



Swanning Around

A Look At What's Happening Around The Swanage Railway

Issue 45 – December 23rd 2018

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
to all our readers!



As usual, it would be easy to say that there's not much going on in December, when we are operating Santa trains at weekends.

But no! There's always something going on somewhere and you may find it in Swanning Around if the staff can get to it, or a correspondent provides some input.

But we are all busy elsewhere as well, so this may be a fairly thin issue!

The major activity is, of course, the Santa trains, and on page 1, U Class 31806 has arrived back at Swanage with the last train of the day on 21st December.

The passengers on this trip are not in a hurry to leave, so the crew of passed cleaner* Martin Sheret and cleaner Will Sheret (his son) have to wait patiently to go to shed. Driver Rob Barrett (yes, him again!) is fiddling around at the front.

(* cleaner passed for firing, so he's the fireman on this loco.)

Here is the same train seen earlier just before it left, hauled by the T9 30120, and tailed by the U.

Plenty of happy customers on there!



What do plenty of happy customers make? Yes, a right mess!

And, as usual, our super-recycler Mike Leach is there to take it away!



And here's what the trains had on the front, and back.

Above, the web cam on Swanage signal box has recorded all three locos used on 16th December.

U class 31806 is on the front of the Santa Special, with T9 30120 waiting in platform 1 to take over at the front when the first train returns. Subsequent trains will be top and tailed by those two locos.

In the loop to the left, Standard 4 Tank 80104 will move forward to collect the dining train from the sidings.

Below, 80104 on the Dorsetman lunchtime diner passes the Santa Special at Corfe Castle, with 30120 on the rear.



Did you wonder when the train for the Wareham service is going to arrive?

Wait no more!

Santa has brought it, seen here at Swanage station.



On 28th November, the 200 Club draws for November and December were made.

200 Club organiser (and signalman) Peter Parascandolo invited Steve and Gill Williams and your Swanning Around editor to make and witness the draws.

Here, Gill Williams prepares to push the button to make the November draw, watched by Peter.

The December draw was made by the editor. No favouritism here, we can record. The computer does it all for you, but you have to be in it to win it!

At £24 per annum per draw number, you too can be in it, and proceeds go to specified projects.

Send an email to Peter at 200club@swanagerailwaytrust.org.uk to get an entry form, but you must be a member of the Swanage Railway Trust to join the club.



You name it and Purbeck will have a festival for it!
(Yes, that too, probably, but not for this publication!).

Our junior members, the Sygnets, constructed an entry for the Purbeck Christmas tree festival, held over the 6th to 8th December.



The theme of their tree was, as you might expect, the Swanage Railway.

With railway-orientated decorations including rail tracks, tickets and facts about the railway, they were in good company with entries from many other organisations, such as Coastwatch, Lifeboats, etc.

That big tree in the background is not one of the entries, it's the Emmanuel Baptist Church's tree, where the festival was held.

Here are some of the other entries at the other end of the hall.



Corfe Castle signal box is at last going to get some fresh paint and other repairs. Hasn't had much attention since it was built.

Here seen covered in scaffolding, there will be more in the next issue of SA.



On 12th December, Bulleid pacific 34053 *Sir Keith Park* (known to some as *SKP* or *Skippy!*) gets a tow through Corfe Castle to Norden from 'Crompton' diesel D6515 .



And SKP was on its way to the road/rail interchange at Arne Road siding to be transported to Tyseley in the West Midlands to have its axleboxes overhauled.

There would be a bit of a wait, however, as the lorry trailer had a puncture. We know you want to see the offending wheel, so here it is!

At least the trailer can jack up its own wheels.



While they were waiting for the tyre mender to show up, another lorry arrived to take the LMS metal box van to a new home in Worcestershire.

For anybody interested in such things, we believe its identification number is 24531.

Thanks to Malcolm Munro for these two pictures.



All this means another customer for Tender Corner at Norden, joining those from *Eddystone* and *Manston*.

Check out Southern Locomotives' web site at <http://www.southern-locomotives.co.uk/News/news.htm> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthernLocomotivesLtd>

for the latest news of their locos.



Let's finish off with fireman Jon Cooper looking up the platform at Swanage, awaiting the green flag from the guard on a Santa Special, today, 23rd December.

Picture provided by Robin Moira White, who thoroughly enjoyed lunch on the Dorsetman dining train.



That's it for this slim issue.

Don't forget the Winter Warm Up on 28th December with two steam and two diesels operating services.

2019 should be very exciting for us at the Swanage Railway, with the resumption of the Wareham trial service, and the usual steam and diesel galas with some interesting visitor engines, we hope!

Plenty of material for this newsletter!

It just remains for the staff of Swanning Around to wish you
a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

See you in 2019!

As usual, volunteers are required in all departments, so,

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

iwanttovolunteer@swanagerailway.co.uk

or the volunteer contact phone number

01929-475212, where you can leave a message.

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-----

Compiled and edited by John Denison

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<http://www.srstaff.co.uk/swanningaround>

and

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