



Swanning Around

A Look At What's Happening Around The Swanage Railway

Issue 90 – October 3rd 2022

September would normally be a month for taking a breath after a busy peak summer timetable, but, as we know, the railway, like most other leisure activities, has not done as well as might have been expected had Covid and Russia not affected our business. As they say, it is what it is, and we are presently cutting our cloth to suit the conditions. Trying to match services offered to the expected demand means that we are back to low season blue timetable, and on some occasions, it has been gratifying to see some trains full to standing!

For October, a five day a week service with Driver Experience offerings on Mondays and Fridays is timetabled, with more scheduled for November. For details of the Driver Experience, go to

<https://www.swanagerailway.co.uk/events/view/taster-driving-experience>

In this issue, a visiting raitour, a visiting track cleaner, and more!



Do you need reminding? Probably not, but here's another reminder anyway!



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The Swanage Railway glamour page!

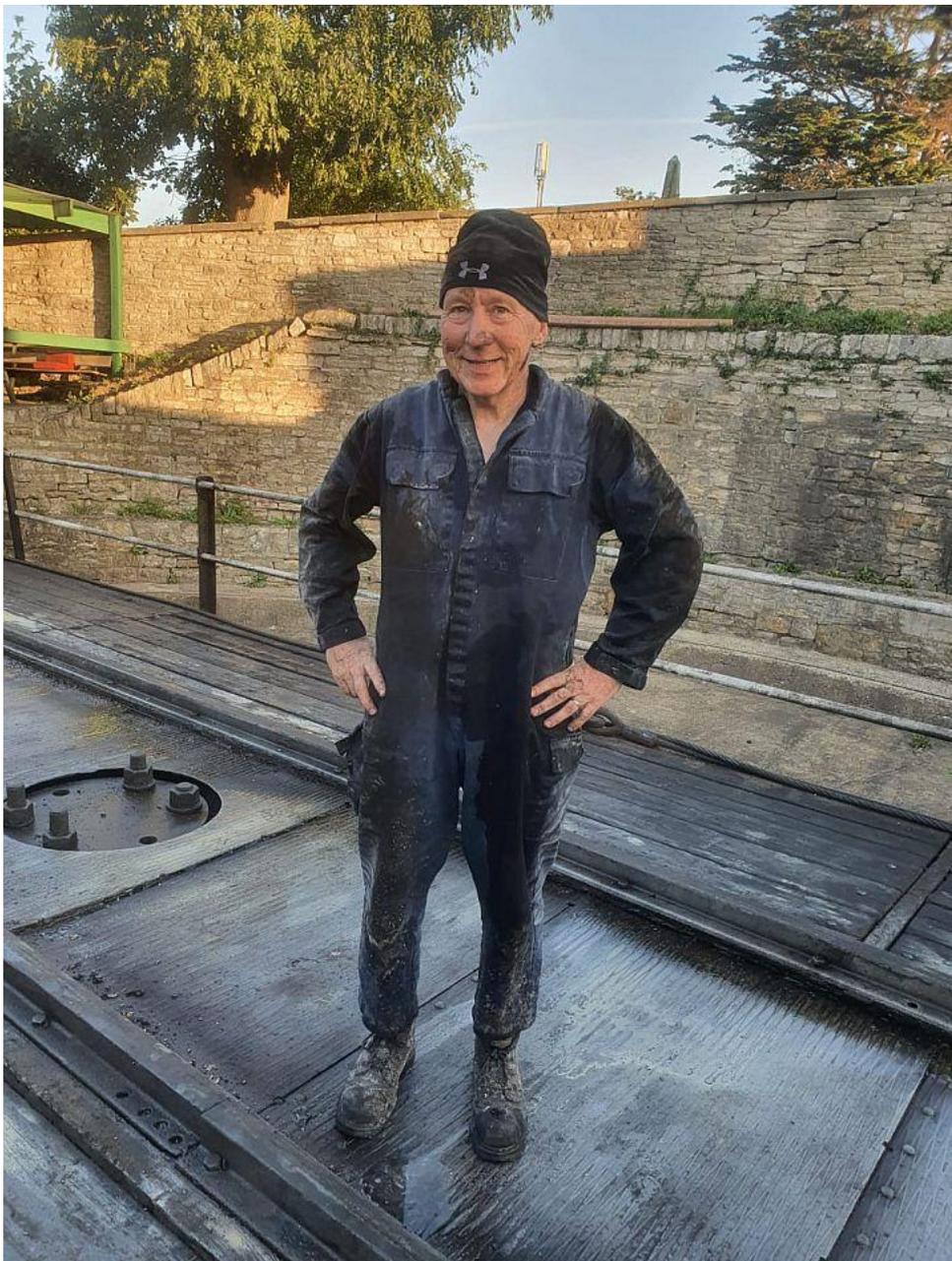
Yes! We have another

Mucky Man of the Month!

Fireman **Andy Croggon** is well known for helping out where help is needed, and he doesn't baulk at the dirtier jobs. Look at the state of him!

Cleaning out the smokebox and the ashpan aren't the cleanest of jobs, but you're not supposed to roll in it!

Thanks to fitter Josh Webb for keeping his own overalls relatively clean while taking this picture! Saves having to do the job yourself if you have a ~~man~~ willing helper to do it for you!





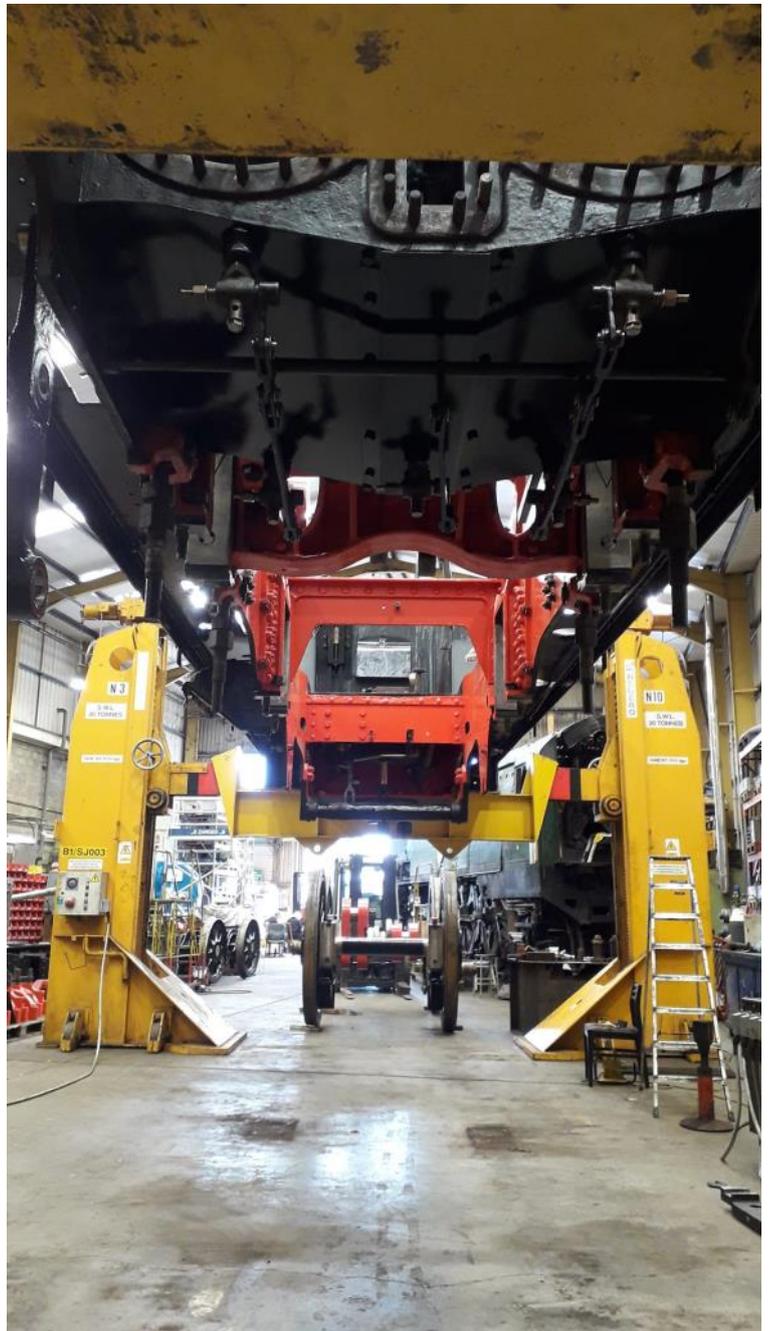
Following on from the Herston Works stuff in the previous edition of Swanning Around, we find that *Manston* has regained its wheels and has released the lifting jacks such that the M7 30053 has now got its wheels too.

