

Friends of Hastings Pier
ELECTED SPOKESPEOPLE

James Chang

My wife and I moved to St Leonards a little over two years ago but when we were house hunting we were so inspired by the story of Hastings Pier and how a community came together to rescue it from its charred remains that we purchased a share to support them, even before we had found a home here. I am on the Pier almost daily as I love walking my dog there, I love the wide open space, the views out over the sea, and there is nothing more magical than seeing the sun go down from the Pier. We are big fans of the Pier's open and flexible space having attended open air theatre, cinema and music concerts. But things do need to change.

The Pier needs investment to make money and we need to change how decisions get made, to make sure that all views are listened to and that the voice of the community is heard. The Pier belongs to us; to the people of Hastings and St Leonards. This is what I believe in and I am passionate that the community deserves to preserve its stake in the Pier in its next phase.

Adam Wide

I would be honoured to be one of spokespersons for the Friends of Hastings Pier.

I have experience of operating piers, and along with a hard-core team of FOHP members have devised a viable and commercial Creative Concept for our beloved pier. I understand the processes for Entertainment, F&B, personnel, and infrastructure required to effectively operate an entity with so many moving parts.

My company was responsible for turning losses at Cromer and Bournemouth piers into operating profits.

Now retired, I have spent my whole professional career in Entertainment, Media and Marketing so feel I would have a valuable contribution to make.

Jim Breeds

I am a son of Hastings, retired from my career in IT which included board level responsibilities. I am enjoying every moment of my free time back in my home town. I am a Pier shareholder. My family roots in Hastings go back generations.

My 1950s/1960s childhood included frequent visits to the pier. My father would fish from the pier's lower landing stage and I often accompanied him to enjoy the delights of the pier and the surrounding area.

As a 1970s adult I revelled at the many gigs I was able to enjoy, and I never stopped visiting it until sadly the gates were closed for safety following neglect.

I deeply care about our pier and I love the award-winning flexibility that the restoration gave it. Now we need to steer the pier into its next phase and invest to provide a sustainable, successful entertainments platform while simultaneously loving and caring for her.

She is Our Pier, and I want her to remain as a community asset, for the people of Hastings and beyond to call their own. But she must be commercially successful, and I want to be part of making all of this happen.

Lesley Davis

I am now retired and a shareholder. I have lived in Hastings with my partner for 30 years and love the versatility and passion of the town. I first became involved with the pier about 12 years ago when the council shut the back of the pier for safety reasons, I fought hard for her then with a group of likeminded residents and she rose from the ashes to the unique structure she is now and here I am again willing to fight to keep our pier in community ownership where she belongs. With teamwork and the people power of Hastings and St Leonards I'm sure we can be successful. If we all work together anything is possible. Although we love the pier it needs investment to keep it sustainable and I would love to be involved in this process.

Jess Steele

I have been speaking passionately about Hastings Pier for the past 12 years, and I couldn't stop even when I tried!

I was a founder member of Friends of Hastings Pier in 2006 and continued as the voluntary treasurer through Hastings Pier & White Rock Trust and the early days of Hastings Pier Charity. I 'retired' in Jan 2014. With community ownership and £14M of funding in place, I was happy to leave the restoration to others and get on with other projects. For a few months last summer I was asked to get involved again to support them with accessing loans and grants. That gave me an acute insight into the challenges but I was not consulted when Hastings Pier Charity was put into administration.

As an independent community activist and entrepreneur I have experience of starting and running over 20 community businesses including publishing, childcare, workspace and housing. I make a living providing coaching, advice and advocacy to community groups taking on big challenges to improve their neighbourhoods. I am a founder trustee of the Heart of Hastings Community Land Trust and co-owner of Rock House. I work part time for Architectural Heritage Fund and have strong relationships with many funders, as well as detailed knowledge of relevant policy and practice.

I believe very strongly in community ownership, especially of the freehold of our pier. I want our children and their children to inherit the People's Pier both as a 'totemic' asset (one that everyone owns and everyone belongs to) and as a solemn responsibility.