



Swanning Around

A Look At What's Happening Around The Swanage Railway

Issue 99 – July 2nd 2023

The major happening on the Swanage Railway in June has been the Roads To Rail event on 23rd to 25th, staged at Norden, next to the station. Luckily, the weather has been favourable, and reports are that there has been a greater attendance than last year. This is, of course, reflected in the finances favourably, and that's why we do it!

At the end of July, it's carnival time in Swanage, and we have an appeal to volunteers to take part.

See the SITREP! Pages for this and other news and information from Frank Roberts on behalf of our Trust and Company boards.



Photo: Andrew P M Wright



So what's the 'Roads' and what's the 'Rail'?

The rail bit's easy, there's the station next door and there's *Manston* on display receiving visitors, with plenty of whistle-blowing, here with minders Steven Duncalfe and Cameron Sweetenham providing the steam.

There were plenty of road vehicles, including the steam-powered ones, on display in the field, but one outfit decided a practical demonstration of roadworthiness was in order, and drove to Swanage to the chip shop!

Our own passed fireman Gary Cox blagged a lift and his picture here shows them in Institute Road on Saturday afternoon 24th June. Bet they were popular with the other motorists!





A new entrance this year, keeping the sun off the ladies from the Finance office taking the money. Vicki Searle and Nichola Watts are under cover, while Peter Pickering is ready to point visitors in the right direction.

The large parade ring is centre stage in this picture by the Swanage Railway's official photographer, Andrew P M Wright.



Photo: Andrew P M Wright



On Friday 23rd, Sean Philpot is looking after *Manston*, and ensuring that a young visitor is able to sound the whistle.

At the other end of the field, a display of motor vehicles, cars, lorries, tractors, Land Rovers, even a bus, plus stationary engines and some merchandising. In the middle, a bouncy castle, nearby a fairground ride, and more importantly, the beer and entertainment marquee!





But let's not forget the Swanage Railway departments. Amongst the many stalls vying for your attention, the Swanage Railway Sygnets were represented, with leaders Ben Ford and Jo Guess in attendance. In the front, some unusual boot cleaners available for purchase to support Sygnets funds.

The Heritage Carriage group had a well-filled tent, with Alan and Janet Smith looking after it, with help from Rocko the Jug. Jug? Yes a cross between a Pug and a Jack Russell!





The Museum display looked popular, being looked after by Angela Puddick and Heather Denning.

Swanage Railway stalls offering food and drink and other items. Amanda McDavid is in there somewhere!





Still many people coming and going to the event mid-afternoon on Saturday 24th, and kept waiting by the 14.23 service from Swanage to Wareham crossing the Wytch Farm road.

Parking and camping was in the field on the opposite side from the event field this year.

The West Coast Railways driver is preparing to hand over the single line token for the Corfe to Norden section.

On Friday 23rd, the driver is picking up the token for the Norden to Worgret Junction section from crossing keeper Graham Hale.

Photo: Gary Packer





It's been a good month for the T3 no. 563. You can see for yourselves how the painting is progressing in these two pictures from the 563 group. That London and South Western Railway green shows the loco at its best. Just look at this view in the Flour Mill Workshop!

In June there was a push for £40,000 to complete the loco with a fund-matching pledge from an anonymous donor for donations up to the end of June. You may have missed this opportunity but you can still be part of getting this stunning loco back into service by donating at

<https://www.swanagerrailwaytrust.org/t3-appeal>

This loco needs *you*!





The T3's tender is in Herston Works getting its topcoat.

Photo: 563 Group

On 24th June, a direct descendant of the T3's designer, the locomotive superintendent of the London and South Western Railway William Adams, visited the railway.

Robert and Margaret Adams took a trip on the railway with the 563 Group Chairman Nathan Au, and made their contribution to the project. Just waiting for yours now!

