



Swanage Railway Trust
563 Locomotive Group
Station House
Swanage
Dorset
BH19 1HB

www.563locomotivegroup.co.uk
✉ 563locomotivegroup@swanagerailway.co.uk

563LG, T3 Times – January 2022

2021 in review:

Last month we received news that the specialist welder has been to the Flour Mill to weld the bushes into the outer firebox, the way ahead is now clear for the reassembly of the firebox and boiler and with it, completion of the heart of 563.

That's an exciting prospect, but with this news comes the prospect of an increasing rate of bills to pay. While the Flour Mill has been very good to us and paced their schedule according to our means, if we are serious about having 563 back in steam early in 2023 we need to tell them to 'go full steam ahead'. At the same time, the tender has recently started the journey to restoration by Herston Works and we will start to incur costs there too.

If we look back over the last year this is an incredible achievement, just 14 months ago we were earnestly starting our fundraising efforts as the Swanage Railway recovered from the first wave of Coronavirus, it's down to the incredible generosity of our supporters that we've been able to achieve so much in such a short space of time.

To date, we have raised over £300,000, most of which we have spent or have allocated to specific tasks such as the tender. We anticipate that we need close to another £200,000 to finish the restoration. That's a substantial sum still to raise in a short time, although as the prospect of crossing the finishing line comes ever closer, we hope that you, our loyal supporters will feel even more inspired to help us get there.

T3 supporters who are also members of the Swanage Railway Trust will also be aware that the Trust has thrown its weight behind our efforts and made 563 a priority project to the wider Trust membership. The continued support of our 'parent' is a welcome acknowledgement of what we have achieved so far and how important the locomotive is to the future of the railway. But with many demands on the Trust's purse, we cannot rely on their efforts to get us over the line.

We are reaching out in all directions looking for that elusive £200,000. Can you help? If you can spare something, no matter how small, it will be greatly appreciated and will help us to get the job done. The usual forms with bank details are included at the end of this edition of the T3 Times or go online to donate www.563locomotivegroup.co.uk/donate/ or via the Swanage Railway's page at www.swanagerailwaytrust.org/t3-appeal.

Do please get in touch if you have any comments, questions or suggestions, we are always delighted to hear from you.



Flour Mill update

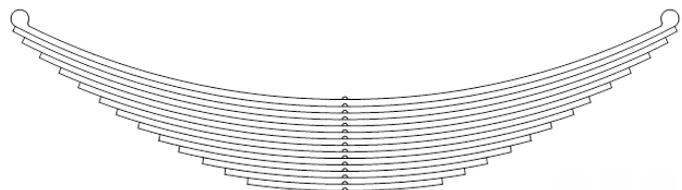
We take no shame in re-sharing the photos from our latest visit as not everyone is 'online' and will have seen them on our website. We're sure you'll agree that progress is coming on leaps and bounds. In addition to the more obvious additions, such as the smokebox (re-made to original specifications and kindly sponsored by a supporter), there has been substantial progress made on refitting the valve gear between the frames, and re-riveting the compensated spring hangers for the driving wheels ahead of refitting the wheels. Owing, in part, to the compensated suspension, there's some debate about exactly when it's best to re-wheel the locomotive. Of course, there's far more room to work on the frames without the wheels in place.

The brand new copper inner firebox has been removed from the boiler barrel after a 'trial fit'. The bushes which enable us to use the smallest size stays (therefore extending the life of the firebox to the maximum possible), have now been welded into place in the throat plate and backhead and should enable the boiler to be finished in the first few months of 2022. The next job will be the permanent installation of the inner firebox followed by the laborious (and expensive!) task of drilling and fitting all of the stays and fitting of the tubes.

Bogie Springs, sponsorship opportunity

In line with our general approach to ensure we put 563 back into the best mechanical condition as possible, we have opted to fit four new springs to the front bogie as the originals are of unknown age and service life.

