Newsletter for members and volunteers of The Hythe Pier Heritage Association



January 2020 Issue No 2

Dear Members and Volunteers,

Happy New Year to you all.

In our second edition of 'Heartbeat of Hythe' we have the latest progress on the project as well as a round up of events and fundraising news. We also welcome a contribution from Alan Titheridge on the history of the pier and railway.

Make a note of 'Dates for your Diary' on the final page, including a volunteer planning meeting.

Finally, if you have an relevant article you would like to submit please contact us at

info@hythepierha.org.uk

Hythe Pier by Alan Titheridge

As we head into the 2020s, 140 years ago the people of Hythe were heading into the 1880s and seeing their shoreline changing forever.

Since the late spring and early summer of 1879 the abutment foundations of the new dry landing pier for the Hythe – Southampton Ferry had been being dug. Workers could be seen out on the mud close by the old Hythe Hard through out the rest of the year.



Hythe Pier around the turn of the century

At the beginning of October 1879, the first of the ironwork arrived and was unloaded at Hythe Quay. An army of labourers was recruited and erection of the new pier was immediately begun.

Further ironwork was delivered in February 1880, followed by the remainder and the first of the timber for the decking during the early spring. The final pile was driven on June 29, 1880 when flags and bunting were displayed in celebration. By October 1880 all of the piles were reported as having been fixed. The new tollhouse was also at this time in an advanced state of construction.

On January 1st 1881, Mr J.H. Cooksey, the Mayor of Southampton, performed the opening ceremony and the "elegant structure" received its first paying customer.



Pier Head scene early 1890's



Hythe Pier Toll house circa late 1890's

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Project Progress - an update by Peter King Chairman HPHA.

Well here we are at the start of a new decade. I do hope you were all able to take a break from every-day life and celebrate with family and friends.

We certainly ended the year on a high note with great support from the community and real progress with our plans. This will provide us with a great platform to start the new year and make the 2020's a decade of action.

Last autumn you may recall that we had decided to rethink our plans to take outright ownership of the pier from Blue Funnel and settle on an alternative plan to take a 999 year leasehold interest in the pier and associated structures. This has now been agreed in principle with Blue Funnel and our respective Solicitors are now preparing the contract. We expect this to be ready for signature early in the new year. Alongside this we will establish a rolling commercial trading and operational agreement with Blue Funnel that sets out the terms and conditions to provide for the continuation of the Hythe ferry operation from the pier.

Of course we must not forget the 'Heart Beat of Hythe', the clickety clack of the Hythe Pier railway is perhaps one of the most recognisable sounds that echoes across the village as it makes its way up and down the length of the pier come rain or shine. To ensure that this piece of our heritage and history is protected and preserved I can confirm that Hythe Pier Heritage Association will take outright ownership of the train from Blue Funnel early in the new year. A legal Deed of gift is being prepared for signature. Blue Funnel will then lease the train back from us and continue to operate and maintain the operation. We can then begin the much needed and long awaited restoration works beginning with the existing carriage that is currently laid up in the pier workshop.

As we have said throughout this campaign this is a community project and over the last three years we have received great support and interest from so many of you, together with local businesses and community organisations, the Parish Council, District and some larger corporations. We are truly grateful for all the help and support we have had. Looking ahead we have now had an offer of support from the new 'Men's Shed', which is being set up by our very own Allan Fairhead. We look forward to their help working with us this year.

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Project Progress - (continued)

My own personal highlight last year was the opportunity I had to take part in the sponsored cycle ride around the Isle of Wight organised by the amazing Cyclocruz group based at the Lord Nelson. Over the weekend of the 6th and 7th of July around 80 of us made the trip and in the process raised over £8300 which is an amazing sum. Putting this together with the funds we raised just a few weeks later at our one day music festival 'Rock the Pier', we have been able to appoint lead designers 'The Goddard Partnership' who will be preparing the outline design proposals for the restoration and redevelopment of the pier. We plan to hold a public consultation in the spring to share these plans with you before finalising the scheme, completing our business plan and making applications to secure the capital funding we will need to deliver the project.

There is of course still a very long way to go and much work to do but in my journey through life I have learned some very important lessons. If you believe in something, if you care about something then don't give up!

Together we can.

More 'on Board'

Our final membership vacancy on the Board has been taken by Alan Titheridge. Many of you will know him for his well known local history book, 'Hythe Pier and Ferry: A History'. His expertise and knowledge in this area will be a valuable asset to our heritage and education objectives.

We have also co-opted Anthony Smith, another member of the local community, for his IT expertise as well as background and involvement with charities.

A warm welcome to you both!

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Fundraising update by Viv Carter

Easyfundraising in 2019 has raised £156.60!

This is the easiest way to raise funds for HPHA without costing you any money! Please keep using it whenever you shop online - over 3,600 retailers send us FREE donations when you shop at no extra cost so it's FREE money for us!

