

Heartbeat of Hythe

Newsletter for members and volunteers of The Hythe Pier Heritage Association



October 2021 Issue No 14

Dear Members and Volunteers,

Well, what an amazing couple of months we have had. First of all being awarded the Grade II listing for the Pier and buildings, then putting on our first big community event and finally an Open Morning for members.

After a delay of a year, 'Rock the Pier' returned in September and set our village alight. It was great to see you all in person once again, coming together and having fun. Even the weather was kind and the sun shone .

Here are some of the comments that people made about the day,

'the whole place was alive with people celebrating together '

'a great venue and well organised, all the helpers were very friendly'

'Wow incredible! It was a fantastic event for our community '

Here's to the next gathering!

Jill Gower



Photo courtesy of
Barry Armstrong

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

Members Open Morning

On Saturday, 25th September, Board Directors met with members, at The Shed at the Pier. The Chair, Anthony Smith was able to bring members up to date with project developments and talk about future plans. Other Directors were also on hand to talk to members and answer questions.

At the same time, a few of our trusty volunteers, took the opportunity to put on a tombola stall in front of the ticket office and raised a grand total of **£239.90**.

A big THANK YOU to all concerned .



We made it!

We are delighted and proud to announce that Hythe Pier is now listed as Grade II by Historic England on the National Heritage List for England. It has been awarded Listed Building Status and added to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.

This is a huge achievement and significant, as it brings specific protection so that its special interest can be properly considered in managing its future.



Historic England

The Carriage work continues by Anthony Smith

Here are some recent photos of our Carriage 1. Our project process normally requires us to produce a good estimate for the total cost of the restoration before we start. We were not able to do this without a significant amount of deconstruction (the photos show what we label "significant") of the carriage. The project charter was approved by the Board when it was split into two phases, with expenditure in phase 1 being limited, until a good estimate for the entire work could be ascertained. We are close to that point now.

The metalwork will be subcontracted to Blue Funnel for completion and we await their quotation. The Board can then be asked for approval expenditure for phase 2 of the charter.

Photos courtesy of Tina Brown



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Hythe Rocks by Alan Titheridge



Hundreds turned out on 11th September for the Hythe Pier Heritage Association's Rock the Pier music festival. In warm September sunshine the air pulsated with the sounds of local bands and solo entertainers, all giving their time for free to help the charity .

For nearly eight hours the Associations volunteers put on an exciting programme which was opened by duo Wire JD and followed by REM tribute band REMbrandt. When Harri met Alli, a duo singing both classic and modern covers followed before the popular New Forest old time skiffle and folk band the Trav Cats came on to give a high-octane performance.

Solo Bluesman Bob Long had the unenviable task of following the Trav Cats but served up a well- received set of 1920s and 1930s numbers. The Soulcatchers raised the tempo again before local trio the One-Offs rounded off the show. Extravagantly dressed compere Byron linked the performances with his entertaining banter, he was a decent singer too.

All the while, the 99 years old pier train trundled up and down the pier delivering its passengers including several hundred Saints fan to the ferry, a constant reminder, if it was needed, of what the day was all about.

The final amount raised was **£7500**. After costs, this adds a considerable amount to our funds.

The fundraising purpose of the event was of course important, but equally so this year is its raising of community spirit after the recent lockdowns.



photos courtesy of
Maxine Farmer and
REMbrandt



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“ The Scratch Project are very proud to have been given the opportunity to sponsor this year’s Rock The Pier event.”

Michael Osman—Creator of the Scratch Project

We are a local group of small businesses, who on the one hand provide great service for the local community and secondly will look to group fund genuine and verified local good causes and events.

The Rock The Pier event is a prime example of the group sponsoring the event by all contributing to the Scratch Projects fund and then distributed to help a local good cause.

We will seek to support many more local good causes over the coming months and years.

All the local businesses involved are local, successful and therefore able to give a little back to the local community, scratching their backs and the local community can help our partners by using them, scratching our backs which will enable the group funding to continue.

