

# Heartbeat of Hythe

Newsletter for members and volunteers of The Hythe Pier Heritage Association



January 2021 Issue No 9

Dear Members and Volunteers,

Happy New Year to you all. Let us hope that 2021 brings with it some return to normality and certainly better times than we all experienced in 2020.

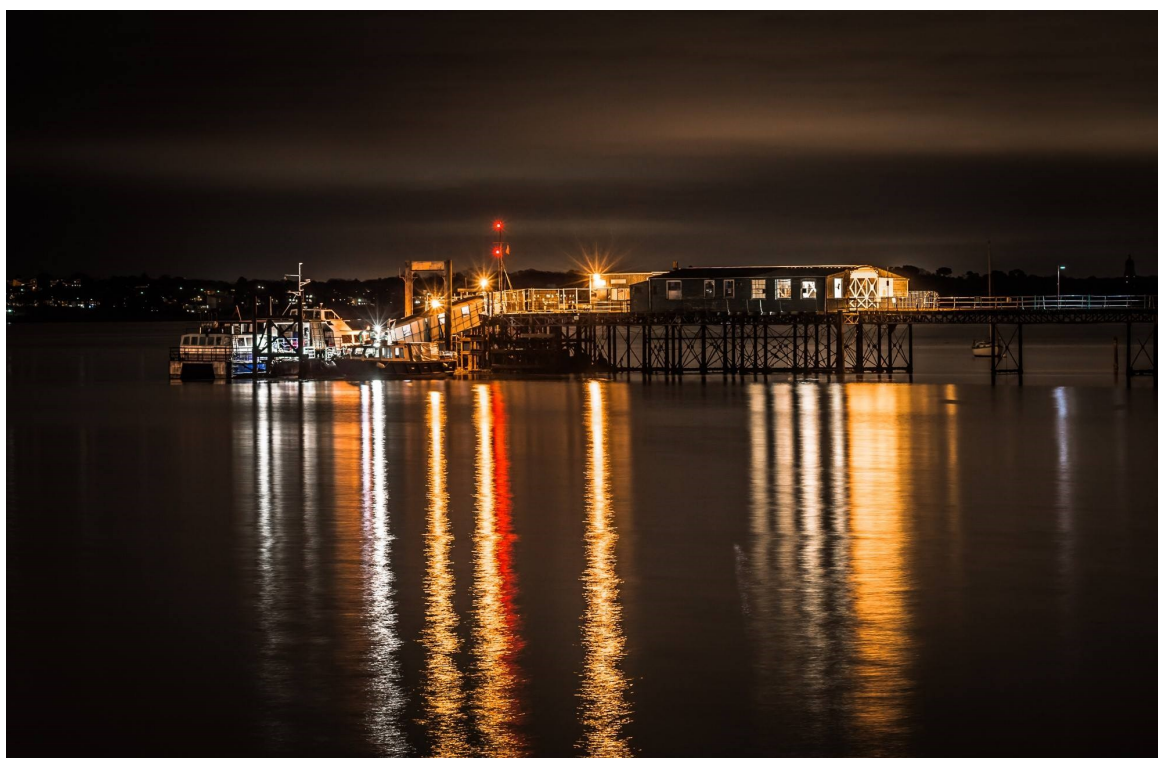
Work continues on behind the scenes in various ways and we are very grateful for all of you who give your time voluntarily to keep the project going forward in these difficult times. In this issue you will see there are updates on both the pier structures and the carriage restoration.

We are always glad to expand our list of contributors and this month we welcome an article written by Graham Parkes of the Waterside Heritage Association.

Happy reading, stay safe and take care everyone.

Jill Gower

Editor



*Pier and ferry photograph courtesy of Mel Port*

**Our Community Working Together to bring our Heritage and History to life** [info@hythepierha.org.uk](mailto: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

## Pier survey     Anthony Smith –Chair

Weather permitting, on 24th February, HPHA are paying for a further survey of parts of the pier. This survey, plus others that have already been conducted, will help us develop plans for future restoration work. The survey will be conducted by a local structural engineer, using a boat supplied and crewed by Blue Funnel Ferries. The survey will take place in a COVID secure way with no member of HPHA directly involved in the work or present on the boat.

