



Swanning Around

A Look At What's Happening Around The Swanage Railway

Issue 81 – December 30th 2021

Happy New Year!

In the words of the Swanage Railway Chairman, Gavin Johns, "It has been a challenging season but with the opportunities presented during the summer and latter part of the year our collective effort has put the Railway in a good place from which to plan for the future. "

And let's hope that planning for the future is not adversely affected by Covid-19 restrictions, and allows us all better fortune in 2022 .

Not too much in this final issue of Swanning Around for 2021; a few pictures around the Steam and Lights trains, a welcome back to Dorset for *Manston*, and more on the funding appeal for the T3 class tender.

Also, there is info about the diesel multiple unit trains running in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the last British Rail service to Swanage.

Of course, Swanning Around wishes all our readers a happy and prosperous New Year, even if Coronavirus thinks otherwise!





Some more scenes from Steam and Lights.

On 11th December, *257 Squadron* is being prepared on shed, with the steam powered generator allowing a light show of its own.

While on 12th December, *Eddystone* powers up through the Wilderness with a Steam and Lights train from Swanage.

both photos: Andrew P M Wright





On 5th December, late shift Swanage signalman John Lindsay has Responsible Officer Alan Blackman for company, while below, the crew members of 80078 have completed their two trips to Norden and are waiting to return to shed.

Fireman Gavin Brown, Driver Les Frampton, and cleaner Ethan Waller have a chat while they are waiting.

both photos: Andrew P M Wright





U class 31806 leads Steam and Lights through Corfe Castle station on 23rd December.

Plenty of viewers on the platform. This service has been very popular with lineside viewers, except those beyond Corfe, where the lights are switched off to avoid causing issues with traffic on the highway.

photo: Andrew P M Wright

Mike Streeter has placed a video of 257 Squadron and 31806 on the train through Corfe on 20th December on the Swanage Railway Unofficial Facebook Group page. Check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/1491841761/videos/281111620725560>