In our group we have such local businesses as:

New Forest Tiling, Storm Professional Carpet Cleaning & Floor Care, Jane Bidwell Flowers, Inspire Physiotherapy, Total Gas Services, Room 13, Kara Accountants, Step By Step Builders, E Williams Landscapes, Blond Design, GR Marshall’s, Tilleys, Anthony James Properties, The Exhibitionist, Zap Creative, Pilates Studio New Forest, Waterside Homecare Services, Eddie Irons, Phil Ward Plumbing & Heating, Archer Builders, Oyster Financial Planning, Ebenezers, A@S Scaffolding, Solent Electrical, New Forest Sprays, to name but a few.

All great local services, who I have used or trusted friends and family have vouched for.

We also have a handful of “silent partners” who are either retired or work for bigger organisations who are keen to contribute towards the Scratch Fund as they want to help their local community and they trust in what we are trying to achieve.

At the heart of what we stand for are old fashioned values, word of mouth, trusted recommendations and an affinity with the local area we all want to help.

To find out more please visit www.scratchproject.co.uk.

Scratch Project - “Professional Services With A Heart”



Lord Nelson makes Donation to Pier Fund by Alan Titheridge



Publican Leighton O'Hara handed over a cheque for £1000 on behalf of the Lord Nelson public house in Hythe to the Hythe Pier Heritage Association at a brief presentation ceremony at the entrance to Hythe Pier on Sunday October 3rd.

Accepting the cheque, the Chair of HPHA, Anthony Smith thanked the Lord Nelson for its continued support of the Community Benefit Society and its events designed to raise funding for its objective of restoring Hythe's Grade II listed Victorian and 99 years old pier train.

Leighton said "On behalf of everyone connected with the Lord Nelson, I would like to say how amazing the recent Rock the Pier event was with great bands and compere Byron lifting the spirits of everyone after such a tough year. The Lord Nelson has chosen to donate £1000 to such a worthy cause and looks forward to next year's event".

Also present were representatives from HPHA, Tina Brown, Garry Brown, Alan Titheridge and Councillor Allan Fairhead, Chair of the Shed (at the Pier) who all moved on with Leighton and Anthony for photographs at the Lord Nelson.

This month in History - October by Alan Titheridge

Saturday October 9, 1880, the Southampton Times reported

Hythe Pier nearing completion

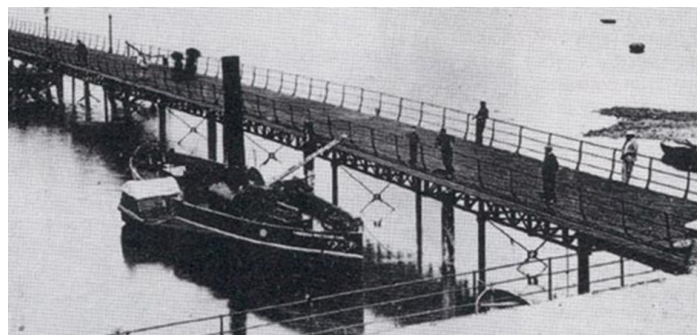
All the piles are now fixed, and the remainder of the work can be completed without fear of interruption by bad weather. The new tollhouse and waiting rooms are being rapidly pushed on, and it is believed that the directors will shortly be able to announce the pier ready for public traffic.

The boon of a safe and dry landing will be much appreciated during the forthcoming winter, and especially by the families who have recently settled at Hythe.

Saturday October 20, 1883, the Southampton Times reported

Shades of the summer of 2016

The Hythe steamboat traffic experienced a breakdown yesterday (19th) afternoon and occasioned a considerable amount of inconvenience to a large number of passengers. Both steamers, the Louisa and the Frederica, were out of action due to mechanical breakdowns



Frederica

October 8, 1973

The pier train finds itself the centre of controversy.

Our pier train found itself in the midst of a controversy when the then owners of the ferry, pier and train, the General Estates Company restricted its use to ferry passengers only. Throughout the summer regular ferry passengers had often had to walk the pier as seats were taken on the train by promenaders and tourists. The move proved unpopular and the parish council was flooded with complaints. Reports of elderly people being refused access if they were not in possession of a valid ferry ticket prompted the council to take up the issue with the owners. The situation rumbled on into the autumn of the following year when it appears to have simply passed into history.



