



Volunteer Liaison Department  
Swanage Railway Trust Ltd.  
Station House Swanage  
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## USEFUL INFORMATION FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS

### RETAIL SHOP AT SWANAGE

#### HISTORY

In February 1976 Swanage Railway Volunteers gained access to the disused and boarded up station building at Swanage. The 1884 Purbeck Stone building had not been used since the last British Railways train ran on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1972, and after a referendum amongst local townspeople, of whom a massive 83% voted in favour of wanting their railway service back, Swanage Town Council granted a lease to those early volunteers. Almost immediately after gaining access to the building the Shop was established in the old parcels office, which had been greatly extended and enlarged by the Southern Railway in 1938. Adjacent to the retail area, the Shop Manager's office and store room were established in the former "front room" of the Station Master's house. In those early days (and after) the income generated by the Shop was crucial in helping to finance the embryonic Swanage Railway, the first track being laid by hand.

#### THE PRESENT

The entrance to the Railway Shop is situated on Platform 2 at Swanage Station. It is open most days throughout the year except on Christmas Day and has always been staffed and managed entirely by volunteers. The Shop is usually quite busy, especially when trains are operating, and stocks a large range of goods, mostly railway orientated, including books, magazines and model railway items. A variety of "Thomas the Tank Engine" goods are also on sale and these are very popular during our "Thomas" events. We also stock confectionary, ice creams, soft drinks, post cards and various railway souvenirs, which are in demand during the Summer holiday season.

#### VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers who help in the Shop usually commit to a regular day in the week on a full or half day basis; some staff also offer to cover other shifts if necessary. Full training is given and no previous experience is required. Volunteers in the Shop are issued with passes which allow free travel on the Railway and free parking at Swanage and Norden; a discount is also available on Shop goods. Dress is optional, and a Railway apron is supplied. 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 shop Manager is Ralph Smith Telephone: 01929 475204  
Or contact the Volunteer Liaison Department as above.

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