



Swanning Around

A Look At What's Happening Around The Swanage Railway

Issue 101 – September 5th 2023

After the last monster issue, this time the slimmed down version, but still the T3 no. 563 grabbing the headlines. Yes, 563 is back on the Swanage Railway! Needless to say, there are multiple photos across social media, and we are not shy about putting several in Swanning Around.

Also in this issue, we have been visited by notable people from Network Rail and the Westminster government.

And there is SITREP! with news of forthcoming events, and more.



Photo: Steve Beames



Photo: Richard Penny

The loco has arrived at Norden from the Flour Mill Workshop, and the tender has been collected from Herston Works, and 563 Group's Nathan Au and Matt McManus are on hand for coupling the two together on 30th August.

Before the coupling, a picture of the cab layout. Just as good a finish as the outside!

Photo: Andrew P M Wright



Photo: Andrew P M Wright



33 111 was called upon to transport the superbly finished loco down to Swanage for engineering acceptance and crew familiarisation to begin, before the expected launch in service in October.

Andrew P M Wright has photo'd the train passing Corfe Castle, while just a few seconds later, Jamie Smith has caught the train from the opposite direction entering Corfe station

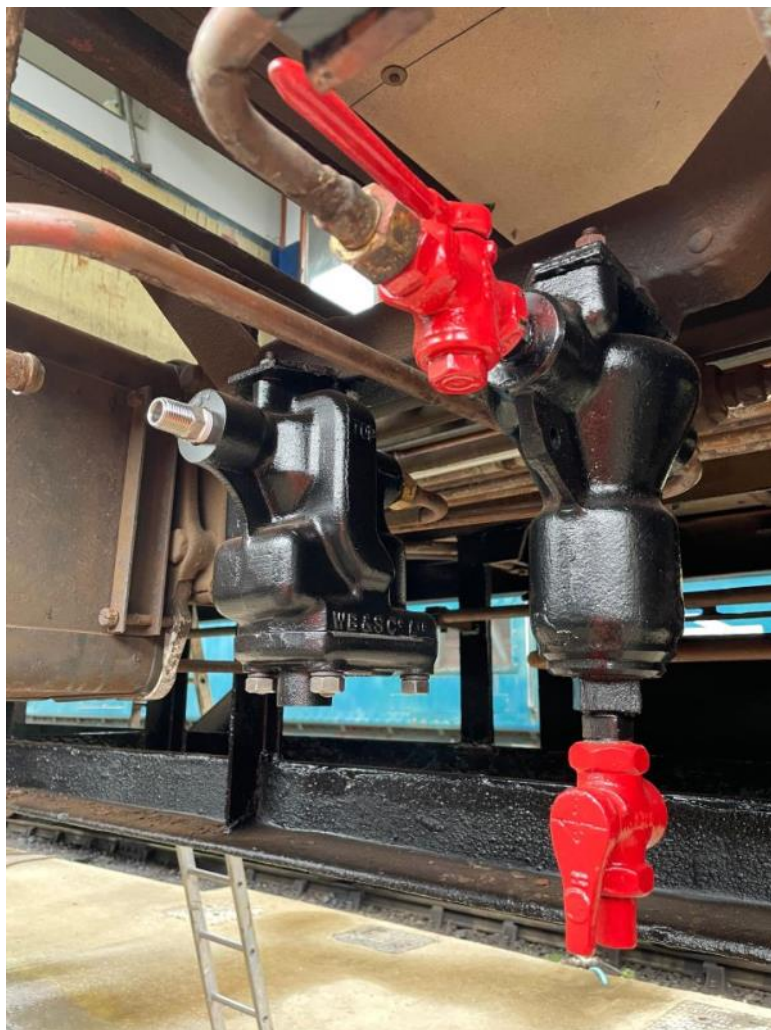


BR class 438 4TC multiple unit project.

Working parties continue towards getting TBSK 70824 back to operating condition. Much work underneath has been undertaken whilst the coach was on the jacks, including new pipework and refurbished fittings.

With the coach now back on its wheels, there is much to do to replace corroded and rotted flooring and supporting steelwork.

Photos from 4TC Group





The other driving vehicle donated to the group by The Heritage Centre at Bellingham is internally still largely in the condition when last used in a train.

Photos from 4TC Group

From these pictures you can see the unique seat material, and if they weren't so faded, the orange curtains.

The driving cab looks much like the driver would have seen it in service.

Now it's all very well accepting these gifted vehicles at no cost, but the transport isn't free! This has eaten into funds being used for the existing vehicles to create a 3TC set initially. Each coach costs thousands to be transported to Swanage, so calls for more funds are even more urgent to prevent the project stalling

If you are able to offer some financial support for this fine cause, then please go to the Swanage Railway web site at <https://www.swanagerailwaytrust.org/giving> marking your contribution for 4TC





August has seen some ups and downs in the weather, but to the casual observer, train loadings have, at times, looked very good. So much so that for the Green timetable when the service to Wareham was running, a six-coach set has been used for the steam service to Norden to prevent standing room only. Owing to the difficulty in running the steam loco round at Swanage, a diesel was used to top and tail the train. Some customers had reservations about their steam train being diesel-hauled in one direction, but otherwise it was very successful.

