

Heartbeat of Hythe

The newsletter of Hythe Pier Heritage Association



December 2025 Issue 32

Welcome

2025 has in many ways been a difficult year for us at HPHA. The ferry has not run in over 16 months and the pier is currently closed to all.

However, we are trying not to be too downhearted! We have still managed to make some progress and we are doing our best to liaise with all parties to provide support and expertise to get a good eventual outcome. We look forward to a time soon when the pier is open to visitors.

Looking back, some of the highlights of the year have been the continued restoration of the train, the successful Hythe Heritage and Rock The Pier events (despite the rain!) and most especially, the ongoing, continued support from the Hythe community.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Anthony Smith

Chair



Pier engineering workshop opens to the public on Waterside Heritage Day , 29th June.

Hythe Pier Heritage Association – The Hythe Pier restoration charity
The Grove, 25 St Johns Street, Hythe SO45 6BZ Email: info@hythepierha.org.uk

Carriage 3 restoration progresses



August 2025

December 2025



The restoration of the third carriage continues, with the rebuild of the driver's cab. When possible we re-use original pieces in the rebuild, here you see the original driver's door.
As always, thanks to our friends at [Hythe Shed \(at the pier\)](#) for their support and effort in the restoration of this driving carriage.

Luggage Truck – restoration continues ...



Progress continues to be made on the rebuild of the train luggage truck. The truck will have a wooden floor with supports able to store bicycles and enough space and attachments to hold pushchairs.

Changes to the HPHA Board

This year we have been joined by two new members. Nigel Price was co-opted at our AGM in May and in October, Derek Harper, co-chair of The Shed (at the pier). We welcome their links to different parts of our local community.

With any depletion of key members, comes the need for new expertise. We still need members who can join the team who manage and administer the work of the Association. Board meetings are held once a month.

We also need people who can help in a variety of roles behind the scenes, restoring the train and pier, spreading information about the history and heritage, project managing and fundraising . If you are interested in joining our friendly group, have skills that you think may be useful, along with energy and commitment, we would love to hear from you. Contact us at:

info@hythepier.org.uk

Events so far ...



HPHA was pleased to celebrate our local heritage as part of Waterside Heritage Weekend. The Pier workshop was open for visitors to explore and inspect work in progress on the Pier train restoration. Many people took advantage of free rides on the Pier Railway. After much hard work by the members of Hythe Shed (at the Pier), Ann Fairhead, widow of former HPHA board member Alan Fairhead officially opened the Hythe Pier Museum and Shop where HPHA merchandise is available for sale. Throughout the day HPHA volunteers were available to chat about our conservation work on Hythe Pier and Railway.

Rock the Pier 2025

Hythe's premier live music event is still Hythe's biggest and most popular music event, this year at a new location – Ewart Recreation Ground. Much as we loved being on the Promenade, the new site offers a comfortable park environment making for a more family friendly event and a lot more space – which the enthusiastic audience managed to almost fill.



Davy Jones Locker



Ghost in the Machine

Thanks to all the bands who gave their time for free to support our event.

Between bands things kept rocking with our always popular MC, Byron Witchell keeping the large audience engaged and entertained. Even when 'monsoon' conditions prevailed late in the day some folk toughed it out to enjoy Byron's DJ set.

As always HPHA are extremely grateful to all our sponsors including principle sponsor **The Scratch Project** . Without the sponsors it would not be possible to hold Rock the Pier.

Thanks to all the **HPHA Volunteers** who's hard work planning **Rock the Pier 2025**, and helping out on the day made this fantastic event happen.

Total income from Rock the Pier 2025 was £12000. After costs this leaves a total of **£4200** which will go towards supporting our current restoration projects.



Our Christmas tree contribution to Hythe 2000 Christmas Tree Festival.



Community Support

We are always thrilled when local groups choose to donate to HPHA. All these efforts enable us to continue with vital restoration works, thus safeguarding the pier for future generations to enjoy.

A big **THANKYOU** goes to:

The Herald Office whose collection of foreign currency pots (Cash4Coins) has this year amounted to a grand total of £1,636

Eyeworth Walk Christmas Lights – currently collecting to donate to HPHA restoration projects.



An early Christmas present from the Hythe Wives Club, who kindly selected us to be the Club's charity of 2025. Our thanks go to all the members of the Club for this generous donation toward our work restoring Hythe Pier for the community.

Board Meeting dates

If you are a member of HPHA (by owning a share in the Association) then you may attend our Board meetings as an observer. Please notify us that you wish to attend 7 days in advance of the meeting by contacting any Board member. We ask for this notice to ensure we have enough room to accommodate everyone.

The provisional dates for next year are:

Mon 26 Jan 26
Mon 23 Feb 26
Mon 23 Mar 26
Mon 27 Apr 26
Mon 18 May 26
Mon 29 Jun 26
Mon 27 Jul 26
Mon 28 Sep 26
Mon 26 Oct 26
Mon 30 Nov 26

Membership Of HPHA

Membership of HPHA costs £15 per annum and includes ownership of a share in the Association. Please visit our website at hythepier.org.uk and click on the “Join” link to see more information and become a member.