As the team at the Flour Mill work towards re-wheeling the locomotive, we now need to place an order for these springs in the near future. We need to get five of these produced (four for the bogie, plus a spare), and they are priced at £2184.60 each, or £ 8,738.40 for the set, a substantial but necessary financial outlay.

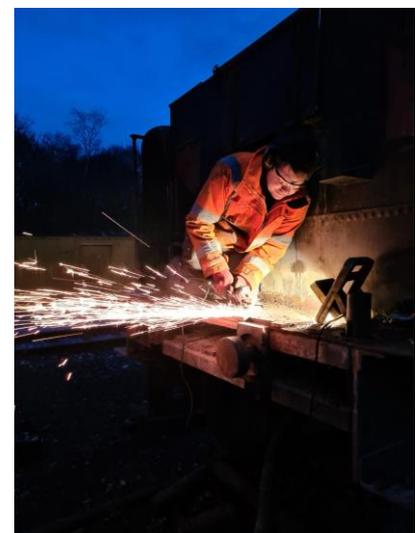


Any supporters wishing to sponsor one or more of these would be welcomed, and will receive their very own 'stay' from the T3's firebox, alongside an exclusive print of 563 at Corfe Castle produced by Kevin Williamson. To find our more, please email 563locomotivegroup@swanagerailway.co.uk

It's time for some Tender Loving Care...

563's tender has finally been moved from its undercover accommodation at Imrey's siding to Norden to enable its restoration in Herston Works to start. Most of the dismantling work at Norden was squeezed in just before Christmas and the tender should finally make the move into the works shortly. So everything is now set for work to start this year. Covid permitting, if you would like to work on it in Herston Works we would love to hear from you!

Those followers who are also Swanage Railway members will have already seen the launch of the latest Tender Appeal by the Swanage Railway Trust. This appeal aims to raise £25,000 to fill our shortfall in funds to enable work to take place on restoring 563's Tender in Herston Works. The material costs associated with this project have already been met by the generous donations of our 'Tender Club' members. For more information about the appeal, and to donate, please head to: www.563locomotivegroup.co.uk/appeal/its-time-for-some-tlc/



From the archive:



This month's archive photo, courtesy of Rail online, shows Adams LSWR T3 4-4-0 No E563 at Nine Elms shed in c1924. The locomotive was newly repainted into Southern Railway green, complete with 'E' prefix above the number on the tender signifying this was a locomotive from the London and South Western Railway. The 'E' stands for 'Eastleigh' and was necessary at that time as there were some engines carrying the same numbers from the three main constituent companies. There are a few interesting details to note in this photograph, 563 has not yet been fitted with steam heating, whilst the locomotive coupling on the front, e.g. the coupling which is semi permanently attached to the locomotive hook, is '3 link'. A screw coupling is hung over the hook to enable coupling with passenger stock. The lamp brackets are still of the original LSWR type, they have not yet been modified to take 'male' lugs to take standard Southern Railway lamps. The photo is courtesy of F.H. Stingemore/Rail Archive Stephenson from www.rail-online.co.uk

563 Gift Ideas

Stuck for a birthday gift for a 563 Supporter or a treat for yourself? Something a bit different and a step up from socks or handkerchiefs? We've got a range of possibilities in the form of rewards for individual donations, including gift certificates, posters, badges and 563's original stays available now! We also have individual components available to sponsor from £50 to £50,000, from new stays and boiler tubes, to the complete repaint into LSWR Drummond Livery! All sponsorships will come with a gift certificate and a letter of thanks recording your donation. If you're in need of that extra special gift then look no further! To find our more, please look at our website (www.563locomotivegroup.co.uk) or email 563locomotivegroup@swanagerailway.co.uk if you have something specific in mind or have any questions.

Flour Mill visits 2022

We are now turning our attention to future visits to the Flour Mill when hopefully, COVID permitting, we will be able to increase visitor party sizes. Our next visit will likely be in Spring 2022. Anyone interested in attending a future event should email us at 563locomotivegroup@SwanageRailway.co.uk