

## A Look at What's Happening Around the Swanage Railway

Issue 9 – October 10th 2015

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Well, the peak season is over, Autumn is here, and on the Swanage Railway, volunteers are taking a rest, and activities are winding down towards Christmas.

### Not A Chance!

The train service may have been reduced to off-peak frequency, but the railway activity never stops.

Major works continue towards Wareham, refurbishment of the drivers' cabin at Swanage Loco continues to make progress, Locomotive, Carriage and Wagon department has its hands full with maintenance, management is formulating next years' timetables, and there's a steam gala coming!

There's always something to report in Swanning Around! Read about it here!

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The evening diesel service, run during the high season timetable, has again been successful in contributing to the railway's raison d'être and finances, such that it will continue next year, and will feature more prominently in the timetable.

Talking of timetables, look out for the 2016 version, coming soon. With the addition of the Wareham service from June next year, it is expected that there will be two timetables, one for the first part of the year and an updated

version issued later to include the Wareham service.

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### 777 is coming!

Is it a bird? Is it a plane?

**NO!** It's not a Boeing!

It's the N15 King Arthur class loco, named *Sir Lamiel*, coming to bolster the participants in our Autumn Steam Gala, 16-18 October. I'll be there – you should be there too!

Check the Swanage railway website for details at <http://www.swanagerailway.co.uk/events/detail/autumn-steam-gala>

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Oh Dear! (or words to that effect!)



Just when all locomotives are needed in fit condition for the steam gala, the good old reliable Standard 4 Tank 80104 decides to have a spat and breaks some piston rings!

Here, on Oct 8, the piston has had new rings fitted and it's back in the cylinder. Diesel fitter Andy Garrett and steam fitter Billy Johnson get ready to insert the small end pin. "I'll get the hole in line with this handy tool, and you can lean over the back and put it in" says Andy (actually, he said something different, but I can't print that!) .

Operations Manager Nick Lloyd helps by keeping out of the way - "stop messing about and give me the engine back!"

For those of you who don't know what a steam loco piston looks like, count your blessings!

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Down at the shed, improvements to the Drivers' Cabin continue apace, although I'm sure Paul McDonald could do with some help to finish it!



Looking from the old facility, the new kitchen takes shape, and below, from the other direction.



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## Who's Who?

'Please be careful' says the heritage poster. None of these three took any notice, as Responsible Officer Alan Blackman and Passenger Services Manager Martin Trott get caught for a photo whilst having a break between trains. Even better, the surreptitious photo snapper, porter David Hales, has been caught out himself in the reflective covering on the Reservations Office window!



Permanent Way Manager Barry Light assumes his usual pose in Tango suit and hard hat, with phone on ear, whilst trying to

keep things on track at Norden.  
(on track! – get it? Oh never mind!)

Would anyone recognise him in civvies?!

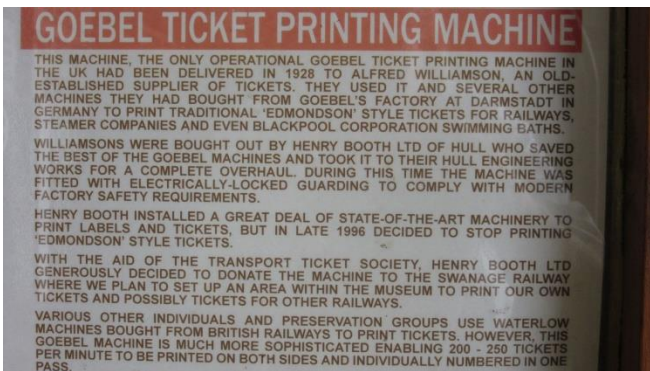
# Page 3

Nothing of the usual standard for page 3 this month, so perhaps a pretty picture of Swanage Station from the picnic area above the Bird's Nest Buffet, as 80104 arrives with its train on Sept 28.



