

Shotley Pier Update

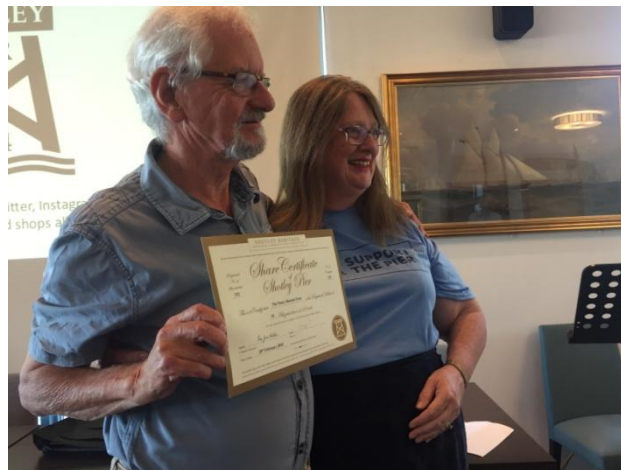
It's still quiet at the pier as we progress slowly to a planning decision, with a site visit booked for Wednesday 15th August, and the planning committee decision on Wednesday 22nd August.

Share certificates are ready at last. Volunteers will be hand delivering as many as possible locally, and posting the ones that are far afield, as well as emailing the ones that were requested by pdf email.

Also, we will have some to hand out in the Committee Room, Shotley Village Hall on Saturday 1st September, between 10am and 12noon, the same day as the Village Flower and Vegetable show, so if you go into the main hall there will be Flower and vegetables everywhere. Norman has kindly said you can go through and enjoy the displays too, or use the side entrance to the committee room, which is the path up to the left of the hall. We will be in the committee room with share certificates at the ready.

With your share certificate, you will receive a Nominee form to tell us who should inherit your community shares. If you fill in this form, the community shares can be transferred outside of probate. You can leave them to a person or more than one person, or to a group as long as it has a constitution.

Here is Peter Willis, President of the Nancy Blackett Trust receiving their share certificate. They decided to buy community shares and a celebratory plaque to celebrate the link with the book "We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea" by Arthur Ransome.



As share certificates start to be issued to our 520 investors, one special group in Holland were having a very special family reunion, and our volunteer Casper took the opportunity to present certificates to all those he had persuaded to take part in our community share issue.

Clan Holland, as we call them, are all related to Casper de Boer who has lived in Shotley for many years, becoming a well known Dutch settler. He has enthusiastically introduced the idea of sharing ownership of the pier with his clan, and we are looking forward to putting a cluster of celebratory plaques up for them.

Click [here](#) to see the family video of Casper presenting the share certificates to his relatives in Holland, thank you all for your kind support of our community project.

We arranged a boat trip round the pier for some of Uncle Casper's relatives. They visit every year and enjoyed our Living History event in 2017. Having seen the pier each time they visited getting gradually more dilapidated, they are delighted to be part of its rescue all the way from Holland.



Their video of the pier trip will be shown on our Facebook page in the near future!



The Board has always wanted to celebrate the personal stories of people who care about the pier. We've teamed up with author Robert Ashton, for whom this will be his 20th published book. As a child, Robert lived at Brantham and so used to visit the pier himself more than 50 years ago. His book will be an exploration into the pier's past, its present, and the hopes people have for its future.

He's describing the book, which will be titled 'River of Hope' as a collective biography, sharing the stories of those he meets or speaks to, both by design and also by chance. Robert takes his inspiration from George Ewart Evans, who wrote about rural Suffolk before the Great War. He too wrote the stories of people he met, capturing them before they were lost.

Robert is currently researching the book and conducting interviews, some face to face and some over the phone. If you would like to share your story about the pier, please contact Robert by email, robert@robertashton.co.uk or get in touch with us and we'll make an introduction. He hopes to have the interviews completed by mid-September, so that the book can be published in time for Christmas. The book will be a fundraiser for the pier, as well as spreading word about why this project is so important.

Contact robert@robertashton.co.uk or ring us on 01473 780052



Author Robert Ashton visits the Pier

Please send us selfies in front of the pier if you are visiting it ! Here are Mark and Ruth who came across from Wiltshire to see and feel the pier for the first time, having purchased community shares last summer due to their interest in community co-operatives.



Journalist Francis Wheen and author Julia Jones Support the Pier, big thank to Francis and Julia for their interest in the pier and our bespoke rum.



Glorious sunshine with a breeze brought these legendary lady swimmers to enjoy a swim - Josie and Claire carefully time their swim for the incoming tide, so the current keeps them moving towards the shore. Claire told me she used to use the pier steps back in the 1950's to go swimming, this post went on Facebook and has been enjoyed by hundreds of people:

Shotley Pier Swimmers – these ladies
used to swim from the Pier steps from the 1950's -
“can't wait to use the pier again”



Receive newsletters by email
Or get information about buying community shares
shotleypier@gmail.com



Save the Dates

Saturday 1st September, informal handing out of share certificates, Committee Room, Shotley Village Hall between 10am and 12noon, the same day as the Village Fruit and Veg show, so if you go into the main hall there will be fruit and veg everywhere, We will be in the committee room with share certificates. We aim to hand deliver some too, and post the ones that are far afield.

Wednesday 5th September: 10.30- 12noon Coffee Morning Red Lion, Chelmondiston

Friday 28th September: Our next investors meeting will be at Shotley Village Hall at 7pm.

Friday 16th November: The AGM will be at Shotley Village Hall at 7pm
Help spread the word