



Swanning Around

A Look At What's Happening Around The Swanage Railway

Issue 76 – July 31st 2021

It's been a funny sort of month! Stinking hot some days, stormy with heavy rain and/or high winds on others. Danger of lineside fires one week, flooding the next. What a month!

But it's still school holiday time and our peak season, so a peak timetable has been in operation for most of the month, albeit a slightly less intense version of our yellow timetable. No definitive figures yet, but passenger density looking very good.

Although national restrictions have been lifted, Covid-19 is still with us, and will be for some time, so some precautions are still required on our trains.

The Swanage Railway is delighted to be part of #LoveYourRailway, a 6-week campaign to raise awareness of the importance of heritage railways across the UK.



Rather than let Swanning Around waffle on about it here, just go to the Swanage Railway Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/swanagerailway>

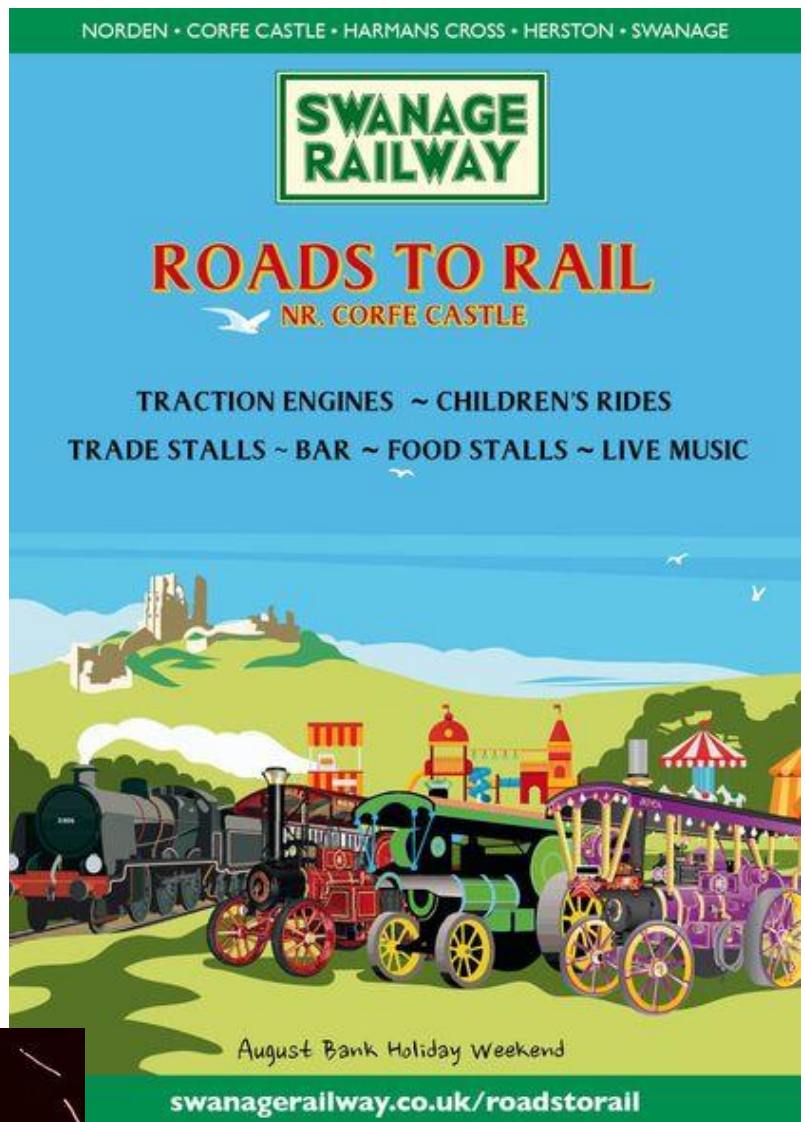
Don't forget the big Swanage Railway event for your calendar, the Roads to Rail event at August Bank Holiday.

Details can be found on the Swanage Railway web site at

<https://www.swanagerailway.co.uk/events/view/roads-to-rail>

and Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/swanagerailway>



Maybe even some fireworks from Graham Froud!



With the removal of C-19 restrictions, Harmans Cross station is now open and has passengers waiting on 22nd July, as U class 31806 brings the 10.30 from Swanage into the Up platform.

At the other end, signalman Gail Coldham holds out the red flag to stop the down train led by *Eddystone* to give the driver a caution about a level crossing status further down the line.



What are these two up to behind Harmans Cross signal box on 22nd July?

Estates manager Pat Cattle and Mel Smith are not renewing the rotting drainage gratings, but putting down some redundant Network Rail walkway panels to do the same job.

Very nice walkway now, except for the brambles!

Below, Pat cuts a panel to size while Mel does the hard work!

Welcome back, Mel!





If you're a driver on the Swanage Railway, there's no escaping the camera! Visitor Gerry Barnard, a member of the Wimborne Railway Society, took these pictures of happy drivers Peter Davies on Eddystone, above, and Pete Duncalfe on the U class, at Corfe Castle on 13th July.

With so many camera phones out there, and with so much social media, we probably have our photos all round the world! Swanning Around certainly does it!



Preparations for the Roads to Rail event in August necessarily start well in advance, and as part of this, making space on the railway was taking place on 13th July.

Driver Paul McDonald, guard Steve Jenkins, and shunter Ben Dolman are at Arne Road shunting a van and a Queen Mary brake prior to moving them to Furzebrook.

Roads to Rail will feature a lot more in the next issues of Swanning Around. Be there!



12th July at Norden and the tracks were awash with the sheer volume of water from the sky.