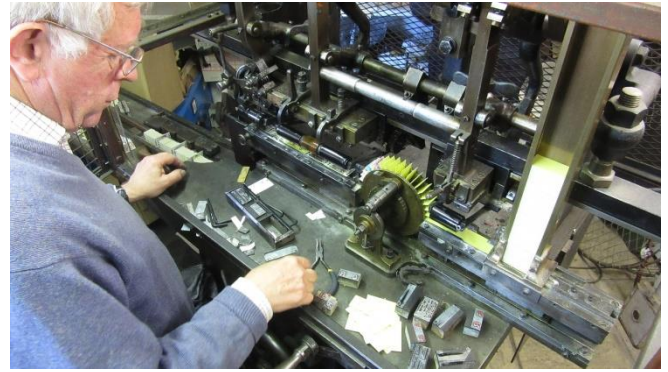
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One very interesting piece of equipment is rarely seen by most staff and visitors, and hides in a room in Corfe Castle Goods Shed. It is a machine for printing Edmondson tickets, best described by the words at its location.



Whilst at Swanage we use heritage Edmondson card tickets only for souvenir issue, we actually supply tickets to some other heritage transport organisations, including one in the Netherlands.

Geoffrey Charters loads the print heads for another production run of tickets.



Operators Geoffrey Charters and Jeffrey Mowlam supervise a production run of tickets for one of our customers.



Since 2003, around 2 million tickets have been printed.

With the machine shrouded by a safety cage, it is difficult to demonstrate the sophistication of the technology in this machine in action.

This is probably the only machine in the country that prints Edmondson tickets in more than one colour, both sides, and individually numbered, in one pass!

One day, I hope to be able to place a video on the Swanage Railway YouTube channel, and put a link in here. Don't hold your breath, though!

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Our static Buffets rarely get a mention, so SA is here to bring it to you!

The Bird's Nest at Swanage, so-called owing to the presence of a Blackbird's Nest prior to catering use, which nest is now homed in a display case, has been with us for a number of years, most recently in platform 2 ¾ .



Deputy Buffet Manager Chris Miles is busy in the kitchen sporting his new-style chef's uniform,



while volunteer Sue does the washing-up the easy way – let the machine do it!

New volunteers are always needed. A friendly welcome, and no hard work involved!



Internally, a major refurbishment assured its continued use at Swanage.

Not so the Norden Nest, which will serve its last customer in its present position on November 1<sup>st</sup>.



The vehicle is being moved out to ensure that there is a line-of-sight for trains leaving the station to cross the road through the soon-to-be-installed level crossing.

Where will it go? Will it be re-used as the buffet in a different location? Will an alternative buffet facility be provided at Norden? Will Valentino Rossi win the MotoGP?

We wait for news from Management-Central!

This may be the first use in anger of the 45 ton steam crane, featured on page 1 of Swanning Around issue 8. Watch this space!

On Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, Peter Sykes chats with a customer who has come all the way from Coventry – see how popular the Norden Nest is?!!.



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We've seen a number of main line diesels on the railway in recent months, mostly only coming as far as Furzebrook with materials trains. On October 6<sup>th</sup>, a train of fifteen Autoballaster wagons was seen at Corfe Castle.



(Photo : Andrew P M Wright)

Having arrived on the Swanage Railway and deposited its load of 900 tonnes of ballast on the Furzebrook to Creech Bottom section, Colas Rail Freight Class 66 no. 66848 ran forward to Corfe Castle to run round its train, ready for departure back to Eastleigh. With a train length of 250 metres, there's just enough space afforded by the up platform loop to enable the train engine to run round.



Ready for departure, the train stands forward of the starting signal, so signalman Mike Walshaw is ready to show the driver the green flag.



Check this picture, taken from Arne Road bridge, against the picture on page 5 of issue 8, taken from the same place.

Still plenty of work to do on the new road/rail interchange by the contractors, but, in the foreground, our P'Way staff are starting to lay the track.

A headshunt will be added in the lower left of this picture before any services start.



Viewed from the other direction, it's a busy site, with new drainage being laid in the foreground.

Concrete foundations for the level crossing equipment are in place, and we expect the equipment to be installed early next month. Watch here to find out what Albert Schweitzer has to do with our new level crossing equipment!

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U Class 31625 sits in Corfe Castle goods yard with a message for you!

A reminder to donate to the Swanage Moguls Fund, to assist the restoration to service of N Class 31874, currently in Herston Works, and subsequently, 31625 itself.

As the notice says, you can send just £5 by texting "Moguls" to 70660, or check out the website at [www.swanagemoguls.co.uk](http://www.swanagemoguls.co.uk) or find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Swanage-Moguls-Fund-841096652608162/timeline/>

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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](mailto:mike.whitwam@corfestation.f2s.com) or [volunteer@swanagerailwaytrust.org.uk](mailto: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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