



Friends of Langstone Harbour Newsletter

February 2008

Winter Wildlife Day

Saturday 16th February 2008

10am to 3:30pm



Join in the fun and find out
about your local wildlife.



Portsmouth Outdoor Centre

Eastern Road, Portsmouth (follow signs from traffic lights near Morrisons)

Phone 023 9266 3873



**ADMISSION FREE!!!
JUST TURN UP!**



Friends of Langstone Harbour Public Meeting

Tuesday 22nd April at 7.30 p.m.

Tudor Sailing Club (Off Eastern Road Portsmouth)

News and an illustrated talk by Matthew Harris on research into
the possibility of farming clams in the Harbour.

Raffle, Refreshments, Admission Free.

Friends of Langstone Harbour Officers

Chairman & newsletter : John Goodspeed 22 Hilltop Crescent Cosham PO6 1BD

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Secretary: Bryony James, c/o Portsmouth Outdoor Centre, Eastern Road, Portsmouth PO3 5LY

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

News!

Havant's Core Strategy Options

A recent document, which unfortunately has disappeared from the borough's web, set out some recommended options for the borough as the next stage in the preparation of a Local Development Framework.

There is not room here for details but there was a lot of good stuff in the document e.g. a visitor centre and no marina at Broadmarsh. But there were hanging threats like the references to tourism on the Hayling Sea Front. And the proof of the pudding is always in the eating.



The oyster beds.

Anxiety about rat predation of little terns on the oyster beds continues. Unfortunately some of the key players were not at the last management forum and we don't know what measures are being deployed. The traps used last year were ineffective and poison is being frowned on because of the risk of it getting into the higher levels of the food chain. A little egret was recently seen eating a dead rat! Shooting was on the cards.

This has been complicated by the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust saying they can't spend money on the reserve without having tenure of some sort. This position is not thought

to be well founded and is being challenged.

Water quality

Studies are continuing on the quality of the water in Langstone Harbour. The issue is complicated with Portsmouth Water's proposals to pump fresh water from springs to a new reservoir from about 2018 and Southern Waters request to pump more sewage into the Solent. The science is unclear and work is being done under the auspices of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) with The Wildlife Trust, Local Authorities, Arup and others involved.

Friends of the Billy Trail

We have welcomed the formation of a new group looking after the southern end of the Billy Trail and sought to persuade them to attach themselves to us. That would save them having to pay insurance and give them access to the equipment we have accumulated.

Harbour Environmental Officer

The efforts to recruit a replacement for Tony Sharp in the autumn failed to find a recruit and the post was re-advertised.

Personal Watercraft Club

A new club was formed in October 2007 which it is hoped will lead to better resolution of many of the problems associated with jet-skis in the harbour.

Wildlife

There seem to have been fewer black-tailed godwits in the harbour this winter but the presence of avocets again has been very welcome. There are some signs of our winter birds moving on and early signs of spring flowers and butterflies

Walks and Meetings

Wednesday 27th February. Can we defend our coast?

Mike Bateman of Portsmouth University will explore some of the problems in maintaining our valuable coastlines. 7.30 p.m. at Warblington School Southleigh Road Denvilles. More info 01243 376888. Admission £2.50 includes refreshments. Meeting arranged by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

Saturday March 1st Walk from Bedhampton to the shore and back

Join us at 2 p.m. for a circular walk of up to 3 hrs exploring the stream and shore around Bedhampton and Southmoors. There will be a good chance of finding kingfishers and options to shorten the walk if the weather is bad or you have not time for the full walk. Meet in the Bidbury Mead car-park next to the church in Old Bedhampton. SU 703065 Leader: John Goodspeed 023 9222 1361 or 078 1143 5252



Thursday March 6th: Langstone Harbour Open Forum

Havant BC Civic Offices at 7 p.m. Admission free. There will be talks on Marine Conservation and the RNLI and also time to be updated and put questions about the harbour to Harbour Board officers.

Thursday March 27th Walk the Langbrook Stream from Havant to the shore

The Langbrook Stream is a pleasant walk and there is a good chance of some interesting wild flowers along the path and birds on the shore.

Meet at 2 p.m. in Solent Road Havant at the back of the Tesco store and car-park. SU717061
Leader: John Goodspeed 023 9222 1361 or 078 1143 5252

Tuesday April 8th Explore the Wallington valley.

Join us for a 6 mile walk into the Wallington valley north of Fareham. This is new territory for our walks but in the spring there should be wild flowers and some woodland birds. Bring coffee and a snack.

Meet at the entrance to Wickham Common off the B2177 opposite the Hundred Acres turning. SU 591109 1000 – 1400

Leader: John Goodspeed 023 9222 1361

Wed 30 April Southmoors and Brockhampton Stream

7pm. Join us for a 2–3 mile walk round the shore and Brockhampton Stream looking for birds and wildflowers. Meet and park at the end of Southmoor Lane (Map ref. SU 709 053).

For further details contact John Goodspeed on 02392 221361 or 07811 435252.



Working Parties.

Recent work parties have been well attended and have covered work at the West Hayling and Milton Locks nature reserves.



November at the oyster beds



January at Milton locks

Future plans will be as follows

- February 16th: POC Winter Wildlife Day (We need help selling refreshments and helping children make nest boxes.)
- **February 23rd Fence removal at Eastney**
- March 29th: Beach clean at Budds farm
- May 3rd, June 7th, July 26th, tbc.
- September 20th Beach clean to coincide with MCS National Beach watch.
- September 27th Round the Harbour Walk.

If you are interested in joining us for any of these events please let John Goodspeed know. (john@havantnature.net or 023 9222 1361.)

