

# Association of Lighthouse Keepers

## Keeping Lighthouse Heritage Alive

AT HURST



CASTLE

### SPRING 2015 NEWSLETTER

May already and the Castle has been open for over a month for visitors. The ALK volunteers, along with the Friends of Hurst Castle,



Work starts to install lighting

have been working very hard over the winter months to spruce up current exhibits and continue constructing new ones. The Trinity House rooms were the top priority for the New Year. They had been cleaned and tidied for the Trinity House 500<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations but really needed a proper refurbishment, including provision of some proper

lighting. This was started at the beginning of January and just about finished for the beginning of the new season on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

The Nab Tower project has had to take a back seat until the Trinity House rooms were finished but now work has started again. The base has been completed and the baseplate fixed in position. The side pieces are now being prepared for repainting. Once they are attached (easy to say but a lot more difficult to do) to the base plate we can order the ten panes of glass needed for the lantern.

Another project for the future is to purchase a motor for the light vessel optic in the Trinity House rooms. This will cost about £200 and, as we have reached our target for the Nab Tower funding, any future donations will go towards this.

The light vessel optic

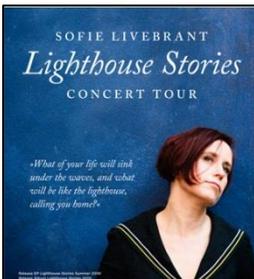


Meanwhile, a new exhibit in the ALK No. 2 room is still under construction and will hopefully be operational quite soon. Lamps in the room will represent buoys in the Needles Channel and flash with the same sequence as the buoy each represents. Charts will be provided on the exhibit to show where the real buoys are located in the channel. You might be able to see them from the Castle roof.

The Castle was visited on the 11<sup>th</sup> May by ALK member Ed Peppitt who is on a one man sponsored bike ride around all the coastal lighthouses in England and Wales. This sounds an incredible feat for anybody but Ed has MS, so even more of a challenge. All funds raised are going to a charity and support network called Shift MS. His website is [www.thebeaconbike.co.uk](http://www.thebeaconbike.co.uk) for news and pictures.



Ed at the Castle



In July we look forward to another visitor. Sofie Livebrant, a Swedish musician, is coming to Hurst on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to perform a lighthouse themed concert and also to find out more about life in a lighthouse. We are hoping to welcome several ex-keepers to the Castle to talk to Sofie and her audience after the music. For more information, contact Keith, details below, or go to the ALK website under Places to Visit and the ALK Lighthouse Museum.

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If you would like to help us in our efforts by becoming a member, or just because you like lighthouses, please pick up a leaflet or have a look at the website on [www.alk.org.uk](http://www.alk.org.uk). Or have a chat with Keith Morton, the ALK Project Manager at Hurst. He is usually at the Castle on a Monday or can be contacted on [hurst@alk.org.uk](mailto:hurst@alk.org.uk) or 01329 843883. There is also a social side to the ALK who organise events, both locally and countrywide, and also 'lighthouse themed' tours in the UK and abroad.