

A Look at What's Happening Around the Swanage Railway

Issue 24 – March 22nd 2017

As this issue goes to press (it's just an expression – there is no press!), the railway is gearing up for the Strictly Bulleid steam gala to be held over the weekend of 31st March to 2nd April.

Some visiting locomotives are due this week, and others next week, so there will be plenty going on in support of this event.

This coming weekend, our daily running starts, and there is much activity in support of this also.

Already, the Diesel Gala is being publicised, and a list of visiting locos identified, and, if that wasn't enough, we await with baited breath an announcement about the trial service to Wareham.

And, as you should already know, it's 50 years since the last steam train turned its wheels on the Swanage branch, so expect something else different this year!

Exciting times indeed, and, as usual, no apologies will be expressed here for continued appeals for volunteers to take part in all parts of the railway organisation. We need people not only for special events, but for every day throughout the year, trains or no trains!

You know where to apply!

-----ooOoo-----

On 21st February, Maunsell Third Class Open coach 1381 turned up at the Norden Road/Rail interchange, and Guard Paul Simons was there to record the event.



Photo by Paul Simons

It had been at Rampart Engineering at Barrow Hill near Chesterfield for external overhaul, and is one of a pair of these coaches presently in the process of being restored for use on the railway.

Paul Kingston, Mark Humphries, Nick Nicholls and Nigel Steer of the Heritage Coach Tuesday gang look busy awaiting the arrival of the coach in Corfe Castle No. 2 siding.



Photo by Dave Jeffs via Pete Short

Paul Kingston and Nigel Steer see the carriage for the first time as they started volunteering after 1381 had been sent away. They are checking the operation of the main droplights after fighting their way through the bits that Ramparts didn't fit. Now the real work starts. There's a lot to do, but much of the internal woodwork has already been restored.

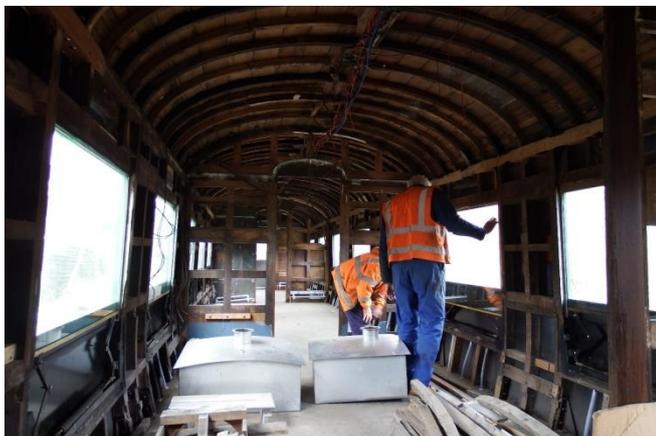


Photo by Dave Jeffs via Pete Short

And here's the Heritage Coach Sunday Gang doing what they do best!



If this sort of thing appeals to you as a volunteer, you know who to call! (Not Coachbusters!)

1346 is our other similar Third Class Open coach, and external repairs are currently in progress at Ramparts.

-----ooOoo-----

The Operations Department Tuesday Gang regularly features in these pages, as the volunteers are always finding something different to do.



Here, Paul Williams and Sarah Bamber recycle used oil products to the recycling tank at Swanage, while, below, Alan D'Anson appears to cause some amusement while cleaning up this hole that they have made in the top wall at the shed. Apparently, it's for a new access gate for dignitaries, not for us irks!



-----ooOoo-----

Page 3

This double glamour is catching! You're getting another dose this month!

Yes! No trouble in finding

Mucky Men of the Month

This time, we've caught signalmen Malcolm Munro and Mike Rodgers right in the muck, removing sludge from the bottom of the reservoir that has been featured previously in SA with the Tuesday Gang.



Malcolm does the honours down in the muck, while Mike hauls up bucketfuls of the stuff for disposal. All except the stuff they're going to take home on their clothes!

