



Volunteer Liaison Department  
Swanage Railway Trust Ltd.  
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**USEFUL INFORMATION FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS**  
**CATERING DEPARTMENT WESSEX BELLE**

**THE TRAIN**

The Wessex Belle Dining Train is made up of four dedicated carriages, a Bar Car, Kitchen Car and two dining carriages. When in service it also requires a fifth Brake Carriage for the Guard. The Bar Car No. 4055 was originally built in 1956 as an Eastern Region TSO (Tourist Second Open), arriving at Swanage in 1992. It went into service in June 1995 having been converted mainly by London Group volunteers who had taken just over a year to transform it using redundant shutters from a local bar, and soft furnishings designed by a volunteer. The Kitchen Car No. 1937, built in 1959, had also spent its previous life on the Eastern Region as an RU (Unclassified Restaurant) and after an intense Swanage Railway fundraising initiative called "The Stock Pot Appeal" went to Cranmore Traincare in 1998 for conversion into an RK (Full Kitchen). The two dining carriages are composed of an FO (First Open) carriage No. 3090, built in 1959 for the Western Region, transferred to the Midland region, and arriving at Swanage in 1992. It was then moved to a site at Littlebrook Power Station in Kent where London Group volunteers did most of its restoration, before its return to Swanage for finishing off, entering service in March 2004. The other dining car is an SO (Second Open) carriage No. 4803. The four dedicated carriages are currently being repainted in BR 'Blood and Custard' livery (carmine and cream) in readiness for the 2012 season.



**ON TRAIN DINING**

Our prestigious Wessex Belle Dining Train, normally hauled by a steam engine, makes two trips up the line from Swanage on selected evenings throughout the year, normally a Saturday, though it is also available for charter on any evening when the Railway is open. Upon their arrival from 19.00, customers boarding the train can take advantage of the Bar Car to obtain aperitifs; a varied selection of wines, spirits and beers is available served by one of our volunteers from behind the well stocked bar. Passengers then take their seats in one of the dining cars for their five course meal. The train departs from Swanage at 19.30 returning at approximately 22.30.

On selected evenings throughout the Summer Season the Dining Train takes on a less formal guise as the Wessex Belle Bistro. This service provides the customer with a good value four course meal. The bar is open throughout the evening, the train using the same timetable as the Wessex Belle.

The Wessex Belle also operates on selected Sunday lunchtimes, serving customers with a traditional roast lunch. It is also available for charters, wedding receptions etc.

**VOLUNTEERS**

To operate the Dining train we need bar staff (age 18 or over), waiters, kitchen assistants, and of course people to do that favourite job, washing up! Minimal experience of catering is an advantage, but full training is given. The minimum dress code for staff serving customers is white shirt/blouse, black trousers/skirt and black shoes. 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 Train Manager is John Trott Telephone: 01202 248459 or email: [trotttrott1@sky.com](mailto:trotttrott1@sky.com)  
Or contact the Volunteer Liaison Department as above.

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