



Swanning Around

A Look At What's Happening Around The Swanage Railway

Issue **100** – July 31st 2023

WooHoo! It's the 100th issue of Swanning Around. Who'd have thought?

So for this special issue, it's the usual mish-mash of happenings and people that is normal for Swanning Around, but lots more of it. It's a mega-issue! And taking a mega-time to prepare, hence it's later than usual. Again, this content will not cover everything that is going on, but there are more faces in this issue. It's always difficult to be everywhere at all times, and if anyone feels missed out, you know where to send your pictures and script (see the last page of this issue). Having made a special effort to find material for this issue, we find we have to hold much of it over to the next issue to avoid this one becoming a behemoth!

There have been so many good things happening in July that it's difficult to know where to start, but the steam testing of T3 no. 563 must be right up there.



Also in this issue, we're on the telly! Yes, Swanage Railway features in episode two of the Channel 5 documentary "*Dorset: Country and Coast*". More on that later.

Some more coaches for the 4TC Group and a refreshed BSOB arrive at the railway.

We have an entry in the Swanage carnival procession, and this time, more pictures of what makes the Swanage Railway work—the people!

But first, let's have another look at progress with the continuing restoration of the T3 no. 563 to operating condition.

The loco has now passed its steam test at the Flour Mill Workshop, and has moved under its own power for the first time in many years. Don't just read about it here, go to the YouTube presentation with Nathan Au to see it in action! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hX7lhfUS4gg>

There's short update by Will Sheret in *SITREP!* on page 10.

Photo: Nathan Au





Meanwhile, in Herston Works, the tender is acquiring its finishing paintwork.

On 27th July, Peter Pickering is painting the tender flares, while on 2nd August, signwriter Phil Anderson was in the Works to complete the lining and lettering.

The wheels are also being painted and lined separately before installation under the tender.



Photo: Andrew P M Wright



How's the Wareham trial service doing? Swanning Around is leaving it to the Company management to provide comments in *SITREP*! Which starts on page 7.

Meanwhile, we find the train crew at Corfe Castle on 26th July consisting of (l to r) Swanage Railway driver Steve Dyer, West Coast Railways driver Chris Yates, West Coast guard Mel Cox, signalman Steve Jenkins.

Travelling ticket inspector Bill Barrett is on duty on the same day.





The Wareham service guard on 26th July is David Bullock, while Clare Collins is trainee guard on the Swanage—Norden service with guard Paul Simons.





Still on 26th July, the station team has porters (l to r) Kevin Callaghan, Julian Poole and Geoff Rolfe, with ticket office clerk Maureen Edmundson, as *Eddystone* rolls in with driver Jonathan Cooper and cleaner Aidan Wright photo bombing.

In the demonstration signal box is Richard May, showing some visitors how our signalling works.



SITREP! (01 Aug 23)

This Situation Report is an update of general information focusing on current Railway news & future events. If you have any material that you would like included, feedback or suggestions, please email:

frank.roberts@swanagerailway.co.uk

Forecast of Main Events

Sat 05 Aug **Swanage Carnival Firework Specials** (Fireworks 2145-2200hrs)

Special fares: Adults £5.00, Children £2.50, Dogs £3.00, Children under 5 free.

Thu 10 Aug **Cambridge (University) Hands-on Science Roadshow**; Undergraduate Science Roadshow at Swanage station 1100-1600hrs. See Poster below. **FREE**

Fri 01 Sep - **PS Waverley (Visit commences)**

Wed 20 Sep **The world's last ocean-going paddle steamer.**

[2023 Timetables \(waverleyexcursions.co.uk\)](http://waverleyexcursions.co.uk)

Sun 02 Sep **Cream Teas.** 'Devon Belle' Pullman Observation Car (Car 14)

Service continues, after the summer break, from 02 Sep

Fri 08 Sep **Classic and Steam Vehicle Show.** Bournemouth & Poole Preservation Club

Sun 10 Sep Next to Harmans Cross Station

Sat 09 Sep **Final Wareham Service** (final day of the second trial of 90 days)

Sat 16 Sep **Fish & Chip Specials. Join us and Fox & Edwards Events for a steam train journey**

Sun 17 Sep **with a difference - a fish and chips meal to enjoy! Round trip from Norden**

Mon 25 Sep **Taster Driving Experience.** All dates from 25 Sep-20 Oct. **SOLD OUT!**

See: [Events & Experiences - Swanage Railway](#)

Increasing Our Revenue.

