



# Swanning Around

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

Issue 92 – November 30<sup>th</sup> 2022

*Flying Scotsman's* done our bottom line some good in difficult times, and has now gone home. So what's left for this issue? *Manston*, of course! Not forgetting that the railway doesn't stand still just because there are no public services running. There's still plenty to report, and plenty going on that doesn't get reported!

This time, it's *Manston* under test, getting ready to enter service, and more.

Not forgetting that as this newsletter is issued, preparations are under way for the start of Steam and Lights next weekend. More on that next time.

Below, *Manston* is out on test near Corfe Castle on 17<sup>th</sup> November. (And it's not raining for a change!)





Photo: Andrew P M Wright

As the previous issue of *Swanning Around* was being read, *Flying Scotsman* was being prepared for its return to base at the East Lancashire Railway.

Loco with support coach left Swanage early on the morning of 8<sup>th</sup> November and is seen above crossing the bridges over the River Frome, about to join the national rail network.

Swanage Railway Sygnet Frederick Sills gives *Flying Scotsman* an appropriate send-off from the Wareham stop with 'Will ye no come back again' on the bagpipes. Looks like our own driver Matt McManus in the driving seat.

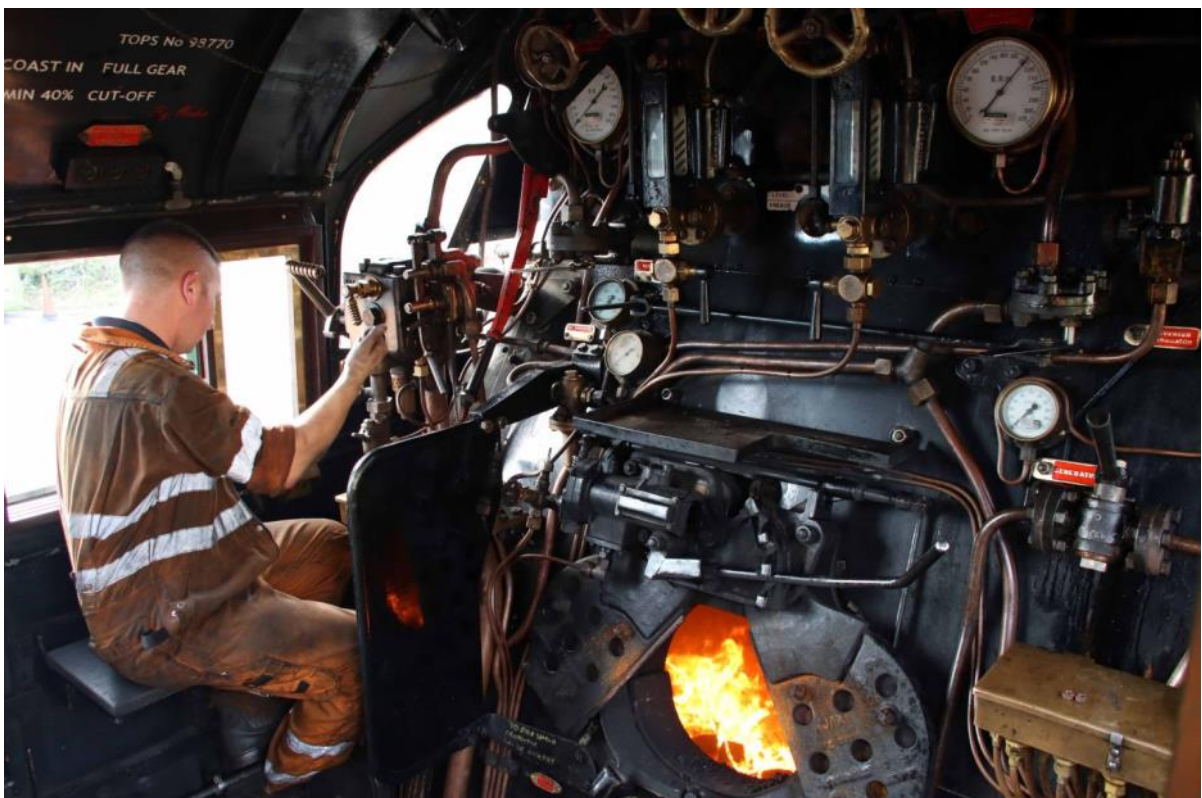


Photo: Dr. C M Brown



You will remember from issue 91 of SA that *Manston* and three other Bulleid pacifics were featured doing something or going somewhere. Now that *Manston* is out of the works and back on the railway, the steam tests and fitness to run checks begin. On 17<sup>th</sup> November, more checks are being carried out by steam superintendent Graham Froud in the cab and fitter Rob Tuck on the ground prior to test runs.

