



Swanning Around

A Look At What's Happening Around The Swanage Railway

Issue 48 – March 17th 2019

Just a few days to go before Flying Scotsman fever hits Purbeck! And it won't be anything like the 1994 visit – we are expecting some kind of pandemonium, and trying to take financial advantage to offset the hire costs this time.

This all means that processes have to be in place to contain situations that may arise, and there's some detail of this later.

In summer 1994, Flying Scotsman arrives at Harmans Cross, then the line's northern terminus. It's going to be very different this time!

Picture by Andrew P M Wright.



While much of management time is about organising staffing for this event, there's plenty of other stuff going on to fill these pages, including a different sort of page 3 glamour!

So let's start with the All Grades Mutual Improvement Class on 9th March. This class focused on Safety Management and Culture, with presentations from Ian Skinner, Head of Heritage, Trams, and Light Rail at the Office of Road and Rail, Andrew Woods, Operations Policy Manager at RNLI HQ Poole, and Justin Willett, Professional Lead, Operations and Performance at the Railway Safety Standards Board.

Three experts from outside talking about the importance of developing a safety culture, and non-technical skills to support safe working practices.

The keynote presentation was delivered by Ian Skinner, showing us why we need a Safety Management System, and what happens when we don't apply it or haven't got one!



Andrew Woods showed us what the RNLI had done to embed a safety culture, and how analysis of previous incidents had led to this.

Picture: Peter Milford

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For something different, Mike Brown of the Norden station team has provided a

Mucky Picture of the Month!

Yes, this is the bund alongside the fence opposite Norden platform. We hardly know how to caption this without getting into trouble, so maybe you can make up your own!

Let's just say that our track team has made this bund to keep the farmer's stuff on his side of the fence, not ours!



On the subject of stations, there has been some change in management.

An official statement:

'A new station Manager at Corfe Castle has been appointed. David Scott will report to Pat Cattle the Railway's Estate Manager.

At Norden, Ian Diffey has stepped down from the role of Station Manager to pursue other interests (learning to fly) his place has been taken by David Budd. In thanks to Ian for all his work with the team over the years a presentation of a framed print was made by Pat Cattle.

We look forward to working with both Davids as they develop their teams and maintain their Stations under Pat's guidance.

The voluntary role at Swanage remains vacant: if you are a hands on enthusiast for maintenance with skills to manage a group and to interface with other Railway departments, Pat would like to hear from you.

*Gavin Johns,
Director, Infrastructure.'*

As it says above, Ian Diffey has stood down at Norden, and was presented with a framed photograph in recognition of his 13 years at the helm by Estates Manager Pat Cattle.



The new Norden station manager David Budd, third from right, lines up for a photo with some of the team.

Pictures from Mike Brown

At Corfe Castle station, the old signal box, used for visitors to have a go at pulling levers, now has some signals to make the operation seem more realistic.

On 12th March, Marco Ailano and Tony Udall are commissioning the signals located in the picnic area, out of sight of the trains. Don't want any mistakes there!



Marco is in the pit underneath the frame making adjustments, while Tony pulls the levers and checks the instruments.

And the interlocking ensures that the signal lever cannot be pulled until the token is out and the respective points levers pulled! Just like the real thing!

And there you have it!
The Up line signal works!
Now the visitors will see something happening when they pull the levers!



Over at the other signal box at Corfe Castle, the paintwork is nearly finished and the scaffolding gone.

Geoff Truscott is the duty signalman on 8th March.



At this time of year, when public services are run only at weekends, the opportunity arises to run Driver Experiences. There are not too many of these as they are run only when public services aren't, and we run public trains on more days than most, if not all, other heritage railways. We believe the 2019 opportunities are already sold out!

Signalman Geoff Truscott gets ready to exchange single line tokens with the footplate crew of 80104 on a Driver Experience train.



On 27th February, The Branch Line Society chartered a train for a trip to all parts of the Swanage Railway.

Why they do what they do you'll have to find out by visiting their web site at

<https://www.branchline.uk/home.php>

Unusually, or maybe usual for them (!), the train consisted of two Queen Mary brake vans topped and tailed by our two diesel shunters, seen here waiting for the signal to cross the road at Norden.



The weather's not been too good lately, so what better time to organise a photo shoot!

On 4th and 5th March, two shoots had been organised, and on the 5th, your Swanning Around hack ventured into the cold and rain to capture the photographers at Creech Bottom crossing, as 34072 257 Squadron pounded up the gradient across Grange Road bridge.

A few of them looked like they would rather be somewhere else!



On 14th March, much activity at the Arne Road road/rail interchange. Coming in was the former Caledonian Railway 439 class 0-4-4 tank loco no. 419, from the Scottish Railway Preservation Society at the Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway. Going out, to the works at Herston, was our U class 31806.

No 419 rolls down the ramp from Gareth Buscombe's lorry, under remote control of the winch.

Looks like a Scottish version of our own M7, which is out of service for overhaul at present. They would have looked good together.



