

What is it like to be a Swanage Railway volunteer?

“Hard work”, “Satisfying”, “Rewarding”, “A great feeling of community and camaraderie” - all experienced against a background of the splendidly beautiful Purbeck countryside.

Find your niche in one of these areas:

Operations: Locomotive crews, guards, signalling, platform staff or working around the engine shed.

Passenger Services: Manning the ticket offices at Swanage, Corfe Castle or Norden, inspecting tickets on the train or taking telephone bookings.

Permanent Way: Maintaining and laying track and points and clearing the lineside of vegetation.

Signal & Telegraph: Installing and maintaining signalling equipment in signal boxes and lineside.

Carriage and Wagon: Restoring and maintaining rolling stock, including our heritage vehicles.

Catering: Helping on the prestigious ‘Wessex Belle’ dining train or in one of the on-train or station buffets.

Telecom: Maintaining our extensive internal telephone system and exchanges.

Civil Engineering: Building and maintaining platforms, station buildings, bridges, drains etc.

Shop: Serving in our well stocked shop at Swanage.

Sygnets group: For boys or girls aged 11 to 16 doing all sorts of useful projects in all departments.

Also: Electrical, finance and administration, fundraising, special events, gardening, painting, museum group, Purbeck mining and mineral group (including narrow gauge railway at Norden), station project and maintenance groups, locomotive restoration (Herston works), carriage cleaning, etc.

Extra details: www.swanagerailwaytrust.org.uk



‘The Sygnets’, The Swanage Railway Youth Group



The Swanage Railway Youth Group, ‘The Sygnets’, encourages boys and girls to take an active part in the operation of the Swanage Railway, providing our Railway with support for the future. The age range is 11-16 years. The group plays a practical role that encourages community development, teaches railway operations and provides a variety of skills. The group meets once a month on a Saturday, so if you want to join our friendly and rewarding group please contact the Volunteer Liaison Department.

NAME _____ MR/MRS/MS
ADDRESS _____

POST CODE _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____
TELEPHONE NUMBER(S) DAY _____
EVENING _____ MOBILE _____
EMAIL ADDRESS _____

I AM INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS: _____

PLEASE HAND THIS FORM TO ANY TICKET OFFICE
OR POST TO: VOLUNTEER LIAISON OFFICER,
SWANAGE RAILWAY TRUST, STATION HOUSE,
SWANAGE, DORSET, BH19 1HB.

THE SWANAGE RAILWAY OPERATES A DOCUMENTED YOUTH
PROTECTION POLICY TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN

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SWANAGE RAILWAY



MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To run one public service train we need all these volunteers!



There's more to working on the Swanage Railway than driving trains or collecting tickets!

Steam trains run on most weekends throughout the year and daily from April to October. In July and August we operate a very intensive service with a train every 40 minutes, plus an evening diesel service that runs till after 11pm. You can see why we need plenty of volunteers!

There are so many varied jobs around our Railway that whatever your professional background, skills or interest, you can find a niche which allows you to contribute to the success of the whole enterprise. Full training is given where necessary.

Want to know more? Call Mike Whitwam on 01929 475212, send an Email to: volunteer@swanagerailwaytrust.org.uk or complete the application form on the back page.

We can then show you the various areas that interest you and introduce you to the departmental or project managers, and you can meet other volunteers at work.



For almost 90 years, this branch line wound its way through the beautiful Purbeck countryside, from Wareham, past Corfe Castle to the attractive, Victorian, sea-side town of Swanage. In 1972, British Rail closed the line, and seven miles of track between Swanage and Furzebrook was ripped up in just seven weeks.

When a small group of volunteers got together later that year, they were faced with a disused and boarded-up Swanage station, bulldozed platforms and no track! However, after over 30 years of hard work, they have produced a miracle – one of Britain's best preserved heritage railways.

From small beginnings, our volunteers, joined later by a small core of paid staff, re-laid track, built new stations at Herston, Harmans Cross and Norden, rebuilt Swanage station platforms, restored Corfe Castle station to the delightful feature it is today, and can now boast the most intensively operated standard gauge preserved railway in the country.

As well as being a major tourist attraction in the Purbeck area, the line now provides an important transport link from Norden Park & Ride station to Corfe Castle and Swanage, helping reduce the number of cars on the already busy A351.

One of the aims of the Swanage Railway Trust (the charity that has overall control of the Railway), is to reinstate the line to Wareham and facilitate a rail service that will connect the Isle of Purbeck to the main-line railway. With this in mind, work has already been completed beyond Norden to the end of the Network Rail line at Motata. Once the necessary work has been carried out on the presently disused part of the Network Rail line, we will have a rail link that will allow excursions in and out of Swanage, as well as, eventually, services to Wareham or beyond.

All these aims require much money and labour. Most of our labour by far is from volunteers as this is the only cost-effective way that we can undertake the work. This labour takes many forms, as this leaflet shows, so whether you want to get involved physically (laying track, working with locomotives or carriages, signalling etc.), or whether you would like to help with administration, publicity, fundraising etc., there is a place for you at our Railway. We also need people willing to work in the shop or in catering, checking tickets on the trains, acting as station staff and generally making our customers' day a memorable and enjoyable one.

