

Welcome to the Winter 2024/25 update to our supporters. Since our last update a work has concentrated on TBSK 70824. The interior has made great strides, and this has only been possible thanks to your ongoing support and the hard work of our small team of volunteers – see below for full details.

After a lot of hard work behind the scenes our new website is now live, and although some sections need a bit more information, it's great to have a new "shop window" to tell people about our project and its progress. Visit [www.4tcgroup.co.uk](http://www.4tcgroup.co.uk) if you would like to check it out. A gallery section is soon to be added, along with the post preservation history of our unit.

As you will see with this update, we have launched a fundraising appeal to help fund the restoration of DTSO 76275. We expect this to cost £65,000-£70,000. The Swanage Railway Trust have agreed to grant us £20,000 towards the restoration work on the proviso that the group makes efforts to raise match funding of at least £20,000. One of our generous supporters has also agreed to match this with an extremely generous donation of £20,000. So, with gift aid added we should have enough funds to complete this important step in returning our TC unit to service providing our fundraising drive is successful. It is planned for 76275 to go away for the restoration work in April or May, and the work should take around 4 or 5 months to complete. So hopefully we should have a working 3TC later this year or early in 2026.

Please read on for further detailed updates on each vehicle.

### Driving Trailer Standard Open (DTSO) 76322

Since our last major update 76322 has been covered with tarpaulins and remains in storage at Harmans Cross. Once work on 70824 is nearing completion, 76322 will move to Swanage for finishing off ready for when 76275 returns. We have been sorting out a set of good seats for this coach and a few will need repairs to make a full set.

### Trailer Brake Standard Corridor (TBSK) 70824

Since our last update, work has concentrated on 70824. Some of work carried out by our small team of volunteers since May 2024 is as follows:

#### Electrical:

- Compartment heaters refitted and tested. Some heating elements have unfortunately failed and will need to go away for repair as we don't have any spares. They will cost around £200 each to be repaired.
- Corridor, Guard's office and toilet heating tested.

#### Interior work:

- New linoleum laid throughout – see pictures further down.

- Compartments fitted out with seat frames and seating.
- New GRP under-window panels made and fitted in all compartments.
- Fitting out of the toilet started with the sink back in soon to be followed by the toilet.
- The job of sorting and fitting the missing interior panelling has begun. Some bits will have to be made new.
- New toilet water tank was ordered after one of our supporters kindly sponsored this.

Next there is the toilet water tank fit, and all the toilet pipework to replace as this was stolen. Also left to do is the refitting of internal sliding doors and lots of other interior fittings. There is also some repair work required on the doors as some droplight windows are rather loose in their channels. The exterior also needs some paintwork tidying up, but we have the funds to cover all this fortunately.

### DTSO 76275

As you will have read further up if we hit our fundraising target 76275 will be going away in a few months' time for full restoration. This work will cover full interior and exterior restoration including welding repairs to corrosion and repairs to floors and overhauling the bogies. The coach will be finished in a fresh coat of blue/grey to match the rest of the 3TC. 76275 also needs all the seating retrimming with new moquette and this alone adds circa £10,000 to the cost of the restoration. Some may ask why 76275 needs a full overhaul – since coming into our ownership it has only received a coat of paint and having had its last full overhaul probably 40 years ago, age is finally catching up.

We had hoped to return a 3TC to service without a major overhaul of the coach, however the return of the 3TC was delayed by COVID-19 which prevented us working on the TC coaches at the Swanage Railway for the best part of year. In the intervening period of time, 76275 deteriorated faster than hoped. Whilst it's possible that we could've patched this coach up in house and returned a 3TC to service, it is well known that the Swanage Railway has a shortage of space to overhaul the existing coaching fleet, with no guarantee about when the 76275 could be accommodated. Whilst a substantial expense, this external contract overhaul will enable an earlier return to a 3TC on the Swanage Branch, without the need for substantial restoration for many years to come.

### Trailer First Corridor (TFK) 70855

In store at Harmans Cross awaiting funds for its restoration. Replacement tarpaulins recently fitted.

### 4BIG Buffet Coach 69322

In store at Harmans Cross awaiting funds for its restoration.

## DTSOs 76298, 76301 & 76302

Stored at Harmans Cross. Replacement tarpaulins fitted to 76298.

### Fundraising

As already mentioned earlier, separate to this update is a fundraising appeal to raise at least £20,000 of match funding towards the restoration of 76275. If you are able to help us with this at all that would be fantastic and will help us achieve our long-standing aim of returning a TC unit to work on the Swanage Branch.

We also mentioned last time the cost of moving Driving Trailers 76301 & 76302 to Dorset (£8,000) – if you would be interested in helping to cover the cost of bringing these coaches back to Dorset then please get in touch. Whilst this money has already been spent, it would be great if we were able to reimburse some of the costs to the group's funding reserves to enable restoration work to continue at the current pace.

Any funding received is greatly appreciated and helps get us closer to our ultimate aim of getting the TC running.

