



# Swanning Around

A Look At What's Happening Around The Swanage Railway

Issue 33 – December 23rd 2017



## Merry Christmas!

Yes, it's that time of year again, and whether you have been looking forward to the celebration since September, or are a fully signed-up Bah Humbug!, Swanning Around wishes you the compliments of the season and a prosperous New Year.

-----ooOoo-----

Enough of that nonsense! Swanning Around is here to bring you the hot news, and that includes the successful completion of repairs to the T9, a creditable job of cleaning it by the Tuesday gang, and the use of this fine machine on Santa Specials.

And we have some frightening stuff for Page 3!

But first, an appeal for help from the Corfe Castle Museum team.

In issue 28, we saw Tony Udall with the Old Corfe Castle Signal Box open for visitors and demonstrations. This has been so popular with visitors that it has become a victim of its own success, so to speak!

As we said before, Tony has had the box open on two days a week as a trial since April, and this has seen an average of 60 people per day over the holiday months of July, August, September. Starting at Easter 2018, the museum group would like to increase the number of open days, but this will require some more people to greet visitors. So they are seeking more volunteers to enable this to happen.

It's stress-free and training will be given if you don't happen to be a signalman.

If you can help out, then please contact Tony Udall on 01202-743096 or email him at [tonyandsheila.udall1@ntlworld.com](mailto:tonyandsheila.udall1@ntlworld.com)

Here's the sort of thing you will be doing.



Tony (that's him in the green top) shows visitors how to operate the points and signals on 25<sup>th</sup> November.

And this is what the frame looks like, for those who haven't seen it – simple, eh?



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While we are on the subject of signalling, we mentioned last time that the class 108 DMU was being used for pilotman training, and here it is on 24<sup>th</sup> November at Corfe waiting for the trainees who are in the warm in the signal box doing the paperwork.



In the picture, Gail Coldham, Johnathan Evans, John Lindsay, and Geoff Truscott are being trained by Roger Pleasant (trying to hide) with signalman Clive Morris suitably attired for a November evening. Teena Brown was also there, but hiding in the corner behind the camera!

-----ooOoo-----

At the Swanage Railway, training is given for any job, so there's no excuse for you not volunteering!

Many of the jobs start with the railway basics, and this is true for platform staff, a job often used as a stepping stone towards signalling and train guard.

On 25<sup>th</sup> November, new volunteer Peter Clark (on the left) gets the info from porter Peter Maynard and porter trainer David Dow.



-----ooOoo-----



## Page 3

As you know, Swanning Around's Page 3 usually shows the less-than-glamorous side of working on the railway, and this issue's offering is no exception!



There's not much less glamorous than Swanage Porter David Hales, even more so when he's trying to be festive on 2<sup>nd</sup> December!



At least our Head of Sales and Marketing, David Rawsthorn, seems to have found his level for the Santa

services and is less likely to frighten the kids!

-----ooOoo-----

There's been a lot of activity on the loco front since the last issue.

On 12<sup>th</sup> December, *Manston* was loaded onto a road trailer for transit to Birmingham for repairs and maybe some part of its next overhaul.

For this task, a haulier new to rail vehicle movements was used, and we knew all would be well as the driver Gareth Buscombe is one of our Operations volunteers.



On arrival at its destination, Tyseley Locomotive Works, *Manston* was unloaded, and the rolling chassis of *Eddystone* loaded and returned to Southern Locomotives at Swanage on 14<sup>th</sup> December.



Photo from Southern Locos

The empty trailer was then used to transfer *Eddystone's* tender from the works to the railway.

Meanwhile, our M7 30053 had been drawn from the shed, and its boiler was lifted on 15<sup>th</sup> December and transferred to road transport for a ride to the boiler menders near the coast of Norfolk. We believe our German friends would call this "going for the cure..", a nice holiday to come back refreshed and ready for more work!



Here, the boiler is swung off its chassis, over the fence into the Wilts and Dorset bus park, and onto a lorry.



Photo from Billy Johnson

And the following quality picture (well, it was half dark!) from your roving reporter on 19<sup>th</sup> December shows the denuded M7 in front of 257 Squadron, which is in steam! 257's delayed boiler overhaul and subsequent fettling and snagging has been a source of some concern for Southern Locos (SLL), but is now on the last lap towards returning to service.



On 21<sup>st</sup> December, SLL's Ron Neal sets up the pressure reducing valve for the steam-driven turbo generator.



Over at the works, Norman Lush fettles the cab window frames while John Heath prepares to get some paint on the roof of *Eddystone's* cab, in preparation for its return to the frames.

-----ooOoo-----

So what's going on here? A re-enactment of the Titfield Thunderbolt? Are we short of passenger vehicles? New waiting room for Norden?

No, none of these things!

This 19<sup>th</sup> century London and South Western Railway coach body no. 4550 has been used as a store at Swanage for many years, and is now being transferred to Corfe Castle, for further use as ..... a store!

In this picture, the coach has been lifted by FBC1 (Flippin' Big Crane 1) on 4<sup>th</sup> December and is awaiting transit to Corfe.