Although much of our news has recently focussed on the restoration of the train carriage, we have also continued to be concerned with the pier and the pier head buildings. One of the pier head buildings is in an extremely dilapidated state and work needs to be done soon to halt the decline. This new survey will inspect the area underneath these buildings to check how easily any work might be done. We plan to undertake temporary preservation work on this building in the next few months if no major issues are revealed by the survey.

As always, if you have questions about the work of your Association, please contact us on the following email address: [info@hythepierha.org.uk](mailto:info@hythepierha.org.uk)

## Donating ?

Don't forget ...donating through Gift Aid means charities can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give. **It will not cost you any extra.** For the donation to qualify the donor must be a UK resident and pays more UK tax (income/capital gains) than the donation made. HPHA is recognised as a charity by HMRC for tax purposes, and so gift aid is applicable to donations made to us.



## Hythe Pier Toll Stones (courtesy of Graham Parkes of Waterside Heritage)

An Act of Parliament was passed on 19th July 1844 entitled “An Act for making a Landing Place at or near Hythe in the Parish of Fawley and Extraparochial Places adjoining thereto, in the County of Southampton”.



The result was that a new quay was constructed parallel to but set back from the High Street. The existing hard was refurbished and slightly re-aligned with its first section provided with a vertical stone edge attached to the new quay.

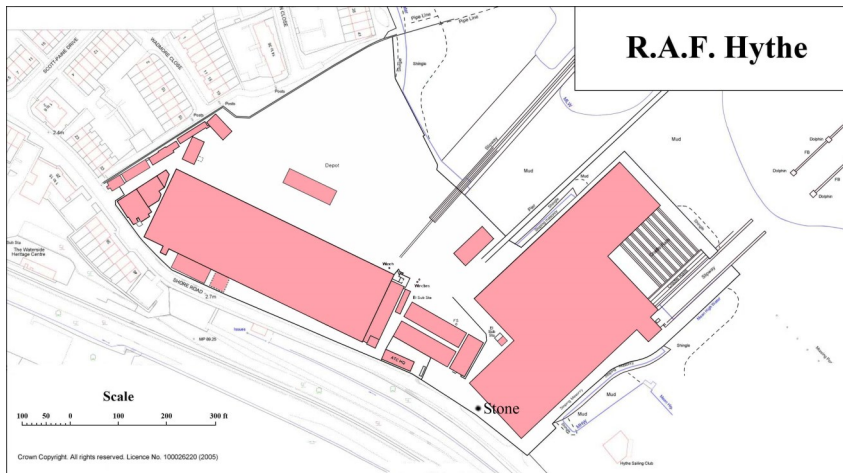
One of the provisos of the act was that landing on the new landing place was only to be made by licenced boatmen. Additionally they had to pay a landing fee for every passenger they landed on or within half a mile either side of the hard or quay. This fee was 1d per person and also applied to passengers using the new steam ferry boats.

Of necessity the half a mile limit had to be marked and stones were placed “to give guidance”.

One was in front of Westcliff Hall whilst the other was on the edge of the shore to the south of Winter-ton Hall on the southern edge of Hythe.

The wording on the stones referred to the Hythe Pier Toll Boundary. As quay and pier meant the same thing at this time these could have been the original stones or new ones when the pier opened in 1881. The toll provision was included in the Act of Parliament for the pier and so toll collection continued.

## Hythe Pier Toll Stones (cont)



Winterton Hall was demolished in WW1 and replaced by a large sea-plane hangar. The southern stone appears to have been removed with the construction of the large new workshop built adjacent to it when the site became HMS Diligence in 1953. It's position is now covered by the perimeter roadway.



