

FEBRUARY 10

# Newsletter



## EVENTS

### MON NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>

The next Trustee meeting is open for all members to attend between 6.30 – 7.30pm. At The White Rock Hotel. You will be given an update on the current situation and have a chance to ask questions.

### HPWRT Quiz Night

Due to popular demand we will be holding another Quiz night Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 7.30 at The White Rock Hotel. Teams of up to 6. £2 for members £3, non members. Prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and booby prize. All money raised going to HPWRT funds.

The Hastings observer have started an online petition it has over 2,500 signatures so far if you have not done so already please sign here <http://www.hastingsobserver.co.uk/news/Hastings/Save-Our-Pier-Sign-the.5561417.jp>

Hello to all our Facebook members we now have over 3,700 members and its growing every day if you have not done so already please sign up ,it would be great to get to 5,000 members for the Battle for Hastings Pier.

<HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/HOME.PHP#/GROUP.PHP?GID=128944081689> MEMBERSHIP

### NOT JOINED YET?

Forms available at NEW WEBSITE [www.hpwrt.co.uk](http://www.hpwrt.co.uk), Arthur Greens (opening soon) or contact Lesley. Annual now Membership £5. Membership funds help keep us going.

## HPWRT GIG

Local bands joined the 'Battle for Hastings Pier' when they played at St Mary in the Castle on Sunday 11th October. Red Diesel, Luke Jackson, The Lucky Ones and The Guitar School all provided an evening of entertainment in support of restoring the pier.

Red Diesel is a five piece original groove/funk band which The Guardian summed up as "A truly superb singer songwriter backed by the best funk outfit I've heard in a long time". Luke Jackson is known for his fabulous voice and, although still in his teens, is already creating a big following. The Lucky Ones are a stylish mix of music, cabaret and comedy and The Guitar School students are ready with a great line-up of rock numbers to show their finger-licking skills. The evening was hosted by our very own compere and comedian Anton Hammond. We would like to thank all those who attended, The bands for giving up there time and Barbara who runs St Mary in the Castle for allowing us to use the space at a discount!



## THE MARCH

Thank You to everyone who took part in the peaceful march to support Hastings Pier last Saturday. We had a wonderful sunny day and supporters began gathering at the gates quite early and by 12 noon you could not move for you all! Hundreds of yellow ribbons were tied onto the pier gates to symbolise optimism for the future of the pier, which is viewed by many as an essential part of the town's regeneration.

Felix Robinson, Chairman of the Trust, Trustee John Hough, Manager of Priory Meadow joined with Michael Foster, MP addressing the crowd. Felix explained that the aim of the March was to present a request to Hastings Borough Council to instigate a Compulsory Purchase Order, to acquire the ownership of this iconic pier from its absentee owners, Ravenclaw.

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In a carnival atmosphere supporters followed the drummers and local band Sambalanco waving yellow and black Battle for Hastings Pier flags as they proceeded along the seafront, through the town centre, to Hastings Tourist information Centre. Trustee Lesley Davis handed over a formal letter requesting a CPO, to representatives of all three parties of the council along with the latest version of the governments CPO manual to help guide them through the process. The letter was then read aloud by John Hough to the crowd to resounding cheers from the people.

Representatives from all three main parties accepted the letter and said a few words to the 2,000 strong crowd.

Jeremy Birch, a long-term supporter of Hastings pier, emphasized its potential to contribute to Hastings' regeneration, both in terms of economic growth and as a vital draw for visitors. He echoed the frustration felt by townspeople at the failure of the council to act to transform the derelict landmark into a viable commercial enterprise.

The march ended with three cheers for the pier and the crowd peacefully dispersed.

## THE NEXT STEP

We are arranging a meeting with council officials to discuss how we can work together to a solution also, a formal request for CPO will go to full council in December where a decision will be made by the elected councillors of Hastings and St Leonard's on whether our request will be agreed.

These council meetings are open to the public and any interested parties can attend. We hope as many of you that can, will attend this meeting to again show your support on saving the peoples pier. Let's fill council chambers with a good show of support.

We will keep you informed of any progress.

Meanwhile, you can write to Cllr Peter Pragnell at Hastings Borough Council and ask him to start a CPO!

## FAQ

**Surely, the council cannot afford to find the money for the restoration of the pier.**

We are not asking the council for any money at all. We will apply for Grants to begin the restoration and once we have the apron up and running the profit from this will slowly restore the remainder of the pier along with other grants and lottery funding.



### The pier will be expensive to CPO

The cost is estimated by an independent valuer. We all know the pier is worthless in its state, so a nominal sum would be agreed. The people who would work on the CPO are already paid by the council so again not a terrific cost.

### Who would own the pier?

The council would arrange a back to back deal where the pier would end up in the ownership of the Trust for the people. Not the Council.

### A private investor could buy the pier.

Yes that is true, but so far all those who have looked at the pier have decided the cost of refurbishment is too much for them to make a profit. The last people who looked around actually told the council the trust was the best option. Enforcing what was said by English Heritage before the council mediated the sale to Ravenclaw. The difference with the trust is that all the profit will go straight back into the pier.

### The council should apply for lottery funds to repair the pier.

The council are not eligible to apply for lottery funds, and incidentally, nor are private investors. But the Trust is.

Would you like our newsletter or already signed up but not receiving it. "Have we got your details correct?"  
[info@hpwrt.co.uk](mailto:info@hpwrt.co.uk)