



The Swanage Railway Trust
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BH19 1HB

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24th March 2020

Swanage Railway's response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis: Save Our Service

Dear Member,

The pace of global and national events in recent weeks has been truly dramatic and it's hard to comprehend that the letter I sent you with the latest edition of Swanage Railway Magazine was written during the first week of March. At that time our plans to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Swanage Railway Trust on Saturday 2nd May seemed entirely plausible. Needless to say that is now not the case and I am now confirming that the EGM has been cancelled. Whilst research and planning will continue in the background, it is only right that the Governance Review process is now paused, until we are clear of the current crisis.

I know that many of you are understandably concerned about the Coronavirus situation and the impact it is having on the Swanage Railway and its staff. The Council of Management and Board of Directors are actively monitoring the advice and guidance coming from HM Government and the safety and well-being of all of our staff, volunteers and passengers is of the utmost importance at this time. A Response Team has been appointed by the Board and, in line with Government guidance, the decision has been regrettably been made to postpone the start of our operating season until the 1st of May *at the earliest*.

The sudden loss of operating revenue at a time of year predicted to generate vital large scale income represents a seriously significant challenge for the Swanage Railway. Without this expected income the Railway faces a very uncertain future as, like many other heritage railways and businesses, we are not insured for business interruption caused by the pandemic. As a result we have been actively engaging with our suppliers and stakeholders as well the various Government aid packages which have been announced in recent days. However, it is highly likely that these measures will not meet all our needs.

We therefore face the prospect of a very significant loss of income, over an uncertain period of time, which through no fault of our own could potentially jeopardise the Swanage Railway's future.

Save Our Service appeal.

As a result we have launched a '**Save Our Service**' emergency appeal to you our Members and to the general public. Full details of this can be found either on the Railway or Trust websites.

Please help us - we now need your urgent and generous support to help protect the future of the railway we love and cherish. All funds raised will be managed by the Swanage Railway Trust to provide immediate

financial support to the Swanage Railway Company as part of a viable future plan. To donate please visit our dedicated appeals page on line at: <https://www.swanagerailwaytrust.org/giving>

Alternatively please donate by bank transfer to the Swanage Railway Trust's Barclays account at: sort code 20-68-79, account number 60539112 quoting 'SOS Appeal' as your reference. If you are unable to pay online then please complete the enclosed form.

For taxpayers we can apply for 25% Gift Aid*, at no extra cost to you, which makes this a very efficient way of giving.

Funds will be applied by the Trust to support the Company. If this is not possible or there is a surplus these funds will be used by the Trust to continue with its charitable objectives.

Stay in touch.

Regular updates will be posted on the Railway and Trust websites. For active volunteers use srstaff where updates will be made.

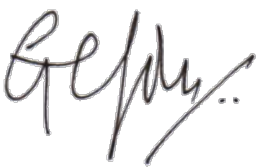
We wish to remain in close communication with you during this time. If you would like to receive emails, let me have your address and I will add it to our mailing list. Please email:

volunteer.email@swanagerailway.co.uk

Our Railway, and indeed the Country, finds itself in uncharted waters. For most of us these are unprecedented times we are living in. Now is the time we need to pull together and support one another and our Railway. I want to reassure you all of the Railway's commitment to meeting this challenge and thank you for your continued support in these challenging times particularly when our attention is rightly focused on our families.

May I close by wishing you well and hope that you and your families are able to stay safe and well during the months ahead.

Best wishes,



Gavin Johns
Chairman,
The Swanage Railway Trust

* Gift Aid may be claimed by the Trust if you are UK taxpayer. The proceeds from this specific appeal will be spent in accordance with the priorities set by the Council of Management but such funds will be used to reduce pressure on the Swanage Railway Company cash flow.

Swanage Railway: Save our Service appeal - Donation & Gift Aid Form

Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss:

First name:

Surname:

Home Address:

..... Post code

Telephone:

I wish to support the Swanage Railway Trust's Save Our Service Appeal. Please find enclosed a cheque for £..... Cheques should be made payable to the Swanage Railway Trust (SOS Appeal). UK taxpayers can enhance the value of their donations and subscriptions by completing a Gift Aid declaration. If you have not already done so but would like to, please complete tick the declaration below.

If you would like formal confirmation that your donation has been received, please tick here..... Donations can also be made on-line using a credit or debit card at the Swanage Railway Trust's website at: www.swanagerailwaytrust.org/giving

For Standing Order Donations please complete the form below:

To The Manager of (your bank or building Society):

Branch address:

Please make a payment of £..... from my account no Sort code on the Day of (Enter month of year) commencing/...../..... (Date), and then Monthly thereafter into Barclays Bank PLC, Poole Dorset. Account number 60539112 sort code 20-68-79 until further notice from me in writing.

Please Quote 'SOS Appeal' when paying.

Signed

Date

Gift Aid Declaration

I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make to in the future or have made in the past four years to the Swanage Railway Trust. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please notify the charity if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Please send the completed form to: SOS Appeal, The Swanage Railway Trust, Station House, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 1HB.

The Swanage Railway Trust is a Registered Charity No. 1087318

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