



Swanning Around

A Look At What's Happening Around The Swanage Railway

Issue 59 – February 25th 2020

It's February, half term has just been and gone, we've had visits from Ciara and Dennis, but we still have more important stuff to report! Yes, the return of the class 117 Diesel unit for the Wareham service!

In spite of all manner of obstructions, the unit finally arrived back at Corfe Castle in mid-February, and Andrew P M Wright's picture of the first vehicle (51356 for those who like numbers) passing over the bridge at Wareham as a South Western Railway service for Weymouth passes beneath has become almost iconic.

But it's not all about the 117. We have, as usual, all sorts of other stuff in this issue, but it's a fraction of all the activity needed to keep the railway going. We always need more help! Read on to see why, and how you can contribute.



It's been a long time coming, but the class 117 Diesel unit has arrived back at its Corfe Castle depot after an extended overhaul to main line condition at Eastleigh. How it got there has something of a farce about it, as it was due to be collected by rail in early January.

Firstly, this was thwarted by a lineside installation at Brockenhurst, which rendered the unit unable to pass muster with Network Rail's gauging computer—he say No!

When arrangements had been made to transport the 117 vehicles by road from Eastleigh, an unlucky container train found the dodgy rail fixings and derailed at Eastleigh station, and broke the points, preventing the move of the unit from Eastleigh Works to the pick-up point in Eastleigh East Yard!

At the third attempt, Gareth Buscombe was able to transport four vehicles back to Dorset. Four? Yes a spare power car vehicle also returned.

On 4th February, the vehicles have reached Eastleigh East Yard, and they're in the middle of Mervyn Turvey's picture.



It's late afternoon on 12th February, and power car 51356 has arrived at Norden.

Picture: Andrew P M Wright



By 14th February, all three vehicles are back at Corfe Castle, and have joined the single-car class 121 'Bubble Car' at the main line depot. The unit was due to start training runs on 21st February, but yet another obstruction, this time on the Norden to River Frome extension, prevented this from happening. Jinxed? We hope not!

Picture: Andrew P M Wright

The fourth vehicle was the first to arrive on 12th February, and was parked pending component recovery. Guard Trevor Parsons accompanies the vehicle to a siding at Norden.



The construction of the carriage shed at Herston continues. Because of its location, material deliveries have to be by rail, like this one on 12th February.

Picture: Tim Marshall



The half term week train service was handled by T9 no. 30120, seen here passing the carriage shed works on 18th February. The foundations for the structure, and other groundworks, are in progress.

Picture: Andrew P M Wright



As mentioned in the last issue of SA, further funding is required to complete this project, and you can help by checking out the appeal on the Swanage Railway Trust website at

<https://www.swanagerailwaytrust.org/carriage-shed-appeal>

Click on the pictures for more info about the project, and check out **Ways to Help** to find out how you can contribute to this vital project for protection of our vulnerable coaching stock.

Storms Ciara and Dennis visited us, and the Swanage Railway was not badly affected like some other railways. But we didn't get away with it totally.

Ciara left its calling card , or more accurately a tree, at Furzebrook alongside the clay works. The rule book description of this event is ***Line Blocked!*** How true!

Negotiations with Imerys, the clay people, over what to do with **their** tree on **our** line were in progress as this picture was taken on 12th February.



Also in progress at Furzebrook on 12th February was erection of scaffolding on the bridge to enable Dorset Council to carry out maintenance. A speed restriction of 5mph enables trains to continue to pass underneath, on the running line.



Meanwhile, down at Harmans Cross on 18th February, the enterprising camp site owner has a fine flock of sheep mowing his grass. This one is eyeing us up, perhaps looking for Alan?



Bob Bunyar has rescued some lamp bodies from storage at Swanage, and is in the process of smartening them up to look good on the shelves of the Harmans Cross Lamp Hut.

While we conduct signalman training in Harmans Cross signal box, painter Phil Minshall is outside on the scaffolding in the lee of the weather doing the window frames. This work is being extended past the half term week owing to the particularly foul weather we've been having recently.

The wind outside was so strong at times that it was not possible to hold a camera still!



The blue sky in this picture at Harmans Cross belies the fact that most of the day on 18th February was beset by heavy rain and high winds. All credit to the S&T volunteers Bob Drew and Nick Rutt for doing the regular signal and pointwork maintenance under such conditions!



