

A Look at What's Happening Around the Swanage Railway

Issue 19 – October 23rd 2016

We're back!

Yes, Swanning Around has been on a summer break but now we're back! This issue also has a few more things in it that are also back – read on.

And glamour for Page 3! Yes, and not fully attired!

As always, plenty of news, trivia, and useless information that nobody needs, but we're going to tell you anyway!

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But first, some awards!

As reported on the Swanage Railway Staff website, the Swanage Railway has won the **Gold Award** in the Large Attraction category at the prestigious Dorset Tourism Awards held at the Tank Museum on Thursday 13th October. Yes, we are better than Farmer Palmer's and Monkey World!



Harman's Cross station has been highly commended in the Dorset Wildlife Trust's Wildlife Friendly Garden Competition.



Harman's Cross Railway Station Swanage Railway

We really appreciate what you are doing here especially as you have to negotiate with other volunteers or staff who may have varying views on how the garden area should look. It can be a tricky situation when you are caring for an area that is 'on display' to the public as well and it sounds like you are doing this very tactfully with full appreciation that not everyone is going to agree with what you want to do. You have a wonderful (if very steep) site to work with which provides an integral piece of the wildlife corridor that is the railway line and which has some pleasant woodland as a backdrop and a 'reservoir' for other wildlife.

As mentioned if you are able to make some sort of small sign to explain what you are trying to achieve, then that will go a long way towards visitors' understanding that patches of wild flowers are meant to be there and they are not there by accident/neglect. Otherwise, you are very much on the 'right track' with what you are doing and we hope we can find ways to support you with this.

These awards aren't handed out for nothing, and it is to the credit of all involved that these represent an appreciation of the efforts of all our staff, both volunteer and paid, by outside bodies.

Needless to say, if you were part of it, then take a gold star. If not, then why not volunteer and join in and collect some praise for a job well done!

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Following on from above, you can start or continue your search for praise by **volunteering to help Santa!**

This year, we are running more Santa Specials than last year, so we will need more volunteer input.

Services run on 26th and 27th November, 3rd, 4th, 10th, 11th, 17th to 24th December.

On the staff web site are details of how you can help, and enjoy yourself doing it, being part of the party.

If helping Santa isn't your thing, then why not try the opportunities with the Christmas luncheon trains, Christmas Belles with Car 14, portering at Swanage, helping in the shop or our catering outlets (which require someone to be able to work on board the Santa Specials if at all possible to open that buffet up too).

If you want to join the fun and to see why the Santa Specials have become such a success with many families returning year after year, then please email Liz Sellen -

liz.sellen@swanagerailway.co.uk

with details of your availability and preferences, or just to find out what it is all about.

Shock! Horror! Santa Specials are only five weeks away! So do it now!

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For this year's Santa season, we are told that there will be no supporting diesel services, owing to the poor takeup in previous years, probably down to the Norden car park charges. Why pay to park at Norden when you can park on the street in Swanage for nothing?!

So that means that our long-suffering DMU will run its last scheduled services for this year during half term, next week. These services will be extended to the River Frome.

Here it is waiting to leave Swanage on the last evening service of the year on 4th September, with Driver Pete Frost and Guard Steve Jenkins.



Not all the evening diesel services went according to plan. Here's diesel fitter Andy Garrett admiring a new cylinder head gasket on 4th August. Note the specialised equipment required to transport the refurbished cylinder head!



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Page 3

Just for a change, Page 3 features an

old girl in a state of undress!

Yes, our shunter 08 436 is in the Goods Shed and has had her clothing removed for a re-paint.



Now you know what to find under an 08 shunter's outer skin!

For those who may be slightly interested, left to right back row are:

Radiator and cooling fan, English Electric 6-cylinder diesel engine, main and auxiliary generators and the traction motor cooling blower.

Front row has the vacuum brake exhauster, some of the batteries, and the air brake compressor.

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Also in the Goods Shed, Beryl's overhaul is progressing, with the cab framework erected.



-----ooOoo-----

Now for more "welcome back" news.

Standard Tank 80104 returned from its bottom end overhaul at Tyseley Locomotive Works on 15th September.

Having had its brake gear reinstated, our friends at Southern Locomotives then proceeded to strip the cylinders for a rebores!

Here are Southern Locomotive Engineering's Bob Bevis, fitter George Stacey, and apprentice Bailey England taking the slide bars down on 5th October.