Mike Brown ventured out to take this picture, by which time the deluge had passed and most of the water drained away.

Drains were clear, just not programmed for this much water.

Not what you might expect for mid-July. Strange times!



The heritage coach group gained another vehicle to look after on 1st July with the delivery of a 135 year old London and South Western Railway coach body.

Previously part of a house in Swanmore, Hampshire, for the last 95 years, this body is well preserved and will be used as a workshop and store.

To find out more about what the group is up to, check out their Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/swanagerailwayheritagecarriages>

where you can find out more about this and other stuff they are doing, particularly the second of our Maunsell carriages.

All the vehicles normally in Corfe Castle sidings have been cleared away to the down platform while Crane No. 1 lifts the carriage body into position next to a friend.

Pity the original purchasers didn't take the chassis and wheels and make a mobile home!



Both pictures: Andrew P M Wright





Not bad condition outside or inside for a wooden bodied vehicle from 1886!

Both pictures: Andrew P M Wright



First thing for the group to do is weatherproofing, fitting new glass and repairing the floor.

See more about this on the Facebook page at

[https://
www.facebook.com/
swanagerailwayheritagecarrriages](https://www.facebook.com/swanagerailwayheritagecarrriages)



Is that a Crittall window, one of Braintree's fine products? This must be where the kitchen was! A bit of extra ventilation.



Pictures: Pete Short

The LSWR T3 Group had an outing to the Flour Mill Workshop to view progress earlier in July. On show was the new copper firebox, seen upside down below, and being trial-fitted to the boiler. Some great progress.

See the rest of this report on the 563 Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SRT563LG/>

For donations, 563 website at <http://563locomotivegroup.co.uk/>

or Swanage Railway appeals at <https://www.swanagerailwaytrust.org/t3-appeal>

Tender Update

Discussions continue around finalising plans for the tender to go into Herston Works, unfortunately there has been some slippage in the schedules of locomotives already in the works or due to go in shortly. However, we are hopeful that we will be able to finalise the slot for which we can start work on this in the near future, we will then begin planning working parties to dismantle the tender.

To join the tender club go to

www.563locomotivegroup.co.uk/t3nder-club/



Pictures from 563 group

Had a visit from the new-build A1 class no. 60163 *Tornado* on 5th July. Hard to believe this engine is only 13 years old!

The loco and support coach went to Swanage for servicing, having brought a charter train from London to Bournemouth. The rest of the train has been left at Arne Road for servicing, as the loco passes Corfe Castle with signalman David Wild ready to exchange section tokens.



Arriving at Swanage with shunter Steven Duncalfe collecting the token from Swanage Railway's conductor driver Pete Frost.

The West Coast Railway driver is Andy Hawkins, another Swanage driver. He was also in SA issue 75 on 31806 on the Portsmouth charter. A big change from his old job driving suburban electrics out of London Waterloo!



For the return to Bournemouth after servicing, class 57 no. 57 313 was on the front, seen here at Furzebrook.

All these pictures: Andrew P M Wright



Lifting of Covid restrictions and the start of a summer timetable sees the Tea Truck back at Corfe Castle providing refreshments, as seen here on 28th July.



We usually report plenty of action from the Permanent Way section, but this time there's not much happening while the repair man tries to figure out why Big Daddy has gone into limp home mode. Perhaps there's an algorithm in the software that identifies tea time?!

Barry Light and Billy Johnson wait while the gremlin is located.



From Volunteer Recruitment & Retention Officer Jonathan Evans:

PTS Courses are Back Up & Running

As we were unable to run PTS (Personal Track Safety) courses throughout 2020 and into 2021, we are very happy that we have been able to reinstate them as they are a vitally important for many of our volunteers.

Safety is our number one priority on the railway and the first thing we teach on the course is that the only person responsible for your own safety is yourself, so for those of us who need to be trackside for their roles, PTS is essential.

Two courses have been run so far for a total of 10 volunteers and are being held in the Diesel Depot Training Room at Corfe. The bulk of the course consists of a video produced by our friends at the Kent & East Sussex Railway, which is used in conjunction with our own PTS Handbook to cover the main points.

The course starts by covering how to keep yourself visible and safe whilst on the trackside and continues to discuss topics such as how to react in cases of emergency.

We also use the track in the Diesel Depot and at the station itself to show our volunteers examples of what we have discussed and to allow them to practise some of the methods shown in the classroom.

PTS is needed for most operational roles, for both volunteers and paid staff, (the exception being Porter where we consider it a “nice to have”) as well as departments such as S&T, Telecoms and Permanent Way.

The next course will be arranged around the start of September - to sign up please contact jonathan.evans@swanagerailway.co.uk to be added to the waiting list. You can also contact Jonathan if your current PTS card is expiring and he will explain the procedure for renewal.

Here are the participants of one the courses on site at Corfe Castle station.

What are they learning here? Where not to stand when a train approaches, perhaps?

Seriously, though, there is nothing more important than safety on our railway.

Picture: Jonathan Evans



Although there are no reports in this issue about current loco repairs and overhauls, don't forget you can still contribute.

To support Standard Class 4 Tank Loco 80104, go to Southern Locomotives' web site at https://southern-locomotives.co.uk/Company/Support_Us.html

For Class 33 "Crompton" no. D6515 (33012) go to the 71A Locomotive Group's web site at http://www.71alocogroup.co.uk/71A_donate.htm

More details of these in the previous issue 75 of Swanning Around.

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

To use your existing skills or to learn new ones, contact us about being a Swanage Railway volunteer by either sending an email to iwanttovolunteer@swanagerailway.co.uk or by calling 01929 408466 to contact Jonathan Evans, our Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Officer.

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