

This newsletter is to give you an update and to let you know we are moving into the phase of completing the purchase of the pier, with the conveyancing of that last slice of pier at the hammerhead still being undertaken.



Conveyancing established that the land title did not include a slice of the hammerhead section that enables the pier to be used to access deep water, a key requirement to be a “working” Pier. The owner is buying the freehold from the Crown Estates to correct this historical oversight /irregularity that has persisted for more than 80 years ! The Board will ensure the exchange of contracts for both parts of the pier will be the same day, to avoid the risk of gaining one section without the other.

Investors' Meeting – We will send a notice to you shortly about a members’ meeting on Friday 3rd November at 7.30pm, so please save the date.

The funds received from our investors are being held in a separate bank account ready to purchase the pier. In the unlikely event that the purchase does not proceed, the Board has undertaken to return investors’ money. This means that it is best to wait until the exchange of contracts before we issue the share certificates, so there will be a lull while we wait to exchange contracts. We are aiming to move to the next stage by the end of November so watch out for news ! You will soon get an email from us to check how you wish your name to be spelled on the share certificate, and to check a few details. For those who are offline, a letter will be sent.

The Board decided to keep the share offer open so that people who have not yet bought shares can still do so. The Board designated the first offer as 5,200 shares, and we have sold 2,480. We closed the offer on Crowdfunder as they prefer short periods and also has processing charges, so the more we can raise offline, the better. Funds raised will be for the renovation phase.



The Red Lion, Chelmondiston is helping us with a fund raising cake and coffee (or tea) morning on Saturday 24th November 10.30am - 12. This is a change of date as we had planned to have one on 4th November but there were just so many local events going on that we decided to reschedule to the 24th November. Please come!

We are applying for grants to help with restoration, and will discuss putting the share offer back on Crowdfunder when we know how much remains to be raised after grants have been gained and a detailed business plan has been written. We will be running more publicity events in 2018 in places that have not had much awareness of the pier, to let people know what we are doing and showing our photos and memorabilia. So if you know of community events taking place slightly further afield, such as Manningtree, Bentley, Stutton, Holbrook, Copdock or (even Colchester !) please let us know if you think it's worth us attending. Do you have a favourite event that we might have a stand at or speak at? Email shotleypier@gmail.com

Until now, the focus has been on raising money to buy the pier, but 2018 brings new challenges as we move into ownership and start the work, so if you want to get more involved, please let us know. Your ideas are welcomed and you can help us put them into effect.

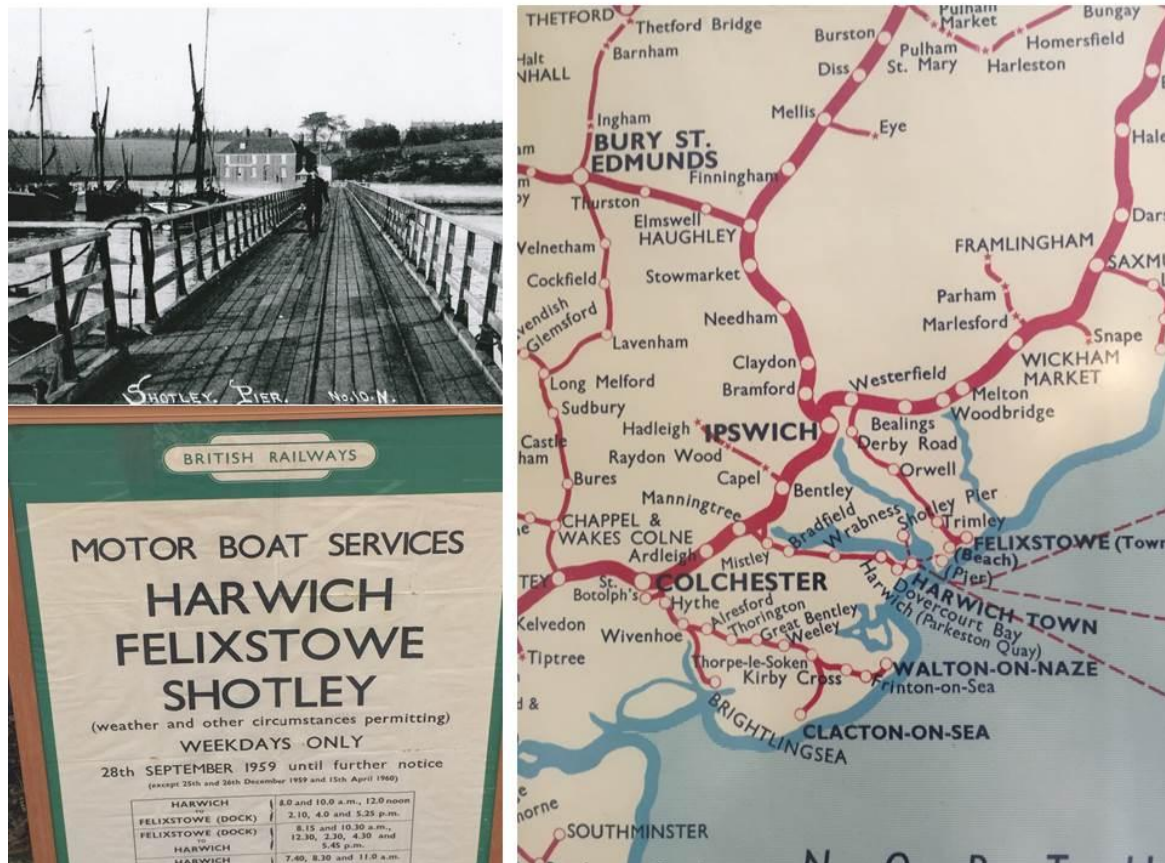
Volunteer job advert: A Volunteer Rota Co-ordinator is needed who has experience of excel spreadsheets to assist with the progress of work on the pier. He or she will establish a rota of available volunteers, e-mail and occasionally telephone volunteers who will be forming the working parties. The working parties will be supervised on site, so the Rota Co-ordinator does not need to be available during the day or on site. The Rota Co-ordinator will liaise with the Engineering Team, but should he or she wish to join the site team this is obviously possible. Please email shotleypier@gmail.com if you would like to apply.

What is a Railway Pier?

This question was posed, and we have several answers!

- The first is that it is a pier that has been built to take the weight of a train and had a rail track.
- The second is that the pier had been included in British Rail scheduled services

Shotley Pier qualifies on both counts.... Here is the evidence of both elements!



Thanks for your interest and support, we look forward to seeing you at the investors' meeting on Friday 3rd November, and we are very much looking forward to keeping you updated.