

RECONNECTING SWANAGE WITH WAREHAM AND THE NATIONAL RAIL NETWORK

WAREHAM ■ CORFE CASTLE ■ HARMANS CROSS ■ HERSTON ■ SWANAGE

Community

There has been tremendous progress upgrading the infrastructure. A new signalling scheme, between Wareham and Norden, funded by Dorset County Council and Purbeck District Council, as part of Network Rail's wider resignalling project between Poole and Wool, entered service in February 2015. Donations and further significant grant aid received from the Government's Coastal Communities Fund have enabled large sections of the track and earthworks between our current limit of regular passenger operations at Norden and our new lease boundary near Worgret Junction to be upgraded, after years of neglect. In addition an impressive new level crossing and associated road-rail interchange has been constructed at Norden Gates, thanks to a grant from BP.



Trains

Good progress is being made at Eastleigh on completing the extensive overhaul and upgrading to mainline standards of our BR Class 117 and 121 Diesel Multiple Units (DMUs) which will form the backbone of our service between Swanage and Wareham.

Early in 2016 we were successful in applying for a grant from the Department for Transport's Heritage and Community Rail Tourism Innovation Competition. This grant will help fund the upgrade of one of our historic Southern Railway steam locos (N Class no. 31874) and five Mark 1 passenger coaches to the standard required to operate on the mainline to Wareham.

Train Services

The new Swanage – Wareham service will start with a two year trial. We plan to introduce the first year's trial service during Summer 2017 with four return trips a day operating on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays on at least 50 days. The start date is dependent upon us completing the train refurbishment referred to above, carrying out staff training and obtaining the necessary authorisations from the Office of Rail and Road. The exact running days and times will be published in late 2016 or early 2017.

2017 marks the 50th Anniversary of the end of regular steam on the Southern Region of British Railways. We hope to operate some steam hauled services between Swanage and Wareham during 2017.

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Current position

In addition to the above grant aid our 'Sponsor a Sleeper' appeal has raised over £15,000 towards vital upgrade work and our appeal to Trust Members has raised over £40,000. We give our sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to this. However, some point work still needs to be completed at Furzebrook. This will give access to the extensive former BP/Perenco sidings dramatically increasing the amount of siding space available for stabling and protecting rolling stock.

Our Class 117 DMU and Class 121 'Bubblecar' continue to undergo their extensive and expensive overhaul and upgrade. We also need to fund the construction of an additional inspection pit at Swanage to ensure that the DMUs and mainline rolling stock can be properly maintained and checked whilst ensuring that our existing intensive heritage railway activity is not compromised.

How you can help us

The Swanage Railway's founding objective of fully restoring the railway between Swanage and Wareham as an evocative Southern heritage branch line, providing a genuine community service, is now almost within our reach.

The grant aid the Swanage Railway has received towards the project totals over £2.8m. However, we need to raise a further £450,000 to fully complete the job, enabling over 40 years of hard work and dedication to pay off.

We are appealing for your help in raising this money. Please donate whatever you can to the appeal, using the enclosed form, or by going online to www.swanagerailwaytrust.org.uk/appeals and selecting the Project Wareham option.

Any amount you can give will be very gratefully received. As an alternative to a single donation please consider setting up a standing order. When Gift Aid is added this would constitute a significant contribution. With your help and support together we can finally achieve the objective which our pioneers fought for and dreamt of over 40 years ago.

Thank you for your help and support.

Gavin Johns
Chairman, Swanage Railway Trust

Trevor Parsons
Chairman, Swanage Railway Company

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SWANAGE RAILWAY

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The Swanage Railway takes pride in being a heritage railway with a distinct community based purpose. Reinstating passenger services between Swanage and Wareham was a founding objective of the preserved Swanage Railway following the closure of the Swanage branch by British Rail in 1972 and is the aspiration of the Purbeck Community Rail Partnership. The branch line today represents the culmination of more than 40 years hard work, much of it by volunteers.

The Swanage Railway enjoys broad support within the community, at local and national Government level and across the political spectrum including the All Party Parliamentary Group in Westminster.

All photos courtesy of Andrew P.M.Wright.



Purbeck Community Rail Partnership

With the realisation that the Swanage Railway would continue to struggle to reintroduce regular train services to Wareham without external help the Railway approached Purbeck District Council to establish the Purbeck Community Rail Partnership (PCRP).

An active member and leading participant of the PCRP, the Swanage Railway has enjoyed a good working relationship with the local authorities for many years. In addition to the Railway, the partnership is made up of Dorset County Council, Purbeck District Council, Network Rail, Perenco (successors to BP as owners of Wytch Farm) and South West Trains.



DONATION

Please complete this form using BLOCK CAPITALS

Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss Please delete as appropriate

Surname:

Forenames:

Home address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Donation

I wish to support the Swanage Railway Trust's Project Wareham Appeal. Please find enclosed a cheque for £..... Cheques should be made payable to the Swanage Railway Trust (Project Wareham Appeal). UK taxpayers can enhance the value of their donations and subscriptions by completing a Gift Aid declaration. If you have not already done so but would like to, please complete the declaration below.

If you would like formal confirmation that your donation has been received, please tick here..... Donations can also be made on-line using a credit or debit card at the Swanage Railway Trust's website at: www.swanagerailwaytrust.org.uk/appeals/

Gift Aid Declaration

I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make to in the future or have made in the past four years to the Swanage Railway Trust. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please send the completed form to:

Project Wareham Appeal, The Swanage Railway Trust, Station House, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 1HB.

The Swanage Railway Trust is a Registered Charity No. 1087318

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

Name of bank/building society:

Branch:

Address:

Postcode:

Account Holder:

Account No: Sortcode:

to Pay Barclays Bank plc, Poole, Dorset (20-68-79) for the credit of Swanage Railway Trust (Account no 50882720) the sum of:

£ MONTHLY

“Please quote “Project Wareham” when paying.

Please sign here for Bank Standing Order payments:

X

X

Date:

Office Use: Ref LT/

Commencing Date:

DD / MM / YYYY