Can you help raise the profile of the Swanage Railway amongst your family and friends, on Facebook or across local community groups that you are a member of?

Please encourage others to visit the main Swanage Railway website and encourage potential visitors to subscribe to receive 'Regular News & Updates' from Passenger Services— see the green strap-line at bottom of most pages on the main Swanage Railway website.

Opening Remarks - Trevor Parsons (Company Chairman)

On Friday 14th July tickets went on sale for the Polar Express event which takes place on our trains from the middle of November up to Christmas. On board each train will be actors appearing as characters from the book and film of The Polar Express. There will be singing and dancing on a trip to the North Pole. Please see full details on our Website.

The Wareham service continues to run as planned but with continued frustrations with the lack of information on display boards at Wareham. Passenger numbers are running at about what we expected not helped by continuing days of strike action on the mainline.

Our Heritage service passenger numbers were in line with our forecast in June totalling 18,566. The timetable we have been using has, in the main, worked well. From the success of our "Kids for a Quid" promotion earlier in the year we are running through the peak holiday season from late July until the first week in September.

THE POLAR EXPRESS

Train Ride

CASTING CALL

THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride is coming to Swanage Railway!

This Multi Award-winning experience is officially licensed with
Rail Events Incorporated and Warner Bros.

Casting is underway for this spectacular Live Experience which will
run through November & December, with auditions taking place at
the end of August.

We are looking for singing & dancing Chefs, Stewards, Hobo, Hero
Boy, Elves, The Conductor & of course Santa! All roles paid.

Come and be part of the magic!

EMAIL - info@fusedevents.co.uk

Please state the role you are applying for, along with a recent headshot and brief
outline of any relevant experience.



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CROSSTOWN
CONCERTS

SWANAGE
RAILWAY



Train equipment and event elements vary by location. Inquire at your local venue for full details.
THE POLAR EXPRESS and all related characters and elements © & ™ Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. WB SHIELD: TM & © WBEE (s23)

Railway Vacancies

We continue to seek high quality volunteer applicants for some of our more significant governance roles. In particular:

Volunteers to become Trustees of the Swanage Railway Trust. Applicants must be members of the Swanage Railway Trust. Completed nomination forms for election need to be with the Returning Officer by the end of Wed 16 Aug 23.

Directors for the Company Board especially covering Finance, Commercial and portfolios

A Chief Executive Officer for the operating Railway Company

Secretaries for both the Trust & the Company

Paid fundraiser for the Swanage Railway Trust

If you have skills that would enable you to carry out one of these roles and want to work with others in a team, please consider an application. Further, more formal advertising will be taking place for some of the roles.

iwanttovolunteer@swanagerailway.co.uk

Our lovely carriages – An update from Pete Short

Way back in 1978 supporters of the infant Swanage railway purchased and restored Bulleid brake carriage 4365 and as at that stage, it was the only carriage, it handled all the initial services that ran just a few hundred yards from Northbrook Road bridge. It could be argued that 4365 probably saved the railway, as the fare income just about enabled the railway to stay afloat in that first year of services.

Subsequently, the railway's supporters, with great forethought, brought further Southern carriages to the railway. The carriages we now have tell an important story.

The two carriages currently in regular service are our two Maunsell open saloons built in the early 1930s. They had both been withdrawn in late 1961 and instead of being scrapped they were stripped internally and converted to departmental vehicles. All the missing parts were sourced and both 1346 and 1381 have been restored to near original condition. With their brass fittings, drop down windows, comfy seats, leather door straps, period lavatory and many other features nearly all our passengers realise they are travelling in something different. They are of course sitting in the environment of the carriage for much longer than they view the loco up front when they get on and off. Speaking to some of them tells us that these carriages add significantly to the heritage experience they are paying a lot of money for. Satisfied passengers can only be good for the railway.

As these two were built while most of the T3s were still in service, they may have been hauled by the soon to be operational 563. All our other locomotive classes would also have hauled these two on a fairly regular basis.