When this reservoir is clean and the filter bed filled, the water will be used at the shed.



-----ooOoo-----

Purbeck Railway Circle

I suspect not all readers of Swanning Around are aware of the Purbeck Railway Circle (PRC), what it is and what it does.

Well, it's a local area support group and part of the Swanage Railway Trust (SRT).

Meetings at Harmans Cross Village Hall take place monthly, with a presentation or film show on railway subjects for the participants, and a raffle. All this for a small entry fee!

Any surplus monies from the group are forwarded as a contribution to the SRT.

Note that these events are primarily for members of the SRT, but everybody is welcome, so any of our readers and friends, family, or anyone off the street can take advantage of an interesting Friday night in Harmans Cross. Possibly the **only** interesting night in Harmans Cross!

Here's a copy of the 2017 programme provided by PRC chairman Gordon Jakes.

Remember! It's open to everyone.

PURBECK RAILWAY CIRCLE

The Local Support Group for the Swanage
Railway

PROGRAMME – 2017

*NON-MEMBERS WELCOME AT ALL
MEETINGS.*

Friday 13th January 2017. “My 20 Years of Railway Preservation” – A presentation by Matt Green, General Manager, Swanage Railway. Plus the PRC Annual General Meeting.

Friday 10th February. “60 Years of Railway Photography” – A presentation by local author and historian Brian Jackson.

Friday 10th March. “Restoration of the Brighton Belle” – A presentation by Gordon Rushton, Marketing Director of the project to resurrect a five coach set of the Brighton Belle for running on the British mainline.

Friday 7th April. “The Gartell Light Railway” – A presentation by John Penny from this delightful narrow gauge railway which is located on the track bed of a section of the Somerset and Dorset Railway near Templecombe.

Friday 12th May. “The Lynton and Barnstaple Railway” – A presentation by John Berry to set the scene for the summer outing.

Sunday 11th June Summer Outing. Visit to the Lynton and Barnstaple Railway plus a single journey on the West Somerset Railway.

Friday 14th July. *To be confirmed*

Friday 8th September. “Archive Film from the collection of Colin Stone” A video presentation by Colin Stone.

Friday 13th October. Meeting in association with the Purbeck Film Festival. Following on from last year’s successful presentation there will be a Further Selection of British Transport Films.

Friday 10th November. “Mike’s Meanderings 1959 to 1975” – A presentation by Mike Walshaw

All meetings (excepting the Summer Outing) are held in Harmans Cross Village Hall, Haycrafts Lane, Harmans Cross. Doors open @ 19.00hrs for a 19.30 start.

Refreshments and a railway orientated raffle are provided at each meeting.

Enquiries to: Gordon Jakes, PRC Chairman.

e-mail: gensec@purbeckrailwaycircle.org.uk

**For up to date information please visit our
website:
purbeckrailwaycircle.org.uk**

-----ooOoo-----



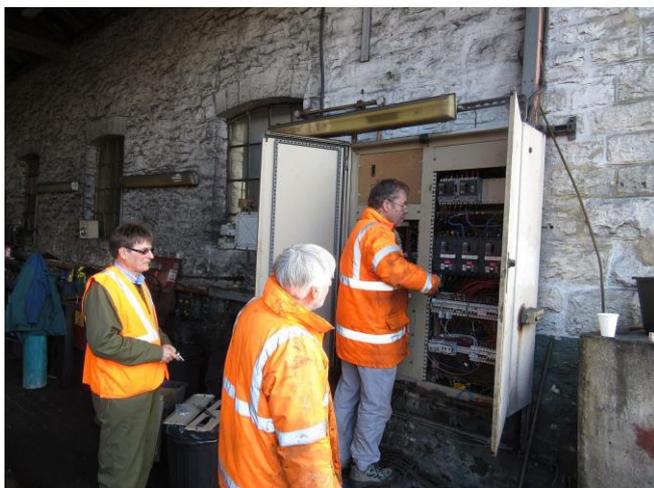
Diesel inspector Dave Gravell finds himself out of his comfort zone working on a steam loco, but is getting his own back by applying ‘Dave’s Improved Bufferbeam Red’ to 80104’s rear end! Seriously, though, he says it’s only undercoat! We believe you!