The northern stone can still be seen set into the stone wall on the shoreward side of Westcliff Hall. It is accessible from the footpath between the old shoreline and the reclaimed part of Dibden Bay.

*For further information email [centre@watersideheritage.org.uk](mailto:centre@watersideheritage.org.uk).*

## An A – Z of Hythe Pier by Alan Titheridge

### Part four M – O

#### M - Malkison

Over the years, there have been numerous families in which serving on the Hythe Ferry has almost been a tradition; Banks, Longman, Pusey, to name but three. Another more recent addition to that list is Malkison. John Malkison started with the General Estates Company, at the time owners of the ferry, pier and train, in 1963, skippering the old Hotspurs until his retirement in 1995, when his son Patrick, who had just acquired his master's licence, took over the role. John, now 90, still lives in Hythe, whilst Patrick continues to take the helm of Hythe Scene as we enter 2021. That's 58 years of Malkinson service to the travelling public of Hythe.

#### N – Numbers

**750,090** – Passengers carried on the Hythe Ferry (and used the pier) in 1960.

**2100** – feet, the length of the pier.

**140** – Years the pier has been in operation.

**99** – Years the train has been carrying passengers to the end of the pier.

**6** – ferry boats have borne the name Hotspur (Hotspur of 1889, Hotspur of 1927, Hotspur II, Hotspur III, Hotspur IV, Hythe Hotspur)

**1** – the oldest pier train in the world, recognised by the Guinness Book of Records.

#### O – Oscar Otell

Oscar Otell, maybe not a name readily recalled from the rich tapestry of the history of the Hythe-Southampton ferry, but he certainly had "his fifteen minutes of fame". Otell, a commercial traveller, was the victim of an amazing incident during the evening of March 18, 1892. The steamer was just about to pull away when the captain noticed Otell hurrying along the pier to catch the boat. On arrival at the top of the steps he fell the full distance onto the platform below but managed to haul himself back onto his feet, albeit in a somewhat unsteady condition, only to fall again, this time over the edge and into the water. No time was wasted in fishing him out when it was found that he was unconscious. Dr. Giles was summoned and he had the hapless man sent to the infirmary by cab. The steamer Captain's awareness of the situation without doubt saved Oscar Otell's life.

## Carriage 4 Update Tina Brown

Although the lockdown has resulted in very slow progress on Carriage 4, the team are continuing to order materials and have indeed worked solo for a number of hours a week on restoring the seats within the carriage. Just before Christmas, we were also able to fit and wire the lights.

We cannot wait to be able to return full steam ahead when permitted to do so.



*Above left: Backing boards for lighting units and Above right: Lighting unit loose assembled at the Shed (at the Pier)  
(Photos - Alan Titheridge)*



*Priming of interior woodwork continues (Photo: Alan Titheridge)*

## A few ideas from the Merchandising team...



Looking for a really good read whilst in lockdown?

### 'Hythe Pier and Ferry – A History' at just **£16.95**

138 pages A4 packed with fascinating history about Hythe Pier right up to the present day written by local historian and HPHA committee member Alan Titheridge.

With the risk of snow just around the corner perfect attire to keep us all warm and snug. Stocks are down to just 4 of each size (S, M, L & XL) so it's first come first served.

**£16 each**



The perfect companion to your glass of hot mulled wine this winter!

We still a few sets of drinks coaster left, 4 per set, just **£8**



We do sell these on eBay but if you can manage local collection you'll save yourself £4.60 and also means we won't have to hand over 10% to eBay.

We have two collection points locations in central Hythe and, at a pinch could probably even arrange free local delivery to Hythe and Dibden Purlieu.

Please call us on 023 8098 6480 if you'd like order one or email [shop@hythepierha.org.uk](mailto:shop@hythepierha.org.uk) .

Phil Bridges—merchandising team

**Our Community Working Together to bring our Heritage and History to life** [info@hythepierha.org.uk](mailto: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

And finally a bit of fun...

