

# Heartbeat of Hythe



The newsletter of Hythe Pier Heritage Association

March 2023 Issue 24

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

## Welcome

After a few years of restricted meetings, we decided to start some regular informal 'meet ups' for volunteers and members. The purpose of these is to not only to give updates on current projects and answer any questions but also to provide an opportunity to meet socially, a chance to chat, have a cuppa and, hopefully, a piece of cake. Our first such get together, took place in February. The meeting was hosted at The Shed (at the pier), where Allan Fairhead was also available to talk about how his members were involved in the carriage restoration project.

**Other 'meet-ups' are planned for Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> March and Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> April. Why not drop in to The Shed (at the pier) between 10a.m and 12p.m?**

Jill Gower  
Secretary and Editor



Members meet with Board directors at The Shed (At the Pier) in February

Hythe Pier Heritage Association is a Charitable Community Benefit Society  
The Grove, 25 St Johns Street, Hythe SO45 6BZ Email: [info@hythepierha.org.uk](mailto:info@hythepierha.org.uk)

## **Thar she blows Anthony Smith**

As previously reported in this newsletter (Oct 2022), HPHA are running a Viability Study, the aim of which is to look at the viability, cost and approach to the restoration of Hythe pier and pier buildings. Included within this work is the need to understand the true state of the pier and, as a result, build a picture of the costs of repair and restoration work. The study is kindly supported by the Charles Burnett memorial fund.

As part of the overall study, one of the “sub-projects” is a renewable energy study running in conjunction with Solent University. This study aims to understand what opportunities may be available during the restoration of the pier, pier buildings and train from renewable energy. This study is expected to deliver its first report in June 2023.



Renewable energy from wind, sea and sun are being considered.

This article gives information about the wind information that has been collected at the pier head during most of 2022. The highlights are:

- Highest wind speed was 72 MPH at 10.40 AM on 18<sup>th</sup> February during Storm Eunice
- Median average wind speed over the year was 8 MPH
- Number of data points collected was 104,781
- Average wind direction over the year was from the South South West (Bearing 203<sup>rd</sup>M)

Clearly, February 18<sup>th</sup> 2022 was not a day to use your umbrella on the end of the pier!

The average wind speed is of most interest to the study as this number affects the choice of turbine to generate electricity. Smaller turbines can be mounted discreetly, often out of sight, however these turbines often require higher average wind speeds to work economically. Large wind turbines are not proposed but rather a series of small turbines. A large wind turbine would make more of the wind speeds available on the pier but probably could not be supported on the structure and would change the character of the pier.

The study continues but at the moment the use of wind may only deliver marginal benefits. However, green technology is changing very quickly, with costs of equipment reducing significantly which may mean the economics change and that wind will help reduce the costs of running the pier in the future.

## Carriage Restoration update     Tina Brown

Whilst engineers are assessing the wheels and chassis of our next carriage restoration, works continue at the Shed (at the Pier) with all side frames and doors nearing completion. Restoration works are also underway on Tractor 2 as this is taking up much needed space in the main engineering workshop, and requires the chassis and wheel sets to be complete before it can be reassembled outside. The wheel sets have been sent to Alan Keef Limited who will carry out a health check and reform the wheels.



A step plate positioned on tractor 2 had been damaged so we have sought a cast iron welder in Eling Wharf who hopefully can restore this plate to enable repositioning.



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

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

## News from the Shed (at the Pier)

**Allan Fairhead**

The work to reconstruct the third carriage is well underway as is reported in this newsletter, but apart from the visible finished unit, other works have to be carried out.

The volunteers at Hythe Shed (at the pier) have been degreasing, cleaning and painting the metalwork of both the carriage and motor unit, ready for the engineers in the BFF workshop to refit.

Like the HPHA, the Shed is a benefit for the whole community, and carries out a large variety of work. We have recently been making individual hand-painted bird boxes and ornamental Shed Men, boxes to fit cameras into, and animal tracker tunnels for Lepe Country Park. We have also restored a garden seat, an ornamental plant pot holder, and numerous other items to help the community.

Our open tea and coffee morning was a success for members and volunteers to call in and more are planned. Why not come in and learn the latest on the train and Shed activity?



Carriage restoration work photo: John Billingham



**Hythe Village Fete, Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May**  
merchandise and information stall

**Rock the Pier, Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July 12.30 – 19.30**  
amazing day of music for all the family.

**Heritage Day, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September**  
Celebrate the history of the pier and train. Historical footage of the pier,  
vintage vehicles and much more.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

The success of all of our events depends on volunteer help and support. Could you volunteer some time on these days? If so PLEASE, PLEASE get in touch and register your interest.

Contact us on [info@hythepierha.org.uk](mailto:info@hythepierha.org.uk)

## **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 is 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.

The dates for this year are as follows:

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