



# Swanning Around

## A Look At What's Happening Around The Swanage Railway

Issue 78 – September 27<sup>th</sup> 2021

Last time, we suggested that certain words had lost their accepted meaning when used in the context of heritage railways, but this time, we can show that this trend has been bucked by the return to service of *Eddystone*. You may recall that *Eddystone* was withdrawn from service on 24<sup>th</sup> August with a crack in the bogie frame which, if left, could have resulted in a serious situation. The crack was given a temporary repair to enable the loco to be used for cab visits at the Roads to Rail event.

Unlike the 'imminent' for *257 Squadron* and *Manston* which turned out to be something less than totally factual, we can now say that *Eddystone's* return to service really was 'soon' and almost 'three weeks' when the bogies were swapped and the loco was back in service a couple of days later!

On 15<sup>th</sup> September, *Eddystone* was towed to Norden for the crane lift, and is seen here stopping at Herston to collect a brake van to be used for the return journey. Guard Tim Marshall is on the ground directing driver Peter Frost with the diesel shunter 08 436 (off picture) which was tasked with the job.



Picture: Gary Packer





*Eddystone* has been parted from its tender and the front end lifted to release the bogie. Steam Superintendent Graham Froud , fitter Chris Birmingham and Southern Locos fitter Bailey England manually push the bogie to the other end of the Arne Road siding and push the bogie from 3407 *Wadebridge* back underneath.





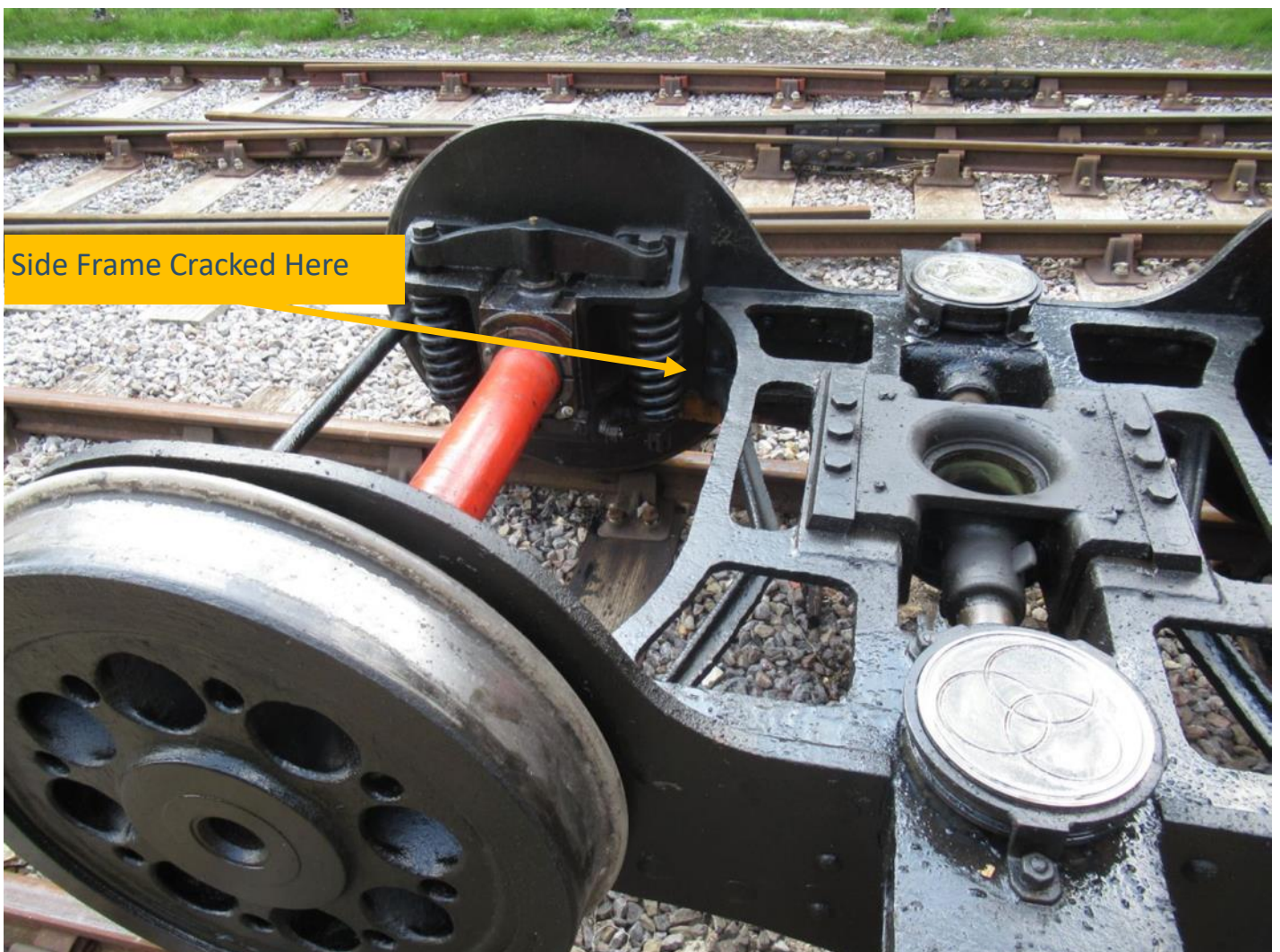
Replacement bogie now underneath awaiting the loco to be lowered.