-----ooOoo-----

In the shed area, the coal storage area extension has been completed, and it has left a large area of concrete wall to look at. But someone in their wisdom has decided a nice mural (a Muriel in Essex-speak!) would improve the looks. Local artist Nina (is she Wareham's answer to Banksy?) has started work and, as of 21st March, this is what it looked like. Can you see what it is yet?



And the shed electrics are getting a makeover from the electricians, Paul Smith and Barry Leyman. Here, a lot of new equipment is being installed in the main switch box on the shed wall on 21st March.



-----ooOoo-----

In The Goods Shed



Yes, 08 436 is still there, but getting nearer to that final coat of paint, but notice that behind is one of our Turbot wagons from the Permanent Way Track Team. It's getting some new sides after the old ones have been mauled beyond repair.

Beryl is still hiding right at the back.

-----ooOoo-----

More importantly, our service fleet of carriages has been receiving attention from the Loco, Carriage and Wagon department, particularly important as we reach the start of daily running and the more intensive services.



If you've got a sticking door, Greg Murray will fix it. Coach 4899 is on the receiving end of his attention on 14th March, as, below, Alan English

carries out a 6-month examination on the B Set coaches, which have been brought down to Swanage from Harmans Cross and separated for access.



-----ooOoo-----

It's not often we catch a new volunteer in the process of induction, so it's a big welcome to David Hill.



Having previously been inducted by Volunteer Liaison Officer Mike Whitwam, as a new volunteer cleaner he gets an introduction to the Operations department and facilities from Pete Harris on 14th March.

-----ooOoo-----



Outside the Bird's Nest Buffet at Swanage, the secondhand book and magazine sale area has been smartened up by the arrival of a new storage cabinet. Is that bit at the top a pigeon loft?

Catering assistant Matthew Webb and ace recycler Mike Leach demonstrate the new facility on 13th March.

-----ooOoo-----



After all the effort shifting the Up Home signals at Harmans Cross last month, here's the almost finished article on 15th March, with just some fettling to do and making the site look pretty.

-----ooOoo-----

And don't forget the 'Strictly Bulleid' steam gala at the end of the month. If you want to own a poster for the said event, like the picture below, get yourself down to the Swanage Station Shop where they will be happy to sell you one.



The Sygnets are proud to announce that they have specially designed a Strictly Bulleid Gala Mug.

There is a limited amount and will be able to be purchased from the

Sygnets stall that will be on Corfe Castle platform on the Saturday of the gala.....along with a few restored LSWR (rail) chairs and other goodies.

-----ooOoo-----



Stop Press!

Yes, I know there isn't a press, but here's the first of our gala visitors arriving on the railway.

'Battle of Britain' class pacific 34053 Sir Keith Park has been offloaded from the lorry at Norden and is being towed through Corfe Castle to Swanage by class 33 diesel D6515 at 14.15ish on 22nd March. Guard Paul Simons brings up the rear in a Queen Mary brake van.

This is a bit of a homecoming for this loco as it belongs to Southern Locomotives and was restored to running order at Herston Works, thence went to its present home at the Severn Valley Railway, whence it has come today.

-----ooOoo-----

-----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 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.

-----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

Views expressed in 'Swanning Around' are those of the author(s) and are not necessarily the views of the Swanage Railway Trust or the Swanage Railway Company. No liability accepted for errors or inaccuracies.

Prepared by John Denison for the Swanage Railway Trust including content and images provided by others. All rights recognised.

(c) Copyright: Swanage Railway Trust 2017

Swanning Around also appears on line at:
<http://www.srstaff.co.uk/swanningaround>
and
<http://www.swanagerailway.co.uk/volunteers-diary>

-----ooOoo-----