

A Look at What's Happening Around the Swanage Railway

Issue 6 – July 3rd 2015

It's Flaming June, and we've had a few lineside fires just to rub it in. The class 108 DMU has been in action throughout the month on the green timetable, but July sees the start of the high season yellow timetable.

To ensure we have sufficient steam locos available for two-steam-train running, in the absence of 6695 after its disagreement with the trailer transporting it to the West Somerset Railway earlier this year, our old friend T9 no. 30120 has been imported from its home on the Bodmin and Wenford Railway for a few months.



Can't tell you when it's likely to be running, you'll just have to watch the railway web site and social media.

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I know I've harped on about TTIs, or lack of, in this news sheet before, and I make no apology for doing so again.

As we are now well in to two-train running, it is clear that there are some vacancies to be filled,

and you can help by coming forward to be trained as a Travelling Ticket Inspector.

You may remember from last month's issue of Swanning Around that if Alan Blackman can do it, anyone can!

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As with most, if not all, heritage railways, the volunteer mainstay is invariably taken from the older generations, so it is always gratifying for the future of the railway when the younger people are coming through.



Here's cleaner Jonathan Cooper outside the examination room on 30 June with the smile that says "I've just passed out for firing!" Well Done!

Next time I take a picture of him, he won't have a green container growing out of his head!

Whilst swanning about on the railway (somebody has to do it!), I came across some more new faces undergoing porter/station staff training.



David Dow is one of them, seen at Norden on 20 June.

The older ones are not getting any younger, and don't I know it! This inevitably means that we will be losing some of our more experienced volunteers from time to time, and on June 27 Peter "Rhino" Horne pulled his last lever in Swanage Signal Box.

This is Peter in Swanage Box at Christmas, I assume – he doesn't usually wear that silly hat (does he?).



Best wishes from all of us!

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Don't forget to buy your copy of **The Railway Magazine**, July issue out now, with the second part of the feature on the Swanage Railway.

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Here's an announcement for staff from the organisers of the annual **Railwaymen's Ball**. I've copied Gary Cox's email here:

This year's Railwaymen's Ball has now been booked.

Saturday 21st November

We are having a change of venue and will be going to the Knoll House Hotel at Studland where the facilities are exceptional. We will have exclusive use of the hotel facilities so we encourage you to make a weekend of it and stay over, it is after all a fantastic location for a stroll along the beach on the Sunday morning to overcome the strains of dancing the night away.....

Posters will be appearing around the railway shortly and tickets will be on sale in a couple of weeks from the usual outlets.

Despite us moving to a larger and more lavish venue we have managed to keep the ticket prices at the same price of £35 per person

Bed and breakfast is available at the attractively discounted rate of £60 per person.

There is a possibility that we will run a bus to return people to Swanage

Why not avoid the burden of paying for the tickets in one hit this year and pay by small regular payments - if you had started with £5 in May and keep it up until November your ticket will be paid for. Just your bar tab and or room to worry about - and let's face it for some this will be quite a worry.

This year's ball is having a bit of a make over - we have the new venue; new awards (many of which already have names on!); new line up in the Railway band, Rolling Stock. Let's make 2015 a year to remember

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Glamorous tasks a-plenty in June, and it's the return of

Mucky Man of the Month!

Showing us how to oil up the T9 at Norden, prior to a tow down to Swanage is manager of LC&W, James Cox. It's not the cleanest job at the best of times, but having to crawl through the dirt at the unloading pad to get into the waggly bits is just the icing on the cake!

Steam Superintendent Graham Froud looks on – his turn will come!



Also vying for inclusion in the glamour stakes this month is Sarah Bamber from the Tuesday Gang. On 30 June, it was the big clear-out of the LC&W workshop, aka the green container alongside the shed. All the good stuff was being transferred to the new workshop on the other side of the running line, and the rest found its way to a skip.



Here's Sarah cleaning up (?) in the container.

I hesitate to provide a suitable caption for fear of reprisals! All suggestions on a ten pound note to the usual address!



That's better! The working conditions in the new workshop are a world away from the container and a concrete hut!



Bye bye container! FBC 1 lifts it out on 3 July.

