

Heartbeat of Hythe



The newsletter of Hythe Pier Heritage Association

June 2023 Issue 25

Our Community Working Together to bring our Heritage and History to life

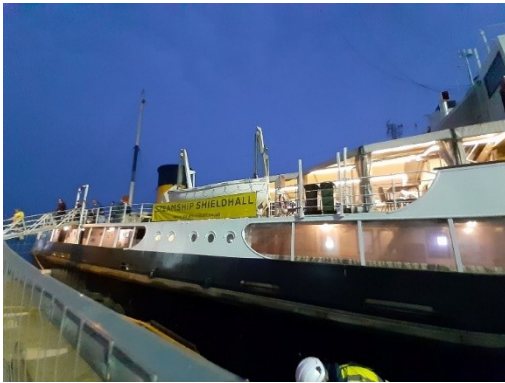
Welcome

It is always a pleasure to meet volunteers from other organisations and share experiences. On Friday 17th June, this is exactly what was on offer for HPHA members when they had the opportunity to sail on the S.S. Shieldhall's first Friday evening cruise, at a 50% discount. Anthony Smith and myself, as Board members, were given complementary tickets in exchange for providing those on board with the our latest project updates. Anthony gave an informative talk over the tannoy as we passed the Pier, only briefly having to battle with a deep and resounding blast from the Shieldhall's siren!

A trip on the Shieldhall is certainly one to remember, a unique experience traveling back in time on the world's largest steamship. The great thing is you can visit most parts of the vessel, from the engine rooms to the bridge and all under the guidance of a very friendly and well-informed volunteer crew. If you fancy a trip, there is a cruise for 2 on offer as one of our Grand Draw prizes this year, kindly donated by the Charity.

A big thankyou goes out to Nigel Philpott for facilitating the evening and providing yet another great prize for our Grand Draw.

Jill Gower
Secretary and Editor



Hythe Pier Heritage Association is a Charitable Community Benefit Society
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Carriage Restoration Update Tina Brown

Restoration work continues on both Carriage 3 (A driving carriage) and Tractor number 2. There has been a slight delay in progress awaiting wheel sets, suspension arm repairs and sprockets which we are pleased to say are back and ready to reassemble the tractor and move out of the workshop to enable continuation works to Carriage 3.

The volunteers at Hythe Shed (at the pier) are eager to assemble Carriage 3 after completing the side panels, roof, seats etc and see their hard work take form. The chassis to this carriage does need a few lengths of metal runs, delivery of these are usually very quick and together with ongoing cleaning up of nuts/bolts, we are sure that the chassis will be ready very soon.

Being a driving carriage, there are other elements to the train carriage, apart from new cabling for electrics, there is confidence among the engineers that the breaking system and gearing is in good order which is fantastic to hear.

We at HPHA are very proud of all volunteer achievements showing such craftsmanship skills on the previous carriages, we simply cannot wait to show off the next one, together with a fully restored tractor number 2.

The new set of wheels for tractor unit 2 – photo Anthony Smith



Pier project update John Goddard

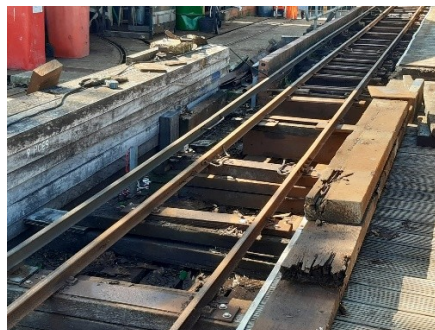
Track Renovation - Phase 1

The track renovation project was paused towards the end of last year when it was discovered that one of the two Victorian wrought iron riveted girders (the one supporting the railway line and partially buried in shingle) was so badly corroded that it was no longer bearing the rail loads. Due to the Grade 11 listing of the pier, any replacement of this beam requires Planning Consent. Our initial preliminary proposal to replace beam was not viewed favourably by the NFDC Planning Officer during a site visit in February. However he was sympathetic to our cause and it was agreed that we would submit a proposal that enabled the wrought iron girders to remain in place with the loads being taken by new adjacent beams.

