

Volunteer update Tuesday 2nd June 2020

Volunteers returning to the Railway.

Plans are now being put in place to allow a limited number of volunteers to return to the Railway to undertake essential outside maintenance work. This is the first step in the reintroduction of volunteers back to the railway. Managers in Operations, P Way, S&T and Estate Station Managers will actively manage work to be done, ensuring volunteers - initially in groups of two - are properly briefed on the arrangements for safe working, the issue of any ppe required and the provision of gloves, sanitiser and access to hand washing facilities, before work starts. Volunteers will be required to maintain social distancing at all times.

A more detailed briefing note is being prepared and will be made available shortly.

Volunteers wishing to work in these areas should contact the relevant Manager to indicate their willingness to work, as that a pool of volunteers can be maintained. The relevant contact details are:-

Station	Manager	Contact Details
Norden	David Budd	01929 552017
Corfe Castle	Davis Scott	01929 792541
Harmans Cross	Jeff Gregory	07467 129669
Herston	Frank Roberts	07850 970026
Swanage	Ashley Haines	07498 258339
Department	Manager	Contact Details
Permanent Way	Barry Light	07587 130383
S&T	Fraser White	07818 000926
Telecoms	Geoff Trim	07777 629266
Passenger Services	Martin Trott	07403 972972
Estates	Pat Cattle	07436 806268

This scheme will be extended to other areas such as the Museums, in due course.

Please do not attend the Railway without the prior agreement of the relevant Manager.

Experience of these initial steps will inform later stages of a return to some degree of normality as the Government lifts restrictions further during the month.

Volunteer questionnaire.

You will have received last Friday an invite from Survey Box to take part in a poll of your views around volunteers returning to active operational duties on the Railway.

Your thoughts are key to deciding how and whether a summer service can be resourced.

Thank you to those who have already responded. We have had a good response which is encouraging, but if you have not replied, or do not plan to return for the time being because of coronavirus and your own circumstances, it is important that we learn your views as they will be used in our planning.

The survey takes about 5 minutes to do using the link provided in the original email from Survey Box. The survey remains open until Friday.

Fundraising.

We are making solid progress with our SOS appeal, nearing the half-way mark - £169,000 at the time of writing - towards our target of £360,000.

We are in the process of producing more fundraising videos, to re-energise the appeal. Some further excellent work done by volunteers Josh Voce and Kevin Babey in producing these, and other fundraising videos, is very welcome.

The new videos look at the wider role of the Swanage Railway in the Purbeck area and describe our efforts to manage the railway at present and to find a way through the impact of the crisis. They include positive messages of support from others in South East Dorset. If you have not already seen the introductory scene setting video, the link is

<https://youtu.be/ynxZo9D3R8g>

Two further videos will be released shortly. These will be accompanied by a further press release and promotion to re-invigorate our appeal.

If you can promote viewing of these videos and support increased awareness of our appeal amongst your social groups that would be appreciated.

Chairman.

The Board of the Swanage Railway Company announced today that, at its meeting held on 2nd June 2020, Liz Sellen indicated her intention to step down from the role of Chairman of the Swanage Railway Company, a role she has held for over a year.

The Board has now elected Gavin Johns to the role of Chairman, a role that he takes over with immediate effect.

Gavin paid tribute to Liz Sellen, "Liz successfully led the Board for the past year, building on the success of the Flying Scotsman visit and operating season in Summer 2019 through to the initial stages of our response to the impact of coronavirus and the enforced pandemic lockdown. We are all very grateful to Liz for the commitment she has shown in this demanding role with its wide range of responsibilities. We all recognise the enormous volume of work that these have entailed and pay tribute to her input. I am delighted that Liz will remain a Director of the Company.

In his new role, Gavin noted that responding to the impact that the coronavirus restrictions are having on our Railway will be the Board's main focus in the months ahead.

I am happy to be able to offer all my support and guidance in the role as Chairman to all members of the Board as we strive to achieve our survival plans.

Resumption of Director management responsibilities.

The Board has also today decided that as the Railway is now gradually starting to welcome back volunteers to undertake essential work that it would be appropriate for functional Directors to assume their full line management responsibilities wef 9am Wednesday 3 June 2020.

The Functional Directors are:

Nathan Au - Communications;
Gavin Johns - Infrastructure (P Way: S&T: Estates);
Andrew Moore - Finance;
Geoff Pitman - Engineering (LC&W);
Liz Sellen - Human Resources;
Keith Usher - Operations;
Steve Williams - Commercial (Marketing, Passenger Business, retail and catering); and
Mark Woolley - Wareham.

Director Kevin Potts holding no specific portfolio currently.

The Board is particularly grateful to Andrew for overseeing the management of the commercial function for the past year: he remains Finance Director of the Company and Treasurer for the Trust.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Johns', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gavin Johns