First time we've seen that side of the shed for 20+ years!

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Liz Sellen, the Membership Secretary, advises that the Swanage Railway Trust has approved a new **Life Time Travel Membership** category, expected to be available later in July. An entry will appear in due course on the Swanage Railway web site.

Briefly, this is an individual membership priced at £1000, offering the holder free travel on scheduled Swanage Railway services from Swanage to Norden (and potentially to Furzebrook). It does **NOT** cover services to Wareham.

Supporting leaflets are to hand, and internal websites will be updated soon with information for staff familiarisation.

Any further enquiries, refer to Liz at

membership@swanagerailwaytrust.org.uk

What's happening at **Norden**?

Firstly, the Booking Office makeover continues. Small Works Supervisor Pat Cattle has made a new screen to keep the wind out.



Looks great, but might work better with some glass in it!

Across the road, on 29 June, a Road/Rail Vehicle has been working at the site of the new Road/Rail Interchange with the final effort persuading the wildlife to move house.

Liz Kimber from Lindsay Carrington Environmental Services is present to assure a fair fight between Richard Fry's bucket and the remaining inhabitants!



Various slow worms, voles, etc., were relocated from the site, and a bumble bees' nest was disturbed but not destroyed. How do you tell a bee to move on?

Here's one of the slow worms.



There will be more checks to ensure that the area is clear of wildlife before the diggers set about preparing the site for the new road/rail interchange, which, I am informed, will be happening mid-September.

Back at the station, the crane team has taken over a container, and has decorated it appropriate to its surroundings (station surroundings that is, not that stuff next door! If you've been to Norden, you'll know what stuff I mean!)



Today, yet another consignment of concrete sleepers arrives for the Furzebrook re-lay, due to take place in August. Can't do it sooner, or the

Swanage Belle charter train due in on 16 July with B1 61306 (Yes!!) on the front may find itself on the ballast!



That 'Dolphin' bogie wagon's a bit of a beast!

The new lifting barriers for the Wytch Farm Road crossing and the associated points and signals will be operated from the Norden Gates crossing keeper's cabin.

To facilitate this, the affected signals and points will be electrically-operated, and work is in progress to install the equipment.



John Stockley (Permanent Way) and Tony North (S&T manager) install the sole plate for mounting the point motor at the Norden engine spur, on 2 July. The point motor is that grey box on the left, and it operates both the point and the facing point lock (FPL). It's the first one on our railway (sounds of signalmen cheering!).

Right behind Tony's head, on the signal post, is another grey box, the motor for the signal protecting the road crossing.

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While we're on the subject of **S&T**, what do they do? Generally, the title of Signal and Telegraph says it all, it's about signalling and its associated electrical communications.

It's not so obvious if you never see S&T men at work, so here are a few pics of them in action.



In Harmans Cross box during shutdown, volunteers Nick Gosden and Robin Sowter carry out maintenance on a Tyers Electric Token Machine.

Nick has the Haynes manual out, Robin has the casing off and is doing something inside the machine, and in the background, S&T permanent staff member Mike Southey makes the tea! Up to you to decide if the manual is about token machines or tea-making!



Nick Chaston and Bob Drew are fiddling under Swanage 'Box. Are they looking for valuables dropped through the frame by the signalmen, or are they checking the integrity of the rods and bellcranks? Probably the latter – signalmen aren't that careless (I hope!).



The internals of a point detector are examined and adjusted by Nick Rutt, while Richard Williamson and Nick Chaston (yes, him again!) look on. Simpler than it looks!

There's an awful lot more to S&T than this, so expect more revelations in future issues.

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27/28 June was Armed Services weekend on the railway, and I expect there will be a comprehensive report elsewhere in due course. At Swanage station there was a van with displays about the Swanage Railway Army Link, the steam crane built for the Ministry of Supply in 1940 and the T9, whose claim to fame was being targeted by the Luftwaffe at Wool in WW2.

Serving soldiers from Blandford Camp (and beyond) have been helping us, principally at their adopted station at Herston, for many years, but they don't just turn up for special events. Five soldiers were busy in April tidying up at Herston after the installation of the new loop points. (Picture – Frank Roberts)



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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.

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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!

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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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