



# Friends of Langstone Harbour Newsletter

August 2008

This is so far not a great summer. Apart from the very unsettled weather we have had to deal with the sad news of a whale stranding and yet another disaster year for little terns.

The whale was only in our harbour once freed from the mud at Langstone as it moved out towards the sea. As is so often the case with such strandings the animal was already doomed by liver failure and the only sensible course was to end its misery. The first news your author had of it came from Yorkshire but thereafter I followed its story on local radio and the BBC web site. The emotion surrounding the case has continued with people feeling the disposal of the carcass was not done with due respect!

Whales and Dolphins are wonderful creatures and need our care and protection. Numbers in British seas are growing but only from perilous

levels so let us hope that there will be no let up by scientists or governments in their conservation.

The little terns were predated by gulls and a kestrel and it seems there is not much we can do to help them. I am told that no other south coast site fared any better and these lovely little birds are thus in dire straits. The Solent Forum is considering the issues involved and we must hope they can find some inventive solution for next summer.



Other birds had some success with chick numbers on the RSPB islands as follows. Mediterranean gulls 41, black-headed gulls 1500, Sandwich terns 40 and common terns 11.

*John Goodspeed*

## Walk Round the Harbour

Join us on Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup>

- 0915 start at the Hayling Theatre car-park at the end of the Billy Trail
- 0950 Join at Eastney Ferry Pontoon
- 1115 Coffee stop
- 1300 Lunch at Langstone (Bring your own or buy in the pub/sailing club.)
- 1530 Finish (Lifts to the ferry available.)

All times are provisional.

For more information contact John Goodspeed 023 9222 1361.

### Friends of Langstone Harbour Officers

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**Treasurer:** Rob Cottee, 71 Grant Road, Farlington, PO6 1DV. Phone 023 9261 0336

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# Budds Farm Waste Water Treatment Centre

Text: Norman & Rita Brookhouse  
Photos: Alan Thurbon.

Three FLH members joined a group to tour Southern Water's Budds Farm Waste Water Treatment centre. Because only one of them had steel capped boots - not something most people find in their wardrobe - the others had to take a virtual tour!

The centre was opened in September 2002 and since then Tertiary Treatment and additions to the filtering systems have been added.

Prior to 2002 the system catered for just Havant area but since the 7.8km dual pipe was laid under the Langstone Harbour from Eastney, screened



Portsmouth waste from Eastney has been pumped through the centre pipe to Budds Farm and the treated waste pumped back through the outer pipe for discharge via the old 5.7km pipe out into the Solent from Eastney. Treated sewage was no longer discharged into Langstone Harbour under normal conditions. Storm water is collected in three 4,000cu.m tanks but in times of very high rainfall some partially treated sewage can overflow into these tanks and is discharged through Bedhampton Creek. The Environment Agency has to be informed and this



information must be broadcast. In some areas especially where newer properties are built the surface water is collected separately alleviating the waste water problem.

Waste at Havant and Eastney firstly goes through screen to take out paper, rags and other debris which is then compacted for landfill; then grit, mainly from roads, and grease is removed; this also goes to landfill. The remainder, including screened sludge from other local sewage plants, goes through settling tanks; the deposit is collected, treated at very high temperature, dried and made into granules, which are sold to farmers. Careful checks are kept on the minute amount of heavy metals remaining at this stage and in the soil after granules have been spread. They cannot be used on land growing root vegetables or on grassland which is currently being grazed.

Methane produced during the settling process is used to generate electricity for the National Grid.

The present system was designed to be large enough to cope up to 2020.

Budds Farm was built on an old Havant refuse tip and in the storms and higher tides in March 2008 the water went under the bottom of the fence and washed out refuse - marmite, fish paste and coldcream jars and bits of rusted metal. Our complaint about this in March had no response but hopefully now we have another contact something will be done before the winter high tides.



## Langstone Harbour Environmental Working Group

This group is part of the management structure of the Harbour Board and meets regularly to review and offer information and advice to the Boards Environmental Advisory committee. Issues like water quality, planning issues affecting the harbour, wildlife conservation etc all come up for discussion.

The group is to hold an open meeting to which members of the public including readers of this newsletter are invited. There will be short presentations on the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust Living Landscapes/Living Sea projects and Natural England's South East Coast project.

Where? Tudor Sailing Club

When: 24<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at 5.00pm.

**Put it in your diary NOW.**

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## *Work Parties*

Over recent months we have finished removing the fence on the northern edge of Eastney lake and kept up the programme of cleaning our adopted beach at Budds farm.

On the beach cleans we typically pick up 2 to 3,000 items with weights totalling up to 80 or 90 kilograms. That is on just 100 metres of beach but we also clear as much of the rest of the beach as we can depending on how many volunteers turn up. So there is work for those willing to count and those happier with the manual clean up. The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) use our data as part of their scheme to lobby authorities and manufacturers who are the sources of the litter.

Through next winter we will join in the national MCS beachwatch event on 20th September and do some clearing of invasive scrub on the West Hayling (oyster beds) and Milton Locks nature reserves. We might also check on the trees we planted alongside Portcreek and do a bit of maintenance in the area.



For More information  
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or phone 023 9222 1361

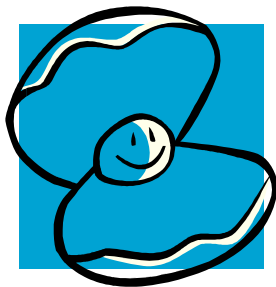


## April Public Meeting

By Rita Brookhouse

The meeting at the Tudor Sailing Club on 22nd April was attended by a handful of our members.

John Shillitoe gave an update on the BTO Bird Atlas project which aims to produce detailed maps of bird populations across the UK.



The Student we have sponsored, who is researching the possibility of growing clams in Langstone Harbour gave us a well presented report on his research so far. The life cycle of a clam is a very complicated business and the research will take a few years to complete. This was his first presentation and we look forward to another interesting update next year.

### The Next Public Meeting

#### 15th October: Annual General Meeting

Details await confirmation but we hope to organise an interesting presentation alongside our usual round up of harbour business. We will also be electing committee members and would be pleased to hear about anyone willing to join the committee - Contact Bryony, FLH Secretary.

### Wildlife Trust Events



#### September Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Explore the farmlands around Southwick

1000 to 1400

Join us to see what early autumn has to offer in the lanes and footpaths west of Southwick village. Meet in the lay-by east of the roundabout on the B2177 at Southwick. SU 627083

John Goodspeed 023 9222 1361 or 078 1143 5252

#### October Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Birds on Farlington Marshes

Join us at 1330 for a 4 mile walk from Broadmarsh, round Farlington Marshes and back looking for birds. Meet in the Broadmarsh car park nearest the A27/A3(M) roundabouts. SU699054 Bring hot drink.

John Goodspeed 023 9222 1361 or 078 1143 5252

#### October Wednesday 22nd: Langstone Harbour and the Work of the Harbour Board.

Captain Nigel Jardine will describe the work of the Board including its responsibilities for environmental issues.

Warblington School, Southleigh Road, Havant at 7.30 p.m. Admission £2.50 including refreshments.

#### November Friday 14<sup>th</sup> West Thorney bird walk

We will walk from Emsworth down the west coast of Thorney Island searching the shore and reed beds for birds. Meet at 1330 by Dolphin Quay in Queen St Emsworth. SU 753057 Park in the central Emsworth pay and display car-park or in Lumley Road.

Leader John Goodspeed 023 9222 1361 or 078 1143 5252