## HYTHE PIER AND FERRY WORDSEARCH

By ALAN TITHERIDGE

Find the words listed below, all can be seen on or have a connection with the pier and the ferry. There is also a MYSTERY word not in the list (only the very clever will find this).

S	G	N	I	V	A	R	G	N	E	X	L	A	M	P	P	O	S	T	S
S	T	U	Z	H	E	A	R	T	B	E	A	T	O	F	H	Y	T	H	E
L	K	C	A	R	T	F	J	D	R	I	V	E	R	B	R	I	D	G	E
L	K	N	I	B	A	C	R	E	B	J	S	L	E	E	P	E	R	S	E
U	L	N	A	M	W	E	R	C	N	L	H	T	T	C	A	B	L	E	T
G	T	R	O	L	L	E	Y	D	F	N	U	S	A	C	R	I	Q	O	H
H	Y	T	H	E	P	I	E	R	O	F	Y	E	M	E	A	O	W	O	O
Y	Y	S	O	R	E	S	W	O	B	M	S	B	F	R	S	N	P	R	M
T	S	B	T	F	V	N	T	F	I	K	P	I	L	U	Q	T	T	E	A
H	B	U	S	W	T	N	K	D	E	C	K	E	G	U	N	E	I	T	S
E	R	F	P	O	O	H	L	E	A	J	O	C	A	N	E	N	M	A	P
F	E	F	U	P	U	G	E	R	A	L	D	Y	O	R	K	E	E	W	E
E	P	E	R	C	R	T	R	D	R	E	I	R	R	A	B	C	T	L	R
R	P	R	I	D	R	I	H	L	R	A	I	L	I	N	G	S	A	I	C
R	I	S	V	A	A	P	L	A	T	F	O	R	M	A	I	E	B	V	Y
Y	K	M	C	G	W	T	U	N	M	C	A	N	O	P	Y	H	L	E	P
A	S	T	E	P	S	F	N	O	T	P	M	A	H	D	R	T	E	R	I
A	O	T	E	K	C	I	T	D	F	P	T	R	A	I	N	Y	K	A	L
R	A	G	R	E	I	P	E	H	T	K	C	O	R	H	Y	H	P	I	E
K	O	O	B	D	R	O	C	E	R	S	S	E	N	N	I	U	G	L	S



# Heartbeat of Hythe

Newsletter for members and volunteers of The Hythe Pier Heritage Association



January 2021 Issue No 9

## HYTHE PIER AND FERRY WORDSEARCH (cont)

Barrier	Hampton	Seat
Blue Funnel	Heartbeat of Hythe	Sign
Bowser	Hotspur IV	Skipper
Bridge	Hythe Ferry	Sleepers
Buffers	Hythe Pier	Southampton
Cabin	Hythe Scene	Steps
Cable	Jenny Blue	Thomas Percy
Canopy	Lamp Posts	Ticket
Carriage	Live Rail	Timetable
Crewman	Piles	Town Quay
Deck	Planks	Track
Donald Redford	Platform	Tractor
Driver	Pontoon	Train
Engravings	Railings	Trolley
Gerald Yorke	Rails	Water
Guinness Record Book	Rock the Pier	
Gulls	Ropes	

## **Board Meeting dates and procedures**

Normally the Board is attended by all Board members and other non-Board members, volunteers or external experts as required to support agenda items.

This a reminder that Board meetings may also be attended on an irregular basis by members of HPHA as observers. Such attendance must be requested at least 7 days in advance of the meeting by contacting any Board member.

Observing members will be accommodated on a "best efforts" basis as limitations may be imposed upon us by technology considerations or Coronavirus regulations.

Currently all HPHA Board meetings are held using Microsoft Teams online technology. Your computing equipment will need to be compatible with this technology in order to become an observer of the Board meeting.

**Thursday, 25 February 2021**

**Thursday, 25 March 2021**

**Thursday, 29 April 2021**

**Thursday, 27 May 2021**

**Thursday, 24 June 2021**

**Thursday, 29 July 2021**