At Corfe Castle on 21st February, porter Peter Hunt wins first prize as porter of the week, delivering free doughnuts to the signalman!

Peter is looking for help with carriage cleaning at Swanage. If you can help on 3rd, 5th, 10th, or 12th March, contact Peter on peter.hunt1914@btinternet.com

Or just turn up! Could be free tea and biccies!

Swanage Railway, like other railways and attractions run by volunteers, is always under financial and regulatory pressure, and as the organisation grows, so does the responsibility the management takes on. Swanage Railway management recognises the need for change, and, to that end, is running a series of forums to inform members of proposed changes to governance. This will enable the organisation to respond better to changes in regulation and to gain more opportunities for financial grants and tax breaks.

The first of these forums on 15th February was well attended by over 60 members, and was presented by Trust chairman Gavin Johns. More forums (or is it fora?) are being scheduled, the next one, for Swanage Railway Trust members only, being in the community room at the Mowlem on Saturday 29th February, starting at 17.30.

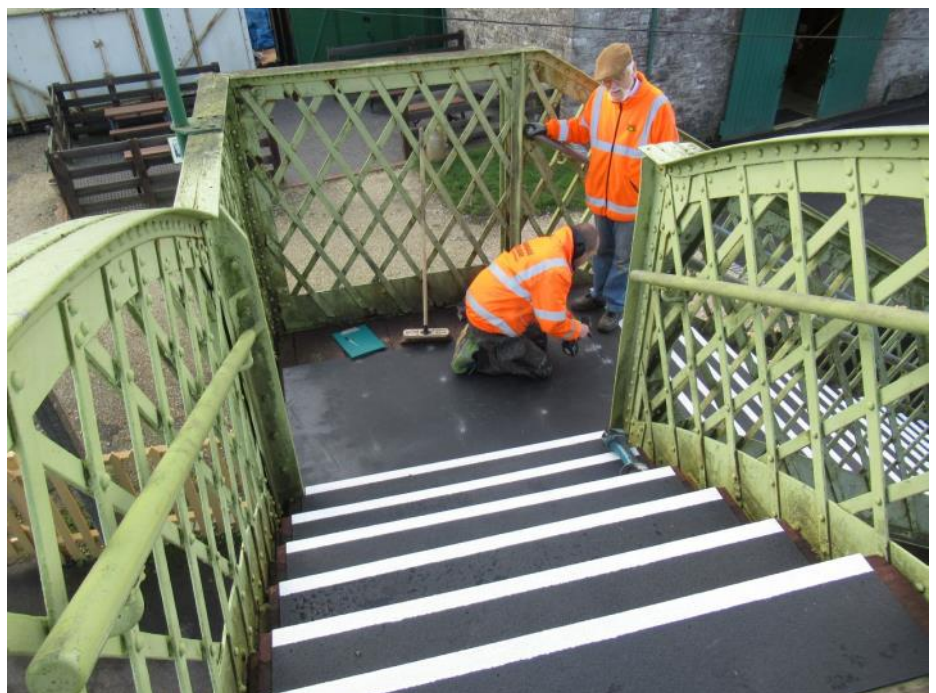


It's already nearly full at the Harmans Cross village hall on 15th February.

On a foul day, what better place to be, and free tea as well!

Changes or tightening in regulation often mean more money has to be spent to maintain conformance, and the footbridge at Corfe Castle is just such an example.

Estates manager Pat Cattle fixes new non-slip material to the boards with David Budd. New treads have already been fitted, and that stuff costs a packet. Another reason why our volunteer-run charity has to continuously look for sources of funding. There's no way the fare box can keep up with all the expenses!



The 4TC Group's DTSO (**D**iving **T**railer **S**econd **O**pen) no 76322 is having a funding shortfall, owing to additional work required to fix more rust damage than was anticipated. The vehicle is at Rampart Engineering, and has been stripped back to bare metal to reveal the various repairs needed.

This picture sees it outside the workshop.



And this picture shows some of the body side cut away to reveal more work!

Both pictures from the 4TC Group Spring update.