In order to fit new cylinder liners, the cylinders are bored out with a boring bar fixed to the cylinder ends.

Once set up, the hydraulically-driven bar is left to get on with it as the contractors try to look interested, on 19th October.



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Still with Southern Locos, **welcome back 257 Squadron's boiler!**

We were expecting this boiler to return from the boiler contractor's works some months ago, so it's a big Hooray! now that it's back.

There are plenty of pictures of the boiler being reunited with the rest of the loco at Herston Works on 20th October on Facebook and the SR staff website, and here's another!

After its ashpan has been attached to the firebox, the boiler is swung around to the waiting chassis.



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How to change the wheelsets on a Mark 1 coach:

- Disconnect stuff.
- Raise the coach on the jacks provided and leave the bogies behind.
- Push out the bogies.
- Disconnect more stuff.
- Get Barry Light with Big Daddy to lift the bogie frame.
- Push out old wheelsets.
- Push in refurbished wheelsets.
- Reconnect stuff.
- Reassemble in reverse order.
- Or something like that!

Here, James Cox and Andy Garrett are doing some of this stuff with Barry and his big toy, on 5th October.



p.s. check out that new fence!

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On the subject of fences, Small Works department has been busy. A new close-boarded fence has appeared alongside the bus park, as in the picture above. Here's a view of the other side.



Further on the subject of fences, the good volunteers of the Small Works department have been saved a lot of work, thanks to Sky TV. How so, I hear you ask? It would appear that the Sky TV engineers do a day's work for charity each year, and this year we had the benefit.

About twenty engineers descended on Corfe Castle station, and prepared and re-painted

around three quarters of the down platform fence, under the guidance of Small Works supervisor Pat Cattle. They also re-painted the white line along the down side platform edge.

They are nearly finished for the day and some are having a team talk with Pat Cattle looking on, when Swanning Around caught up with them.



Apparently, they may make the Swanage Railway an annual charity day event. They won't be short of things to do!

-----ooOoo-----

Pat Cattle has also completed what turned out to be a pig of a job (sorry, porcines!).

Yes, it's another **welcome back to the Swanage station clock!** And it's the same time both sides! Here's the proof.



Small Works is achieving a lot under Pat's supervision, but there's always a huge amount to do, and extra hands for infrastructure maintenance are always warmly welcomed. If you fancy joining this team, get in touch.

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On 17th October, Permanent Way manager Barry Light entertained a PWay group from the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway with a trip up the line to show them what his team has achieved, and exchange ideas.

There's a lot more of them than there are of us, and they'll need them if they want to get their line anywhere near to Warwickshire!

We need more, too, so you know who to contact for a fulfilling outside job!

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The nearer post in red primer will eventually become the Corfe Castle down home signal, with bracket.

Now this post used to be the Addiscombe (that's in Surrey!) home signal, recovered when the line was closed and the Croydon Tramlink was being built.

Here it is in its original location, performing its original purpose, in this case with the theatre indicator on the bracket directing a train to platform 2 at the Addiscombe terminus.

The rule book is under constant review to ensure that it is fit for purpose for our railway, and our signalling inspector Alan Greatbatch and signalling trainer Mike Whitwam are always ensuring our instructions are up-to-date. On 3rd October in Swanage signal box, Mike reads out the instructions, while Alan does the practical bit!

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When it is eventually used at Corfe, the bracket will be to the right, carrying a signal for entry to the up platform in the down direction. There's a lot of planning and other work involved before that can happen, though.

It's 12th October, and the S&T gang is at Norden Gates painting some replacement signal posts, which will be erected when there are no train services running. The two posts in white will replace the present Corfe Castle up and down distant signal posts.

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The final item in this issue is an appeal to the collective knowledge out there.

There are some items in the Swanage Railway Museum collection at Corfe Castle which require identification, and we may make a regular feature of some of these.

This month, can anyone identify what these cast iron things are?



These were recovered from the spoil when the new signal box at Swanage was built. They are clearly railway items, being marked L&SWR and SR, and possibly, but not necessarily, something to do with signalling.

Any ideas?

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By the way, that bracket on Corfe Goods Shed in issue 18 was for a lamp, but we already knew that – just testing!

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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>
and
<http://www.swanagerailway.co.uk/volunteers-diary>

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