But we don't only have these carriages. We have an unrivalled matching selection of Bulleid carriages, all built in 1947. Both 4365 and composite 5761 have been restored, but currently both are awaiting door repairs and a repaint and we have yet another Bulleid brake, 4366, under restoration. We plan to restore 4366 with an improved guard's compartment and an accessible compartment and we still need more funds to complete this carriage. 5761 was bought straight out of BR service in 1968 and it moved to Swanage in 1980. 4365 and 4366 formed the brake ends of set 298 and were withdrawn in 1966, sold for scrap and sent to Long Marston. However, the MOD had a large site next door to the scrapyard and they wanted some carriages to replace some life expired examples and as 4365 and 4366 were in good condition, they did a swap. 4365 eventually ended up at COD Bicester and 4366 was withdrawn from CAD Kineton a few years later. After 4365 was purchased it was realised that 4366 still existed and as a result, a project was set up to quietly raise funds to buy it when it became available. Thus 'project X' enabled the purchase of our second Bulleid brake. We were now in a position to form a Bulleid 3 car rake to emulate how many of the Southern carriages worked, having two consecutively numbered brakes and a composite of the same type. So we are not preserving just a carriage, but a system of operation, an important aspect of the Trust's educational raison d'être. It is also unique in preservation.

Bulleid carriages were in some ways a model for the Mark 1 carriages in that their dimensions and a few other parts were similar. However the look of the Bulleids is different in that they are in many respects ways a half way house between the ornate Maunsell carriages and the BR Mark 1s. The fittings such as luggage racks and light fittings are in chrome plated brass, the interiors are all varnished wood panels and mouldings with pictures and mirrors. The doors are clearly different and the top lights line up with the sliding ventilators to give a pleasing external effect. We have heard comments such as 'is this first class?' as they have an older more ornate style. The compartments in particular are very popular and the 3 car set will have 11 and there are still 64 seats in open saloon.



Maunsell open saloon S1346S – first day back in service

T3 Locomotive – An update by Will Sheret

563's steam test was undertaken on the 12th July, at the Flour Mill, Following the test, the boiler is now signed off for 175 psi, bringing 563's return ever closer. After the test was completed, 563 was also able to make her first tentative moves under her own steam, what an achievement!

Credit must go the Flour Mill staff and you, our supporters, for making this possible.

Following our appeal for funds in June, with the help of some match funding and some generous donations we were successfully £40,000. There's now only £8000 left to complete 563!

563 is now tantalisingly close to completion, with our signwriter Phil Anderson working on the lining and lettering for the tender this week (30th July), it is hoped the locomotive will return to the railway in late August.

Any contribution will be greatly appreciated and help give the project its fairy-tale ending!
william.sheret@swanagerailway.co.uk



Swanage Railway is collecting passenger numbers & data – An update from Ben Dolman

Just a quick one to let you all know, the first part of the 'passenger numbers' data collected by the data collectors is now published on HOPS under Community > General Documentation > Data Collection - Passenger Numbers. Thank you to those of you that have helped with the collection of this data so far.

If you would like to get involved and help with collecting further data, please see the data collection roster on HOPS and volunteer for any turns you would like to do. As always, any help is appreciated.

If you have any questions please email Robert on robert.craine@icloud.com

Fundraiser

Plans to recruit a joint 50/50 fundraiser, with Swanage Pier, are well advanced. This new paid position will be advertised shortly.



Minutes of Meetings

The minutes from both Company Board and Swanage Railway Trust CoM meetings are published in the members area of the Swanage Railway Trust website. Access to the Members Area is restricted to SRT members only. This is a password protected site, the current password can be obtained from membership@swanagerailway.co.uk or by calling 01929 475202, leaving your name, membership number and contact number. Please note the office is not staffed daily.

[HOME](#) | [Swanage Railway Trust](#) | [The People Behind the Swanage Railway, Dorset, UK](#)

POLAR EXPRESS - BOOKINGS NOW OPEN

Service provided by Fused Events and Crosstown Concerts not the Swanage Railway.

Swanage Railway does not take nor administer bookings, Swanage Railway gift cards, memberships, Season Tickets or promotional vouchers cannot be used against this product.

PLEASE NOTE: Swanage Railway does not have access to the booking system for this event, please email ticketing@crosstownconcerts.com for all enquiries.