Below, *Eddystone's* bogie showing where the crack is.

Had the frame been allowed to crack fully top to bottom, the rear nearside wheel would have had a mind of its own with some serious consequences!



Full marks for the LC&W fitters' inspection procedures!





10<sup>th</sup>—12<sup>th</sup> September was the Classic Transport Rally held on the field at Harmans Cross. As usual, a great show put on by the Bournemouth and Poole Preservation Club, well worth the entry fee, with all surplus going to the Swanage Railway.

U class 31806 and Class 33 diesel 33 111 on the service trains for the day, with another outing for the class 117 DMU covering the evening services. A good weekend all round!







On 21<sup>st</sup> September, we said goodbye to the BR standard class 2 2-6-0 no. 78018 as it was loaded to be transported back home to Loughborough. It has been a stalwart helping out with our summer services, but the owners wanted it back!

Driver Paul McDonald pushes up with 33 111 while Ben Dolman and LC&W manager James Cox part the loco from its tender.

Meanwhile, S A Smith transporter driver Gareth Buscombe and Rob Teahan assemble the loading ramp. Gareth has just recently been upgraded to Fireman Passed for Driving at the Swanage Railway. Congratulations!







Another T3 Times for supporters of the project has been published for September, the picture below appears in it showing the inside of the Flour Mill works with not only the boiler, but also the frames inside for further work, including fitting the valve gear to the frames. All this is very encouraging, but still more funds are required to ensure the pace of work can be kept up.

As usual, Swanning Around invites you to become a supporter.

Visit the 563 Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SRT563LG/>

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

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

Or to join the tender club go to [www.563locomotivegroup.co.uk/t3tender-club/](http://www.563locomotivegroup.co.uk/t3tender-club/)





Back in December 2019, Dr Mike Walshaw, designer of the token block signalling system between Norden Gates and the main line at Wareham, collected the associated National Heritage Railway Award from HRH The Princess Royal.

On 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021, he was at Norden Gates crossing box for the plaque unveiling ceremony.

Below, Mike is showing National Heritage Railway Awards Chairman Theo Steel how it works.



Left to right below, Swanage Railway Chairman Gavin Johns, Wareham project manager Frank Roberts, Theo Steel, Mike Walshaw, and NHRA's Robert Haywood and Malcolm Wood.

All photos; Andrew P M Wright







A volunteer and staff barbecue was held on both 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> September, well patronised on both evenings. How lucky were we with the weather on both occasions! On both evenings, a few words were said by the organiser Jonathan Evans, and more words of thanks from our Chairman Gavin Johns. Thanks are also due from us, of course, to the catering team for providing the food and drinks.

Above, Jonathan and Gavin give us some words, while, below, Adam Trott spent the evening slaving over a hot barbecue.

This was the first time the refurbished interior of the Buffet coach has been used for anything like this owing to the pandemic.





Volunteers come and go, which is why we are always trying to recruit more. Usually, the comings and goings do so without ceremony. It's not like volunteers have to give any notice!

It's unusual to have leaving do's for such people, and not something seen often in Swanning Around, but we have had such do's for long-standing volunteers in two issues running, with this one.

On 13<sup>th</sup> September, a retirement presentation was made to Leading Porter Bryan Stanley, who has been with us for 25 years. He was presented with an Andrew P M Wright framed picture at the Castle Inn in Corfe Castle, by friends and colleagues from Corfe station.

Those present, front right to left, Station Master Peter Brice, Bryan Stanley, Patricia Stanley, Maureen Edmundson, David Moore, Peter Parascandolo, with David Scott, Geoff Rolf, John Neweth, Keith Fullbrook and Tony Cooper behind.

Photo by Deb Fullbrook



Needless to say, Jonathan Evans, our Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Officer, would love to hear from you with a view to showing how you can help yourself by helping the railway. See the end page of this newsletter for contact details.



As a follow-on from The Roads to Rail event, we can see what some of our people do in their spare time.

Steam Superintendent and Herston Works manager Graham Froud poses with his Fowler road roller, and a couple of friends. No prizes for guessing who was responsible for organising the non-railway steam attendance.

Below is Gareth Buscombe with his Burrell road roller.

As we noted on a previous page, Gareth is a Swanage Railway Passed Fireman, and also drives a rail vehicle transporter for SA Smith. Not sure if he spends more time at the railway on the footplate or with the lorry!



Picture: anaon







Just a reminder to go to the Swanage Railway web site at

<https://www.swanagerailway.co.uk/events>

For details of Steam and Lights and Christmas Luncheon trains.





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](mailto:iwanttovolunteer@swanagerailway.co.uk) or by calling 01929 408466 to contact Jonathan Evans, our Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Officer.

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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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Compiled and edited by John Denison

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