If you would like to donate, it can be done in the following ways:

- visit [www.4tcgroup.co.uk](http://www.4tcgroup.co.uk) and click on the "Donate" page
- direct bank transfer to Account Number 13462420, Sort Code 20-68-79
- or by cheque payable to "Swanage Railway Trust - 4TC Group" and posted to "Swanage Railway Trust - 4TC Group, Station house, Swanage, BH19 1HB.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update and thank you for your continued support.

Dan Bennett, Swanage Railway Trust 4TC Group Trustee.  
[dan.bennett@swanagerailway.co.uk](mailto:dan.bennett@swanagerailway.co.uk)

On the next few pages is a selection of photos showing some of the work undertaken on TBSK 70824 and some pictures of DTSO 76275's current condition.





One of the compartments in 70824 showing work in progress with the heaters and seat frames refitted.





New linoleum laid in one of the compartments



New under window panel fitted





One of the compartments nearing completion



New linoleum in the corridor

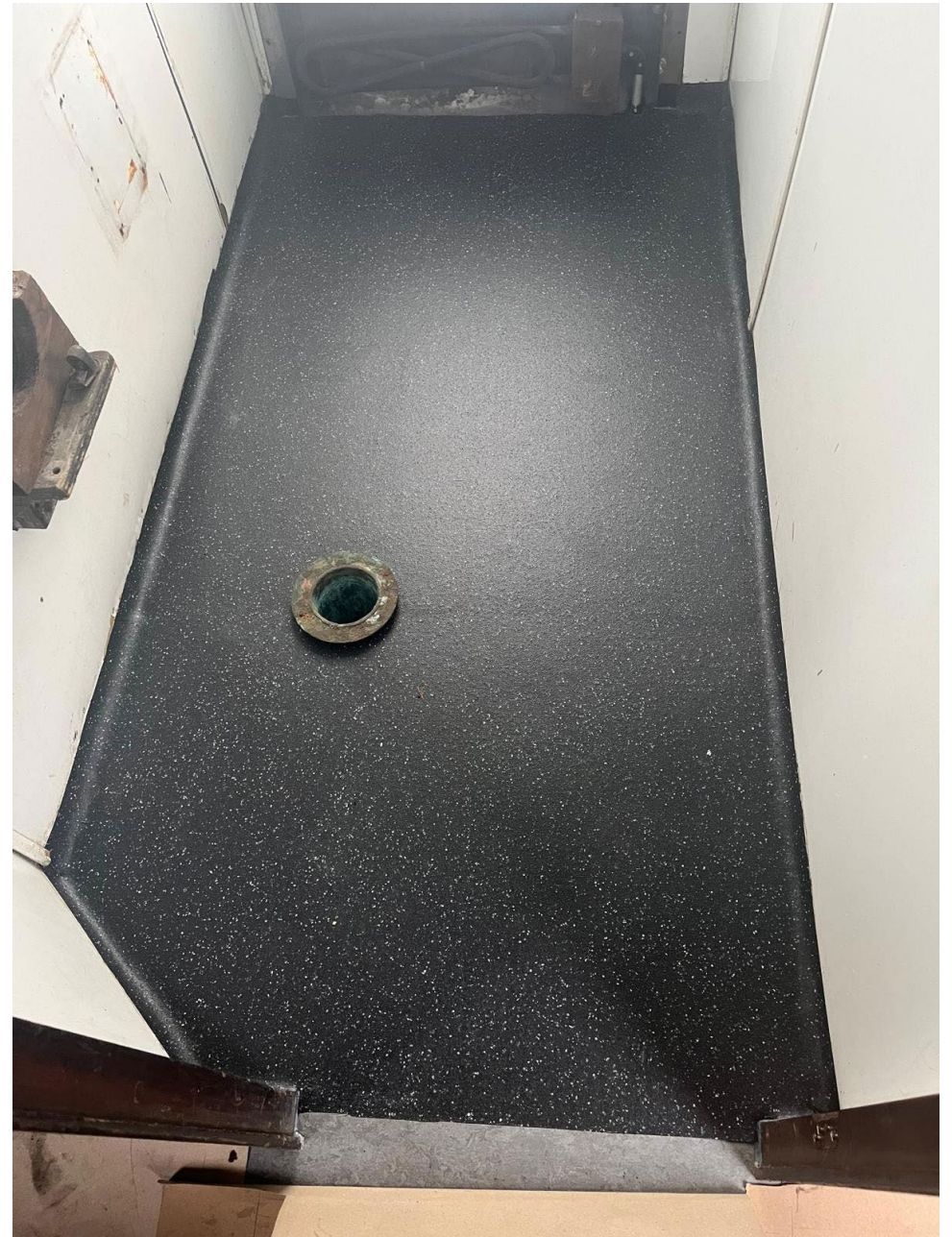


New linoleum in the Guard's office



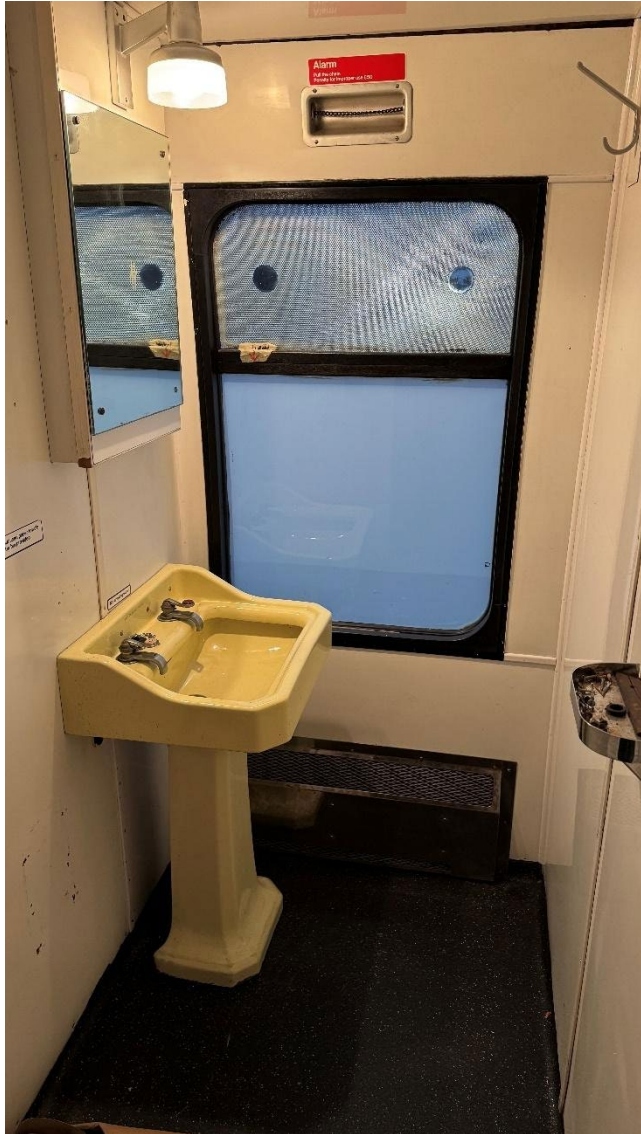


New linoleum in the luggage van



New linoleum in the toilet

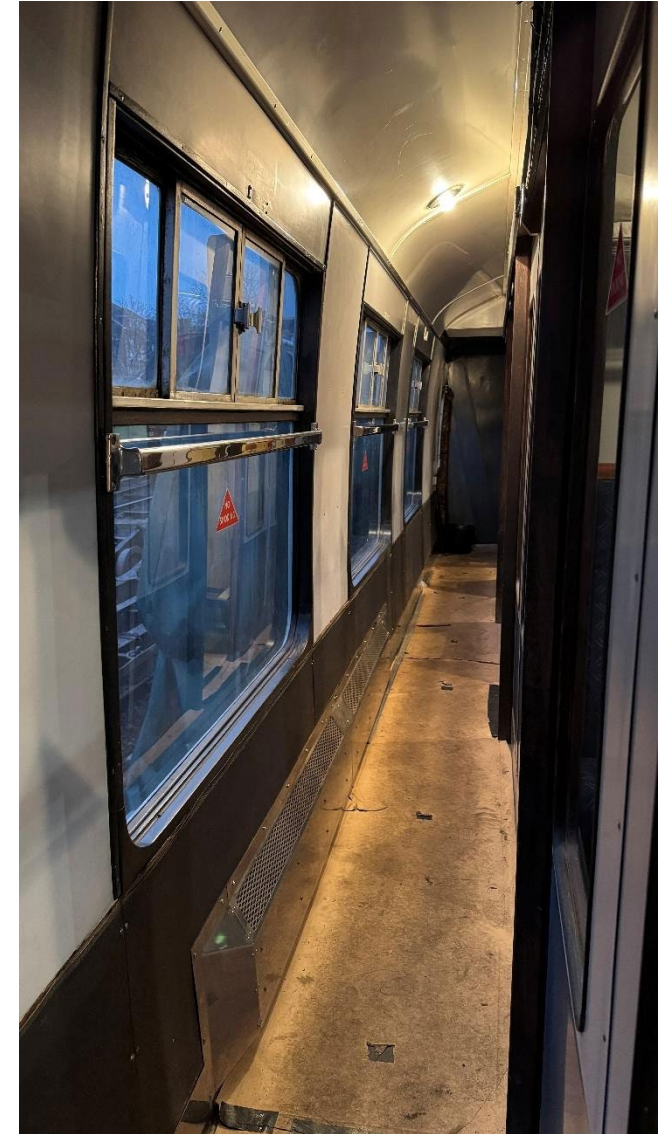




70824's toilet coming back together



70824's Guard's office nearing completion



70824's corridor also nearing completion





A couple of pictures of 76275 showing where the window frames have started to separate from the body allowing water in. This has then caused rust to appear below the windows causing holes on the outside, and damage on the inside which you will see on the next couple of pages.





A picture inside 76275 showing where water has got in damaging the steel framework and the floor.



Another window inside 76275 showing similar damage.





Another view inside 76275 – sadly this damage will not be cheap to repair.



One last view of 76275. Please help us reach our target and get this coach back in to service as part of a 3TC on the Swanage Railway.