The revised steelwork drawings from our Architects SGP, were issued last month, reflecting the recommendation of the Conservation Officer. SGP submitted the Full Planning Application at the end of May, and this was validated on 6th June with a target date for the determination of 1st August. The end of the consultation period is 7th July, at which point SGP will be in touch with the council to try and gauge their thoughts, which should give an idea of whether it is likely to be approved. On the basis of the Planning Application being approved by 1st August, we should be looking to install the new beams early September, which will then be followed on by the re-commencement of first phase of the railway line upgrade.

Monitoring Survey

Historically, there has been significant settlement of certain piles about two thirds of the way along the pier, which is very evident when viewing the railway line in this area. Previous remedial works had been carried, but it was uncertain as to whether further settlement of these piles still continuing. We therefore, last year, commissioned a Digital Monitoring Survey to measure the levels in this area over the course of a year. The latest results from the Survey carried out in April, confirmed that over the last year there has been no significant change in the levels at the various monitoring points. As the train has been in full use during this time, it appears safe to assume that we have no 'live' settlement issues at the piles in question and can consider that future further settlement of these piles is unlikely. Future remedial works are therefore not required other than to level up the superstructure when that section of the railway track is upgraded. No further monitoring is now required. In conclusion, a good result.



Renewable energy study ends

As reported on our website, HPHA suggested to Solent University that Hythe pier would be a suitable location to understand how renewable energy might be used in the re-development of a heritage building. This report investigated the possibility of using renewable energy to power the buildings and train on the Hythe Pier. Comprehensive assessment of available renewable energy sources was carried out which led to the selection of wind and solar energy for further inspection and application. Specific devices have been selected for the four main system components – solar module, wind turbine, power inverter and battery pack. Included are also recommendations on additional system components to enable a comprehensive simulation and guide us on the electrical system design.



A numerical estimation was completed to establish the potentially available energy and create advice on project feasibility. A thorough assessment of the buildings energy consumption and efficiency has been carried out to determine the average daily consumption of the Pier. Several options of energy storage were considered (both type and scale) and the system behaviour was simulated to obtain accurate data on system autonomy and energy requirements. Numerical methods and simulation show that the energy production is poorly distributed throughout the year and therefore – although there is enough harvestable energy for a stand- alone system – the national grid needs to be used as a top-up in the colder months.

Multiple potential arrangement options were introduced and assessed explaining the advantages and disadvantages of each arrangement. A succinct cost-benefit analysis was also completed to evaluate the financial feasibility of the project.

The report concludes on recommending a combined system option including wind turbines and solar panels as well as storage giving up to 1 day of autonomy and a necessary national grid connection for overnight charging.

The report has now been completed with two of HPHA's Directors attending the presentation day at the university.

<http://hythepier.org.uk/project24/>

School children learn Hythe Pier history Alan Titheridge

Forty children from Wildground Junior School were taught some of the history and statistics of Hythe Pier and its century old railway as a part of their local history project during a visit on June 15th. Jill Gower and myself from Hythe Pier Heritage Association were on hand to explain previous roles of the pierhead buildings and the introduction of the train.

Courtesy of Blue Funnel Ferries, the children were given a free train ride and were asked how people used to get along the pier before the train. It was explained that for the first 40 years people had to walk until in 1909 trolleys on sunken tracks were introduced. These trolleys were for goods and luggage, but often the porter would who pushed the trolleys would let ladies sit on for a ride.

During their visit to the village, the children were also shown old photographs they could compare with the modern Hythe they were walking around after their visit to the pier.



Two Parish Councillors Appointed to HPHA Board

Councillors David Cole and Natalia Martinez have been appointed to the Board by Hythe and Dibden Parish Council under rule 74b of HPHA's rules. Welcome to David and Natalia !



David and Natalia replace Allan Fairhead and Simon Lodge who previously occupied these roles. Our great thanks go to Allan and Simon for their effort and support of HPHA over the years.

Fun at Hythe Village Fayre

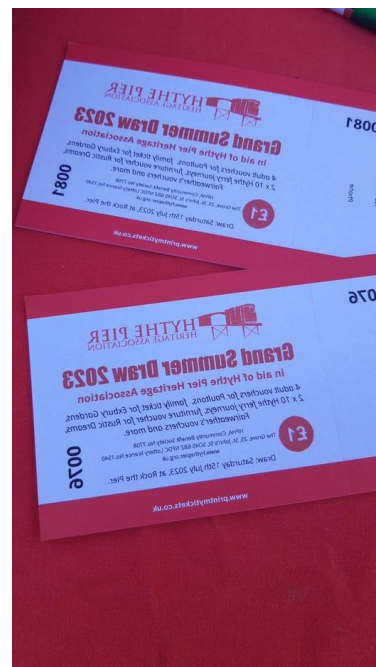
On Monday 29th May, volunteers manned a stall for HPHA.

