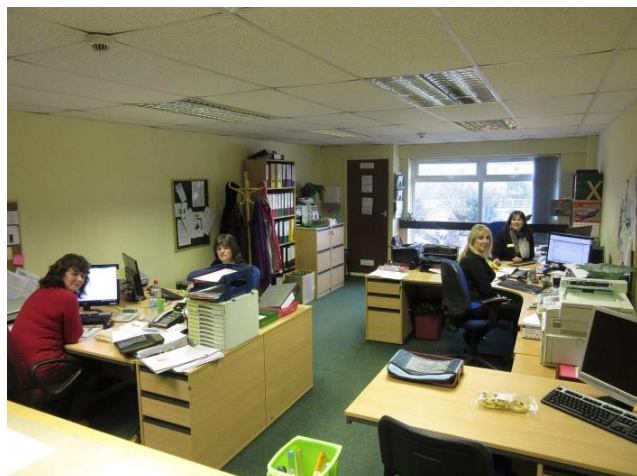
Tony Blackwell, the unofficial foreman of the Tuesday Gang, who passed away recently (RIP Tony), wanted to know what could be done to improve the access facilities for cleaners, bearing

in mind that commercially-available mobile platforms didn't seem to last too long and were a big bit wobbly!

Paul McDonald suggested a replica of the platforms used at Bournemouth and other Southern sheds in British Railways days, and this is it, with the addition of handrails ('elf and safetee!'). Still some work to finish and some wheels to add.

Authentic British Railways or what?

Meeting rooms, archive storage, and posh offices for the Finance Office and the Wareham Project are upstairs in the clean area.



The ladies in Finance in their comfortable surroundings are (l to r) June Court, Dianne Roberts, Vicki Searle, and Finance Manager Lorna Lock.



The Wareham Project Office looks even more comfy as (l to r) Nichola Watts, Project Manager Frank Roberts, and Jon Bridgland pause for the camera. You should still feel sorry for them – they may all be redundant at the end of March 2016 when the contract ends!

Heavy workshop facilities are in 'Herston Works', the very large unit acquired in the 1990s. Southern Locomotives currently uses the largest chunk of this facility for their restorations and overhauls, with the 'N' class overhaul being progressed by Swanage Railway Loco Carriage and Wagon staff and volunteers in the foreground. (p.s. check issue 9 of SA for details of how to contribute to the Swanage Moguls Fund).



The rolling chassis, tender, and new smokebox of Battle of Britain class 34072 '257 Squadron', under overhaul by Southern Locomotives Ltd (SLL), are framed by the reconstructed cab of the 'N' class mogul.



SLL's Bob Bevis makes fine adjustments to the new safety valves, in the shadow of 257 Squadron and its tender behind(!)

The 5500 gallon capacity tender is mechanically complete, just needs finish painting, and is soon to be removed to Herston sidings and replaced in the workshop by the tender chassis from West Country class 34028 'Eddystone'.

With the boiler returning from overhaul at an outside contractor early next year, 257 Squadron itself is hoped to be finished in the first half of 2016.

-----ooOoo-----

Good News!! The Bankes Arms at Corfe Castle is open again!

The Management, in this case, P'Way Manager Barry Light, and Finance Director Andrew Moore, has taken it upon itself to check it out, another appalling example of failure to delegate! The new landlord is very railway-friendly, so get in there and check it out for yourselves!



-----ooOoo-----

Carriage Cleaning

Yes, time for more carriage cleaning in advance of the Santa specials. Last time this was done, it made an amazing difference, apart from the bit where a seagull left its calling card!



Senior Guard, Inspector, and general bon vivant Martyn Curtler advises that cleaning exercises will take place at Swanage station on 17th, 19th, 24th, 26th November.

The more the merrier, so come along and be prepared for the usual banter with tea and biscuits (I think that's what he might have said!).

Any questions? Contact Martyn on 07851 402207, e-mail martynandkathycurtler@tesco.net

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The **Swanage Railway Trust Super Draw** took place on the platform at Swanage on 1st November.

Swanage Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mike Bonfield, pulled the winning tickets, accompanied by draw promoter Jeff Gregory (r) and draw administrators Mike and Judith Ranger.

Here, Mike Bonfield picks a ticket as M7 no. 30053 pulls into the station with the returning 'Dorsetman' Sunday lunch train.



The winners will be advised by the administrators in due course (it wasn't me! boo hoo!).

-----ooOoo-----



You saw it in Issue 5 of SA, in the Goods Shed, now you see it outside. The top's finished, just needs the buffers and the stuff under the solebar sorting and it will look like new! And taking its place in the shed? The other Queen Mary brake!

-----ooOoo-----

You can look back at all previous issues of Swanning Around at <http://www.swanagerailway.co.uk/volunteers-diary>

-----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 or 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.

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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>
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