



Swanning Around

A Look At What's Happening Around The Swanage Railway

Issue 30 – September 20th 2017

Warm rain may be typical of a British summer, and the variable weather we have experienced is carrying on into September.

In spite of this and the issues with steam loco availability, we are still maintaining our services, and, we are told, the effect on expected income is minimal.

But what of the Wareham trial service?

The last day was September 3rd, and true to form, it was raining again! More on that later.

Also, the peak season timetable finished at the same time, and we should have expected this to give some relief to operations and maintenance staff in particular, but no!

Maintenance schedules must be adhered to and this means that Loco, Carriage and Wagon (LC&W) department in particular is still under pressure.

Let's spare a thought for them.

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So what's coming up soon?

There's the Swanage Railway Trust AGM, quite exciting if you like that sort of thing!

Then there's the Autumn Steam Gala over the weekend 13th to 15th October, the Class of '67 gala, remembering the year of the final steam trains on the Southern Region of British Railways 50 years ago. Check the Swanage Railway website at

<http://swanagerailway.co.uk/events/detail/autumn-steam-gala-2017> and social media for details.

If that were not enough, we have several main line charters coming to Swanage soon.

On Thursday 21st September, there's the Swanage Belle from London Victoria, hauled by A4 class pacific no. 60009 Union of South Africa, then on October 5th, Britannia class pacific 70013 Oliver Cromwell is expected to show up with the Cathedrals Express from West Brompton in London, and, apparently, there will be another Swanage Belle on 21st October hauled this time by Deltic diesel no. D9009 Alycidon from Burton-on-Trent.

That will keep us busy servicing the trains in Swanage.

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Enough of that stuff! What's been happening?

Corfe Castle is noted for its photographic opportunities, not least for wedding photos. On 12th September, another lucky couple had photos taken all round the station. Were they married in Corfe church? Unlikely as they were conversing in some eastern European language! And the bride turned up wearing jeans and trainers!



We ought to be charging for photos! Probably make more money than the trains!

Also on 12th September, we welcomed a new volunteer recruit to the Signal and Telegraph (S&T) department.

David Irving was greeted by S&T manager Tony North and technician Mike Southey in Corfe signal box.



Following the bit about signs in the last issue, Martin James sent an email, and he sounded somewhat put out that Bob Payne seems to be in every Swanage publication, yet he himself appears in none!

Well, we can put that right. On the down platform at Corfe, Martin, on the left, has just put up a sign. Sorry, Bob's in it again!



By the way, Martin, we at Swanning Around are not worldly-wise enough to know what you mean by chuffing petticoats having something to do with women and baked beans!

Are you one of those people who sees a signalman walking along the platform carrying a strange-looking man bag, and wonder what he keeps in it?

Well, wonder no more!

Those fine people in the museum department at Corfe have produced all the answers on a display board near the signal box.



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Good News! We have another victim for our glamour section!

Yes, it's

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Mucky Man of the Month



It's difficult to get much more mucky than LC&W fitter Chris Birmingham clearing the crud from the boiler tubes of our U class no. 31806, during its stoppage for scheduled maintenance on 17th September.

Better give himself a hose down next!

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Yes, Swanning Around has caught another director showing us how it's done!

General Manager and Director Matt Green gives direction to the queue for tickets for the first train on 26th August at our Wareham burger van ticket office.



If you think you know what Matt's saying, keep it to yourself! We at SA would rather keep out of trouble!

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While we are at Wareham, SA made two visits to get the pictures we know you all want to see, and some you don't!

On 26th August, just a week or so to go until the final train, and Platform 2 at Wareham is packed with expectant passengers as the 10.26 from Swanage arrives, headed by West Coast Railways' class 33 no. 33 025.



Swanage Railway conductor driver Pete Frost has opened the cabinet on platform 2 and is speaking to the Corfe Castle signalman, to obtain the single line token for the return trip to Swanage.



Find out about tokens on page 2.

It's the last day of the Swanage Railway's trial service to Wareham, 3rd September, and it's the David Show!

Yes, It's West Coast driver Dave Hewson, with Swanage Railway conductor driver Dave Gravell



It's the last opportunity to ride in London Underground's TC set of coaches, with one or two of our own taking the ride.



And the guard is David Dow (again!).



At Wareham, the last train disgorges its passengers, many of whom transfer to platform 1 to catch the South West Trains 1W64 17.20 to London Waterloo.

Crossing keeper Mike Banks sees the last train to Wareham safely across the road at Norden.



Since the previous picture was taken, South West Trains has become South Western Railway, and the brightly-coloured livery that we are used to has become dull grey and grey. (Apologies to those who think grey is a great colour!)

Of course we were sorry to see our friends at West Coast take their train away, but we may see them again soon on incoming charter trains (see page 1).

On the misty morning of 4th September. Both locos have been mustered on the front, and the train heads for the London Underground depot at West Ruislip, here seen dropping down the gradient from Holme Lane bridge, and disappearing into the fog and off the Swanage Railway past Network Rail's signal PW5752 at Bridge 4 over the River Frome.



Both photos: Andrew P M Wright

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Meanwhile, at Corfe, there are lots of things going on that have nothing to do with services to Wareham.

Most staff members take no notice of the museum in Corfe Castle's Goods Shed. It's part of the furniture and we take it for granted, but it's worth another look as there have been many changes in recent months.



As a matter of interest, the Goods Shed itself is a museum piece, being one of the last London and South Western Railway small sheds, having canopies on both sides and a track outside, rather than the wagons having a track inside, like at Swanage.



Now that the photo display and cinema coach has been moved to make way for the T3 outside, the trackside loading doors are now open to give an impression of how vans were accessed for loading and unloading.

Heather Denning is busy doing the dusting, a job not helped by the open door!



Visitors can now enter or leave the shed via the cinema coach, seen here.



Inside the shed, many of the exhibits are now in illuminated display cases, making Heather's dusting job a little easier, and better for the visitor to view.



We even have a Clayton's Fogging Machine, which has nothing to do with the theatre, but is a device which permits a signalman to place a warning detonator on the track in fog conditions, without having to leave his box.

You can find out all about it, and many other things, in the museum.



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Also at Corfe, the Heritage Coach group is making progress with the Maunsell coach in siding 2. You will remember that this coach had an external overhaul by Ramparts at Derby, and is being internally fitted out by ourselves.

In the picture on the next page, how many does it take to put up a cover strip in the ceiling? Clearly three, as shown by Paul Simons, Nigel Benning and Paul Kingston on 12th September.



Further down the coach, Mark Humphries does a trial fit of a new side panel,



while, in the Bulleid coach workshop, Clive Toombs concentrates on some precision work with a paint brush.

If this sort of thing takes your fancy, they are usually there on Tuesdays and Sundays.

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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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