CHAMPAGNE CREAM TEAS ON THE DEVON BELLE – An update from Robert Patterson

As many of you will have observed our railway has been offering a new catering opportunity in June and July with the champagne cream teas. This was derived from the need to offer a 'high end' catering alternative to customers with the cessation of the Wessex Belle. We had observed that similar cream tea catering had sold out with Flying Scotsman and Marcus Aldrich our former Commercial Director put forward a business case to the Board back in late autumn 2023.

We started operations in June this year and after the service gained a momentum, we were effectively sold out for the Sundays we ran in July, offering two trips each afternoon. Our 'cascade' service into one of the Maunsell coaches also started to gain a similar momentum by the end of operations.

Customers are offered three sandwiches and a selection of cakes and scones together with champagne and finishing with tea or coffee. All served with a silver 'Pullman' service and for £69. With a sell-out capacity on the Belle we were grossing over £3000 in income each Sunday, not including sales of branded souvenirs to passengers.

As those of you who were around on Sundays may have noticed the passengers got into the spirit of the service and came in their Sunday best (well most did!). The reviews we have received on trip advisor and social media have been incredibly positive. As always for these operations we were well into the swing of things by the time it came to a close in mid-July.

The advantages of such a service are that we can operate a premium product with premium fares twice a day. The service is less costly to run in all ways, but particularly staffing and volunteer input and that there is not the need to run a dedicated separate train like the Wessex Belle. It is also great fun to work on!



Top Service on Sunday 9th July 2023 (Photos by Andrew PM Wright)

Swanage Railway Trust – Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Trust will be held on the afternoon Saturday 14th October – details will be sent to SRT members in due course.

Swanage Railway Contact Details

Operations (Responsible Officer): 07946 353921 *1

Emergency & Out of Hours: (01929) 422211 *2

Main SR office number: (01929) 425800 (1000-1600hrs)

email address: info@swanagerailway

*1 A pool mobile phone used by the senior railway operator on duty when trains are running.

*2 The emergency contact number displayed on public notices, in particular on bridges, structure & level crossings. Each notice describes the location of the particular asset. Telephone is located in Swanage Signalbox and is diverted to a senior manager, providing 24/7 cover, when the box is closed.

British Transport Police do not have jurisdiction on Swanage Railway assets between Worgret Farm (west of Wareham) and Swanage Station. For mainline railway assets see Network Rail.

Frank Roberts
01 Aug 23



**GET HANDS-ON
WITH SCIENCE AT
SWANAGE
RAILWAY!**

Have you ever wondered what sound looks like,
how a rocket works, or what's inside your body?

Cambridge Hands-On Science (CHaOS) is touring
the UK this summer, with a team of friendly
Cambridge students and hands-on experiments
to answer these questions and many more!

Join us for a **FREE** day of
family-friendly fun at
Swanage Station
on **Thursday 10th August**,
from **11am - 4pm**.



**SWANAGE
RAILWAY**

✉ contact@chaossience.org.uk
📷 [cambridgehandsonscience](https://www.instagram.com/cambridgehandsonscience)
🌐 [chaossience.org.uk](https://www.chaossience.org.uk)
📘 @chaossience



Our resident mainline-certified class 33 D6515 *Lt Jenny Lewis RN* has been swanning around elsewhere in July, at the Mid Hants Railway diesel gala. Having collected the London Transport 4TC unit from Eastleigh on the way, the loco is seen rubbing shoulders with main line trains at Alton, and below at Alresford.

Check out the Mid Hants diesel gala on YouTube for some D6515 action.

These pictures are stills from a couple of those videos (credit MCT Trains and Anthony Furnival)





Telecomms section generally only shows up on Thursdays and can be difficult to track them down for inclusion in Swanning Around, but the extra effort was made for this issue and we found them! Twice!

On 27th July, they are testing and checking the Signal and Telegraph telephone system between Swanage and Norden.

Geoff Trim, Graham Holliday, and Ray Barber are checking the cabinet adjacent to the inner home signal at Swanage, and later we came across them checking the phones in the Norden level crossing cabin, with crossing keeper Steve Earwicker.





On the platform at Norden on 27th July are porters Jo Guess and Chris Frost, with trainee Dave Gordon (centre) keeping the customers amused while waiting for the next train.

