

Heartbeat of Hythe

Newsletter for members and volunteers of Hythe Pier Heritage Association



January 2022 Issue No 16

Dear Members and Volunteers,

Welcome to this first edition of the 2022. As we start a new year, let us hope that this one brings more normality than many of us experienced in 2021. Above all, let it bring happiness, good health and fresh opportunities.

This year is of particular significance to our beloved train. Early centenary preparations have already started and we hope that this year's 'Rock the Train' event will be the best so far.

Carriage 1 restoration continues with the aim for completion by the summer. An update from The Shed is in this issue. More detail next month.

Jill Gower

Secretary and Editor



Photo courtesy of Alan Titheridge 'Then and Now'

Donation update

Many thanks to Councillor Malcolm Wade for his donation from his County Councillor fund! The monies will be put to good use as we continue to refurbish the carriages.

We have also been granted a sum of money from Exxon Mobil to be used on essential Health and Safety training. This will be used by Board members, as well as members of Hythe Shed, who are primarily involved with restoration projects, but also event safety.

The general public have equally been very generous to HPHA over the Christmas period and we thank them for their generosity. All donations however small are always warmly welcomed.

thank you!

Tesco Collection Box Challenge

We are delighted to announce that HPHA has been chosen as one of the projects under Tesco Community Grants scheme.

Every time you shop there, please remember to add tokens to the box. We could receive up to £1,500 for much needed restoration works on the pier and railway.

Every token counts!



News from Hythe Shed (at the Pier)

by Allan Fairhead

Happy New Year.

Even with the holiday break, the members at the shed have been progressing with the carriage restoration.

The frameworks of all four sides have been made and the rebates to take the glass and panels cut.

The new ply panels are cut and ready for all the necessary layers of paint. The frames have been colour stained and the first of many coats of varnish have started to be applied.

The seating is being dismantled and sanded to bare wood ready for their refurbishment.

Next move, is to get the roof into the Shed to inspect/restore or remake.



Photo: John Billingham

Rock the Train returns in 2022 - Tanja Roberts

This year's popular Rock the Pier music festival event will be retitled Rock the Train and will be staged on Saturday July 23rd as a part of a Centenary Celebration marking 100 years of the train operating on Hythe Pier.

The Guinness Book of Records lists the train as the world's "oldest operating pier train", having been running to and from the Hythe ferry boats at the end of the pier since late July 1922.

Further details of the event planned to bring the train to the attention of audiences far beyond the village and Waterside communities will be announced shortly. Watch this space...



The Trav Cats playing at Rock the Pier 2021

Photo: Jill Gower

This month in History - January by AlanTitheridge

January 17, 1927 – Second “Hotspur” launched at Cowes



General Estates Company, owners of the Hythe Ferry launched its new boat. Built at the Samuel White shipyard in Cowes, the vessel was named Hotspur. The new boat replaced the old paddle steamer of the same name built in 1889. She stayed on the service until replaced by Hotspur IV in 1947.

January 1, 1961 – 1960 passenger total published

General Estates Company published that the number of single trips made on its ferry boats and therefore the minimum number of people that trod the boards of the pier in 1960 was

750,090

January 5, 1973 – Roy Davis retires from the train

Arguably the most popular of train drivers.

Roy retired after driving the pier train for 27 years.



January 6, 2004 – Pier re-opens for business

Just ten weeks after the dredger Donald Redford ploughed into the pier on November 1, 2003, the pier was re-opened to ferry traffic.

The repair work was a monumental challenge and a tribute to what can be done in a crisis.



Photo: Sath Naidoo

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 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