Driver Nick Lloyd eases Crompton class 33 D6515 up to collect the loco and deliver it to Swanage.

It had been hoped to have 419 in service this weekend, 16th/17th, but the locomotive has not been passed fit for traffic as this newsletter goes to keyboard.

Earlier, D6515 had brought U class 31806 up to Norden, ready to be loaded onto Gareth's trailer.

The consist was caught at Castle View crossing by Gary Packer.



31806 is on the trailer and leaving Norden for Herston.



The purpose of transferring 31806 to Herston works is to examine and refurbish the axlebox bearings, which haven't had attention since arriving at Swanage.

Recently, the railway has acquired some lifting jacks, previously at the former Eurostar train servicing depot in West London, and these will give us the capability to lift a loco for the first time. Some lifting action in the next issue of SA, hopefully.



On 15th March, 31806 is in the works, accompanied by the four 20 tonne capacity jacks, waiting for some action.

Now for some official stuff from The Swanage Railway Trust:

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC POLICY

Recent experience has indicated a need to re-affirm and extend the Railway's policies towards the management of Members of the Public whilst on the Railway.

Members of the Public (MoP) can only be admitted to private areas on the Railway under escort and with the consent of the relevant person managing the facility (office, signal box etc) and in compliance with the relevant rules and regulations;

MoP when travelling on trains must be in possession of a valid travel tickets;

The Safeguarding policy must be fully applied at all times. Staff are responsible for applying this policy; and

Members of staff must not enable, assist or in any way support a MoP conducting themselves in a manner which could lead passengers or staff to consider such persons were bona fide volunteers or members of Railway staff. Any MoP "passing off" as an SR volunteer or staff should be promptly reported to the Duty Manager, who will be responsible for ensuring the activity immediately ceases.

All volunteers must depending on their age be inducted to the Railway using our Volunteer Engagement Process: over 18's to either Jacqui Hagger and/or Mike Whitwam and under 18's to Jo Guess or Steve Barker via the Sygnets Group.

This is of interest as much to 'members of the public' reading this as it is to railway staff.

For the visit of Flying Scotsman, starting this coming week, this is of heightened importance, and it's worth commenting here that trespass on a heritage railway carries the same penalties as for the national network; it's a criminal offence to trespass on a railway. Be warned!

For all staff, check out the Briefing Notice on the SRStaff web site. Staff may only be lineside, or in an area requiring tickets, if their duties require it. Make sure you know the rules!

From Jacqui Hagger, Trustee and convenor of the Membership and Volunteer (M&V) group:

The M&V group recently submitted a nomination in the Swanage Town Council Community Awards. The awards are designed to recognise deserving individuals or groups working voluntarily in the parish of Swanage

I am pleased to report that Mike Leach was cordially invited to an awards ceremony at the Swanage Annual Parish Assembly on Monday 11th March 2019. He was presented the Green Champion award by Mike Bonfield, Mayor of Swanage.

Congratulations Mike - Its well deserved and great recognition for he work you do on the railway.

Mike receives his award from Mike Bonfield.

Mike has featured in these pages before as our own super-recycler. You bin it, he recycles it!



And this is the award.

Well done Mike! And keep doing it!

Photos from Jacqui Hagger

The Flying Scotsman visit

It is anticipated that the popularity of this visit could potentially cause problems with the numbers of spectators.

The railway has liaised with other agencies to implement some controls to prevent major issues, including local traffic management for the duration of the running days. Check out the Swanage Railway web site for details at

<https://swanagerailway.co.uk/news/detail/traffic-management-and-road-closure-flying-scotsman-event-22-26-march-2019>

In addition, Swanage Railway staff will be employed to prevent trespass, and it's worth repeating again that it is a criminal offence to trespass on the railway, and anyone doing so will be reported.

Flying Scotsman will be running services between 22nd March and 26th March, and will be on display at Corfe Castle, coupled to the Pullman Observation Car 14, from 27th March to 10th April.

Check out the Swanage Railway web site for the display days and ticket prices at

<https://swanagerailway.co.uk/events/detail/flying-scotsman-static-days>

And again, staff should check out the Briefing Notice on the SRStaff web site.

Let's enjoy the visit!

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A message for all members of the Swanage Railway Trust

From the chairman of the Swanage Railway Trust, Gavin Johns:

An Open Forum will be held on Saturday evening 6th April 2019 in Swanage, Mowlem Centre at 7pm.

Here's an item cribbed from the Swanage Railway Staff web site. We're not proud here at SA! But we like to show that our younger volunteers and their leaders get the recognition they deserve.

*Congratulations are due to the **Sygnets** group and their leaders, Jo Guess, Derek Pattenson, Steve Barker and others for being recognised in the Dorset Volunteer Awards.*

In the Dorset Volunteer Awards Evening in late 2018, the Sygnets group received a special certificate for their outstanding volunteering contribution.



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

swanning.around@swanagerailway.co.uk

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Swanning Around also appears on line at:

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

and

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