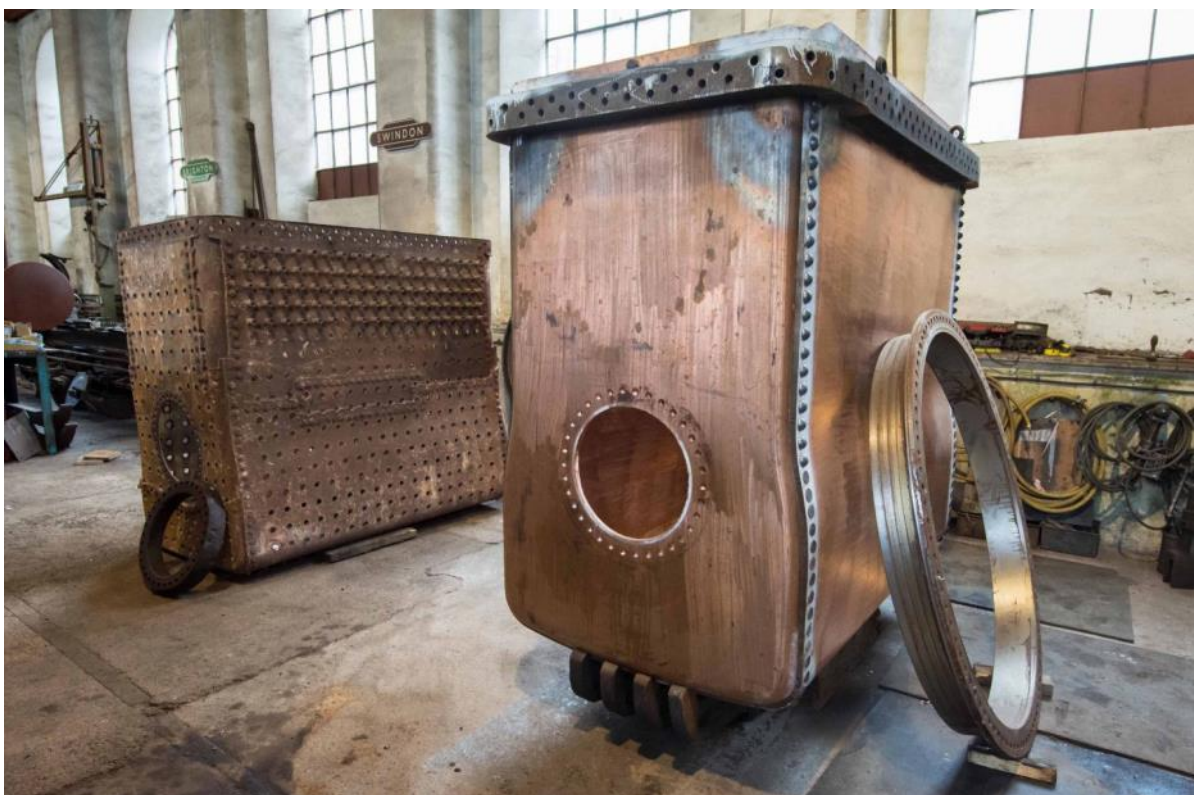


A couple more pictures to support the T3 locomotive restoration appeal.

Above, four of those running the project are seen on their recent outing to the Flour Mill Workshop to view progress on the T3. Left to right, Nick Lloyd, Nathan Au (chairman), Steve Doughty, and Will Armston-Sheret.

Below, a better picture of the new inner firebox.

photos: 563 Group





The T3's tender was moved from secure storage in early December to allow work to start on its refurbishment. Currently located at Norden, Nick Lloyd and Peter Frost started work on it and are seen here removing the brake system weigh shaft. Not easy when the last time it had any attention may have been over 70 years ago!

Only a few tools needed. Above, Nick uses the special linear impact device to assist removal of fixings, while Peter, below, operates the appropriate lifting equipment as they remove the shaft.

It is intended that the chassis will be relocated to Herston Works in due course to allow work to continue.

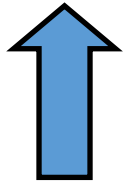
There is a new appeal to support the overhaul of the tender, [here](#).





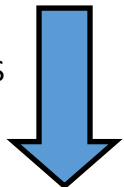
If you want to help to turn

THIS



Photos; 563 Group

Into THIS



Then check out the details of how you can help on the Swanage Railway website [here](#).



In previous issues of Swanning Around, we may have mentioned that 34070 *Manston* has been at the Tyseley Locomotive Works in Birmingham for some attention after a little contretemps.

We can now report that, on 23rd December, *Manston* was repatriated to Herston Works for Southern Locomotives' staff and volunteers to finish putting all the bits back on it, with a view to the loco returning to service in the not too distant future. More in a 2022 issue of SA.

Photo: Dave Ensor



© David Ensor Travel Photography

It's the fiftieth anniversary of the last train operated by British Rail on the branch between Wareham and Swanage, prior to closure.

To celebrate (?) this milestone in history, Swanage Railway will be running a special diesel service over three days of the New Year.

Operated by ex-British Railways 1960-built three-carriage Class 117 diesel multiple unit, the five trains a day service will be operating between Swanage and Norden from 10.30am to 4pm daily on Saturday 1st January, Sunday 2nd January, and Monday 3rd January, 2022.

To mark the last British Rail train and closure 50th anniversary, the first 50 people purchasing tickets on-line for each of the three days – from the Swanage Railway's website at swanagerailway.co.uk – only paid the January, 1972, last British Rail train fare of 50 pence per person. All other ticket holders will pay the full 2021 price! A special commemorative heritage Edmondson card ticket will be produced for all ticket holders travelling between 1st and 3rd January, 2022, inclusive.

Driving the diesel train on the first day will be Peter Frost, who also travelled on the last train in 1972.

Photo: Andrew P M Wright



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 408466 to contact Jonathan Evans, 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

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