Photo: Andrew P M Wright



SITREP! (01 Jul 23)

Swanning Around is offering a platform for short reports and updates, and I hope a small team will pull these items together for releases of *SITREP!* If you have any material that you would like included, feedback or suggestions, please email: frank.roberts@swanagerailway.co.uk

Forecast of Main Events

Sun 09 Jul **Cream Teas.** 'Devon Belle' Pullman Observation Car (Car 14)
Sun 16 Jul

Sat 29 Jul- **Swanage Carnival.** (Main Parade 1500hrs Sun 30 Jul)
Sat 05 Aug **Theme 'Under the Sea'**

Sat 29 Jul **Swanage Carnival Firework Specials** (Fireworks 2145-2200hrs)
Wed 02 Aug Special fares: Adults £5.00, Children £2.50, Dogs £3.00, Children under 5 free.
Sat 05 Aug

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)

Fri 08 Sep **Classic and Steam Vehicle Show.** Bournemouth & Poole Preservation Club
Sun 10 Sep Next to Harmans Cross Station

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

Tues 26 Sep **Cross Country HST** - hard on their withdrawal from main line service the last ever charter will arrive in Swanage from Leeds. Further details nearer the time.

Mon 02 Oct **Taster Driving Experience.** Sates in Oct **ALL 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 bottom of most pages.

See: [Timetable - Swanage Railway](#)

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Opening Remarks.

A Swanage Railway Company Board meeting was held on Thu 29 Jun and a Swanage Railway Trust 'Council of Management' meeting held on Sat 01 Jul. 23

The audit the 2022 accounts is almost completed, and these will be signed off later this month. A representative from Ward Goodman attended today's CoM meeting and it is clear that managing spending and increasing revenue must be at the top of our considerations – at all levels.

If you can assist the business in any way, please do. This could be by encouraging people you know to visit the railway, our museums, and events. Supporting the train operation or railway departments, tidying up the area where you work, or helping to improve the presentation of railway – it all helps.

Thank you - from Trevor Parsons (Swanage Railway Company Chairman)

Can I please thank everyone involved in putting together and running the Road to Rails event over the three days this last weekend.

It really was a tremendous success, very busy with a real buzz about the area with a continuous running of vehicles and traction engines complete with whistles and smoke which was always associated with the Great Dorset Steam Fair. Thank you.

Can you assist? Swanage Railway is looking for volunteers to assist collecting data.



The Swanage Railway is looking for volunteers to count the number of passengers on our services. This will involve using a clicker and walking up and down the train between stations recording the number of passengers between stations, and then entering the data into a spreadsheet. We are hoping to find volunteers 7 days a week throughout the months of July, August, and September.

For the data collected to be most valuable we really need to count passengers on every train every day. This will give us an accurate data set to write future timetables and maximise the value for money of each train we run. If you are interested, please contact [Robert Craine at Robert.Craine@icloud.com](mailto:Robert.Craine@icloud.com) or alternatively you can volunteer for specific days via the HOPS [Data Collection](#) roster.

Heritage Railway Safety Service

Safety Circular' is run by the Heritage Railway Safety Service, enabling heritage railways to share lessons learned from discoveries, incidents or near-misses, and to highlight transferrable lessons from the main line. Regular safety updates are releases and all Swanage Railway working members of staff are strongly encouraged to read these on HOPS:

16 Jun 23 No 70. Transferable Lessons – **Road Rail Vehicle (RRV) struck worker.**

01 May 23 No. 69. Near Miss - **Fingers in Facing Point Lock (FPL)**

09 Apr 23 No 68. Small air filter **fire on Class 119 DMU**

29 Mar 23 No 67. RAIB Urgent Safety Advice – **Carriage doors**

(Find them and many others at <https://www.hops.org.uk/safetycircular> - Ed.)

Which leads nicely on to.....

What is HOPS?

HOPS, or Heritage Operations Processing System, is a staff management system built specifically for heritage railways.

The project was started in 2009 and now administers over 20,000 staff at **176 heritage centres and museums**. Primarily through the provision of online management tools, HOPS aims to provide best-practice solutions for preserved and heritage railways, museums, and centres to manage staff, operations, and compliance. Virtually all aspects of data processing, recording and ancillary administration relevant to the heritage sector are within the ultimate scope of this system.

We started working with HOPS at the start of 2022 and now have more than 620 staff members on the system. We manage rosters for multiple departments and timetable information as well as using HOPS to track and maintain competency across the organisation.

It being an internet-based system HOPS allows users to access the system from anywhere on any internet-enabled device and its powerful permission system enables us to make sure that everybody sees only the information that their role requires.

HOPS also provides services such as our UK-wide ID card system, bulk-buying consumables and uniform items for sale to heritage railway staff and volunteers in our shop, UK-side Safety Circular system for sharing of lessons learned, and regular online Workshops for subjects such as Safety Management Systems.

