



Swanning Around

A Look At What's Happening Around The Swanage Railway

Issue 87 – July 1st 2022

Plenty happening since the previous issue of Swanning Around, so much so that it has been difficult to sort the pictures from the many available. With the Queen's 70th Platinum Jubilee and the Roads to Rail event, there has been no shortage of coverage in other media, and it's difficult to find something that you may not have seen elsewhere that helps to tell a story.

There may also be some overlap with the new newsletter for volunteers and staff being produced by the Swanage Railway Company, but this should be minimal as Swanning Around primarily is about what has happened, and *On Track On The Swanage* is primarily about what is going to happen, with information more relevant internally to the Swanage Railway.

Enough of that! Let's start with the Platinum Jubilee. Along with many other organisations, the railway put on a show with appropriate decoration, including this outside crown on the platform at Swanage.

Photo: Andrew P M Wright





Train loadings were good over the Jubilee holiday period, witnessed here at Swanage at just after 1 pm on 31st May. It's not usually so busy here at that time of day, and 2022's timetables will normally show a slack period of services at this time, reflecting the low expectation of travelling numbers around lunchtime.

Volunteer signalman Malcolm Munro produced two commemorative headboards for the train services, and here he is modelling with one on 34072 257 Squadron.

Photos: Andrew P M Wright



Page 3 is back!

It has been some time since we had suitable candidates for this display of glamour Swanage Railway style, but how could we miss this one!

Yes, it's

Mucky Man of the Month!

By virtue of his job as a steam fitter, **Rob Tuck** is normally less than perfectly clean, but this occasion couldn't be allowed to pass unrecorded as Rob was literally filthy from the top of his head to the soles of his boots. Having been doing maintenance on engines at Swanage inside the smokebox and firebox, he then came here to Norden to recouple 34028 *Eddystone's* tender after the loco had returned on 14th June from its visit to the Gloucester Warwickshire Railway for their Spring Gala.

Compare the before/after pictures below, with Rob cleaned up, displaying his Series 1 Land Rover at the Roads to Rail event. You can hardly believe those overalls are hi-viz orange!





There was so much going on at The Roads to Rail event over 24th-26th June, that it's not possible to show everything in this newsletter. Having learned a lot from last year's event, the organisers rearranged the content around a central parade area with great success.

Amongst the organising team were the ladies from the finance office who were using their expertise to part visitors from their entrance fee! Vicki Searle and Nicola Watts are dealing with more arrivals.

We can't move past the entrance without mentioning Barry Light, seen below being a steward and holding up a metal barrier. This may be the last time we see him in Swanning Around as he takes up his new job managing the permanent way at the Severn Valley Railway. Good luck, Barry, and thanks for the great job with our own permanent way and infrastructure!





Photo: Andrew P M Wright

The main draw at the Roads to Rail event was the steam engines, of course. Of particular interest was the working steam engine-powered saw bench seen here with 34028 *Eddystone* running round its train at Norden.

More steam engines, little and large, in the parade ring.

Not only steam at the event, but classic tractors and classic cars, stationary engines, dodgems and other fairground rides, plus various vendors, and not forgetting the marquee containing the bar and evening entertainment.

It surely is a 'well done!' to the organising team. You know who you are!



Photo: Charlie Rogers



Also part of the event, a display of Series 1 Land Rovers at the Purbeck Mineral and Mining Museum.

The museum was open for visitors, and the Ruston narrow gauge diesels were out on demonstration runs.

Drivers Peter Sills and Rob Barrett have paused to view *Eddystone* arriving at Norden with a service from Swanage on 26th June.





Photo:
Charlie Rogers

An intensive train service was run for the duration of the event, with all three timetable paths being used, two steam and the diesel unit being rostered.

Above, the late shift crew on *257 Squadron* on Friday 24th June is, left to right, Tim Nobbs (cleaner), Charlie Rogers (passed cleaner) and Gareth Buscombe (passed fireman) .

