



Swanning Around

A Look At What's Happening Around The Swanage Railway

Issue 27 – June 18th 2017

Where to start?!

There is too much news this time, but, after the little tease at the end of issue 26, first must be The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, and the header of Swanning Around gets changed to reflect this honour.

Secondly, the gift of the LSWR T3 class loco from the National Railway Museum, which was officially handed over to the railway on 27th May.

Thirdly, but not leastly, the start of the timetabled service from Swanage to Wareham, for which some people have been waiting for 45 years! Bad enough having to wait 45 *minutes* for a train!

Everything else we do hasn't stopped for these momentous events, so there will be these and lots more stuff in this issue!

The Queen's Award comes first as, without the many volunteers over the years, we would not be where we are today, and the other events in this issue would not have happened!

-----ooOoo-----

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the icing on the cake for all the effort that has been put in by volunteers past and present in the long fight to return a rail service to the community. As it says on the logo above, it's the MBE for volunteer groups.

Want an MBE? Join us!



A quote from the Swanage Railway staff website:

The citation for the Queen's Award reads:
'Developing the Heritage Railway to reinstate services between Swanage & Wareham for the benefit of the community'

The award announcement continues, "The work your group does for the community was very much admired by the independent Assessment Committee, chaired by Sir Martyn Lewis CBE. The award of The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2017 represents a tremendous achievement for your organisation. We hope that everyone involved, and particularly your volunteers, feel immensely proud of the recognition that this Award represents."

Of course, someone has to go to the Queen's Garden Party on June 1st to represent us for the award, and the unlucky pair were Swanage Railway Trustee and Project Wareham Director Mark Woolley, and Company Secretary Peter Milford, accompanied by their wives.



My invitation must be lost in the post!

Did they bring any cake back?

Must have missed that too!

The people who really deserve this award are those founder members and early volunteers who have worked tirelessly towards the goal we have achieved this week – the timetabled service to Wareham. So let's spare a thought for all those who have passed on or moved away, for this award is also theirs.

And there's still an official award ceremony to come, with the Lord Lieutenant of Dorset. SA will be there to report, of course!

-----ooOoo-----

And now the T3.

As you know from issues 25 and 26, an official handover was due on the 27th May, and, in fine weather, Andrew McLean and Anthony Coulls, Curators at the National Railway Museum, York, were at Corfe Castle to perform the ceremony. This was attended by Swanage Railway Trust and Swanage Railway Company management, along with family members descended from the loco's designer, William Adams.



Andrew McLean makes the handover speech, with Anthony Coulls (partially obscured), SR Co. Chairman Trevor Parsons (nearest), SR Trust Chairman Gavin Johns, and the three descendants of William Adams.

Also in attendance, a photographer from Steam Railway magazine and a load of volunteers. Our Patron Sir Philip Williams arrived in time to miss the speeches owing to traffic jams on the M3. Should've come by train!(and now you can!)

Once the sheet had been dropped, the classic lines of the T3 were revealed.



Our own driver and Mutual Improvement Class co-ordinator George Crouch comes dressed for the occasion.

No, he didn't drive it when it was new!



In the short term, the loco will be displayed at Corfe Castle. Driver Matt McManus is organising a T3 Cleaning Club to keep it looking tidy once a week. If you'd like to help look after this gem of a loco, get in touch and we'll put you in contact with Matt.

Wot? No Page 3?

There's all the glamour you need in that T3!



-----ooOoo-----

And now the big one!

You don't need Swanning Around to tell you that timetabled services between Swanage and Wareham started on June 13th.

BBC, ITV, Bournemouth Echo, Daily This, Daily That, railway magazines, Facebook, Swanage Railway websites have all been telling people about it, some more accurately than others!

If you were out of the country or on the Moon and missed it all, try these:

<http://www.itv.com/news/meridian/update/2017-06-13/new-train-service-linking-wareham-with-swanage/>

(ITV Meridian News)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b08tkw29/the-one-show-12062017>

(The One Show)

https://www.facebook.com/search/str/swanage+railway/keywords_top

(Facebook)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4599772/Train-rumbles-life-time-45-years.html>

(Daily Mail)

The first train has arrived at Wareham on June 13th.



Photo Andrew P M Wright



And our conductor driver Paul McDonald phones the Corfe Castle signalman to advise that the train has arrived at Wareham,

and to withdraw the single line token (one of those yellow things) for the return journey. (photo: Peter Milford)



The 12.23 to Wareham crosses the road at Norden on 15th June, with crossing keeper Robert Prance exchanging the single line token for the Corfe–Norden section for the Norden-Worgret token.



-----ooOoo-----

Our dear, departed Frank Mead was part **of** the furniture at Swanage for over thirty years. Contributions from his friends and colleagues have ensured that he is still with us, represented **by** the furniture!

Organised by Fireman and SR Company director Kevin Potts, a suitably engraved high quality bench has been installed on the veranda outside the enginemens' bothy.

It's dirty already! Sure Frank would approve!