All Swanage Railway working staff (paid or volunteer) have access to HOPS – contact your line manager in the first instance. The SR HOPS Administrator is Ben Dolman: ben.dolman@swanagerailway.co.uk

Communications

We will shortly start to prepare a Communications Plan for the Swanage Railway. If you would like to assist with this, or have any ideas, please contact us.

frank.roberts@swanagerailway.co.uk

Minutes of Meetings

The minutes from the Swanage Railway Trust CoM meetings are published in the member's area of the Swanage Railway Trust website and on SR Staff. Access to the Member's Area on the SRT site 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

Swanage Railway Strategic Plan

There were over a dozen responses to the recent consultation of the Strategic Plan, which are being used to revise certain areas before the document is again presented to the Trust's Council of Management.

gavin.johns@swanagerailway.co.uk

Vacancies – Extracted from Swanage Railway News Update (May 2023)

We continue to seek high quality volunteer applicants for some of our more significant governance roles. In particular two Directors for the Company Board covering Governance and Commercial portfolios and Secretaries for both the Trust & the Company to enable succession planning. If you have skills that would enable you to carry out these roles and want to work with others in a team, please consider an application. Further, more formal advertising will be taking place.

iwanttovolunteer@swanagerailway.co.uk

Volunteer Recruitment & Retention Officer

Following a successful selection process, this vacant post will shortly be filled. An announcement will be made shortly.

Fundraiser

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

Swanage Carnival

Swanage Carnival is just a few weeks away. This annual event is a massive part of the life of "our" town... Yet despite Carnival Procession passing right by the station, has the railway ever been involved? (Possibly, in late 70s/early 80s!)

If you would be interested (no commitment at this stage) in taking part in a "walking float" in the 2023 carnival, please let Derek Pattenson know.

You would need to be available between 13:30 and 16:30 on Sunday, July 30th. It is envisaged, as a first entry, simply a mass walk of volunteers and staff in their usual work uniform / clothing, ideally with some "tools of the trade" – so guards, wave your flags; footplate crew, swing your shovel; porters, blow those whistles; catering, bring a teapot! Let's show Swanage the range of roles on the railway, demonstrate we're part of the community, raise some funds for the town's good causes, and – most importantly – have some fun!

It's free to enter a walking float in the Carnival, so this is a zero-cost way to show our presence in the town, for visitors and residents alike. Please contact Derek and let him know your name and email address, and if you've got any additional ideas please share them with me by email derek.pattenson@swanagerailway.co.uk or by text 07761 637223 (Please don't WhatsApp him – he has a "heritage" phone!)

Roads to Rail event.

Many thanks to those who made this event a great success, especially Lorna Lock, Graham Froud and Pat Cattle who led on planning and co-ordinating delivery over the three days. We think the event has now gained momentum and a reputation and will be a staple of our special events in future years.

T3 Locomotive

You may have seen the recent press release regarding this locomotive. There's less than £50,000 left to raise so if you want to see our very own Victorian icon steaming through the Purbeck, please consider donating. Some of the funds we raise will be match funded.

Any contribution will be greatly appreciated and help give the project its fairy-tale ending!

william.sheret@swanagerailway.co.uk

The Wessex Belle

Repairs will shortly be made to replace broken windows, following which tarpaulins will be placed on the carriages whilst a plan for the overhaul of these vehicles is confirmed. This will be quite a project; would you like to be involved?

iwanttovolunteer@swanagerailway.co.uk

Purbeck Mineral & Mining Museum

With its extended opening hours for 2023, the Purbeck Mining Museum at Norden has seen a fourfold increase in both visitor numbers and donations so far this year. Such a tremendous achievement is a real credit to the growing number of volunteers who commit so much time and energy to keep Purbeck's ball clay heritage very much alive. What a fantastic effort! Please encourage visitors to take a moment visit the site. If you'd like to volunteer: iwanttovolunteer@swanagerailway.co.uk

Passenger Announcements at Herston Halt

If all goes to plan, audio announcements for passengers at the Halt will commence on Tue 04 Jul 23.

Notice to Swanage Railway Trust (SRT) Members – Wareham Service

Swanage Railway is now running the second year of the Wareham Heritage Diesel trial service. Member's discount entitlements are as follows:

SRT Premier Life Members: Entitled to FREE travel on the Wareham service.

SRT Lifetime Travel Members: Free travel between Swanage & Norden, public fares applied Norden to Wareham or Vice versa.

