

Heartbeat of Hythe

Newsletter for members and volunteers of The Hythe Pier Heritage Association



May 2021 Issue No 11

Dear Members and Volunteers,

Welcome to another issue of Heartbeat.

As lockdown gradually eases we are really looking forward to meeting up with you down at the pier very soon. If you have visited recently you will no doubt have seen the beautifully restored carriage ready to go back into service. Hopefully this will not be long now. Keep your eyes peeled for specific dates.

Finally, I'd like to say a big thankyou to Phil Bridges on behalf of our membership. He has been an active volunteer since the beginning, helping the Association in many ways , but particularly in developing and promoting our merchandise. We wish him and Dee all the very best in their new ventures.

So if merchandising is your thing or you know someone who would love the challenge, check out our link on page 6. You will also find here a link to a projects coordinator role . This is a really exciting opportunity to help us fulfill all our planned work on the pier.

Take care and stay safe.

Jill Gower



Photo: Jill Gower

AGM news

HPHA rules state that we are required to hold an AGM within 6 months of a financial year.

Last year (2020) we were only able to organise a limited outdoor meeting consisting of 6 Directors due to Covid restrictions. Members were able to vote via email on the two items covered:

- election of directors
- approval of our accounts

This year taking into consideration Government guidelines, we have decided to once again have a minimal AGM just covering the above two requirements. This will be held online via Teams.

Members will be able to vote as before, via email. They will also be allowed to attend the meeting remotely with prior notice. **The date for this will be Thursday 24th June 2021**

We are however very aware of the need to share all the work that has been going on over the past year, both on the carriage restoration but particularly on the pier buildings, which are perhaps not as visible to the public. There have been many challenges along the way but we are really pleased with the progress that has been made so far. To this end we are planning to have an Open Day for **September 2021**. Date to be announced soon.



Carriage 4 receives it's final touches!

By Tina Brown



Mumfords, a local specialist Marine company completed the restoration work a few weeks ago by adding a recoat of fibreglass gel to the roof. Now passengers will not have to worry about keeping dry when they finally get to ride up and down the pier.



Photographs: Mumford Marine

Protection of the Pier Buildings goes ahead

The buildings at the end of the pier particularly on the south side, have always been vulnerable to weather damage . Work was therefore commissioned by HPHA to prevent further deterioration and was completed last month.

This work is for temporary protection only while plans are put in place and funding raised for permanent restoration.

The work carried out involved:

- Removal and disposal of the internal asbestos sheeting.
- Installation of battens and protective Perspex sheeting along the south elevation walls.
- Repairs to the glazing.
- 'Flashband' repairs to the lead roof.
- Repairs to the internal flooring to make safe.
- Additional structural supports as required to maintain the flat roof.
- Installation of guttering.



Photographs: John Greenwood

Hythe Pier Mural

As part of their “Secrets of the Solent” programme, Hampshire & Isle Of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) are commissioning murals, depicting undersea life, along the edge of the Solent and Southampton water.

To celebrate the sea life of Southampton water we approached HIWWT, proposing Hythe Pier as the perfect location for a mural. The mural of the cuttlefish was painted by the street artist ATM, who has also been commissioned to create the new mural.

Now is your chance to become involved with this project, by voting for your favourite species from a shortlist of contenders. **Voting closes on 24th May 2021**

To find out more, including how to vote for what is painted, please visit our website at

<http://hythepier.org.uk/mural%20voting/>



Volunteers needed

We are looking for a Projects Coordinator to volunteer with us and join our team at HPHA.

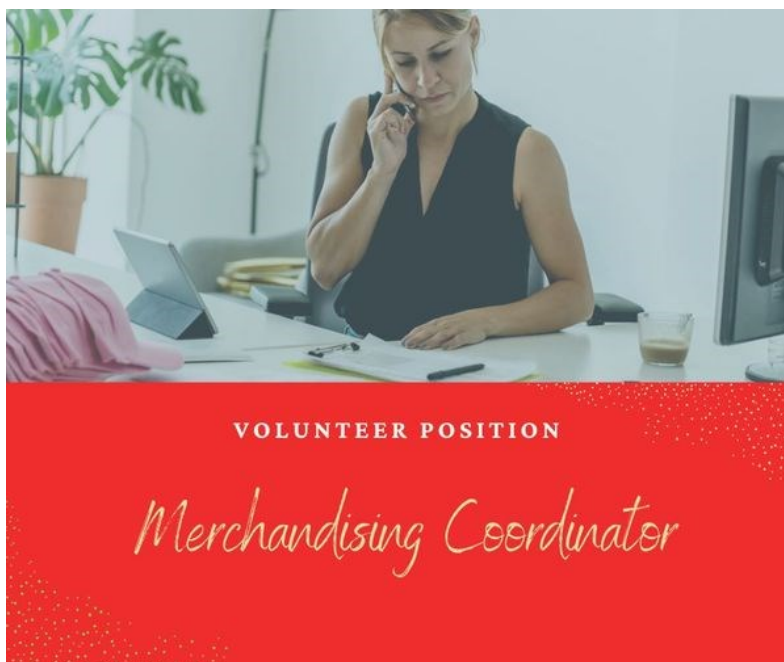
To apply please visit

<https://www.volunteerfirst.co.uk/.../projects.../>



We are looking for a Merchandising Coordinator to volunteer with us and join our team at HPHA. To apply visit...

