



The Swanage Railway Trust
Swanage Station,
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May 2013

Steam Crane Appeal

Dear Swanage Railway Supporter,

Last year, the Swanage Railway was fortunate to acquire a Southern Railway steam crane. We now need your help to get it working again.



The crane, built in 1940 by Ransomes and Rapier for the Southern Railway, is generally in good condition as a significant amount of work was done prior to its arrival at Swanage, notably to the boiler and the lifting gear. However, there is still some work to be done including overhaul of the jib runner (the wagon beneath the jib), replacement of some steel platework, renewal of many of the cab and boiler fittings and, as you can see – some more paint. In relative terms compared to some of the projects that have been completed recently, the task is not huge, but nevertheless it all costs money. The estimate is £12,000 and with your help we can get it finished in time to help with the coming winter work programme.

So why do we need a 45 ton steam crane, when we have several other cranes which have served us well over the years? Put simply – size matters. Our two diesel electric cranes have a capacity of around 20 tons which makes them ideal for most of our permanent way and infrastructure needs. However, while 20 tons sounds a lot – and it is – if it is necessary to lift a loco, even just one end if it is a Bulleid, then 20 tons is not enough. Also, the 20 ton capacity drops rapidly to the extent that the lift is to the side and with reach from the line on which the crane is standing. Thus many smaller awkward lifts are beyond the capacity of the cranes we

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have. To accomplish these lifts today we often have to hire a road crane which aside from the expense (around £1000 per day) is hardly convenient given the limited road access to most parts of the railway.

So this crane ticks the 'need' box in that when it is working it has the potential to save us money. Does it tick other boxes? Yes it does! Being a genuine 'Southern Railway' crane, it falls precisely within our charitable heritage remit to preserve and restore such things. And finally, a big crane is a fascinating thing to see in action and as such is an attraction in its own right which should bring more visitors to our railway.

If these are not reason enough to support this appeal, let me close with some more history. The crane was one of six ordered in April 1939 by the Government as part of Air Raid Precautions planning. Two went to the SR and four to the GWR. Ours, number 1561S, was based at Guildford to be close to London. After the war it served at Ashford, Brighton and Stewarts Lane and had the honour of being the last steam crane – and the last standard gauge steam powered vehicle - in service with British Railways when retired in April 1988.

I hope you can help us bring this useful crane back to life.

Thank you for your support.

Steve Doughty
Swanage Railway Trust

(Photos: A P M Wright)

I wish to support the Swanage Railway Trust's Steam Crane Appeal. Please find enclosed a cheque for £..... Cheques should be made payable to the Swanage Railway Trust (Steam Crane Appeal) and sent to the Swanage Railway Trust, Station House, Swanage, DORSET, BH19 1HB. 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 and return the form below.

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

Use of Funds Statement: It is intended that the funds raised through this appeal will be used specifically for the stated goal. Should circumstances dictate that the Swanage Railway Trust is unable to pursue this project then the funds raised will be used to further the general aims of the Swanage Railway Trust and will be allocated at the discretion of the Council of Management. The Swanage Railway Trust is a Registered Charity No. 1087318

Gift Aid Declaration

Please reclaim tax on all donations made by me since 6th April 2005, and all donations and subscriptions I make in future to the Swanage Railway Trust (Registered Charity No. 1087318). Any money paid by me will be treated as Gift Aid Donations. I confirm I have paid an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for the current tax year (6th April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities and community Amateur Sports Clubs that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for the current tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given. I also understand that I may withdraw my declaration at any time by notifying you in writing, if my circumstances change.

Title Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss Full Name _____

Home Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature _____ Date _____

If you are a member of the Trust, please insert your membership number here.....or tick here.....