Here's one of the better days earlier in August at Corfe Castle, as there appears to be plenty of custom for this departure for Swanage on 9th August.

Also on 9th August, our diesel unit arrives at Wareham, and it looks like there is some custom awaiting a trip to Swanage.

We have had data collectors travelling on most trains to provide management with train usage patterns with which to determine appropriate service offerings. We hope to get the overall results of these findings when they have been fully collated.

Both photos: Steve Dadd





This is "Crompton" class 33 D6515 *Lt Jenny Lewis* running into Harmans Cross while top-and-tailing a six-coach service with U class 31806 on the other end. Signalman James Mercer waits to get the single line token from the collector horn device on 16th August.

On days when the Wareham service did not run, the Red timetable was in operation, consisting of one steam and one diesel service train. 33 111 arrives at Harmans Cross on Bank Holiday Monday 28th August with a train for Swanage, passing West Country class 34028 Eddystone in the other platform.

Both photos: Bob Bunyar



SITREP! (01 Sep 23)

This '*Situation Report*' is an update of general information focusing on current Railway news & future events. If you have any material that you would like included, feedback, suggestions or you feel the efforts of another should be recognised please email: frank.roberts@swanagerailway.co.uk

Forecast of Main Events

Fri 01 Sep - **PS Waverley (visit has commenced)**

Wed 20 Sep **The world's last ocean-going paddle steamer.**
[2023 Timetables \(waverleyexcursions.co.uk\)](http://2023.Timetables(waverleyexcursions.co.uk))

Sun 02 Sep **Cream Teas.** 'Devon Belle' Pullman Observation Car (Car 14).

Service continues, after the summer break, from 02 Sep.

Some tickets still available on 09 & 23 Sep (as at 01 Sep)

Sun 02 Sep **Cream Teas.** In our beautifully restored 1930s Maunsell heritage carriage.

Service continues, after the summer break, from 02 Sep.

Some tickets still available on 09 & 23 Sep (as at 01 Sep).

Fri 08 Sep **Classic and Steam Vehicle Show.** Bournemouth & Poole Preservation Club.

Sun 10 Sep Next to Harmans Cross Station.

Sat 09 Sep **Final Wareham Service** (final day of the second trial of 90 days).

Sat 16 Sep **Fish & Chip Specials.** Join us and Fox & Edwards Events for a steam train journey with a difference - a fish and chips meal to enjoy! **Round trip from Norden. Also runs Sun 17 Sep, then Sat 07 & Sun 08 Oct .**

Mon 25 Sep **Taster Driving Experience.** All dates from 25 Sep-20 Oct. **SOLD OUT!**

Tue 26 Sep **HST Visit.** Swanage-Bomo-Swanage - on board the last full length Inter City 125 train.

Sat 30 Sep **Purbeck Piddler.** The Swanage Railway is delighted to be working with the Piddle Brewery in Dorset to bring you a new experience on the Swanage Railway. Departs Swanage station at 1930; return at 2200hrs.

Booking essential.

A selection of tasty curry meals are also available for you to book in advance.

Nov & Dec **Polar Express.** Sign up to receive the latest ticket news from The Polar Express™ using the Event & Experiences link below.

Please note. Swanage Railway does not take nor administer bookings, Swanage Railway gift cards, memberships, Season Tickets or promotional vouchers cannot be used against this product. The Railway does not have access to the booking system for this event, **please email ticketing@crosstownconcerts.com for all enquiries.**

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 green strap-line at bottom of most pages on the main

[Swanage Railway website.](#)

With our Grateful Thanks!

Throughout this summer Fitter **Andy Garrett** has been regularly helped out by volunteers **Vic Turp, Nigel Burton** and **Phil Best**. Their combined effort, supported by the wider Swanage Railway team has ensured that with very few exceptions the DMU service to Wareham has performed exceptionally well. Thank you all.

Indeed, the irony is that on some days, the only trains at Wareham station were the trains to Swanage!



Photo: Andrew PM Wright

Thanks also go to **Charlie Rogers**. Charlie is a volunteer in Ops, a passed cleaner and has worked tremendously hard on our social media over the last few months; in particular, in the last month alone, our posts on Facebook have reached over 2 million people. Congratulations on such a tremendous effort.

***If you think that work which directly supports our Railway or our community should be recognised, please speak to your Manager, or a Trust or Company Director.
Help identify those who make a difference.....***

Chief Executive Officer (CEO). There has been a good response, with over a dozen applicants for this new Swanage Railway Company post. The selection process is now in progress, with a view to appointment in the very near future.