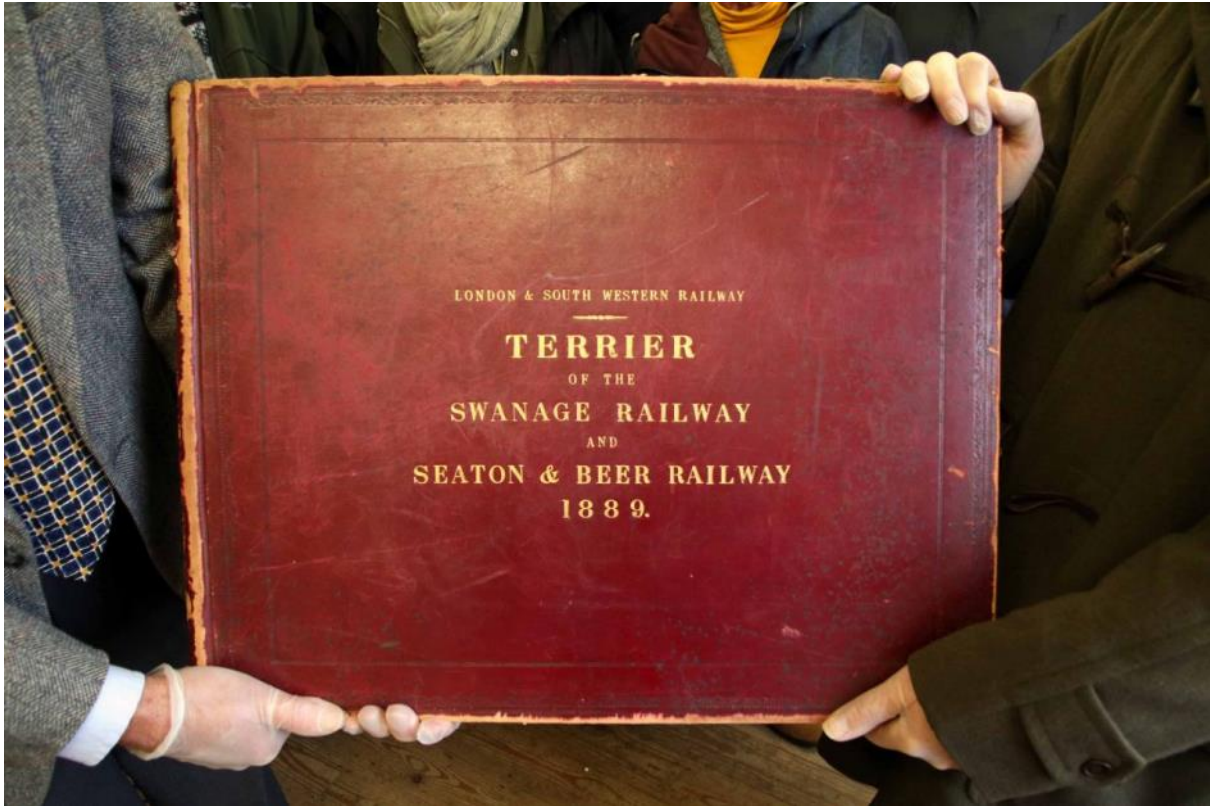
As a reminder, if you would like to help this project, you can contribute:

- By going to www.swanagerailwaytrust.org/giving
- by bank transfer account number 13462420 sort code 20-68-79
- by cheque payable to "Swanage Railway Trust - 4TC Group", and posted to "Swanage Railway Trust - 4TC Group, Station house, Swanage, BH19 1HB.