On 1st August, Mike Brown and Bob McGaw are trying to tell us that they have been doing some gardening at Norden. Norden station is another part of the railway that could do with some more volunteers to keep the place looking highly presentable, as the station at which many of our travellers start their journeys. No skills required. Get in touch if you would like to join the team.





Friday is crane gang day, and 28th July was no exception, but to find them, we have had to search behind their vans at Norden. Here they are working in a sylvan setting (check that in your dictionary!) behind Lakeside Siding, on various maintenance jobs.

Apart from their de facto leader and S & T technician Fraser White in the front of this picture above, others in attendance are Dave Edbrook, Dave Brooks, Ray Merchant, Keith Bowers, and John Wight.





To fill the pages of this mega edition, Swanning Around has been in pursuit of anyone in orange, and on 26th July we found S & T volunteers at Corfe Castle maintaining the location cabinet by School Crossing. It's not only the cabinet contents that get looked after!

In attendance with scrapers and brushes are Terry Dredge, Robin Sowter, and Marco Ailano.

On 27th July, Estates Department volunteers were found at Swanage. John Piper, with steps, has been around measuring up for a replacement porch at the front of Station House, while David Parkinson has been painting the side porch in the background of this picture.





The Permanent Way team is up and about before most of us, and as seen here on the Swanage signal box web cam, they have possession of the line before the train service starts so they can carry out ballast packing under the points. Ken Orchard, Billy Johnson, Jim Cartwright, and Adam Woodman at least have the use of power tools to make the job a little easier.

On 7th July, Jim Cartwright and Mel Smith are doing the weekly track walk checking for any faults. No prizes for guessing where they are!





A fault has been found near Swanage signal box, so Adam Woodman and Jim Cartwright have taken a temporary possession to replace two fishplate bolts. They wouldn't undo so Adam is showing them the disc cutter on 27th July. A ten minute job carried out without delaying any trains.

P'Way manager Ken Orchard is at the other end of the platform noting the sleeper replacements that are needed, which will require the track to be lifted, so will be done in the shutdown next January.





It's the 9th July, the 56th anniversary of the end of steam haulage on the Southern Region of British Railways, hence the headboard on *Manston*.

On the train there is some catering going on.

Above, Car 14 steward Robert Patterson brings the cakes for the Champagne Afternoon Tea in the Devon Belle Observation Car.

In the Maunsell coach, Clare Collins (didn't we see her elsewhere in this issue?) serves a Cream Tea.



Both photos: Andrew P M Wright

We always have people in training in Swanning Around, so here's two more trainee guards on 9th July.

Trainee Ben Ford is with guard Graham Cope on the early shift.

And Adam Woodman (him again!) is in training with guard Tim Marshall on the late shift, with driver Bryan Hardwick photobombing!

Both Photos: Andrew P M Wright



Photo: Andrew P M Wright



Let's not miss out the rest of the train crew on 9th July. Everyone else is in SA!

Fireman Will Sheret and cleaner Cameron Sweetenham are with *Manston* at Swanage.

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At Harmans Cross on 19th July are John Williams from Passenger Services, porters Peter and Heather Foster, and trainee porter Jack Venables.

