



Volunteer Liaison Department
Swanage Railway Trust Ltd.
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USEFUL INFORMATION FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS CRANE DEPARTMENT

OUR CRANES

There are several cranes on the Swanage Railway, including a Ransomes and Rapier 45 ton steam crane, built in 1940 for general breakdown duties on the Southern Railway. There are also two Stothert and Pitt, diesel-electric, rail-mounted cranes built for the Southern Railway's Docks at Southampton. The Stothert and Pitt cranes are 15 ton and 10 ton lift capacity and were built in 1948 and 1952 respectively. The 15 ton crane is the Railway's main working crane and arrived on the railway in about 1983. It is a valuable asset and has helped to rebuild much of the railway. Besides laying track panels, positioning line-side cabins, lifting bogies and many other tasks, it's most notable recent success has been lifting the footbridge into position at Corfe Castle station.

After many years of continuous use on the railway there are some significant repairs required, and at the same time, work is underway to restore original equipment, which would allow the crane to be self-propelling.

This crane's sister, which has a 10 ton lift, is also under the care of the crane department. It is currently undergoing major refurbishment and is planned to be operational in 2012.

Other cranes and lifting equipment are maintained on an 'as required' basis.

The 45 ton breakdown crane has recently been based at the railway and plans are still to be prepared for it's operation and maintenance. Undoubtedly more support will be required to keep it in good condition and to ensure it is available for the heavier lifts, which are needed from time to time.

The department has the responsibility for maintenance of Trust owned operational cranes but is also responsible for ensuring that regular inspections and safety checks are carried out on all the railway's operational cranes and lifting equipment, and to ensure that the cranes are appropriately insured for use.



CRANE DEPT - VOLUNTEERING

The department is based at Norden's Lakeside sidings where both Stothert and Pitt cranes are berthed. There are regular working parties which meet on Fridays, all year round, and sometimes at other times by prior arrangement. There is a core team of volunteers dedicated to the maintenance and preservation of these cranes and who will be pleased to welcome new members with no previous experience. You will be given training in all safety matters and in engineering aspects of the work in which you are interested. We also welcome those who already have good engineering skills, which they would like to share with others, and feel sure that you will find working in the crane department a rewarding experience. The Swanage Railway operates a documented Youth Protection Policy to safeguard children. The policy of the Swanage Railway Trust is that all Volunteers should be Members. For further information please contact:

The Crane Department Manager is Fraser White Telephone: 01202 573081 or Email: fraser_w@lds.co.uk
Or contact the Volunteer Liaison Department as above.

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