The train 1974 (photo Alan Titheridge)

Saturday October 27, 2018



HYTHE PIER HERITAGE DAY
2018

Sat 27th October from 10:30 – 16:00

Programme

Pier Entrance
All Day: Open Railway Workshop; Games; Raffle; Facepainting; Candy Floss; Tombola; Roasted Chestnuts
10.30am Richard Cartridge from Radio Solent will open event.
10.30 – 11.00 & 11.30 – 12: New Forest Brass Training Band
1.00 – 1.30: Rock Choir
3.00 – 3.30: Waterside Community Choir

Ferry end of Pier
All Day: Historic Hotspur Exhibition; Waiting Room Pop Up Café; Games; HPHA Merchandise
10.30 – 12.30: 'Ask the Expert' Alan Titheridge

www.savehythepier.org.uk
Organised by Hythe Pier Heritage Association with support from Blue Funnel Ferries Ltd

Sponsored by
TJ TRANSPORT
facebook.com/TJWaste



On a bitterly cold day HPHA in conjunction with Blue Funnel Ferries opened up the Workshop as part of its Heritage Day.

Biting winds ripped across Southampton Water but the weather didn't prevent a good number of visitors.

There was a "Historic Hotspurs" exhibition in the pier head waiting room with the wheel and bell of the scrapped Hotspur III on display on the pier head itself.

A Rock Choir, the New Forest Training Band and the Waterside Community Choir provided entertainment.

Alan Titheridge and Mac McClaren brave the cold with the Hotspur III exhibition (Photo Penny Wade)





Our Waiting Room transforms into Gallery Space! By Debra Campbell

Many of you know that Jill Gower and I are passionate about saving Hythe Pier and Train. We have been friends for seven years and what you may not know is that much of that time together has been spent dabbling paintbrushes and creating art pieces.

In 2019 we decided to take the plunge and enter the annual Hampshire Open Studios 2020; a massive leap of faith and courage to exhibit our work to the general public. As we all know 2020 didn't pan out as expected. However, we are delighted the event went ahead August Bank Holiday 2021.

The Waiting Room was an ideal location for our exhibition that included local sea and landscapes, forest scenes and artworks featuring our beloved Train and Pier. Right from the offset we wanted to use this opportunity to promote HPHA. We were inundated with visitors; some holiday makers from elsewhere in the U.K., locals as well as those following the Hampshire Open Studios Trail.

We had countless conversations not only about art, but also about our charming Pier. So many people shared stories of past family outings on the Train and Ferry; working on the train, commuting to work or even working in the cafe in days gone by! People were delighted to see the space been used and many donations given. Jill and I, along with Ant and Yvie White and Debbie Goodfellow contributed a percentage of our sales to HPHA. A total of **£341** was raised!



Original Artwork by Jill Gower.

Thank you to everyone in the community who popped in to say hello and for supporting us.

Some quotes from our exhibition:

"So impressed with all your work and what an excellent venue too. Thank you"

"Beautiful setting for exhibition"

"Great to see the room in use- fabulous settings for all your artworks- very colourful! Hope you have lots of visitors"

"Wonderful to see the Waiting room used for such an exhibition. some lovely pictures. Worth the walk!"

silver Linings by Debra Campbell.



Many thanks to all our visitors and especially to our families and friends.

Thank you to Sath and his team of cheerful train drivers, your assistance is much appreciated.

WATCH THIS SPACE!

Mistletoe Pop-Up Art and craft Christmas market in the
Waiting Room!

One day only: Saturday 4th December 2021.



<https://www.lovehytheandwaterside.co.uk/whats-on/>

Hope to see you there!

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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.

The dates for the next year are as follows:

Thursday 28 October 2021

Thursday 25 November 2021

Thursday 16 December 2021

Thursday 27 January 2022

Thursday 24 February 2022

Thursday 31 March 2022

Thursday 28 April 2022

Thursday 26 May 2022

Thursday 30 June 2022

Thursday 28 July 2022

Thursday 29 September 2022