



Swanning Around

A Look At What's Happening Around The Swanage Railway

Issue 57 – December 15th 2019



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
to all our readers!

It's looking a lot like Christmas, especially down at Swanage station, where Santa trains start and finish.

And nowhere more Christmassy than the booking hall at Swanage station. It's got three Christmas trees!



At the end of the station, however, it looks like the town council is doing its bit with the tree, but the meter seems to have run out on the overhead decorations!

Anybody spare a shilling?!

It could be a spending cut, or perhaps just faulty wiring, or was it just because it was Friday the 13th?! (picture taken on the 14th)

Standard Tank 80104 provides the steamy atmosphere.



Continuing the Christmas theme, from 30th November to 2nd December, Teresa Bower, Pamela Matthews and Val Travers from the Swanage station shop sponsored a Christmas tree in support of our T3 project at the Christmas Tree Festival at St George's Church, Langton Matravers. In addition to the tree, a good number of leaflets were handed out, and hopefully some local support gained.

Picture provided by Vicki Dyke, our shop administrator.

See page 11 to see how you can help the T3 project.



While everybody is thinking about Christmas, the Swanage Railway has been out there collecting awards and donations.

On December 12th, our Finance Director, Andrew Moore, was enjoying the evening at the Bournemouth and Poole Preservation Club's Christmas Meal and Presentation evening, and collecting a cheque from them.

The BPPC puts on the classic transport rally alongside the railway at Harmans Cross in early September.



picture from BPPC

On 4th December, Dr Mike Walshaw, the designer and project manager of the token block signalling system between Norden and the main line at Wareham, and Mark Woolley, the director responsible for the Wareham project, were in London collecting an award from HRH Princess Anne, the Princess Royal.

They collected the Abellio Signalling Award at the National Railway Heritage Awards 2019, at the Merchant Taylors' Hall.



On 11th December, Mike is at Norden Gates level crossing with the award plaque, along with some representatives of the many who made the access to Wareham happen.

Left to right, Estates manager Pat Cattle, S&T volunteer John Lindsay, Mike Walshaw, estates volunteer David Budd, and S&T volunteer Paul Edwards.

Photo provided by Andrew P M Wright



On 28th November, the carriage cleaning team poses with their handiwork for Peter Hunt's camera, (he's in the team as well). Here we see, from right to left, organiser David Chant, dining train manager John Trott, and porter Phil Baker.

Although we have a carriage washer, these folk do a better job at deep cleaning! Their next carriage cleaning exercise will be in March, and they would be most grateful for a few more volunteers. If you can spare some time then, please get in touch with David on [07780 874346](tel:07780874346) or Peter Hunt on [01300 321392](tel:01300321392) .



Training, training, training. Yes, we do lots of it, we have to, to keep up competences to the level expected from what is a professional train operating company. Although for volunteers it is essentially a hobby, it cannot be operated like a big boys' train set!

On December 13th, Stephen Earwicker was in Norden Gates level crossing box as part of his training for working Corfe Castle signal box, under which authority Norden Gates operates.

The level crossing was manned on this day to facilitate driver and fitter training on the diesel unit for the Wareham service.

Here the trainees meet as Stephen hands the token for the Norden to Corfe Castle section to the trainee driver.



While the diesel unit was in the section from Norden to our limit of operations at bridge 4, Swanage Railway's official photographer Andrew P M Wright was out there somewhere with his camera, and amongst his pictures that afternoon, there were some real treasures.

Among these are the two following pictures where he must have strapped his camera to a passing pigeon, and contain views of Purbeck not seen too often.

In the first of these pictures, the single car DMU is centre of picture standing at the signal at bridge 4. Top right is Worgret Farm behind which is Worgret Junction.

The red signal at around 10 o'clock on the picture and the yellow one in front of the train are controlled from the Network Rail signalling centre at Basingstoke.

Surrounding the train is the flood plain of the River Frome, and it's no surprise that it's doing its job!

Both the following pictures are credit Andrew P M Wright



Below, the train is lower centre, passing Creech Bottom. Directly above is Stoborough, and above that the town of Wareham, with Wareham Forest beyond.



Now we switch to the 14th December, and find Stephen Earwicker changed from trainee to trainer!
This time he's the rostered signaller in Harmans Cross signal box, for which he is fully qualified, and he is accompanied by trainee signaller Dave Harrison.



Out on the platform, Dave exchanges tokens with the crew of the Santa Special, hauled by the Standard Tank 80104, with Stephen supervising. Standing at the up platform waiting for Santa to pass is the Christmas luncheon train, hauled by Battle of Britain Class Pacific 34053 *Sir Keith Park*, and crewed by Driver Dave Reeves and fireman Terry Hannocks.



Have you been watching the TV programme Steam Train Britain on Thursday nights? If you have, you won't have missed Alan Pakes doing his stuff as Duty Traffic Manager at the Great Central Railway at Loughborough, near to where he lives. Here's a quick screen shot (if you can call it that!) of Alan in his starring role on the telly. This episode was on 28th November, repeated on 1st December.

If you missed this episode, it's on again on 31st December at 11.00 pm on Yesterday channel.



Alan also volunteers for the Swanage Railway, and on 14th December, he is the rostered driver on 80104 on the Santa Special. Here he has just brought the final train of the day into Swanage.

See, you don't have to live locally to volunteer here, and we have volunteers from places as far away as Preston, Lancashire, and occasionally Spain!



Down by Dickers crossing on 4th December, an engineering train has brought a wagon load of new rail in readiness for the track re-laying exercise in January. Road/Rail vehicles Big Daddy and Little Sis do the unloading. Pictures in issue 56 of SA showed the other materials already on site.



On 11th December, another engineering train in action, using diesel-electric crane FBC1 to uproot the redundant down home signal post at Harmans Cross.

Both these pictures from Paul Simons, who was the guard on both trains.



In Herston Works on 12th December, Southern Locomotives is having a working day, when the usual staff and volunteer labour is supplemented by an influx of members to help move things along with West Country Class 34028 *Eddystone*.



Behind *Eddystone*, is the M7 no. 30053. The Swanage Railway engineering team has removed just about everything for refurbishing, leaving just the frames, bunker and cylinders on stands.



The T3 restoration project is moving on apace, with around a third of the required funds already available. If the remaining funding can be found, there is every chance of this project coming to fruition by 2021. As always, it relies on the generosity of benefactors' donations.

To see how you can help by making a contribution, check out the web page at

<http://563locomotivegroup.co.uk.gridhosted.co.uk/donate/>

The frames have had a lot of work done already and can be seen here at the Flour Mill Workshop. Just needs the rest of it to make it a runner!

To borrow a phrase from a recent political event, let's **Get T3 Done!**



As usual, volunteers are required in all departments, so,

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

iwanttovolunteer@swanagerailway.co.uk

or the volunteer contact phone number

01929-475212, where you can leave a message.

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-----

Compiled and edited by John Denison

swanning.around@swanagerailway.co.uk

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

and

<http://swanagerailway.co.uk/volunteers-diary>