

Heartbeat of Hythe

Newsletter for members and volunteers of The Hythe Pier Heritage Association

April 2020 Issue No 4



Dear Members and Volunteers,

As the lockdown continues and we are unable to get together as a group, we felt it was important to stay in touch by issuing another Newsletter sooner than planned. We are all valuing any contact we can have with friends and family. I for one have recently acquainted myself with all sorts of online platforms, but nothing quite replaces human contact does it?

Nevertheless, in this edition, we hope to bring you a bit of light relief with some positive project updates, a few new developments, articles of specific interest and even a crossword thrown in for fun!

Do also check out our Facebook page and newly launched Website for updates.

Stay safe and let's look forward to when we can next all gather on the Pier.

Jill Gower (Board member)

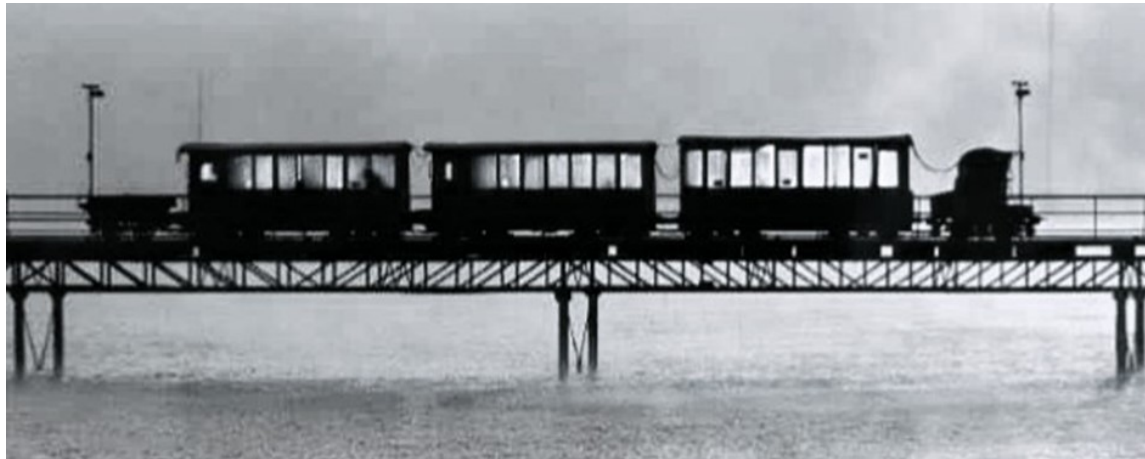


Our Community Working Together to bring our Heritage and History to life info@hythepierha.org.uk
Hythe Pier Heritage Association is a Charitable Community Benefits Society (Reg No 7708)
The Grove, 25 St Johns Street, Hythe SO45 6BZ

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Beaulieu Beaufort Foundation grant puts railway restoration plan on track

I am delighted to announce that Hythe Pier Heritage Association has received support for its plans to restore the historic Hythe Pier railway with a grant of £10,000 from the Beaulieu Beaufort Foundation, a charity established to support local organisations and individuals.

This is a great start to our funding campaign to support the restoration of historic and much loved pier railway. We are very grateful to the Beaulieu Beaufort Foundation for their support and endorsement of our plans.

These funds will be used to buy the materials we need to begin the work to rebuild the railway carriages which are in a poor state of repair. The work will begin once the current restrictions imposed due to the Covid-19 Coronavirus crisis have been lifted .

I am sure you will join me in welcoming this very positive piece of news for our community.

Peter King

Chairman

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Website Relaunch

Our new website has been in operation for several weeks now at www.hythepierha.org.uk. It also has other names such as savehythepier.org.uk and others, but they all point to the same website. At the moment much of the content of the original HPHA website is preserved, with interesting new additional areas including newsletters, project blog, events page and HPHA governance information.

For those of you interested in the technical details, the website is hosted by Microsoft on their Azure platform. The resources needed to do this have been donated by Microsoft to HPHA as part of their community support programme. We are very grateful to Microsoft for this donation which includes not only the website but all of our administrative software requirements. The web pages are developed using a web application named Wordpress, which is one of the world's most frequently used website development tools. It was recently estimated that 455 million websites are developed using Wordpress.

Over time our website will grow and change to match the way in which the project develops, so expect what you see on the site to alter. If you have ideas on what we should be sharing with our members and the public, then please contact us.

