

MARCH 2010

# Newsletter



Hastings Pier & White Rock Trust

## Future HPWRT Events

### Annual General Meeting:

Our AGM is scheduled for 22nd April, we look forward to seeing you there!

### Fundraising Events:

Two dates for your diaries:

**Sat 15th May**- A Cabaret & Comedy Night at Crown House.

**Sat 29th May**- Music Hall Show Extravaganza at the Masonic Hall.

More information to follow on these events.

### Not joined yet?

Forms are available online

[www.hpwrtr.co.uk](http://www.hpwrtr.co.uk)

Membership funds help keep us going and the number of members shows how much people care about the future of the pier.

## The Battle For Hastings Pier Facebook Group

Join the Facebook group to keep in touch with events around the pier and show your support. Also on Twitter.

## Visit Our Web Pages

We have a fully updated website [www.hpwrtr.co.uk](http://www.hpwrtr.co.uk) which contains lots of the information from the newsletter, past information as well as a photo gallery and discussion forum

## Arthur Greens

34 White Rock  
Hastings  
TN34 1JU  
01424 435587

## FANTASTIC NEWS - COMMUNITY BUILDERS FEASIBILITY FUND

We have been successful in our application for £74k from Community Builders. This is a fantastic result for Hastings & the Pier.

This will help us fund the critical surveys and economic studies we require to complete our business plan and is the next step towards the compulsory purchase of the Pier.

We have already met with our architects and shown the leisure consultants, Leisure Developments Partnership around the Pier. LDP are skilled consultants who have delivered successful projects for many major attractions for companies such as Disney or attractions such as the Eiffel Tower. They will assist us in preparing our feasibility study and financial assessment of the retail and entertainment side to the project. We will also be utilising the funds to develop an economic model for the pier to ensure we are getting the best return on any investment made, providing the most employment we can obtain, etc.

You can see the BBC report on the feasibility funding on our website.

In addition to this feasibility funding, we have also obtained funding which will assist us in the legal advice and expert consultancy around managing the compulsory purchase of the Pier.

We anticipate completion of the feasibility report by the end of May and will keep you informed of progress.

## SUPPORT FOR THE TRUST

Michael Foster brought John Denham, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to visit the Trust and take a walk over the pier so we could show him the planned work for Phase 1 of the renovations.

Accompanied by members of the local and national press, the group went on to visit the new Pier Information Centre and Shop at Arthur Greens and looking over some of the historic photographs of the pier through the ages.



Michael Foster has also recently supported the Trust in a letter to the Hastings Observer which appeared on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2010. The link to the web version of the letter is as follows:

<http://www.hastingsobserver.co.uk/michaelfoster/Good-News-for-Hastings-Pier.6162818.jp>

In the article, the MP says "As far as the Government is concerned I have spoken to John Denham, the Secretary of State for Communities, who is keen to offer support for regeneration of seaside towns (for example the money towards the Jerwood Project). I believe he is shortly visiting Hastings and I hope that it will be possible therefore to convince him that cash towards the regeneration of the pier has a wider regeneration value.

Of course, you will also know that to do anything we need to Compulsorily Purchase the pier and only the council can do that. Thanks to pressure from colleagues such as Cllr Jeremy Birch the Council have now, albeit belatedly, agreed to CPO the structure if a viable business plan can be provided.

Because of the fantastic work doggedly pursued by the Trust and this Government support we are now in a stronger position to see a solution than for some time past. Please therefore continue to support the Trust in their endeavours over the coming weeks and months. This is one I think we can win."

On 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010, Nick Perry, Parliamentary Campaigner for the Liberal Democrats in Hastings & Rye also appeared on the Observer website (<http://www.hastingsobserver.co.uk/nickperry/Saving-pier-would-be-fitting.6175772.jp>). In talking about the recent award of CommunityBuilders Feasibility funding, Mr Perry says:

The £75,000 will, I understand, fund the feasibility study that is intrinsic to the redevelopment of the Pier along social enterprise lines.

This social enterprise model is the kind that is likely to enable meaningful and effective regeneration in a place like Hastings.

It is rooted in a great local love affair – with the Pier itself – the planned renovation is to be owned by the community; the renovation is likely to provide skills to young people, and jobs not only in the engineering tasks to be completed, but also in the tourism opportunities that will issue forth as the Pier is ever-so-gradually brought back into community use."

## Pier Memories Project

If you have memories of the Pier you are happy to share, we are kicking off a Pier memories project over the next couple of months which will be a combination of written memories, photographs and video footage. If you are

keen to share your memories – old or new of the pier, we would love to hear from you.

## Small Grant Applications

We have recently heard that our applications for funding are being considered by the following organisations:

- Astor Family Trust
- Sainsbury Family Trust

We have also recently applied for a Pier heritage project and Arthur Green funding from the Co-operative Community Fund and Awards for All, and running costs subsidy for Arthur Greens from Grassroots Grants.

We have also received support from the Sussex Heritage Trust who are keen to help us in a consultative capacity.

## School Visit

Alison Cooper, one of the Trustees visited Christ Church C of E Primary School, Woodland Vale Rd, St. Leonards on Sea on Monday 15th March.

The Trust had been asked by teacher Helen Robertson if someone could come along and do a talk on the Pier, as two classes of 7-8 year old were starting a Pier Project (they will be doing some fund-raising too!). Of course I had to don my I 'Heart' Hastings Pier T.Shirt! We had a great talk, lots of discussion and questions about our pier. They watched the Pier History Slideshow and saw how it has changed over the years and I handed out flags and information for them to take home to their parents. A very successful day.

It is very pleasing that schools are beginning to come to us and ask for things like this (we hope to be going to William Parker soon too). Please do get in touch if you are interested in one of us coming to do a talk at a local school or club.

## Pier Souvenirs

If anyone has any pier souvenirs which they are happy to loan or give to the Trust to form part of our Pier Heritage collection, please contact Angela on 01424 435587.

## 2010 AGM

Our second AGM is scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010. We would love to use this event to present to you our plans for the future as well as looking back over the year.

As usual, our AGM will be being held at the White Rock Hotel.

## Volunteering in Arthur Greens

We still have volunteering opportunities in Arthur Greens. If you can spare a couple of hours a week to help in the shop and become a pier expert (all training provided), please contact Angela on 01424 435587.