

Heartbeat of Hythe

Newsletter for members and volunteers of The Hythe Pier Heritage Association



November 2019 Issue No 1

Dear Members and Volunteers

Welcome to our first HPHA newsletter. The main aim of our newsletter is to keep all of you up to date with the latest progress on the project and share news of recent events, activities and forthcoming dates for your diaries. This is our first issue and so we would very much welcome your feedback and your suggestions for items and new features that you would like to see in the next issue.

Finally, we invite you to join us for an informal get together before Christmas. We know this is a busy time of year but would be delighted if you could make it. We will be meeting at The Hub on Hythe Marina for a mince pie and a drink Tuesday 10th December from 7.00 - 9.00PM. Numbers are limited so please confirm if you will be there.

Legal stuff – where are we now! an update by Peter King Chairman HPHA.

No one said it would be easy! You have probably been wondering why we aren't full steam ahead and already restoring the pier and railway! Well things are proving a little tricky and so we have been forced to rethink the key principles of how we can make an agreement work. After some toing and froing during the first half of the year it became clear that Blue Funnel would not be able to just hand us the keys. So, following a review and having taken some further legal advice we are changing course and have agreed to take a long term leasehold interest in the pier. When we say long term, we mean long term, 999 years to be precise. This will in reality be just about as good as outright ownership. This has now been agreed by both ourselves and Blue Funnel along with some other key issues and the detailed terms and conditions are now being drafted by solicitors. We are not making any promises, but I think we now have a plan that we can take forward and we are optimistic that we will have some good news to share quite soon. More on this in the next issue.

If you have any queries or questions about this then email me on PKING@hythepierha.org.uk

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

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Project Update with Paul McDaid HPHA Project Development Coordinator

Well it has been a busy few months for me, earlier in the summer we welcomed three groups of architects to the pier. They provided fee bids to undertake the next stage of design and development which involves a detailed feasibility report on the restoration and redevelopment. This will help inform our business plan. We are pleased to announce that we have appointed The Goddard Partnership to undertake this work. They put forward a very clear and credible plan for their design stages and presented a vision which was very much in line with ours to protect, preserve and restore the pier. This represents a significant step forward in our plans and has been funded entirely by the community fundraising campaign.

In addition, I have been working hard on our business plan which is now taking shape. Over the next few months we will be preparing a more detailed funding plan and starting to firm up the project plan and the budget costings.

I have also been working on some grant funding applications and meeting stakeholders and agencies including the Architectural Heritage Trust who made a fact finding visit to see the pier and discuss our plans.

If you want to find out more about the project, then feel free to contact me at the Grove or give me a call on 07410 899540 or email me on pmcdaid@hythepierha.org.uk

All a"Board"

As many of you will be aware John Greenwood resigned from HPHA in the summer and so we recently invited interested members to step up and get involved on the management board. We would like to welcome Tina Brown who has joined the Board of HPHA. Some of you will already have met Tina on the facelift project in the spring where she worked tirelessly painting railings, timber boards and the ticket office. Tina has a particular interest in the railway restoration and is already helping to develop our plans here.

She joins current members Peter King, Jill Gower, Jenny Bithell, Elizabeth Smith, Matt Stone and James Percy.

We still have one vacancy on the Board so if you are willing to make a contribution and get involved then contact us for more information, without people we cannot make this happen.

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Fundraising Update

Record Success with HPHA Volunteers and the pop-up cafe

Thank you to Mark Blondel for inviting HPHA café crew to provide hot drinks, cakes and bacon rolls at his record fairs at St Johns hall this year. On 9th November the team raised £36.50. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers Mary King, Ann Fairhead, Jackie Vokes, Susan Alexander and Rosella Braybook. This year's total from all the Record Fair pop up cafes is £264.34. Thankyou!

Further help is still needed at the forthcoming Hythe Mistletoe Fair, Saturday 30th November. We are also looking for solo singers/small groups or buskers who might perform for us 10 – 11.30 a.m. and 2 – 4.30pm at the Tesco Bucket collection on Sunday 15th December. A few more bucket collectors would also be welcome. If you think you can help, then contact Viv Carter at support@hythepierha.org

Quiz

Thank you so much to David Morris and Jan for a super quiz on 15th October. Thank you too to Stu and his team at Seashells Bar & Restaurant - great venue, super buffet and lots of fun! Thank you to everyone who came along and supported raising an amazing £675.60.

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Dates for your diaries

Mince pies and drinks at The Hub 10th December 7.00 – 9.00 pm

Hythe Mistletoe Fair 30th Nov

Tesco Bucket collection 15th December

Record Fair pop up cafe March 2020

Rock the Pier 2020 - 8th August 2020

And Finally

It may have taken us a while, but this is our very first attempt at a group newsletter and we hope it will become a popular and permanent part of our organisation. A very big thankyou to Jill Gower for her persistence and determination in getting this first edition out, future issues will be coordinated by our very own Rosella Braybrook who has volunteered to pull this together. We plan to start off with a new issue every two months. So, if you have ideas and want to help and get involved then please get in touch and let's make this a really worthwhile addition.

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