<https://www.volunteerfirst.co.uk/.../merchandising.../>



News from Hythe Shed (at the pier)

by Allan Fairhead

With lock-down easing the members at Hythe Shed (at the pier) have redoubled their efforts to get the carriage in the pier workshop finished, and have achieved it.

While waiting for the glass to arrive they started the repair and repaint of the spare motor unit which the BFF team have been renovating, and only have the luggage rack to complete to finish that project.

The next carriage is now in the workshop ready for rebuild once the paperwork is in order.

At the far end of the pier we have started to clean and repaint a section of the wall ready for ATM, the street artist to install his mural.

The comradery and banter in the Shed is infectious and we are waiting for the ok for us all to meet up properly again.



Photo: Tina Brown

This month in History - May by Alan Titheridge

New steamer

Thursday May 3, 1894

The second ferry boat ordered by Mr. James Percy went on her trial trip along Southampton Water before entering service. The Hampton was to ply between Hythe Pier and the Town Quay for 42 years before being replaced by Hotspur II in 1936.



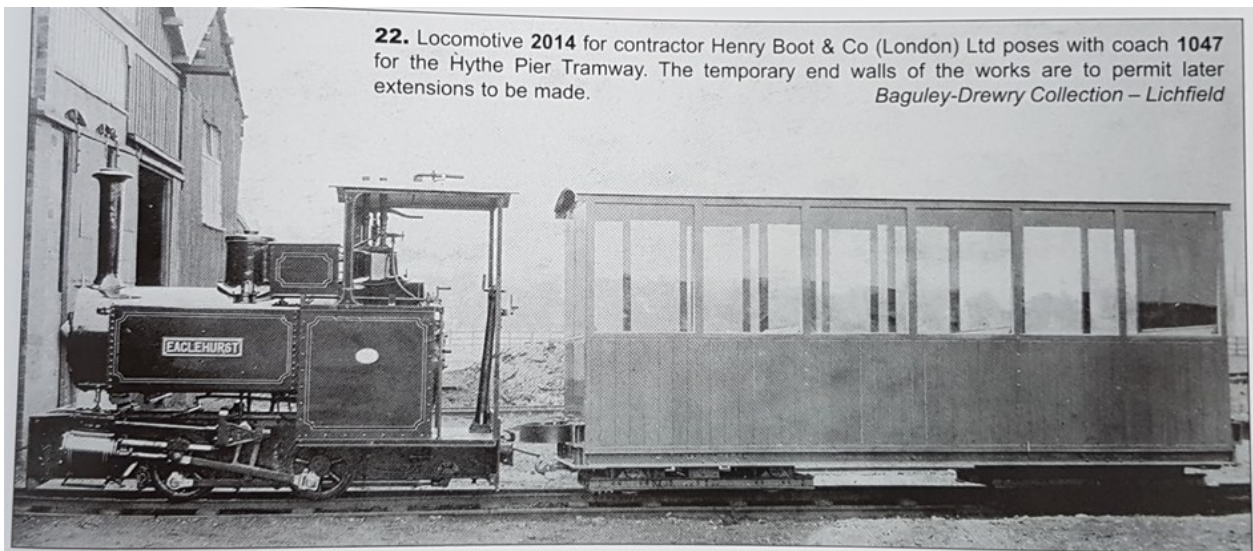
Official party
for trial trip
including
second right

First Train Carriage dispatched to Hythe

Friday May 26, 1922

The first of two carriages ordered for the Hythe Pier Railway by Mr. Thomas Percy was dispatched to Hythe. Ordered from the Drewry Car Company of London but built by the Baguley Car Company of Burton-on-Trent and designated Baguley Works Order no. 1047, the carriage arrived a few days later, its exterior painted grey, interior white.

Carriage numbering was not adopted until the mid-1990s, when numbers were designated to record maintenance details. This first and the second arrival in June 1922 were non-driving carriages which were designated numbers 1 and 4. Accordingly the first to arrive could be carrying the highest number



King George VI rides the Pier Train

Wednesday May 24, 1944

Shortly prior to D Day, His Majesty King George VI spent the day inspecting the craft being assembled in the Solent and Southampton Water for the imminent invasion of occupied Europe. During the late afternoon, he stepped onto the Hythe Pier pontoon from a naval launch and made his way to the waiting train. He rode along the pier in what is now designated carriage no. 2. Prior to getting into a car that was waiting to take him to Broadlands, he stopped to chat with train driver Leonard Pearce. A period coin is set against the King's seat replacing an original plaque that had been stolen.



7678 travel free on the Hitheferye

Saturday May 31, 1975

Free rides all day were offered to celebrate 400 years of the Hythe Ferry. Saxton's 1575 Map of Hampshire refers to the "Hitheferye", a somewhat tenuous link which turned into a resounding success. In all, 7678 single journeys were recorded. The weather was warm and sunny throughout the day. Hotspurs II, III and IV made many off the trips fully laden. Both boats and pier were decorated with flags and bunting.



Hotspur II decorated and full (Photo: Alan Titheridge)

Fundraising continues in buckets

Throughout this year, a steady stream of donations have been coming in via the collection buckets in shops and businesses in Hythe and the local area. We would just like to thank all these businesses who have agreed to keep these on their counters and of course to all our of you who continue to support our cause.

A big THANKYOU too goes to the volunteers who actually collect and distribute the buckets not to mention those who count the money afterwards. All help is warmly appreciated.



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, 27 May 2021

Thursday, 24 June 2021

Thursday, 29 July 2021

AGM

Thursday, 24th June 2021