Or to volunteer, email George Rashbrook on george.rashbrook@swanagerailway.co.uk

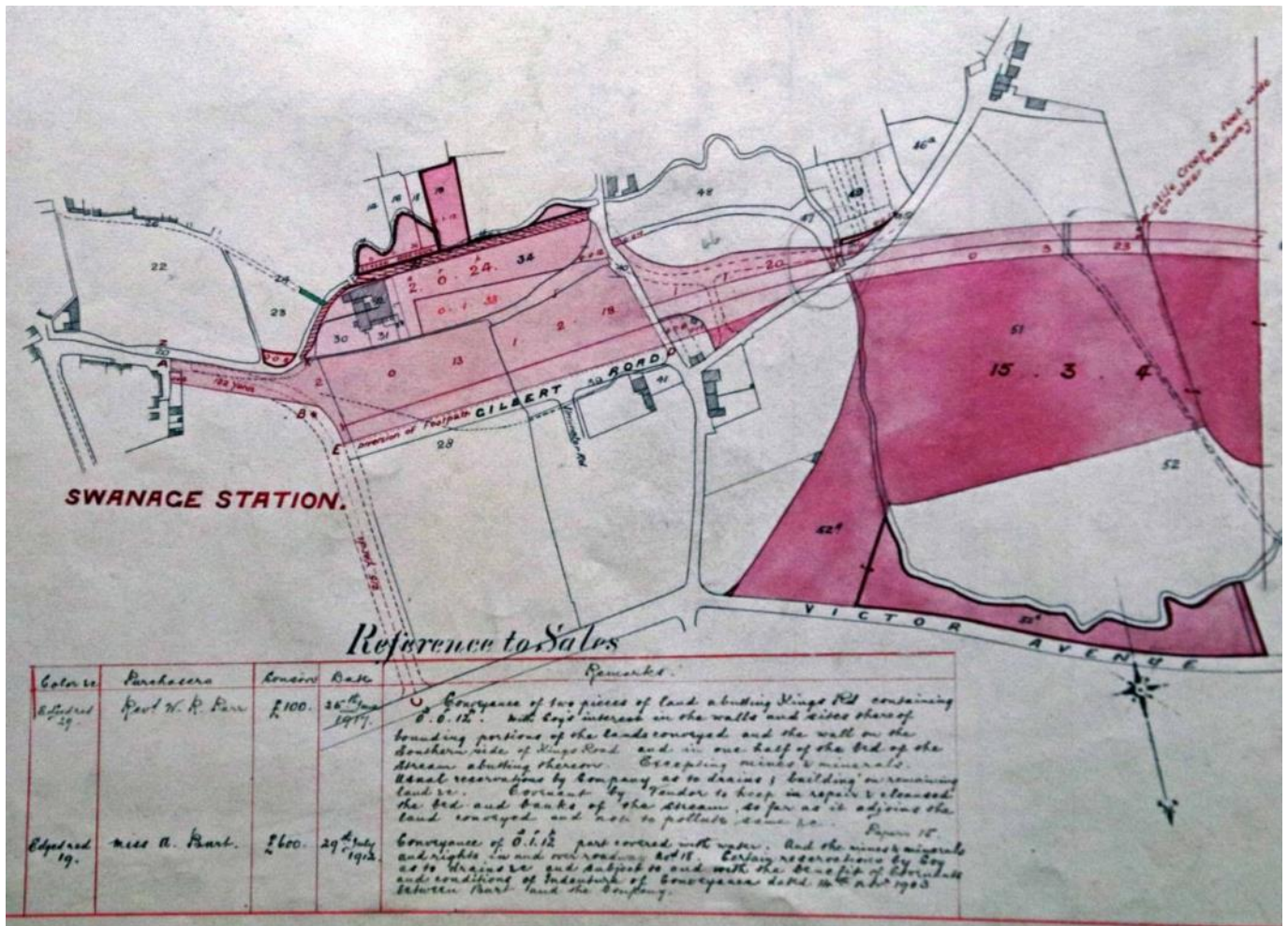
Did you know that Terrier is an old English legal term for a register or survey of land ? You do now!

The Terrier of the Swanage Railway, dated 1889, was held by the Isle of Wight Steam Railway until recently, when they generously donated it to the Swanage Railway's museum.



This event featured on BBC TV's South Today programme, and a screen grab shows Trevor Parsons (left) and museum manager Chris Morgan examining the contents whilst appearing on the telly.





This is just one of the pages inside the Terrier, showing the site of Swanage Station prior to building.

While we are at the museum, we should mention that the cinema coach has had a makeover, and has re-opened in time for half term. That, and the rest of the museum are worth another look. Go and see for yourselves.



Swanage Railway
volunteer signalman and
driver Nick Lloyd has
purchased Southern
Railway CCT (Covered
Carriage Truck) no 1449
for restoration. Here it is
at Norden, having been
shunted out from Eldons
siding recently.

We think he's going to
need some help!



In the week preceding half term, we had a tamper visit us to re-align and smooth out the track. On 3rd February, the tamper crew is preparing the machine at Norden for the day's work.



Last time, Alan English and Will Rudge were in the Goods shed making a Super Turbot engineering material wagon. They finished it, and it was pictured outside at Swanage on 11th February, coupled to its sister Turbot, which was about to be shunted into the shed to receive the same treatment. A bit of a before and after picture!