On sale for the first time were this year's new edition of 'Rock the Pier' t shirts . These are certainly set to stand out and capture the festival vibe in brilliant red with contrasting white logo and text. Other items of merchandise was also available.

Also on sale, were our annual Grand Draw tickets. This year we have the usual brilliant prizes but tickets are only ***HALF* the price of last year at only £1 each** . Prizes include 4 adult tickets to Paulton's Park, a family ticket to Exbury, a cruise for 2 on the SS.Shieldhall, a Blue Funnel Ferries cruise, 10 Hythe ferry rides, a voucher from local furniture makers, Rustic Dreams, Fairweather Garden Centre Vouchers and more.

Thank you to all those volunteers who manned the stall that day and of course to all of you who came to purchase from us.

A total of £457 was taken on the day!





Rock the Pier is back!

Back for a fifth time, this year we are welcoming a few new comers to our stage, The Johnson Van Dykes, some of whose members play with the Trav Cats, but will bring a few more covers to their own set. Also new this year is Vision, a 5 piece Indie band from Southampton, influenced by a huge variety of artists but most inspired by the sounds and style of 90s Britpop bands such as Oasis, Blur and The Verve. Finally, Stone Branches, another Southampton based Indie band, whose guitarist is local to Hythe.

Of course we still have some of our faithful returners, the amazing Trav Cats, brilliant REMbrandt and 'knock your socks off' Soulcatchers to close the show. It all kicks off at 12.30 pm on Saturday, 15th July and aims to finish around 19.30 pm, on the Promenade in Hythe. We are also hoping that another smaller stage area maybe operational over part of the day, in front of Waitrose. This is kindly being co-ordinated by Elizabeth Deadman of Maples Guest House and the Vicar of St. John's Church.

As this event has grown both in size and popularity, it is easy to forget that it is organised and run by a very small number of dedicated HPHA volunteers. As you can imagine, these things take huge amounts of time and effort. The concept of the event was and still is, very much one of community engagement, we are after all a Community Benefits Society. Nevertheless, without the income and donations from this day, we would not be able to fund events such as these going forward. We are also indebted to the financial support of local businesses, to cover some of the many costs. This year, our stage and sound has again been sponsored by The Scratch Project (<https://www.scratchproject.co.uk/>). We have also got the support of The Lord Nelson Pub (<https://lordnelsonhythe.co.uk/>). We have a brand new banner in the village, which has kindly been

donated by Zillwoods signage (<https://www.zillwoods.co.uk/>) . New this year are Philpotts Fish and Chips in Hythe and New Forest Care (<https://newforestcare.com/>)



Trav Cats



REMbrandt



The Johnson Van Dykes



Stall at Hythe Market

Check us out every Tuesday morning from now until 11th July, selling Rock the Pier t-shirts. Availability is limited, so make sure you get yours asap. Grand Draw tickets will also be on sale. Other outlets for tickets include Mockinjay's in Hythe and Hythe Ferry ticket office.

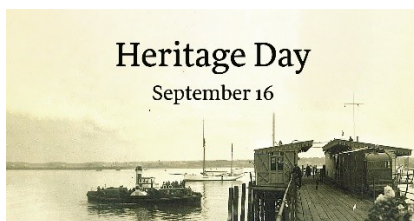


Forthcoming Events

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Rock the Pier, Saturday 15th July 12.30 – 19.30
amazing day of music for all the family.



Heritage Day, Saturday 16th September
historical footage of the pier, vintage vehicles
and much more.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The success of any event depends very much on volunteer help and support. Have you got some time available on these days? If so PLEASE, PLEASE get in touch and register your interest.

Contact us on info@hythepierha.org.uk

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 we have space limitations within our usual meeting room.

The dates for this year are as follows:

Thursday, 20 July 2023

Thursday, 28 September 2023

Thursday, 26 October 2023

Thursday, 30 November 2023

Thursday, 21 December 2023