

Heartbeat of Hythe

Newsletter for



August 2022 Issue No 20

We hope you are all enjoying the summer. Hopefully, we have seen the last of this extreme heat and will soon enjoy some much needed rain.

As you may know, our group is totally run by volunteers and as such, it is often a challenge to keep on top of all our projects. Of course at this time of year holidays also get in the way, so items such as this newsletter, social media postings etc may have to take a back seat. Our priority as a team will always be to focus on Pier and carriage restoration, both of which are currently being undertaken. This is also where our financial commitments lie.

In terms of events, this summer has also seen the celebration of the Railway's centenary, Rock the Train. A great weekend all round. Thanks to all who made it happen.

Enjoy the read.

Jill Gower

Secretary and Editor



Centenary cake courtesy of Dolly Dotty Bakes

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

Rock the Train Centenary Weekend

The celebrations began on the Saturday morning, 23rd July. At 10.30 the Romsey and District Railway Modellers Society opened their exhibition at the Community Centre, which was well attended and a great addition to the weekend. At the same time, The Shed (at the Pier) opened it's doors and was manned by volunteers, who had been restoring the carriages. This was repeated again on the Sunday, with musical entertainment from the Melody Makers and Frontline Ukelele Band. Numerous visitors came to see their work and find out about the carriage restoration. There were also exhibits by Brighton based Volks Railway, a restored petrol tanker as well as a vintage car courtesy of Beaulieu motor museum.

Around Hythe, shops had put up posters celebrating the Train's birthday. Contributions were received from some local schools, Orchard Infants and Waterside Primary. It was great to have involvement from the wider community.

At 11.45, there was a celebratory ceremony at the Pier shore station, where Anthony Smith, Chair of HPHA gave a short speech, after which the newly restored Carriage 1, began it's first ride up the pier. Free rides were available throughout the afternoon.



Rock the Train Centenary Weekend (cont)

The main musical event of the weekend started on The Promenade at 12.30 with Rock the Pier. A great afternoon was had by all, entertained by local bands Trav Cats and MagiKats. Also back by popular demand Wire -JD, REMbrandt, When Harri met Alli and The Soulcatchers who closed the day. Our volunteers manned a very busy merchandising stall. There was also a face painting and hair braiding tent, with refreshments provided by a coffee vendor and ice cream van. An event such as this obviously has considerable costs, so we are very grateful for the support of local sponsorship from The Scratch Project and The Lord Nelson pub as well as a donation from The Maples B&B . A huge thankyou also goes to all the volunteers who planned and manned this event, making it all possible.

It was great to see the whole of Hythe absolutely buzzing not just at the Pier or on the Promenade.

A big thankyou to all who came along and celebrated with us on the weekend and for all your generous donations. A grand total of **£8.500** was raised. All our profits go towards our Pier and Railway restoration projects.



Photo: James Harrison

Visiting Locomotive—Alan Titheridge

The celebration to celebrate 100 years of our pier train was made all the more interesting with the appearance of one of the only two other First World War locomotives still in existence. Our two, 16302 and 16307 were reunited with sibling 16303 from the Amberley Museum.



Hythe locomotive 16307 and Amberley 16303 (Photo – Anne Drummond)

16303 arrived at Hythe on a towed trailer during the early afternoon of Friday July 22nd. Getting the trailer into position for a direct transfer to the siding was restricted but with precision manoeuvring by means of the trailer winch and some brute force from seconded members of the Hythe Shed (at the Pier) and Blue Funnel Ferries staff, 16303 was grounded just an inch or so from the sunken rails. Once railed, it was started up and driven beyond the points for subsequent access to the Hythe Pier Shore Station.

The uniqueness of bringing together the three locomotives for the first time in 102 years generated excitement among the organisers, those who had been involved with the unloading and those passers-by at the time who were witnessing something really special.

The following day owner of 16303, Peter Smith and his son James, both dressed in bib and braces, were on hand to talk with the many hundreds of visitors keen to share the occasion.

Peter says “What an honour it was for Brush 16303 to be invited to be part of the celebration of 100 years of Electric Traction on Hythe Pier. Such a wonderful day made only the better by an incredible band of dedicated volunteers. Sibling locomotives reunited after 102 years!”

Visit to Waterside Bowling Club



Last month, HPHA members were invited along to Waterside Bowling Club as the nominated President's charity of the year. It was a great opportunity to meet many of the club's members and share information about our restoration projects as well as some of our merchandise.

A big thankyou to the club for supporting us this year!

Board Meeting date 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 date for the next meeting is:

Thursday 29th September 2022