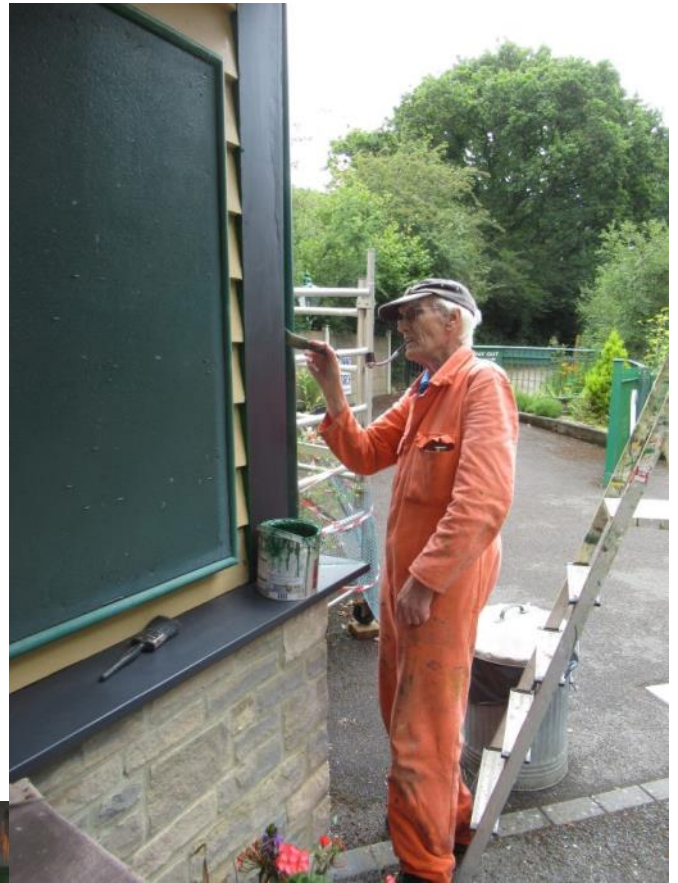




The station support team were also at work, with Jeff Gregory watering the plants, and Terry and Judy Tovey are doing some heavier duty gardening.



Mike Ellis is painting the station building



Michael O'Neill is painting a gate

And Bob Bunyar is painting a sack barrow.

Paint must be a significant Swanage Railway budget item!





Opening our catering outlets has been a bit variable recently owing to shortage of volunteers. When local competing establishments are finding it difficult to recruit paid positions, you can understand our difficulty in finding volunteers.

So, if you are interested in helping the Railway by volunteering in catering, or anything else for that matter, please get in touch.

Above, John Trott and catering manager Adam Trott are in the Swanage station kiosk doing the right thing by serving teas for the train crew to Martin Smith, second man on the diesel service on 28th July.

Below, Cathy Bennett is in the Norden station kiosk on 27th July.





Photo: Ben Dolman

The 4TC Group has recently acquired two more driving trailers, numbers 76301 and 76302. These were previously in use as the Carriages Tea Room at the Bellingham Heritage Centre at the disused railway station in Northumberland.

On 31st July, 76301 has arrived at Norden, and is alongside class 33 D6515 whilst involved in a shunt at Woodpecker siding. 76302 will be arriving at a later date.

Below, 76302 and 76301 are shown in their previous life at Bellingham.



Photo: from internet.



Watch the coaches in their original condition being delivered and installed at Bellingham in 2011 on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpculBA558o> and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6DLz2NDb2NA>

They were previously saved from the scrapyard by the Dartmoor Railway at Okehampton.

The shunt at Woodpecker siding with 76301 still attached to 33 111 was to extricate a bogie bolster wagon, for onward transport to the Didcot Railway Centre.





Our BSOB (Brake Second Open Buffet) carriage S9015 has had a makeover at Ramparts in Derbyshire, and returned to us on 17th July. Seen above on 6th August in the diesel-hauled B set, the overhauled vehicle looks like new again, but some significant updates have been implemented.

Below is a not so good picture of the same carriage from several years ago. There are three noticeable differences. Can you spot them? You'll have to give yourself an award if you get all three - Swanning Around has no budget for prizes! (or anything else!)





The rather bland luggage space in S9015 has been transformed into a very passenger-friendly area with space for wheelchair users and seating for their companions/carers. The additional windows in the doors (did you spot them on the previous page?) help make the space light and airy, with the new panelling the final move away from being just a utility area.

The other changes you should have spotted on the previous page are the Commonwealth bogies replacing the original BR1 bogies and the red stripe above the buffet end.





Although Swanning Around presently doesn't have access to current train loadings, it's pleasing to see queues at Swanage, particularly for tickets. On this day, 1st August, they are queueing for tickets in Swanage Booking Hall, and below, queueing for access to the footplate of *Eddystone*.

With the current timetables allowing some slack time at termini, we can do a bit of public relations while we wait!

On this day, at least two services were loaded to standing room only.





The Swanage Carnival procession took place on Sunday 30th July. We believe it is the first time for over 30 years that the Swanage Railway has entered an exhibit into the procession. Most years we have had a fixed exhibit on the procession route—Swanage Station!