-----ooOoo-----



Here's the finished Turbot wagon that you saw in issue 25.

It's a little different from its previous state, like our other one below, viewed at Eldons siding. Apparently the conversion is to the same spec as those on Network Rail, so is an authentic modification. Now it's a Super Turbot!



-----ooOoo-----



The M7 is still in service until later this year, but still requires some attention to its coupling rod bearings to get it there.

On 6th June, one of the rods is carried to the truck to take it to Herston Works.



Why four of them? It's stiff climb up to the road on the other side of the tracks!

-----ooOoo-----

Aah! Flaming June! And May wasn't bad either, so It's barbecue time again!

On 26th May, it was this year's staff barbecue on the platform at Swanage, including the opportunity for family members, etc. to try driving a steam loco.

Excellent weather ensured a good turnout, with Wessex Belle manager John Trott and General Manager Matt Green doing the business with the food and drink.



The M7 was used for the driving experience and proved to be very popular.

Now, if that wasn't enough for Matt Green, he was at it again on the barbecue for an outing to the Swanage Railway for Bourne Group of Poole, who hired the train for this company event on 9th June.

Organised by Bourne employee John Flynn, who was also the fireman on 80146 for the evening, the event was judged a great success by the family participants and management alike.



Whether at Swanage or Norden, or Corfe for the pub, everyone had a good time, and showed a lot of interest in the loco cab!



-----ooOoo-----

And John Trott, our Wessex Belle manager also does a spot of gardening at Swanage.



Matt Green and Helen Cole serve up the burgers and drinks at Swanage.

There are all sorts of jobs that need doing on a heritage railway. It's not all about the trains!

-----ooOoo-----

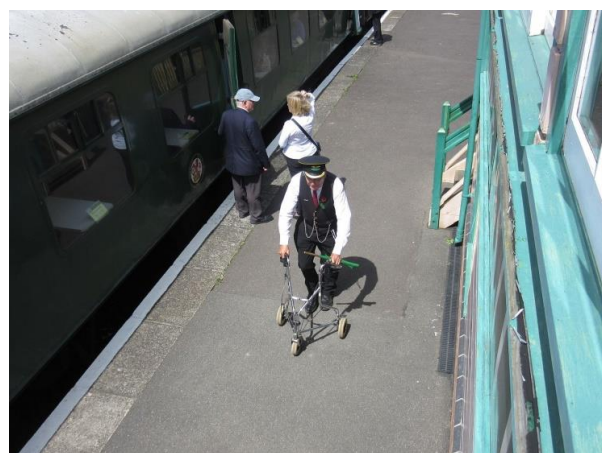
This must be a "praise Matt Green" issue, as he appears yet again doing something different.

One of the checks we do when preparing a steam loco for the day's duty is to test the injectors for correct operation, and because it needs steam to do it, it is usually next to last.

So, when one injector was failed on 80146 on 6th June, and there was a danger of having a diesel substitute, there was Matt pitching in with the spanners to help replace a gasket on the steam supply.

-----ooOoo-----

On the subject of volunteers, it would seem we take anybody, even guards with rolator walking frames!



No, it's not what it looks like!

Guard John Hensby wheels a passenger's frame down to the guards van at Corfe Castle on 22nd May.

-----ooOoo-----

So what's going on in Herston Works?

Apart from refurbishing the M7's coupling rod bearings, the Swanage Railway engineering team is completing a mini-overhaul of U Class 31806, while still awaiting the boiler for the N Class. Our Steam Superintendent Graham Froud tells us that the U will be back on the rails in two weeks. Which two weeks he didn't say!



How many does it take to fit a new fall plate to the U?

L to r, Ian Dunford and Robert Jones, with Peter Harris giving a hand in between exciting management meetings, lift the heavy steel item into the cab where Graham Froud was waiting to assist with the installation.

So it's four!



Alongside the U in the works is Southern Locomotives' Battle of Britain Class No. 34072 257 Squadron.

Hiding out of view, Dave Ensor is working to complete the paintwork, and the loco is expected out of the works a few weeks behind the U, and will probably need some fettling before being able to resume work on the railway.

We look forward to seeing them both.

-----ooOoo-----

In the Goods Shed, the other half of 257 Squadron, its tender, is getting the finishing touches to the paintwork,



while the paintwork on shunter 08 436 is also nearly finished.

Meanwhile, Beryl is looking almost like a petrol shunter.



-----ooOoo-----



In the sidings at Herston is the TC coach you saw being delivered in issue 26, wrapped up to keep the worst of the weather out.

Hopefully, one day we will have some undercover storage for some of the stock on the railway, but we just happen to be in an area of outstanding natural beauty, etc. so it's difficult. We live in hope!

-----ooOoo-----

Notice for Purbeck Railway Circle

From Gordon Jakes

Owing to a clash with the Wilkswood Reggae Festival (yes, really!), which will probably clog up the area, the PRC meeting for July 14th with Jim Boudreau has been **CANCELLED**.

Seems like Purbeck has a festival for everything!

-----ooOoo-----

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.

-----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-----

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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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