

Heartbeat of Hythe

Newsletter for members and volunteers of The Hythe Pier Heritage Association



February 2021 Issue No 10

Dear Members and Volunteers,

Welcome to our 10th Issue of 'Heartbeat of Hythe'.

Welcome also to our new Membership supporters. This may very well be your first newsletter, so we hope you find the articles interesting, informative and a bit of fun. All previous copies can be found on our website www.hythepierha.org.uk.

Find out more about our new Membership Supporter Scheme on P.2.



Promenaders on the Pier late 1890's



Photos courtesy of Alan Titheridge

Hythe Pier with Hampton Circa 1920

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

New membership launched

HPHA have launched a new membership supporter scheme to increase our numbers and expand our engagement with the local community. By improving the community's knowledge of our work we hope to increase the available "volunteer pool" for the numerous activities in which HPHA is involved. Applications to this scheme from further afield would also be most welcome.

An annual donation of £10 per year will provide access to:

- A new private HPHA Facebook page to discuss project progress and plans with other members
- Early press releases and news notifications
- A few "lectures" throughout the year about the work of HPHA and pier related subjects
- A membership badge each year

The new scheme was launched on 1st February 2021 and a facility for secure online payment is available via the HPHA website <http://hythepier.co.uk/>

HPHA was established early in 2017 to preserve and protect Hythe Pier, its Train and associated structures from further deterioration and develop it to be a real community feature. Registered as a community benefits society, HPHA has been very successful in staging fundraising events in the community. Although the Covid 19 epidemic prevented these throughout 2020 and into 2021, HPHA is still working hard to secure the necessary funding to fulfil its aims.

HPHA has completed various projects including a make-over of the Hythe Pier entrance complete with new period signage, in conjunction with the Hythe Shed (at the Pier) the restoration of the first of the train carriages and is about to commission work to protect the pier head buildings.

Donations can be made via the HPHA website <http://hythepier.co.uk/>



Easy income from 'Easy Fundraising'



The graphic features the Easy Fundraising logo with the tagline 'feel good shopping' and '£34M Raised'. The main text reads 'Help us raise FREE funds every time you shop online'. To the right is an illustration of a man and a woman shopping, with pound symbols (££) and hearts floating around them. At the bottom, a yellow banner contains the text: '• You **Shop** • 4,300 Retailers **Donate** • For **Free**'.

Easyfundraising is a way of turning your online shopping into a free donation for HPHA. Just start your online shopping at easyfundraising, then shop as normal. Retailers will then make a small donation to say 'thankyou'. There's over 4,549 retailers to choose from including big names such as Boots, M&S, John Lewis, Tesco and Amazon. Other companies such as Hotels.com and Tui are also on the list so when you come to book that longed for holiday, think about how much money you could indirectly raise for HPHA.

So far HPHA have raised an amazing **£659.61** from the support of just 51 subscribers but we are convinced that this figure could be even greater. So what are you waiting for ?

Follow the link below, find out more and sign up!

[Here is the Easyfundraising link](#)

We need your help!

Maureen Mintram, one of the merchandising team, has busy doing some research on Teddy Bears. This was an item suggested by a few of our members a while ago as a potential merchandising item. This would be something similar to the one below but with HPHA branding , at £7 each.

With initial minimum orders of 50 , we thought we would test the water to find out if this would be of interest to supporters. Please drop a line to :

shop@hythepierha.org.uk

Many thanks

The Merchandising team



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An A – Z of Hythe Pier by Alan Titheridge

Part five P—S

P - Planks

The decking of Hythe Pier is made up of approximately 3000 planks. Oak was used when the decking was first laid on construction of the pier in 1881 and again for its first replacement during 1895 and 1896. At some point before 1936 sections of the oak decking were replaced using Oregon pine. In 1936, oak was again preferred, despite it being 2 ½ times the price, for sections supporting the railway track.

In 1998, the first consignment of Ekki, a hardwood from Cameroon was unloaded in advance of a complete re-decking over the following five years. Ekki was expected to have a working life of about 50 years.

White Horse Ferries, at the time owners of the Hythe Pier and Ferry, initiated a “buy a plank” scheme to aid with the cost. “Owners” of a plank could have their name or message engraved into the timber; theirs for its lifespan. Fortunately, when the dredger Donald Redford crashed into the pier in 2003, it did so further along from those engraved planks that had been laid prior to the impact.

Q – Queens

Hythe Pier has offered an unrivalled opportunity to view the great liners that have passed it by on their way in and out of Southampton. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s Cunard’s two majestic transatlantic liners Queen Elizabeth and Queen Mary drew large crowds, particular during the summer months.

Earlier, Titanic, sadly just the once, and her sister Olympic for very many years shared the public’s admiration with numerous other four stackers. Mauretania, Lusitania and arguably the most beautiful ship ever built, Aquitania were regular callers.