Anthony Smith (Board member)

Quizzing Fun

Thank you so much to David Morris and Jan for running their first virtual [The Waterside Self-Isolation Quiz Group](#) on 26th March in aid of HPHA. What fun everyone had - the questions were good and the comments kept everyone laughing! The quiz was free entry but donations were being asked for HPHA....and £277.12 was raised (including gift aid). Thank you to everyone who was able to make a donation. David and Jan are continuing to run their quizzes to support a variety of charities and we are so grateful that they chose HPHA as their first one.

Viv Carter

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Fishing from Hythe Pier

by Alan Titheridge

In early December 1981, owing to mindless vandalism, weekend fishing from Hythe Pier was limited to specific requests from organised groups. At the time, the pastime of weekday angling was unaffected but subject to a constant review. By Christmas it would seem the veiled warning had gone unheeded as youngsters were limited to using the pier only with adult supervision. Along with the closing of the pier overnight this appears to have eased the problem but by the early 1990s all fishing from the pier was prohibited.



A line-up of anglers braving the chill winds for a bit of relaxation at the end of Hythe pier.

The public of Hythe and district, and indeed that from across the water in Southampton, had enjoyed fishing from the pier right from its very early days. The Hampshire Independent for October 9, 1915 reported, "There has been good fishing (from Hythe Pier) during the week and several fine bass and whiting have been taken".

"Greenheart" in a regular angling series in the Hampshire Advertiser, wrote of "A Day on Hythe Pier" in the May 26, 1934 edition. A large number of anglers were fishing from the pontoon when he arrived by steamer but he elected to walk a third of the way along the structure. "During the

afternoon" he wrote, "I heard from a passer-by that about a dozen anglers on the end of the pier had nothing between them". "I finished the day" he continued, "with eleven fish and returned four".

The second event in a six-event series for the H.E. Smith Cup brought 39 participants from the Southampton Sea Angling Club to Hythe Pier for a very successful day's fishing on June 3, 1934.

34 members of the same club were on the pier on September 10, 1961. Of that number, only ten managed a catch, with thirteen fish in total weighing 7 lbs 4 ozs landed.

Personally, like all schoolboys of my time in the 1960s, I tried my luck with a rod, homemade from a bamboo cane bought from J.T. Smith of Hythe. My cast caught the overhead power line, hook, line and sinker not making the water. I didn't see the point of it after that.

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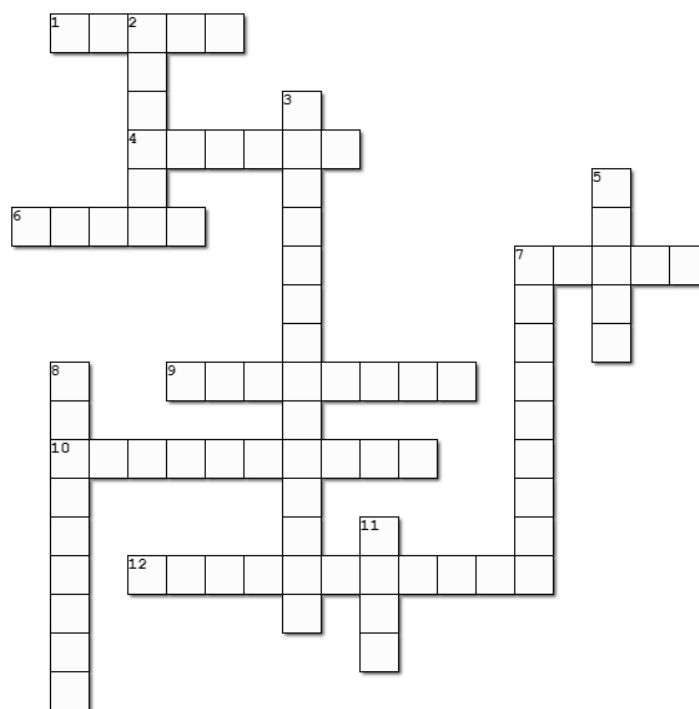
And finally ...many thanks to Phil Bridges for the following brain teaser!



HPHA Crossword

Answers in the next Newsletter

Name: _____



Across

1. Could almost be Tinkerbell ?
4. You might get one of these if you go too fast
6. Fish usually can't live long without it
7. Something you'll always find on a record and CD
9. A sport some passengers love
10. Go Solent
12. The train would be nowhere without this

Down

2. The train does this a lot
3. A ticket to buy spice?
5. Started in 1922
7. Allows you in but won't open a door in Southampton
8. Sounds like royalty (but not!)
11. Not someone in the House of Lords