



Behind The Scenes

Winter Work Blog 4

24th January 2012

The project is still running about 7-8 days ahead of schedule, and was graced with a visit by BBC South Today on Saturday 21st January. However, some tricky stuff is about to commence.

Drainage work for the platform area track bed is beginning and pipes for the 'new' water tower need to be installed during these works.

The process of lifting track panels has started at the end of Platform 2. Excavations have followed with the laying of catch pits and drain pipes next on the agenda. All this is exactly the same as before, however the visible change around the station will be far greater in this public area. Old, contaminated clay, that used to be clearly visible, will be gone and replaced with fresh Granite Ballast.

The first part of these Winter Works has seen points and plain track, between the Loco Shed and Signal box, lifted completely. The track bed was excavated, a new drainage system incorporated, track & points replaced and a deep layer of fresh Ballast dropped. Hundreds of Tons of spoil have been removed using specialist contract plant and the Railway's own wagons.

This year's Winter Works continue to be a massive undertaking and more volunteers are needed to help keep the project moving to a timely completion. If you want to get involved please contact us on **01929 475203** and we'll point you in the right direction.

Elsewhere the S & T gang continues to make good progress reinstalling point rodding, signal wiring, facing point locks and track circuit connections. My thanks go to David Foden for producing such an excellent report on their progress.

Locomotive Carriage & Wagon Dept. continue to make good progress on Bulleid West Country No, 34028 "Eddystone" which resides in the loco shed. Scheduled Winter maintenance on Drummond M7 tank No.53 has been completed, and had a test run today (23rd), prior to heading off to attend the GCR Railway's Winter Gala.



BBC South Today visits the site. Photo Andrew P.M. Wright

80078 is out of service awaiting a Heavy overhaul.

It is now under the care of our young volunteers group – the Sygnets – until a decision is made on its future.

During 22nd/23rd footplate staff organized a cleaning weekend on the 106 year old M7 and many volunteers and staff turned up to lend a hand. The locomotive is now a sparkling credit to the Swanage Railway.

Inside Swanage Goods Shed great progress continues to be made on the Kitchen Car's re-paint. Bodywork has been rubbed down and filled with Undercoat being applied.

Outside the FO has been rubbed down by weekend C&W volunteers. Fortunately the temperature has, in the main, been a lot 'warmer' than might be expected at this time of year. Both vehicles will certainly look good in the new Carmine & Cream (“Blood and Custard”) livery of the Wessex Belle. The remainder of the Belle rake will also be re-painted in due course.

More volunteers are still needed in the goods shed to complete this project. Contact us if you are interested and we will point you in the right direction.



Matt McManus, Deputy Operations Manager

All photos on this page have been supplied by Peter Milford and Matt McManus unless otherwise acknowledged. More photos of PW works can be seen on our news page at: <http://www.swanagerailway.co.uk/news802.htm>