Both photos: Andrew P M Wright





Out on test runs, firstly as a light engine, then with a light load behind.

Above, Robin Procter's panned photo adds the speed effect to a loco that's not going that fast! Passing Woodyhyde, returning to Swanage.

Later in the day, two coaches have been added, and the train is climbing the gradient to Harmans Cross from Quarr Farm crossing.





On 25<sup>th</sup> November, further load testing for *Manston* as it is used to haul the coaching stock for the *Steam and Lights* train to Corfe Castle, seen here passing Woodyhyde.

Later, volunteer Charlie Rogers is surprised whilst painting a *Dogfish* ballast wagon at Eldon's Siding. What the ...! *Manston* has arrived to collect a rake of wagons while Charlie is still painting one of them!





Charlie has packed up his paint tin and *Manston* is attached to several wagons for the run back to Swanage.

While all this has been going on, we mustn't lose sight of the first trains of the Christmas period, the Christmas Luncheon. How many people does it take to set up the carriage cleaning brushes at Swanage on 25<sup>th</sup> November ?

Photo: Gary Packer



Seems that five wasn't enough! It was not too successful, as we find the up side of the dining train being brushed manually! At least the detergent and rinse sprays are working!

Photo: Gary Packer



*Eddystone* was the chosen power for the first Christmas Luncheon trains on 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> November, seen here by the web cam on the signal box running round the train at Swanage.





In early November, regular public services had finished for the year and some Driver Experience trains were run, with U class 31806 on one such train passing Corfe Castle on 13<sup>th</sup> November.

Back in October, the Infrastructure Permanent Way team erected a fence around the Sygnets van in the headshunt at Norden to provide a safe working area for our younger volunteers. This ensures that the normal rules appertaining to being on or near the lineside don't apply within this fenced area, and helps with the supervision of the under-16s. Safety first at Swanage!







Our Permanent Way team is always busy and would be doing enough to fill Swanning Around on their own! Here's just a small selection of the works they have been involved with in November.

Left, they have lifted the new Swanage number 2 signal repeater onto the post you saw being planted in issue 91.

They have also conducted crane FBC2 across the road at Norden to carry out a lift. The crane can only move under its own power whilst in an engineering possession, hence the involvement of P'Way.

And they have spent some time revitalising a section of track between Ponderosa crossing and Nursery bridge, with sleeper replacements and realignment. This is the section that suffers from neighbours and the highway thinking the railway is a good place to direct their drainage!

All photos from Adam Woodman





The carriage cleaners have been at it again! The BG van has been recovered from sidings to platform 1 at Swanage in support of Christmas services and the carriage cleaning group organised by David Chant has given the van the once-over to make it look more presentable on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

Can you see the difference in these before and after pics?

Photos: David Chant





Rather than read a load of waffle here, you can get the latest info on the Bulleid pacifics and 80104 on the Southern Locomotives' web site at <https://www.southern-locomotives.co.uk/News/news.html>

The folks at Tyseley Locomotive Works are finding plenty to fix on the boiler, and the Southern Locos volunteers have been painting the wheels, amongst plenty of other work on the rest of the loco.

Doesn't look like we will see 80104 back at Swanage anytime soon without some more cash, so if you can, check out ways to contribute towards getting this ideal locomotive back in action at Swanage.

Both photos from Southern Locomotives





Awards time!

Purbeck Community Rail Partnership chairman Mike Whitwam presented the Station in Bloom Silver Gilt Award - celebrating volunteering on SWR and GWR railway networks - to Corfe Castle Station Manager David Scott together with members of the Corfe Castle Station Maintenance Team on 24<sup>th</sup> November.

Back row : Geoff Rolfe, Steve Todd, Norman Reid, Ian Snell (part hidden).

Front row : Paul O'Brien, Mike Whitwam, David Scott, Kevin Callaghan.

Also, Herston Halt received a Silver Award for lots of hard graft making a difference for the future, Swanage received a silver award for a good all round effort. Swanage station has also been recognised with an award from the Royal Horticultural Society for its overall presentation and flower displays.



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 475212 to contact Mike Whitwam, our Volunteer Liaison 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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