If you haven't signed up yet, visit: http://www.savehythepier.org.uk/easyfundraising.asp

Hythe Mistletoe Fayre

Thank you to all our volunteers who helped to make HPHA's involvement in the lovely community event a success. Well done once again to <u>Helen Hythe</u> for organising it all and thank you for trusting HPHA to liaise with Father Christmas and his elves, to bring him on <u>HYTHE FERRY</u> and guide him through the village to the grotto at <u>Hythe Library</u>, <u>Hampshire</u>. HPHA also had our merchandise stall, a teddy tombola and a white elephant stall at the entrance to the pier and took £680.95 during

the day.





Tesco Bucket Collection

Thank you to Andrew Rance and Steve Dodgson for providing the music to help customers smile as they shopped on Sunday 15th December and to all our volunteers for collecting donations. We raised an amazing £457.85.

HPHA guest speakers

HYADS who meet in Hythe Community Centre donated £100 following an update talk by Jenny Bithell. Thank you!

Hythe Marina Association Ladies Christmas lunch welcomed Peter King to talk about HPHA's progress and plans and raised £600 through their Christmas raffle. Thank you!

Hythe Ferry Book Sales raised £155

Thanks to Sath and Blue Funnel Ferry staff for organising this book sale at the Pier entrance. The total collected was split between HPHA and Wave 105 Cash for Kids. It's amazing how much can be raised from selling books.

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Fundraising—continued

Carol Concert

Jill Gower, Elizabeth Smith, Phil Bridges, Pat Waterman and Rosella Braybrook attended Marchwood WI's carol Concert on 16th Dec on behalf of HPHA, where £115 was raised. Thankyou.

The Lord Nelson, Hythe donated £250 to HPHA....we enjoyed working with them for Rock The Pier 2019 and are grateful for this donation. Thankyou!

DEIN UK - £180 was presented to HPHA by Mr George on behalf of the office workers at DEIN UK. Thank you so much.

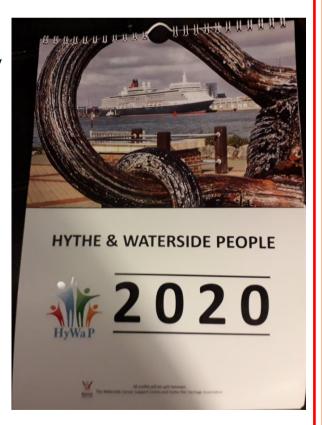
Cash4coins

£351.47 was collected in pots throughout the year...thanks to Caz and Scott Flood for co-ordinating this for HPHA. Do you have foreign coins and notes that you don't know what to do with? Bring them to our collection points in various locations in the area (currently Hythe Pier Ticket Office and the Fawley Royal Legion) and we'll do the rest! If you run a local business and would like to host a CASH4COINS bucket for us, please get in touch.

Hythe and Waterside Calendars

And finally .. A big thankyou to David Morris for the very generous donation of £296 from the sale of the 2020 Hythe and Waterside People calendar. The 2020 calendar looks great, with fantastic photos from our amazing local photographers. Of course we particularly like the photos of Hythe Pier and Rock the Pier.





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Local business lends support

We are always really grateful when local businesses show their support for HPHA. So you can imagine how we felt when **Hays Travel Hythe** decided to choose us as their Charity of the Year.

Thankyou so much.

St John's Christmas Tree Festival

We were really thrilled to support the Christmas tree festival at St Johns Church again in December

Once again we created something original and a little different. This year we were indebted to our wonderful volunteer Debbie Campbell who put her creative hat on and produced something special.

Thanks Debbie, take a bow!



New Forest National Park Volunteer Fair

Come along and meet us at our stand at Lyndhurst Community Centre on **Sunday 26/02/2020** from **10.30 am - 4 pm**

We will be able to give you more information about the current vacancies we are looking to fill at HPHA.

The following are links to some of them.

https://www.cfnf.org.uk/opportunity/?slug=events-organiser-9475&id=9475

https://www.cfnf.org.uk/opportunity/?slug=volunteer-co-ordinator-9476&id=9476

https://www.cfnf.org.uk/opportunity/?slug=fundraiser-9477&id=9477

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Volunteer Planning Meeting

Please come along and help us plan events for next year.

We also hope to be welcoming any new recruits at this evening.

It would be great for them to meet as many of our wonderful members who already volunteer and give their time in so many different ways.

The meeting date will be announced shortly and all current volunteers will be contacted by email.

If you wish to attend and have not helped at previous events, please let us know on

support@hythepierha.org.uk



Dates for your Diaries

- Volunteer Planning Meeting Date to be planned.
 - Current volunteers will be advised of date by email.
- Record Fair Pop Up Café Saturday 22nd February. Volunteers needed to lead and run this please (Mary King is unavailable).
- Hythe Sailing Club Open Day Sunday 5th July 10am 3pm. Volunteers needed to man HPHA stall at this event.
- Rock the Pier 8th August 2020

