

Heartbeat of Hythe

Newsletter for members and volunteers of Hythe Pier Heritage Association



March 2022 Issue No 18

Dear Members and Volunteers,

Last month, we put out a plea for more practical help to support across all areas of our project.

We are sure many of you out there, have a range of skills and experience which could really make a difference to our success, in restoring the pier and keeping the train on it's tracks.

One area in which we urgently need help with, is that of **fundraising**. No previous experience? Don't worry. We are looking for assistants to join the team with good communication skills, an ability to browse the internet for potential funders and make some phone calls. Does this sound like you? Then you may be the person we are looking for.

If so, contact us at info@hythepier.org.uk and find out more.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Jill Gower

Secretary and Editor



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

Carriage 1 restoration update by Tina Brown



Volunteers of The Shed (at The Pier) have worked really hard over the last couple of months, the frame of carriage 1 has been dry fit to the new sub frame. The roof has undergone refurbishment by renewing the shaped cross beams and is presently suspended over the carriage.

A big thank you to all the engineers at Blue Funnel Ferries and the volunteers of The Shed (at The Pier) – the carriage is now taking shape!

Volunteers needed for Rock the Pier Saturday, 23rd July

This event is our major Community fundraiser of the year but is very much dependent on a band of willing volunteers to help ensure all runs smoothly. We are particularly keen to hear from you if you think you can help with either marshalling or bucket collecting on the day.

Email us at info@hythepier.org.uk

This is your chance to be part of the fun!



Trav Cats playing in 2019

This month in History – March

by Alan Titheridge

March 10, 1830

The first Hythe steamer ferry boat commences

The first steamer communication between Southampton and Hythe commences when the new paddle steamer Emerald calls at Hythe. The Hampshire Advertiser recorded that “she is a very fast vessel”. A week later, the same newspaper added, “On Sunday last about 400 persons took a trip to that delightful little village”. Previously, the passage could only be made by sail or row-boat.

March 3, 1888

Order placed for a new Hythe steamer



Mr James Percy who had won the rights to the Hythe Pier tolls a year earlier placed an order for a new paddle steamer for the Hythe – Southampton ferry, to replace the ageing steamers he had acquired at the same time.

The new boat would be named Hotspur, starting a tradition that would last into the 21st Century. The first boat to carry the Hotspur name would arrive in Hythe the following April.

March 10, 1988

Sea Tunnel link to Waterside

The Southampton Metro 2000 Rapid Transport System report was published, proposing a sea tunnel landing at Hythe just north of the Marina. What impact this would have had had it come to fruition on the pier and ferry is speculative.

March 9, 2000

The good news and the not so good!



White Horse Ferries announced passenger numbers were improving but added that numbers had to improve further as the pier needed £500,000 spent on it to prevent further deterioration.

£100,000 would be needed to replace the decking alone. Six miles of railings and over 400 stanchions were also a priority as was upgrading the carriages of the pier railway.

White Horse would have to find ways of financing the repairs as a bid for a grant of £400,000 had been rejected.

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 year are as follows:

Thursday 31 March 2022

Thursday 28 April 2022

Thursday 26 May 2022

Thursday 30 June 2022

Thursday 28 July 2022

Thursday 29 September 2022