Thanks to Derek Pattenson for organising a walking float at short notice, a number of members turned out as seen in these pictures. Without naming them all, you know who you are, organiser Derek is behind Janet Smith in the lower picture, with Alan Smith also in the front. We've seen those two before, at the Heritage Carriage Group stand at the Roads to Rail event in June. Well done everybody!



Herston 'Community' Halt

Whilst Herston Halt is the smallest station on the Railway, it still needs to receive its regular dose of 'Tender Loving Care', and there is certainly lots to do. Prior to the Pandemic our regular attendees had dropped to only three, including Peter and Carol Wright, who have tended our gardens for 20 years. Whilst we were allowed back to the station in 2020, there were no stopping trains until the following year.

We took the opportunity to install new signage, address some platform maintenance and fencing issues and installed the new (Royal Signals) Centenary Garden. We have continued to cut back trees, tend the gardens and strim the grass. The access near the Scenery Van has be radically changed (and I still "almost finished"), new fencing has been installed together with a wild flower meadow. Oh, and the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Pond was formally opened in July 2022. This year passengers started to receive audio announcements on the platform.

Our stores container has had substantial work, there is a new staff toilet, and even more rainwater is collected for use. We have lots of timber and 40L of posh paint ready for the Scenery Van refurbishment, new underground cable duct (pipes) ready for electric and CCTV improvements and we'd like to extend "Mercury Siding" too – all we need is you! Please come along and join Herston 'Community' Halt. On a very good day we now have a dozen volunteers - and long lists of jobs to complete.

Frank.roberts@swanagerailway.co.uk



Our own 'Chuckle Brothers' (Colin & Andrew)



Meet most of the team!



