

The Society wishes to share an email with you

We wish to forewarn you that a spurious article is likely to appear this week. Please see email below for details. We wish to reassure you that the Society, as ever, conducts itself appropriately and ethically.

It is a shame that this reporter continues his vigil of demonising those involved with restoration of the pier.

We have advised him of the facts concerning our registration under the Eat Out to Help Out scheme, the most salient of which is that from the outset we sought guidance from HMRC.

How this turns into an allegation of fraud is quite beyond our comprehension, but as they say, never let the facts get in the way of a good story!!



The facts are that the Society registered with the "Eat Out to Help Out " food discount scheme when it was announced by the Chancellor.

We were well aware of the restrictions on the scheme as pavement service is not eligible, and we have not advertised that we would be offering the discount at this stage.

Our intention has always been to aim towards the end of August when we hoped the pier decking would be completed and we would be able to serve food on the pier itself ie our own premises. The initial guidelines suggested that this would qualify us and HMRC verbally confirmed this.

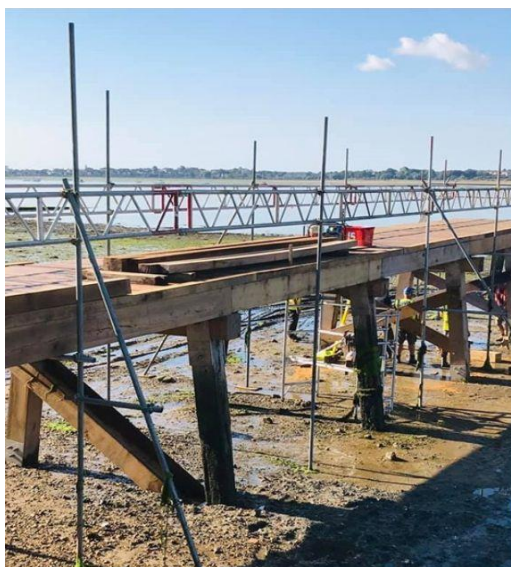
In the meantime, more detailed guidelines have been issued that unfortunately show that we will not be eligible to offer the discount.

At all times we have sought the advice of HMRC and the National Piers Society as our premises is an unusual one, not many organisations have a pier scenario, let alone a renovation in progress.

This is yet another storm in a teacup, dredged up by the usual detractors. Rest assured that NO fraud has been committed, and HMRC were friendly and helpful.

Meanwhile, we continue with our efforts to fundraise and get on with the restoration of the pier.

Our super foodtruck is getting lots of positive comments, if you haven't had a chance to come and try it yet, do pop down to see the restorations in progress and try some food or drink from Pierside Snacks!



**Longer Opening Hours
now at Pierside Snacks
Shotley Pier
Fridays 12.00-4.00
Sat & Sun 9.30-3.00
Weather permitting**

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Our mailing address is:

Redlands, Main Road, Chelmondiston, Suffolk IP9 1DX

Our Email address is: shotleypier@gmail.com

Our Website address is: www.shotleypier.co.uk