

Hello and welcome to all our new members and thank you to all who have rejoined this year. We really appreciate your support and hope you will all continue supporting us in our efforts to save our treasured Pier.



We were hoping to have our seafront shop Arthur Greens open for the summer, but the legal work has taken longer than expected. Hopefully we will have some news about this in the next couple of weeks. So watch this space.

Arthur Greens was a military tailors and has continued as a tailors ever since, which is probably the only reason it remained untouched both inside and out, it is the only shop within Palace Court that retains all its original features. The beautiful mahogany fixtures and fittings are all in tact and it's like stepping back in time or into Aladdin's cave.

The shop will primarily be a base for the trust but it has inspired lots of ideas, including opportunities for local artists and craft makers, to show their works through out the year, and sell them through the shop for a % of the sale, giving the trust an added income. We have had interest for craft exhibitions to be held; the shop's history and décor would lend its self to be a museum. We have several items already that we can use in this section and are hoping to borrow items from other projects and exhibitions, giving local people a chance to see things they would otherwise not see.

We plan on setting up an eBay E-biz enterprise from Arthur Green's to help fund the shop Expenses. Any Profit made from goes straight to HPWRT

COMMUNITY SHARE ISSUE

Community investment is when local people and others who care about something invest lots of small sums of money. As the Obama campaign showed, large numbers of people can have a real impact. In the case of a community share issue, the money is invested as withdrawable share capital not donated - so you would hope to see a financial return as well as the 'social return' of helping to rescue the pier.

Our plan...

A new two year action project research on Community shares is supporting 10 enterprises raising equity in this way and gathering the evidence on the potential for shares and bond issue's to help local communities to do things for themselves. The work is funded by the Office of the Third Sector's and led by the Department for Communities and Local Government, and the Development Trusts Association in partnership with Co-operativesUK and the Social Return on Investment Network.

The trust was recently chosen from several schemes across the country as one of the pilot schemes, for the Pier Pavilions on the front of Hastings pier. So far we have had a tremendous interest in this idea. Every one wants to own a piece of the Pier. We hope to raise £200,000 for the Pavilion buildings refurbishments. You will be able to find out more from our website (currently under construction) or from the shop.

We have taken on a part time co-ordinator Caroline to assist us with the never-ending stream of paper work; she is becoming a valuable member of our team and keeping us all inline.

Hopefully we will have more news for you soon.





THE BATTLE FOR HASTINGS PIER

The Trust continues its work against the odds but with dogged persistence. We have three options to resolve the ownership - the Crown reasserts its title either through a Secretary of State (we've been waiting months for a response from DCMS) or directly (eg by Prince's Regeneration Trust) , or we ignore the fact that the ownership was not lawfully transferred and rely on compulsory purchase by the council.

We are holding a stake- holder meeting in September at which we will be pitching our proposals for the Pier, to get the council and other interested parties to see how serious we are in our proposals, if we all work in partnership to persuade the council to begin CPO then we can go back to the Heritage Lottery Fund and get over the Catch 22 - they cannot give us any money until we own the Pier and the council will not CPO until we have the money.

We have set up a Battle for Hastings Pier campaign on Facebook which already has over 1,000 members. It would be great if you could all join and pass the link onto family and friends our target is 5,000 members by October 14th with over 80,000 in the town alone we should easily make this.

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=128944081689>

We will be running events in October and anyone interested in helping us please contact me. We hope to be out and about all over the town promoting our proposals. I am hoping to have some Battle For Hastings Pier badges done which we can give out. Plus campaign Poster, Mugs and t-shirts.

NEW WEB SITE

We are working on a new website, one with a Forum so you can ask questions on anything to do with the Pier. All the information will be there including details of our Stakeholders meeting. We are hoping this will be up and running by the end of July.

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