The Pond opening in July 2022

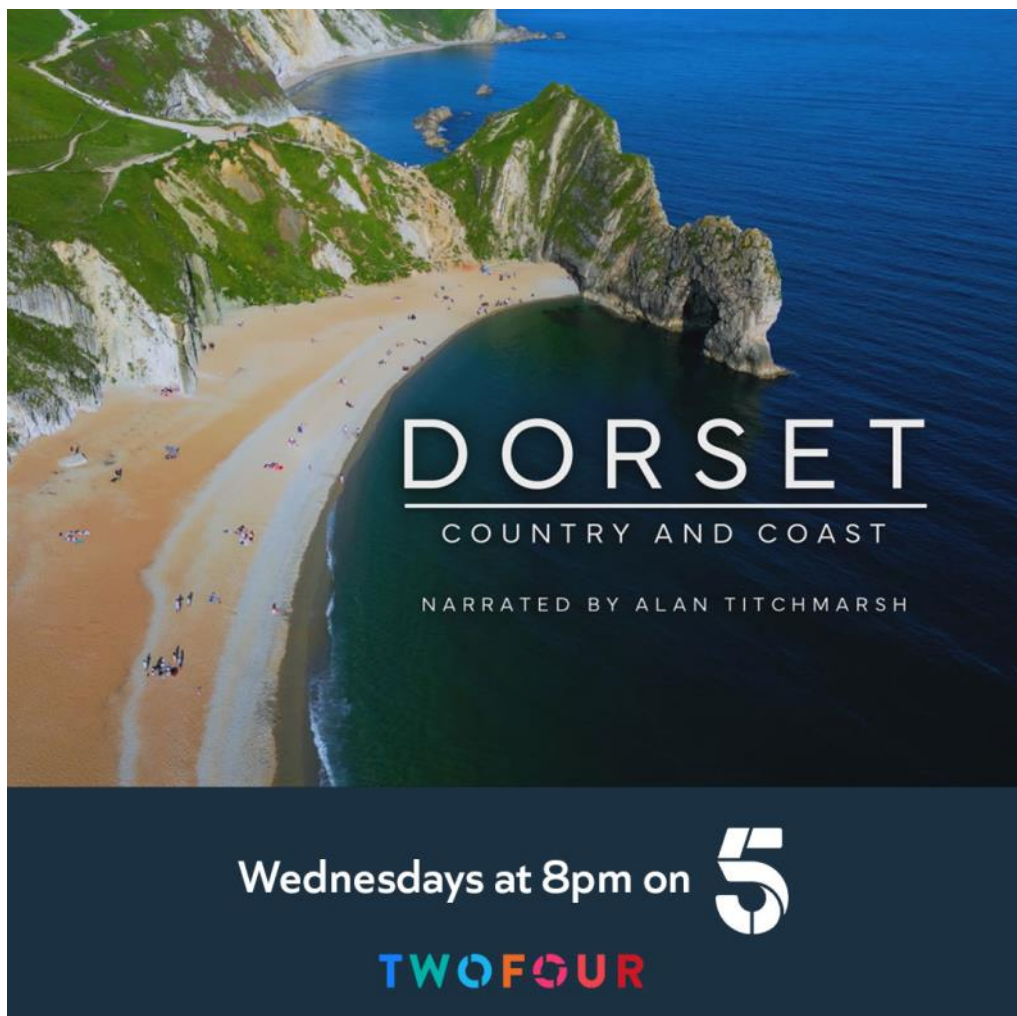


"One day" our stores will be finished!

Swanage Railway and the Purbeck Mining Museum are featured in a channel 5 programme
“Dorset: Country and Coast”

To quote the producers:

'Dorset: Country and Coast' is a six-part jaunt around this charming part of southwest England. Narrated by Alan Titchmarsh, we take a stroll through rolling countryside, visit charming sea-side towns and marvel at the dramatic Jurassic coast. We explore Dorset's most iconic sites, uncover lesser-known hidden gems, and examine daily Dorset life through a variety of perspectives, meeting the people of Dorset, from locals to holidaymakers and farmers to wildlife conservationists, and immerse ourselves in the sights, sounds and tastes of the region. 'Dorset' is an indulgent, immersive dive into a truly wonderful county.



Now, we were in Episode Two which went out on 2nd August. But don't despair! You can catch the repeat at 18.00 on Sunday 6th August or +1 at 19.00.

Alternatively, there's always 5 on demand (My5) at

<https://www.channel5.com/show/dorset-country-and-coast>



When you tune in to Channel 5, you're going to see fireman Russ Ferrett along with driver Stuart Cotton on the U class 31806, and guard Paul Simons, plus many others, and there is a couple of the original clay mine workers telling us about clay mining in Purbeck. Don't miss it!

No expense spared with top quality photos of my tv! - Ed.



Two of the Bulleid—designed carriages looked after by the Heritage Carriages Group have been in service on the railway, and of these, S5761S in the picture below has been receiving some maintenance by the group.

Here, Gary Jones is cutting some new beading for the toilet.

Photo: Pete Short



S5761S at Corfe Castle. It's a CK Composite Corridor and its First Class accommodation really is!

The other Bulleid carriage in service is S4365S, and its twin S4366S is being prepared for transport to contractors Ramparts for structural repairs. Here, David Shepherd is tying off tarpaulins at its dry(?) storage location.

Photo: Pete Short



More work on S4366S with Ashley Davidson cleaning many years worth of dirt and brake dust from a droplight window glass.

Photo: Pete Short



Graham Taylor is making a new bottom panel for a sliding door for the enlarged guards compartment. (it's not for enlarged guards!)

Photo: Pete Short

Tom Perkins repairs a compartment seat back.

You can keep up to date with the group's activities by checking their Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/swanagerailwayheritagecarriages>

Photo: Pete Short



Let's have a quick look at some Swanage Railway wildlife. No! Not loco crew parties but the birds and beasts of Norden. We were not quick enough to capture a picture of the twenty or so deer crossing the line, without appropriate PPE, but we have the resident swallows and some visiting peacock and peahens.

Here Mrs Swallow waits on the token catcher next to the Norden Gates level crossing while the crossing keeper has the door open. These birds are here every year and must be getting used to the interruptions to their day.

How do we know this is the female swallow? We don't! We made it up in the true tradition of red top journalism!



And here are the little cherubs she is trying to feed in between trains using the crossing.

This is their state of growth on 31st July.





Photo: Mike Walshaw

Here are a peacock and some peahens (if that's what the females are called) outside the level crossing cabin. They are on walkabout from Norden Farm and will find their way home later.

Quite what they find of interest on top of a concrete platelayers hut is a mystery.

Photo: Adam Woodman



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 or by calling 01929 475212 to contact Mike Whitwam, our Volunteer Liaison Officer.

-----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

Email to swanning.around@swanagerailway.co.uk

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