The diesel service continued late into the evening on the Friday and Saturday, seen here at Norden.

Photo: Andrew P M Wright





The day wouldn't be complete without a visit to the cab of a steam locomotive.

The cab was provided by U class 31806, with a crew available to tell visitors all about it.

Ethan Waller is on duty on 26th June to show people young and old how it all works.

Both photos: Andrew P M Wright





Another picture from Charlie Rogers featuring volunteers on the footplate of 31806. Left to right, Charlie Rogers (passed cleaner), Ethan Waller (cleaner), Sam Smith (cleaner) and Charlie Hale (Mid Hants Railway volunteer who paid us a visit)

Another view, with the dodgems, fairground rides and marquee behind the tractor display.





This was an all day and all evening event, as demonstrated by these fine pictures on the Saturday from Swanage Railway official photographer Andrew P M Wright.

The showmans engine had the opportunity to demonstrate what it was designed to do, providing electricity for fairground rides.





Among the movements in June that didn't involve a steam engine were shunt moves to take Bulleid coach 4365 to Norden for onward transport for storage at Margate, and collection of the Pullman Observation Car 14 which was the return load from storage to Dorset.

As this all happened in the week before Roads to Rail and the shunting neck at Norden was needed for the event, so the opportunity was taken to move the T3's tender parts out of the way .

The shunter 08 436 has the coach 4365 at one end and the tender vehicles on the other, getting ready to shunt the whole lot across the level crossing.

The next day, Car 14 has arrived at Norden on S A Smith's lorry.

Photo: Stuart Magnus





Who's who? Volunteers at work.

Guard James Bosworth is well travelled as he comes from Derby to volunteer with us!

John Coulbert is a member of the Estates team, and also on Saturdays looks after the magazine rack at Norden and acts as the Customer Service representative. Looks like he's trying to flog a mag or two on 25th June!





Train crew on 6th June is driver Jonathan Cooper, fireman Andy Croggon, cleaner Laura Horswill, on U class 31806,

and guard David Dow with trainee guard John Watt making ready to wave the flag.



The crane gang has been busy lately.

On 2nd June, diesel-electric crane No 2 drove across the level crossing at Norden under its own power to facilitate some training sessions.



On 17th June, they are fitting new springs to the crane runner for crane No 1.

Dave Brooks, John Wight, and Keith Bowers struggle to get the new spring into position.

Why spend valuable cash resources on new springs for cranes? Look below– that’s why! Two leaves of the old spring are more rust than metal!





The second of the 563 group's fund-raising videos for the T3 loco. No words needed from us, just go to the YouTube presentation at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ma3cFZ2YCds>

Don't forget you can contribute to the project on the Swanage Railway website [here](#)

Here's 563 Locomotive Group's chairman/person Nathan Au in amongst the wheels on the video.



Our resident class 33 owned by the 71A loco group has been out and about on the national network a lot lately.

In issue 86 we saw D6515 *Lt. Jenny Lewis RN* hauling D4 *Great Gable* back to its home at Butterley after their participation in the Severn Valley Railway's diesel gala. Here D6515 is passing through Oxford on its way back to Dorset on 24th May.

Photo: Graham Wright



On 7th June, D6515 is on its way to the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway's diesel gala, hauling 50 026 from Swanage and 33 202 *Dennis G Robinson* which it collected from the Mid Norfolk Railway. What a contrast between 1960's vintage and the LNER's new Hitachi train at the platform in Lincoln. See the rest of this video by Lincolnshire Trainspotter at



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nggVsgac2mo>

At the KWVR's diesel gala, D6515 is seen double-heading with 33 202 at Damems signal box.

Photo: Richard Jones

Contributions to the cab overhaul costs are still gratefully received at

http://www.71alocogroup.co.uk/71A_donate.htm

Well worth it, don't you think?



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 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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