Volunteer Retention & Recruitment Officer. This post is now held by Lisa Gravett, who can be contacted by email lisa.gravett@swanagerailway.co.uk or at Station House, where Lisa is based, on 01929 475212. In addition she is now the recipient of emails received via "iwanttovolunteer". More information to follow.

Swanage Railway Trust - Council of Management. There have been a healthy number of nominations for the forecasted eight vacancies on the CoM, so for the first time in many years there will be an election. This will be held in the run up to this year's Annual General Meeting on Saturday 14th October, and will be overseen by our Returning Officer Mr Jeff Gregory. Trust members, who will be able to participate in the election, will receive information shortly.

Fundraising. As many of you will have read from Swanage Railway Magazine the financial position of our railway is still very fragile. Not only must the Railway Company make plans to eliminate deficits but the Trust needs to double down on its fundraising endeavours.

One practical and innovative initiative we have taken is to advertise for a professional Fundraiser that will be jointly hosted by ourselves and the Swanage Pier Trust. This has the advantage of pooling costs and at the same time offering a competitive salary that can hopefully attract a high calibre individual, that will deliver high returns....

Closing date for applications is 15th September with interviews pencilled in for the first week in October. Hopefully we can get someone in post before the end of the year.

All well and good, but this post needs to be matched by an energised and enthusiastic fundraising group within the Trust. Unfortunately, there have been a number of significant losses to our existing group - indeed there is currently no fundraising Chair / Co-ordinator. As such we need your HELP. ***If you feel you have the right skills and motivation to help us and join the Trust's Fundraising Group, could you please contact either Gavin Johns or myself.***

It is highly likely that in future fundraising and grant gaining will play an even more important role in the financial survival and a sustainable business model of the Swanage Railway. We desperately need your help in achieving this goal. Robert.patterson@swanagerailway.co.uk Hon SRT Treasurer

Railway Vacancies

We continue to seek high quality volunteer applicants for some of our more significant governance roles. In particular:

- Directors for the Company Board especially covering Finance, Commercial and portfolios
- Secretaries for both the Trust & the Company
- Fundraiser (Paid) for the Swanage Railway Trust – see above

Multiple opportunities for volunteering, at all levels, across the Swanage Railway, including Museums, catering, retail, financial, many spheres of engineering (mechanical, electrical, civil - including building and structures). Signalling and Telegraph (Telecoms), Permanent Way (track) and carriage (and wagon) restoration, and the upkeep of our five stations. There are quite a few opportunities across Operations! Oh, and the Heritage Coach Group could be looking for a stores person too – see article!

If you have skills that would enable you to carry out one of these roles, and want to work with others in a team, please consider an application. Further, more formal advertising will be taking place for some of the roles, which can be seen on HOPS or srstaff (for members & staff with access to these restricted sites) OR please email: iwanttovolunteer@swanagerailway.co.uk



HST at Exeter St Davids.

(Photo from Gavin Johns)

Minutes of Meetings

The minutes from both **Company Board and Swanage Railway Trust CoM meetings** are published in the member's area of the Swanage Railway Trust website. Access to the Member's Area 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](#)

Our Heritage Carriage Volunteers. The Heritage Carriage Group consists of just over 20 volunteers. Some such as **Gary Jones, Chris Stone, Derek Hudson, Paul Kingston** and **Graham Taylor** turn up nearly **every Tuesday at Corfe** and have been doing so for some time. Another 6 or 7 people volunteer on most Tuesdays and so we have up to 10 each day. Most of the Tuesday gang are retired. Our **Sunday Gang** is generally smaller and very variable in number (3-7 people) but includes several of working age, some of whom can only spare the time occasionally. So, we could do with more Sunday volunteers!

The age range of our volunteers spans 18 to 80. Some of them have great experience from their working lives in an engineering or maintenance environment which means we have a great skills base. Several volunteers are very good wood-workers and we also have an upholsterer. Our current longest serving regular volunteer is **Richard Farrell**. One or two of our other volunteers also travel some distance to help us. Our ethos is for people to do as much as they are able and to enjoy the camaraderie and satisfaction of achieving something worthwhile.

Future Plans. Now that 4366 will very soon be on its way to Ramparts, our plans over the next few months will focus on parts for 4366, refreshing 5761 and some other maintenance jobs. We are also using our carpentry skills helping the crane department to repair one of their stores vans. One of the next tasks will be to sort out our stock of parts to identify what we have for 4366 and what we are missing. Work on the doors in almost complete and so we are about to start on repairing and making new seating for 4366 as we have most of the materials we need in stock. We will also make some 240 feet of metal beading which will cover and protect the joins in the exterior metal sheeting so saving Ramparts a job. The few remaining internal panels and mouldings that can be reused will soon all be given at least one coat of varnish and so the next stage is to make some replacements for missing or unsalvageable parts using the originals as patterns.