Picture: Gary Packer

Purbeck Park

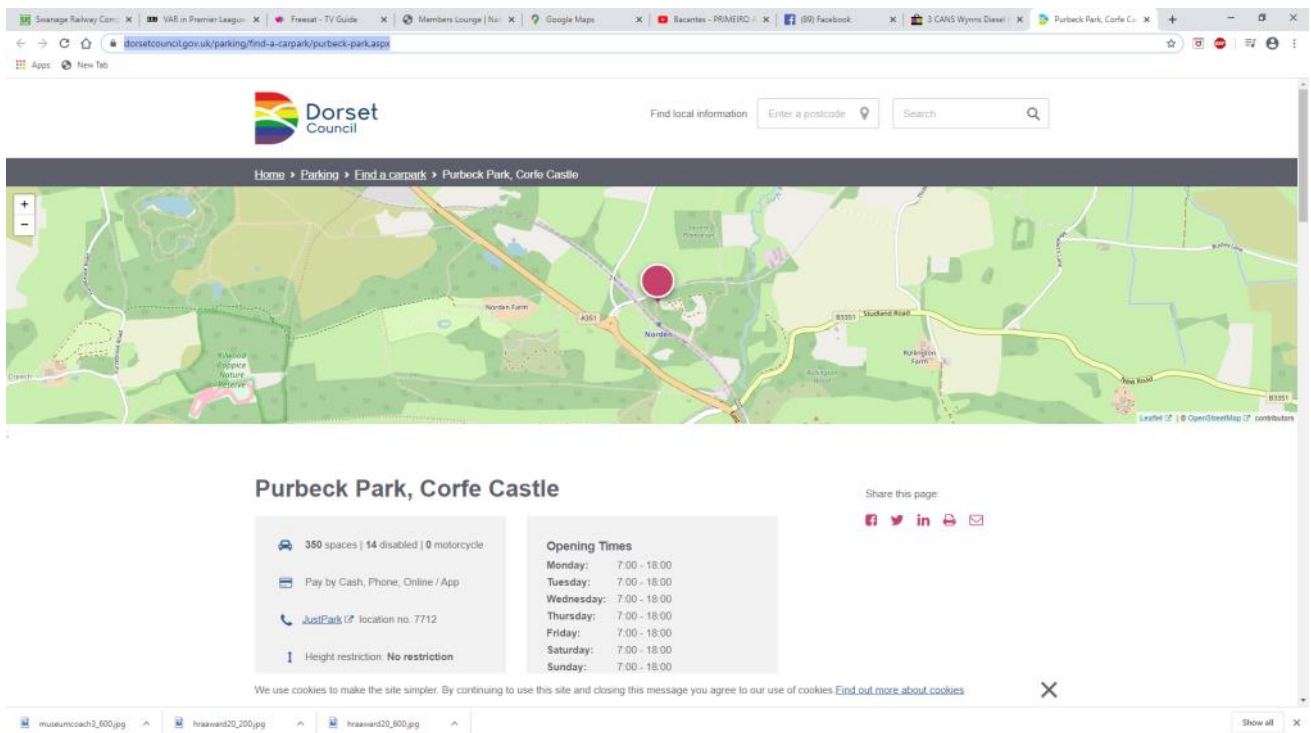
You've heard of Norden Park and Ride, which wasn't really a Park and Ride in the usual sense, but just a car park at Norden next to our Norden Station. Forget that!

Dorset Council Tourism has been doing a re-branding exercise aimed at promoting tourism in Purbeck. It is now Purbeck Park!

Check out the Visit Dorset Facebook page and the YouTube video for more info.

Purbeck Park also appears on the Dorset Council's car park finder web page.

See below for all these.



<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/parking/find-a-carpark/purbeck-park.aspx>

<https://www.facebook.com/VisitDorset/>

https://youtu.be/24Kr_xdITz8

The Heritage Railway Association awards evening was held on 8th February in Birmingham, and the Swanage Railway was well represented.

Passed cleaner **James Forster** received a Runner-Up Certificate in the Lord Faulkner Young Volunteer Award category.

The railway's SRStaff web site was runner-up in the Communications category, and the awards were collected by SR company chair Liz Sellen and Company Secretary and web administrator Peter Milford.



This is what James Forster won an award for—volunteering!

And here he is on 21st February, firing on the T9.

Well done, James!



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

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Views expressed in 'Swanning Around' are those of the author(s) and are not necessarily the views of the Swanage Railway Trust or the Swanage Railway Company. No liability accepted for errors or inaccuracies.

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Swanning Around also appears on line at:

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

and

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