

Awake the Giant Summer Update

Words by Tom Newble

Since the team's last update in March, it has been a very busy and productive second quarter for the 'Awake the Giant' team and 92240. There have been fourteen working parties in our second quarter of the year. If you are interested in joining the team and being involved, then please get in touch with the team leader Andy Taylor by emailing Andy.Taylor@bluebell-railway.co.uk

9 MARCH

On 9 March, David installed our new display and information into SteamWorks, where visitors and enthusiasts can find out information about 92240 and the work being carried out.

26 APRIL

26 April saw one of the largest working parties of this quarter. Tom finished hand sanding areas on the rear buffer beam before applying a coat of green primer whilst Simon and Duncan continued to loosen the brake gear pins. John, Howard and Peter continued to electric sand the tender sides before adding another layer of undercoat. Martin led the team throughout the day and Mark and Phil continued their amazing work, applying coats of epoxy resin within the tender chambers (middle photo).

In this quarter there were several small working parties. They focused on some key areas including working on the water space chambers, cleaning the underneath, preparing the rear buffer-beam and applying more undercoats and topcoats, as well as sanding and wet & dry sanding on the tender exterior.

31 MAY

This day brought another, relatively large working party back to the railway. Whilst Mark and Phil continued work inside the tender with the epoxy resin within the water space chambers. Duncan and Simon continued to clean underneath the tender (bottom photo). Tom continued his work on the rear buffer beam and applied the first coat of what the team thought was red undercoat but actually it was a dark pink!



IN OTHER NEWS

The team have new stickers for our younger fans, so when the stall is around, why not pop over and pick one up! Ken has been working on the merchandise selection which has become very popular with members and visitors since it launched. Merchandise is readily available to buy at the majority of galas at the Bluebell Railway. Merchandise can be bought from 92240's stand as well as from the Carriage Shop. Mark has been working extremely hard on publishing the recent edition of the 'Giant Gazette'. If you are interested in subscribing, please contact:

giantgazette92240@yahoo.co.uk. Tom has continued to work on building the archive of 92240. If you have any material on 92240 that you would like to add to the collection, please contact Tom at Awakethegiant@outlook.com.

COULD YOU HELP 92240?

The team, in amongst personal schedules and rostered turns over the Railway, are looking for a volunteer to join the team, whose role would be to lead the communications and negotiation of stand locations at railway events and to run the stand with other members. If you feel you are interested in this, or would like to know more, please ask by emailing Andy at: Andy.Taylor@bluebell-railway.co.uk.

You can also help by making a regular monthly donation.

Please go to the below site and click on Awake the Giant. Just 250 people at £15 per month will raise over £250,000 with gift aid within 5 years.

<https://www.bluebell-railway.com/trust/make-a-monthly-donation/>

TOM PARSONS' LEGACY



8 July 2025 marked the sad anniversary of the passing of our stand manager for 92240, Tom Parsons. We still miss Tom's warm embrace for the project and friendly chat, as do our supporters.

We send our support from the Awake the Giant Group and the wider Bluebell family to the Parsons family during this difficult time.

At this year's Manchester marathon, Sophie Parsons ran an amazing time of 6½ hours. Sophie asked friends and family for sponsorship, with all proceeds raised going in Tom's name to the Awake the Giant group in aid of restoring 9F 92240. Sophie raised a massive £1,005!

We can't thank Sophie enough and also the Parsons family for continuing to support.

If you wish to get involved in something amazing in Tom's memory, please get in contact. Let's Awake The Giant once more! Andy.taylor@bluebell-railway.com