Virtually all the interior work has been done on Bulleid composite 5761 so we hope to get it into the Goods Shed soon so that we can repaint the exterior and arrange for some door repairs. It will then be ready to re-enter traffic. Other work involves repainting our stores van 385 and sorting out all our stores. We also hope to do some preventative work on the carriage underframe stored at Woodpecker as we suspect we may need it in future as it appears to be in better condition than the frame of open saloon 1323. After that, we may have time to work on another van before 4366 returns.

peter.short@swanagerailway.co.uk



The Finance Advisory Group was created to provide independent oversight and advice to the Trust and Company on financial matters. The Trust has agreed a revised Terms of Reference (v1 Aug 23), a copy of which can be found [on HOPS](#). These Terms of Reference explain the role of the Group and details the areas that the Finance Advisory Group is expected to oversee. The group meet six times per year and consists of three members from the finance function of the Railway and three independent members.

The three Railway representatives are the Trust's Treasurer (Robert Patterson), the Company's Finance Director (vacant) and the Company's Finance and Personnel Manager (Lorna Lock). Currently there are two independent members, Stuart Magnus (ex-Trustee) and Neville Cook (current Group Chairman). We are inviting applications from members who have a suitable background in financial and commercial matters, to fulfil the requirement for three independent members. The Terms of Reference provide guidance with regards to the role and define a suitable member as being 'someone who has relevant and appropriate experience of financial management, control, analysis and reporting and who may or may not be a SRC and SRT Director'

Interested applicants should in the first instance email neville.crook@swanagerailway.co.uk to register their interest, providing a brief summary of their relevant experience and suitability for the role. If anyone wants to discuss the role or gain further understanding please feel free to contact myself or Stuart via email:- stuart.magnus@swanagerailway.co.uk
Neville Crook - Chair Finance Advisory Group.

Thanks to **Jonathan Evans** for this submission on HOPS.

Facts – We need Facts. With the acute economic climate, it is essential that we understand our business, and developing trends. This year a much greater emphasis has been placed on our need to collate relevant information - which will be supported by ticket sales (both ours and external agencies), guard reports from the Wareham service, the 'passenger numbers' data collected by the data collectors (now published on HOPS under Community > General Documentation > Data Collection - Passenger Numbers) and passenger questionnaires. We are also asking for support from the Department for Transport. Our thanks go to **Robert Craine** and everyone who has sold tickets (to make more data!) or counted those travelling with us on our trains. If you would like to assist in collating this data please contact: iwanttovolunteer@swanagerailway.co.uk



T3 No. 563 & cleaner Kadin Jacques at Swanage on 31 August 2023

Photo: Andrew PM Wright



The estates department has been busy repairing the porches on Station House at Swanage. Here they are on 24th August preparing to replace rotten timbers in the side porch by ripping out the old stuff. John Redwood, John Piper, David Budd and manager Pat Cattle in attendance.

Loco Carriage and Wagon department fitter Jacob O'Hara seems very happy with his lot, which is replacement of corroded metal at the corridor connection end of coach S4842. These BR Mark 1 coaches are well known for corrosion of the lower body sides and the structure and flooring at the coach ends. Clearly never designed to last for 60 years and more!





The Minister of State for Rail and HS2, Huw Merriman MP, made an informal visit to the Swanage Railway on 22nd August. The Minister was accompanied by South Dorset MP Richard Drax and Dorset Council transport portfolio holder Councillor Ray Bryan. They travelled from Wareham on the Swanage Railway service, seen here with Swanage Railway Trust chairman Gavin Johns, with the train just branching off from the main line.

At Corfe, the minister, left, and Richard Drax meet museum volunteer Heather Denning.





On 2nd August, Network Rail CEO Andrew Haines visited the Swanage Railway, for discussions of mutual interest, and is seen here at Wareham with Swanage Railway Trust chairman Gavin Johns.

Just in case you may have thought that the forthcoming Polar Express wasn't being promoted yet, here's a billboard in Southampton, spotted by Swanage Railway Premier Life Member Jules Stevenson.



Photo: Gary Packer



Here's a couple of shots of people doing stuff.

On 26th August, the 14.40 from Swanage passes school crossing at Corfe Castle with *Eddystone* driven by Steven Duncalfe and cleaner Cameron Sweetenham observing.

On 1st September, *Eddystone* is being prepared for service with cleaner Callum Bagg clearing up ash, cleaner Jamie Smith shining the side of the cab and driver Bryan Hardwick doing very little as he had a trainee to do it for him!



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 Lisa Gravett, our Volunteer Recruitment and Retention 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

Swanning Around also appears on line at:

<http://www.srstaff.co.uk/swanningaround> (not password protected)

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