-----ooOoo-----

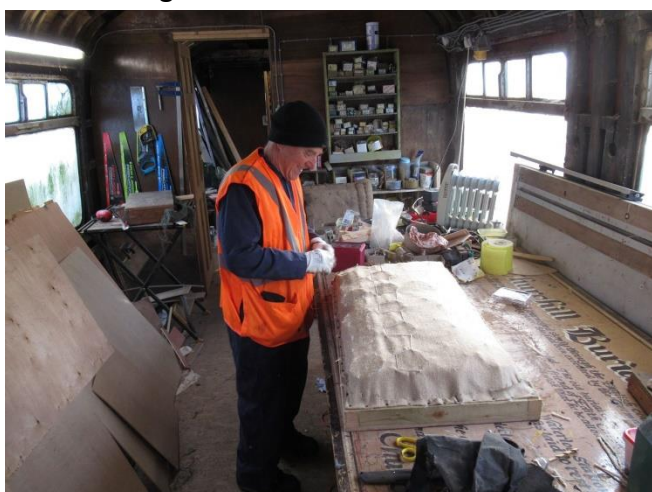


While all this action has been going on at Swanage, Network Rail has been upgrading rails and sleepers, and maintaining the signalling on their section of the branch at Worgret Junction. To this end, they have been using our road/rail interchange to bring in their equipment, so, on 27<sup>th</sup> November, there was a road/rail vehicle party at Norden, with both of ours and two of theirs.



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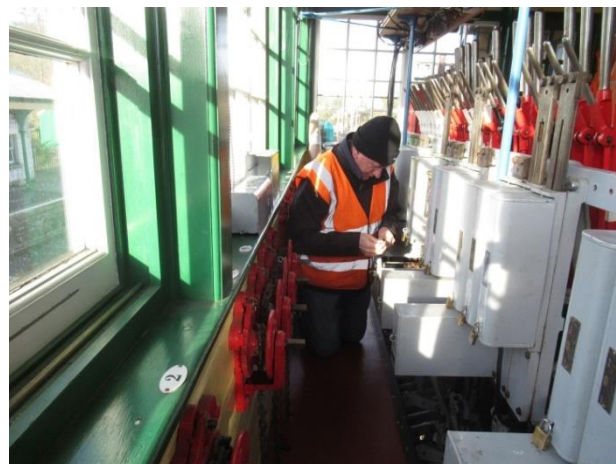
The heritage coach group at Corfe is making good progress with fitting out of Maunsell coach 1381, and Nigel Steer is making yet another seat base on 12<sup>th</sup> December. He's already made a lot, still a lot more to go!



Still room for more volunteers on the group, for working towards a very satisfying outcome.

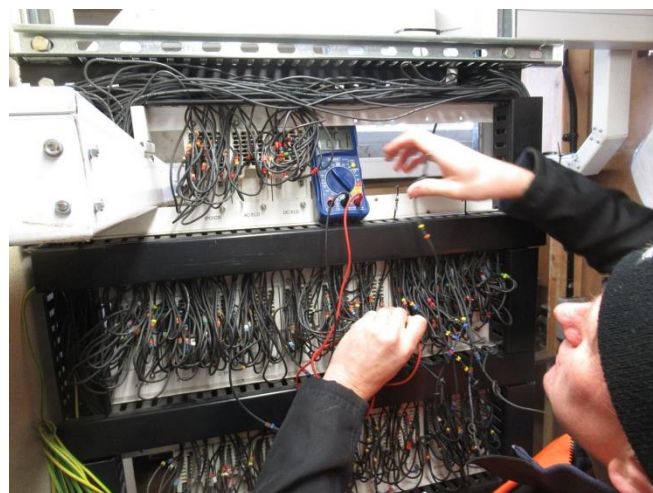
-----ooOoo-----

Back to signalling, and at Corfe Castle, an intermittent fault with one of the signal levers has technician Michael Paul delving into the complexity of the electric locking system .



How does he follow these cables? Out of sight, technician Mike Southey is reading out numbers from the wiring charts, and we hear that the ALSR picks after time or the FTPR is dropped or something else is picked after two minutes! Or something like that!

WHAT? Confused? You're not the only one!  
Good job these two know what they're doing!



-----ooOoo-----



Now, the T9.

In the last issue, you learned about the repairs taking place, and now, the loco is being used on Santa Specials.

Here, on 17<sup>th</sup> December, the T9 enters Corfe Castle on a Santa train.



And continuing with signalling, for a minute, the T9 passes the new bracket signal at Corfe as S&T technician Roy Harrison makes some adjustments.



In the new year, the current Corfe Castle down home signal, that you may be able to make out silhouetted against the sky in the background, will cease to be used, and this new signal will then be effective, allowing bi-directional working into the up platform. More on this next time.

And for a final visit to the T9, a queue of Santa's visitors await a visit to the footplate to finish their day on the railway.



-----ooOoo-----

It only remains for the staff of Swanning Around to wish you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year, and remind you that there will be no public trains between the New Year and February half term, but there will be plenty to report in SA.

Until then, there are trains after Christmas, including this:



And there's this!



-----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](mailto:mike.whitwam@corfestation.f2s.com) or [volunteer@swanagerailwaytrust.org.uk](mailto: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.**

-----ooOoo-----

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!

-----ooOoo-----

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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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