

Heartbeat of Hythe



The newsletter of Hythe Pier Heritage Association

December 2022 Issue 23

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

Welcome

As this is our final newsletter of the year, we thought it appropriate to reflect on the many ways in which our members have been active within the community. These have involved raising awareness of the project, fundraising, as well as restoration work.

We very much value all contributions made throughout the year, however small or great, whether it may be giving up your valuable time or donating much needed funds. Without this continued support, Hythe would be in danger of losing it's most iconic asset. If you feel you would like to be involved in any way, don't hesitate to get in touch, either via our website or email.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Jill Gower
Secretary and Editor



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Hythe Pier Heritage Association 2022 – The Year in Review

2022 been a busy year for HPHA, much has been achieved.

January – Accepted as one of the projects supported under the Tesco Grants Scheme. Shoppers at the Sizer Way store were invited to drop tokens into the box of their choice, each supporting a local project. An award of £500 was subsequently received.



Jill and Alan talking with pupils of Orchard Infants School

February – Jill Gower and Alan Titheridge representing HPHA went into Orchard Infants School to talk with Year 2 pupils about its work and plans for Hythe Pier as part of the school’s “Communities Week”. The children showed great interest and enthusiasm, subsequently visiting the pier and riding the train to the pier head, where Jill and Alan held a questions and answers session. Following the school visit, the children had made postcards, coasters and candle holders which they sold to the public at the pier entrance, raising £783 for the pier restoration project.

April – Jill Gower, Mary King and Ann Fairhead attended the Hythe Marina Association boat jumble and car boot sale. HMA had nominated HPHA as its charity of the year and raised over £400 from the event. HPHA raised a further £280 selling merchandise.

May – HPHA announced work was about to commence on replacing the first 43 metres of track from the shore end station along with the points and sidings. The project would entail lifting the exist rails, conductor rail and their timber supports before replacement timber and subsequently newly fabricated rails be put in place. The existing platform would also be replaced with a temporary platform 45 metres towards the seaward end. HPHA acknowledges generous donations from Hampshire County Council, Beaulieu Beaufort Trust, Beaverbrook Foundation, Dibden

Allotment Fund and the New Forest Park Authority that allowed this important and necessary work to be carried out.

June – Carriage 1 (Asset I048), the second to be restored rolled out of the Blue Funnel workshop. Volunteers from the Shed (at the Pier) had been working enthusiastically on it since the previous September, despite Covid lockdowns. There was still finishing work to be carried out, with a confidence it would be complete in time for the Hythe Pier Railway centenary celebrations in July.

The temporary platform installed and brought into use.

HPHA, as a recipient of a share of the event fundraising, took a stand at the Fawley Show.

Two HPHA restored carriages back on track at the temporary platform (Photo: Alan Titheridge)



July – Rock the Pier and the Centenary Celebration was the most ambitious and successful HPHA event so far, raising £8500. A centenary cake was cut as a part of the celebration during the late morning followed by free rides on the train. A model railway exhibition was held in the Community Centre and the volunteers from the Shed (at the Pier) were on hand to talk about their contribution to the Carriage 1 restoration.

Rock the Pier saw local musicians donating their time on a stage on the Promenade. In fine weather, the audience rocked for the seven hours show. HPHA acknowledges sponsorship from the Scratch Project, Maples, Zillwoods Signs, General Estates Company, PPL Prs and The Lord Nelson.

Earlier in the month HPHA hosted a visit to the pier by members of the Industrial Railway Society.



Rock the Pier 2022 (Photo: (Mary King)

August – Jill Gower, Mary King, Anne Fairhead and Alan Titheridge were present (as onlookers) on behalf of HPHA at a Waterside Bowling Club tournament. HPHA is the Club's President's Charity of the Year.

September – Work underway to disassemble Carriage 2, the carriage that transported King George VI along the pier in 1944 and that was decommissioned into the Blue Funnel workshop prior to Rock the Pier, in preparation for its restoration, expected to last into the summer of 2023.

October – HPHA “flew the flag” at the Solent Sky Tram and Light Railway Exhibition.

November – Safety fencing erected at the pier entrance as work began in earnest on the first phase of the track replacement project.



Anthony Smith accepts cheque for £904 from Waterside Bowling Club

Mary King and Ann Fairhead raised £122 selling merchandise at the Brockenhurst Model Railway Exhibition.

December – Mary King, Ann Fairhead, Donna Botley and Margaret Marcham braved the cold at the Mistletoe Fayre and raised £220 on the Teddy tombola.

Don't forget to keep abreast of all developments by visiting our website at

<http://www.hythepier.co.uk/>



Don't forget to keep donating your spare foreign currency! In November, 9 kilos of coins were collected from our collection pots in Hythe Post Office and the Herald office. This gave us a grand total of **£428!**

Collection Pots for Donations

There are also several collection pots around Hythe and the wider Waterside area, including Homeborough House and Holbury Hardware. A total of **£163.40** was collected in these over the past 2 months.

A big thankyou for all these contributions!

Rock the Pier 2023 is currently being planned and we very much want to hear from some bands who would benefit from some extra exposure. Have you got what it takes or do you know anyone who fits the bill? If so, get in touch!



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 next year are as follows:

Thursday, 26 January 2023

Thursday, 23 February 2023

Thursday, 30 March 2023

Thursday, 27 April 2023

Thursday, 25 May 2023

Thursday, 29 June 2023

Thursday, 20 July 2023

Thursday, 28 September 2023

Thursday, 26 October 2023

Thursday, 30 November 2023

Thursday, 21 December 2023