These two pictures show both locos on their wheels, above, and the M7's front driving axle, with those shiny valve gear eccentrics, now located in the frames.

Both pictures by Graham Froud via Facebook



And two more pictures of the M7, with the frames up on the jacks with the wheels ready to roll under, and a view of the frames and bunker now with wheels installed. Visible progress!



Pictures by Peter Pickering via Facebook





The annual fixture, the Classic Vehicle Rally, held in conjunction with the Bournemouth and Poole Preservation Club, went ahead on the weekend of 9th/10th/11th September at Harmans Cross.

There was the usual special train service of two steam during the day with the diesel unit operating in the evening. With the showground behind, U class 31806 passes with a train for Swanage on 11th September.

Special Announcement

Please note a change to the volunteer officer contact details on the final page of this issue.

Our Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Officer, Jonathan Evans, has got himself another job as Deputy Operations Manager, so his previous position is currently vacant awaiting a new incumbent. In the meantime, potential volunteers should contact our Volunteer Liaison Officer Mike Whitwam. Check the final page for details.



In recognition of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September 2022, RIP.

God Save the King!

Swanage station 9th September

Pictures provided by James Honeyman-Bristow





On 22nd September, a railtour from London to Swanage arrives with Jubilee class 45596 *Bahamas*, seen leading the train past Corfe Common with West Coast Railways driver Matt McManus. Matt of course is also a Swanage Railway driver, and has a leading role with the restoration of the T3 locomotive (see issue 89)

Unusual about this locomotive is that it arrived as 45596 and left as 45606 renamed *Falkland Islands* in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the conflict there. Here, the renaming ceremony at Swanage station.

L to R they are Steve Peach (Bahamas Support Crew), Officer Cadet James Conway RN (Royal Navy Officer (Submarines) in Training and also Bahamas Support Crew), Capt Bill Monteith Royal Marines Reserve (West Coast Railway driver and event organiser) and Andy Hoyle (Bahamas Support Crew).

Pictures from Andrew P M Wright





The original Jubilee class no. 45606 was recycled in 1965. 45596 *Bahamas* was luckier and you can find out all about it on the internet at <https://preservedbritishsteamlocomotives.com/45596-bahamas-lms-5596-br-45596/>

Below, now as 45606 *Falkland Islands*, the loco leaves the Swanage Railway tailing the train, now diesel-hauled, over the Frome River bridges back to the national rail network. It would lead the train back to London after reversal at Southampton.

Pictures from Andrew P M Wright





The Permanent Way team has been busy just lately, with a track twist* between Ponderosa and Wilderness crossings to sort out and putting the track back outside the goods shed at Swanage.

*no relation to barley twist! Just means that the relative levels of the two rails are not as they should be, i.e. one side has sunk!

So, a lot of sleeper replacements and ballast packing to restore the correct levels.

Below they are using siting boards to set the levels, then jacking and packing. All the old-fashioned way!

Pictures from Adam Woodman





An on-track machine collects some track materials from Harmans Cross, for use in the track relaying at Swanage. It's an interesting picture that shows P'Way people start early! Adam Woodman has captured this picture soon after sunrise.

Below, more jacking and packing on 30th September, having replaced the track outside the goods shed. Looks like Swanage Railway standard working in progress—several people watching!