SRT Annual Members: 33% Discount on Wareham service.

A reminder that you must have a ticket to travel on all services. Membership cards are not sufficient for travel. (We need to record all trips on the Railway, even free ones!)

Online booking for members is now available via discount codes, the discount codes are available on the members area on the SRT website www.swanagerailwaytrust.org.uk

This is a password protected site, the current password can be obtained from member-ship@swanagerailway.co.uk or by calling 01929 475202, leaving your name, membership number and contact number. Please note the office is not staffed daily.

Frank Roberts
01 Jul 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**.



✉ contact@chaossience.org.uk

📷 [cambridgehandsonscience](https://www.instagram.com/cambridgehandsonscience)

🌐 chaossience.org.uk

📘 @chaossience

What does Wikipedia say about Francis Bourgeois?

British trainspotter, social media personality, model, and author.

He is most known for his lighthearted and humorous videos on the topic of trains, posted to [TikTok](#) and [Instagram](#). As of May 2023, he has over 2.9 million TikTok followers and 1.8 million Instagram followers.

Popular chap!

He visited the Swanage Railway on 27th June and took a ride on the DMU from Wareham. He has produced a short video of his trip, and you don't have to go to Tik Tok or Instagram to see it, it's on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/743155910940762>

Video includes our own porter Peter Maffey at Swanage.





On 16th June, Peter Woodhouse, a Premier Life Member of the Swanage Railway, was bought a driver for a tenner experience on the diesel shunter for his birthday by his assistant Gary Cowling.

What's unusual is that Peter is 100% blind, but Swanage Railway driver Pete Duncalfe handled this with ease, and Peter thoroughly enjoyed his experience driving 08 436 within station limits.

Above, Peter with assistant Gary, and driver Pete behind.

In the cab, Pete takes Peter through the controls ready for his driving experience.



Photo: Gary Cowling

On 26th June, BBC Radio Solent reporter Tristan Pascoe was interviewing Swanage Railway Company chairman Trevor Parsons at Swanage for the BBC Radio Solent breakfast show.

Trevor was talking about the Swanage Railway as part of a wider package on BBC Radio Solent's breakfast show about tourism in Swanage.

Rostered fireman Dave Clayton and cleaner Robert Craine are in the cab preparing U class 31806 for the day's service.

What's signalman and Harman's Cross team volunteer Paul Clements doing on the track? He's re-painting the white line on the platform edge, and is able to do so with trains running as it is the blue timetable with Harmans Cross signal box switched out and the up platform loop locked out of service making it safe for him to work.

Here he acknowledges 33 111 passing through with a very short freight conveying a wagon to Norden on 5th June.



Photo: Andrew P M Wright



Photo: Bob Bunyar



Even the DMU for the Wareham service gets a wash!

On 27th June, while the train crew had their lunch break, driver Peter Frost and guard Ben Dolman put the unit through the wash. As the carriage and wagon team who usually handle this were busy elsewhere, steam fitter Rob Tuck and volunteer steam fitter's assistant Jeff Smith were on hand to assemble and operate the equipment. Rob briefs Jeff, above, and Peter eases the DMU through the three stages of the wash, cleaner, brush, and rinse.



Back in the 19th century, William Stroudley of the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway came up with his ‘**Improved Engine Green**’ which wasn’t green at all, it was **golden yellow ochre**.
(I expect someone will tell me I’ve got that wrong! - Ed.)

Swanage Railway in the 21st century is similarly creating history with its own version of an improved green.
It’s ‘**Non-Wareham Green**’, which is actually **Red**! Seen here on the working timetable!



WORKING TIMETABLE

Red Days

The Weekly Operating Notice must be read in conjunction with this notice. The WON will be in operation and any alterations to duty times.

RED (Non-Wareham Green)	SWANAGE TO NORDEN						
TRAIN No.	2N00		2N18	2N02	2N20	2N04	2N22
UP							

This is actually the same timetable as the Green timetable, but featuring a diesel service in the same path as the Wareham service, but terminating at Norden. This creates the layover time at Norden featured in issue 98 with the train crew having time to get the beach towels out!

This is now the two-train timetable for all the days in the peak season when the Wareham service doesn’t run.

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

Views expressed in 'Swanning Around' are those of the author(s) and are not necessarily the views of the Swanage Railway Trust or the Swanage Railway Company. No liability accepted for errors or inaccuracies.

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Swanning Around also appears on line at:

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