Today, it is cruise ships that draw the crowds. Southampton is still Britain’s premier passenger port and all her ships pass Hythe Pier.

Part five P— S cont

R – Restaurant

There had been a restaurant in the south side building at the end of the pier throughout the 1960s and probably before.

In the spring of 1971, Brian and Anne Ashworth bought a 50% share in the restaurant on the south side of the pier and a snack shop on the northern side. This brought them into partnership with Ann and Fred Smith, who had acquired the business from B&H Caterers at about the turn of the decade. In 1973 the Smiths sold their half to the Ashworths. During the first year of the partnership, miscommunication in the kitchen resulted in a chip pan fire. The Hythe Fire Brigade used the train to get to the scene.

Although business was steady rather than bustling, the restaurant was a popular dining venue with a good reputation. In fact, office staff in Southampton would make a crossing for lunch and take sandwiches back for their colleagues.

In 1974, Brian and Anne Ashworth sold 50% of the business to a Mr Bill Blake, who acquired full ownership later in the year. Mr Blake closed the restaurant after the 1975 summer season. It never reopened. The café and snack shop on the northern side of the pierhead operated spasmodically until the end of the 1980s. It was run by Geoff and Dot Flood during the summer seasons from 1986 until 1989. Their son, Scott is still driving the train today.

S – Staff

S in pictures



Hythe Ferry circa 1900 - Back L-R Billy Longman, Arthur Lane, Jim Randall, 3 unknown Front L-R Tommy Longman, Capt Henry Thomas Banks, Mr James Percy, Mr Lane snr and unknown



Hythe Ferry circa 1920 Back row first left Mr Lane, Front row extreme right Henry Thomas Banks

Shades of green by Anthony Smith

As noted by Alan Titheridge in the November 2020 edition of “Heartbeat Of Hythe” (no. 7), over time the pier railway stock has been through several changes of livery. The carriages and tractor units have been either fully or partially coloured white, red, blue and green and in some cases, combinations of these colours. The “greens” in use have not even been consistent, with several photos of the carriages showing a mottled foliage effect with patches of different colour.

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| | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| Nordic Spa | Wellbeing | Spring Meadow | Willow Tree | Antique Map | Jurassic Stone |
| Mossy Stone | Valley Rock | Graceful Green | Crushed Aloe | Putting Green | Green Ivy |
| Pixie Green | Sophisticated Sage | Overtly Olive | Fresh Sage | Green Glade | Enchanted Eden |
| Emerald Glade | Buckingham | Forest Shade | Heathland | Olive Grove | Highland Green |

Thanks to community support, you will know that we are close to completing the restoration of one of the train carriages. Over most of its history the train has been green and so this seemed the correct colour to use to paint the restored carriage. Colour decided, the question was then what shade of green to select to paint carriage number 4 and to use for all subsequent restorations?

This is the colour chosen



If you wish to set this colour for your PC background, then use the RGB colour code #114232. We hope to soon reveal the restored train carriage and tractor unit, resplendent in their coating of Moss Green paint.

News from The Shed (At the Pier) by Allan Fairhead

While we haven't been able to get much done for the carriage restoration, the wait for the glass is nearly over. While waiting we have been carrying out painting preparation and timber repairs to the stand-by engine which the pier workshop have repaired the running gear on. The members cannot wait to be able to get back to work, but like everyone else, we have to wait until it is safe to do so.



Photograph taken in brighter and warmer times July 2020

Courtesy of Tina Brown

Word Search by Alan Titheridge

Hidden in the grid are the names of ferry boats, wherries and smaller craft used to get passengers from Hythe to Southampton since 1830. Also, there is an unlisted Rogue.

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

Word Search by Alan Titheridge

| Ferry Boats | | |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Ashleigh R | Hotspur IV | New Forester |
| Carrick Lass | Hythe Hotspur | Ocean Scene |
| Emerald | Hythe Scene | Oliver B |
| Frederica | Jenny Ann | Princessa |
| Great Expectations | Jenny Blue | Solent Rose |
| Gypsy | Jenny R | Southtown |
| Hamble | Lady Elizabeth | Uriah Heep |
| Hampton | Louisa | Wild Rose |
| Hotspur | Netley | Yarmouth |

| Wherries | | |
|-----------------|--------------|----------|
| Blue Jacket | Lily | Queen |
| Canary | Loua | Sphinx |
| Dibden | Mary Ann | Surprise |
| Doormat | Nellie | Swift |
| Irex | Nora | Vanessa |
| Johnny Broom | Perseverance | Vixen |

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 March 2021

Thursday, 29 April 2021

Thursday, 27 May 2021

Thursday, 24 June 2021

Thursday, 29 July 2021