A contractor had previously excavated the site to the correct depth to allow the track to be replaced prior to concreting. You may remember that the purpose of all this is to provide a satisfactory base for the movable carriage lifting jacks.





Picture: John Redwood

More non-residents on the railway.

Above, we have a visit from a Network Rail MPV (Multi Purpose Vehicle). A bit of a misnomer it would seem as there appears to be just the single purpose of cleaning the rail head!

Anyway, on 14th September, the vehicle cleaned our track, as seen above at Corfe Castle, and then proceeded to spend some time at Furzebrook appraising some new cleaning materials.

And, as seen at the Great Dorset Steam Fair in issue 89, 34053 *Sir Keith Park* is now coupled to *Manston's* tender and tucked away in siding 2 at Corfe Castle, waiting to change places with *Manston* in Herston Works.

So when's *Manston* leaving the works? Mmm... where's that string and tape measure?!!!

Depends who you ask, but at Swanning Around, we're hoping for an early Christmas present! We know nothing!





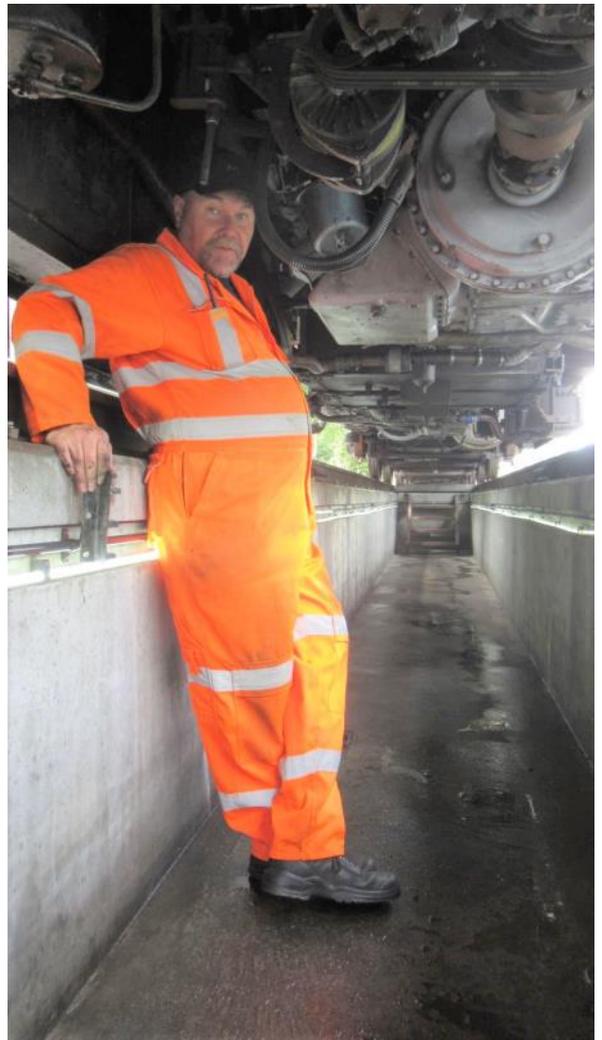
On 26th/27th September, we had social evening events for volunteers and staff. Essentially an outdoor event on the platform at Swanage, food was provided from inside the dining set's kitchen car and seating was available inside the trains. Swanage Railway Trust chairman Gavin Johns addresses the participants on 27th, offering thanks for everybody's contributions during a difficult time.

Inside the kitchen car, Adam Trott serves up a choice of bun fillings, while Julie Trott looks after the trimmings. No outside barbecue this time.



You'll never make Swanning Around's Page 3 if you're a diesel fitter!

14th September, and Andy Garrett is at the diesel depot at Corfe Castle, underneath the single car diesel unit, the 'Bubble Car', doing something with a starter motor bracket.



Staff and public alike had their cameras out when the resident fox was relaxing on the embankment opposite Swanage station platform on the morning of Tuesday 27th September.

Here's one from porter David Hales' camera.



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

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