

A Look at What's Happening Around the Swanage Railway

Issue 3 – April 9th 2015

March 22nd, and daily running has started for the year with the welcome return of 80104 to service. Has taken the best part of six months to reassemble after major boiler repairs, but is now running well and ready to ensure we are not short of locos for the main running season.

New on the block last week is 70000 Britannia, one of the guest locos for the spring gala. She'll be resting at Swanage for the next week or so, until the gala weekend.

Some updates on last month, starting with the new loco lobby, etc..

This is what it looks like today.



Still a lot to do inside and some groundwork, so plenty of opportunities to help.

Paul MacDonald has also accepted the temporary post as an assistant to the assistant's assistant with Operations. Not sure what he's assisting with, but you can still contact him to help with the Ops facilities upgrading - 07785-540942.

Furzebrook looks much better. The alligators have gone and the swamp's been drained, and the track relaid with new ballast.



Stone trains are due in on 16th, 21st, and 23rd. April, with material to stabilise Embankment 4. That's the embankment through the woods south of Furzebrook which now looks substantially different without its tree cover. The spoil from the new road/rail interchange excavations will also be used here to beef up the embankment.



It's a long time since our organisation was small enough that everyone knew everyone else. I'll be

putting some lesser-known faces in each month, including new people and those passing out in new grades.

So let's start with a pair of cleaners recently passed for firing. From quite different age groups and backgrounds, we have Andy Croggon, who lives close to London and works in the Caribbean and Latin America, and Alex Atkins who came up through the Sygnets youth group.



Here's Andy enjoying working on only his second turn as a Passed Cleaner.

He's come a long way to do this!



Here's Alex, also a passed cleaner, telling us all about his turn. He's looking a bit clean, so perhaps he got someone else to do the work for him! He learns fast!



And here are two more ex-Sygnets, now cleaners, Dan Welsh (left) and Matt English, relaxing after a hard morning (that's what they told me!).

While all the work is going on outside, our esteemed Operations Manager, Nick Lloyd, is busy in the office doing something useful (yes, really!). Having several assistants for the outside stuff means he is more able to get on with generating the procedures and paperwork that go with managing operations, both for the heritage part of our organisation and the forthcoming Wareham service.



Operating as a main line Train Operating Company (TOC) means that our systems and paperwork will have to pass greater scrutiny by outside organisations, such as the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR).

This means there is scope for those with some experience of generating paperwork to make a difference by helping to produce appropriate documentation. Also, it's a clean, dry job! You know who to call! 07587-130381.

More details next month.

Pretty in pink? I hope this is just undercoat!



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Trying to fulfil expectations is a difficult job at the best of times, and finding stuff for this page is no exception. Well, you know me – don't want to offend anyone!

Success! It's

Mucky Man of the Month!

Firstly, I must give credit for that title to the Wareham Project Office (and it wasn't Rebecca!)

Secondly, the lucky target here is Phil Minshall, who does a lot of painting, along with others, of

our infrastructure, particularly signalboxes, and his clothes!

Here he is preparing the down platform waiting shelter at Corfe for a new lick of paint. I bet those clothes could stand up and walk off on their own!

If that wasn't

enough muck, Phil's signed on as a cleaner in Operations. Perhaps he'll figure in this spot again!

Fun aside, Phil and another couple of volunteer painters do a great job keeping our structures looking presentable, but it is a Forth Bridge sort of job, and there is room for more help, if you are interested. Corfe Castle, amongst other places, needs you!

Also down at Corfe Castle, the Museum Group, aka Roger and Heather Denning, is reinstating the cattle pen in the yard next to the goods shed.



Contractors are installing the posts, made from redundant rail, and will level and re-lay the block floor, per the original. The timber railings will be added by our own volunteers, then all that is required are some cows to go inside – any suggestions?



Also on the museum front, there is activity at the Purbeck Mining & Mineral group at Norden. This is a particularly well-constructed representation of Purbeck ball clay mining in times past, and well worth a visit. It hasn't won awards for nothing.

As with everything else at the railway, there's a never-ending list of improvements and maintenance to do, and front-of-house meeting and greeting of visitors on a daily basis.



I could write loads and show more pictures, but I suggest you go to Norden and have a look round. It costs you nothing, you will be impressed and want to be part of it!

Museum buildings and track laying below.



Apologies to Pat Cattle this month. I had intended to do a piece on Small Works, but haven't got a round tuit. Maybe next month? ish?
He still needs volunteers with electrical and plumbing skills, particularly for the new lobby.

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.

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!

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

Subject to appropriate editing, I will endeavour to include it in the next or a future edition.

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