



# Friends of Langstone Harbour Newsletter

September 2015

## Harbour News

### The Hayling Ferry

Sadly efforts to find an operator willing to tender to run the ferry have failed. Hampshire County Council can not justify the sizeable subsidy that would be required for the relatively low number of regular users.

This will lead to reduced maintenance requirements for the pontoons at Eastney & Hayling and in the longer term the Hayling one may downsize and the Eastney one be abandoned.

### Speeding Offence

A Mr Forbes was found guilty of a speeding offence in December last year but he appealed against the conviction. The judge dismissed the appeal and ordered he should pay all the Harbour Board's costs. His boating day out cost him £6,500 in the end!

### Development of Kendall's wharf.

There is some doubt whether the planning application for the extension of Kendall's Wharf has lapsed and the debate about environmental mitigation continues. Natural England have been consulting lawyers and their advice is expected shortly.

### Great Salterns Quay

This quay is to be removed as environmental mitigation for developments that have reduced the mud habitat available for birds feeding in the north of the harbour. The infill, which so far appears to be uncontaminated, is expected to be used in other parts of continuing flood protection work. All being well work will commence in May next year.

Late in the day some of the sailing clubs are suggesting the site could be better used to facilitate berthing of visiting yachts close to the Harvester pub & restaurant. Whether that is practical and where there could be an alternative mitigation site is unresolved.

### Bird News

The nesting birds in the harbour have had their usual variable success this year. Little terns were forced to move to Chichester Harbour—our loss is their gain—and only 3 chicks fledged in Langstone Harbour but 17 in Chichester Harbour. Common terns did even worse with just 2 chicks but their were 70 successfully fledged Sandwich terns.

### Fishing

Stocks of oysters in the Solent are so low that in most of the Solent fishing for them has been banned. While only seven were found in Langstone Harbour there is no ban there. However all shell fishing in the harbour is being monitored with some temporary closures due to pollution.

Recreational fisherman are now limited to no more than three bass per person per day and minimum sizes have been specified. Further measures to reduce mortality of this species are being considered.

### Careening Apron

There is now a careening apron available in Eastney lake.

Continued on page 2.

### Friends of Langstone Harbour Committee Members.

Chair & Newsletter Editor: John Goodspeed, 22 Hilltop Crescent Cosham PO6 1BD  
- john@havantnature.net

Secretary: John Worley, Lake House, Bidbury Lane Bedhampton PO9 3JG—johnaworley@aol.com

Treasurer: Norman Brookhouse, 2 Fortunes Way, Bedhampton PO9 3LZ  
norman.brookhouse01@googlemail.com

Committee Members: Alan Thurbon and Chris Gilsenan.

# A G M

## Our Annual General Meeting will be held on 13th October

at the St Andrew's Church Hall at 7.30 p.m.

The Speaker will be a member of the East Solent  
Coastal partnership.

Please make a note of the date now. If there is a topic you want raised or a question you'd like answered please let us know in advance.

---

*Harbour News Continued from Page 1.*

### **Hovercraft in the harbour**

The debate over access to the harbour continues. The Harbourmaster has proposed that he tries to resolve the problem by permitting 'launch & go' in the harbour entrance i.e. launch and leave the harbour. It is hoped this compromise will be accepted by the Hovercraft Club of GB. So far only RNLI and Natural England have used hovercraft in the harbour in both cases permission being given for important trials or surveys.

### **Harbour Forum Meetings**

The announcement about the harbour open forum that happens every autumn is being delayed due to difficulties over the venue for the meeting. Once it is settled the date, venue and speaker will be published on the Harbour Board web—[www.langstoneharbour.org.uk](http://www.langstoneharbour.org.uk). We will send details to FoLH members via e mail where we have an e mail address.

There may also be a meeting to debate problems of pollution incidents. It is hoped that the Environment Agency and Southern water will be represented at this meeting. Details will be published as for the main forum.



### **Some events worth noting.**

#### **October 14th: Stepping Stones to Nature**

Tracey Viney of Portsmouth Water will talk about wildlife on the company's sites.  
7:45 at Church of the Resurrection Hall Brecon Avenue Drayton PO6 2AW.  
Friends of Portsdown public meeting— Admission £2.

#### **Friday 13th November: The West Hayling Points**

(A Wildlife Trust Walk)

**Meet** in the car-park (pay & display) off Southwood Road Hayling Island (PO11 9PY) at 11 a.m. for a 3 hour walk via Sandy Point to view the high tide wader roost at Black Point. Bring a snack. Dogs on leads welcome. Suggested donation £1.50 **Leader** John Goodspeed 078 1143 5252 or [john@havantnature.net](mailto:john@havantnature.net)

#### **Friday 11th December: Bird watch around the north of Langstone Harbour**

**Meet** in the car park next to Old Bedhampton church in Bidbury Mead PO9 3JG at 13:30 for a walk of up to 3 hours. We will walk down the Hermitage Stream to the shore which we follow to the Langbrook Stream checking the waders and ducks on the shore and in the Budds Farm lagoons. The walk will be shortened if the weather is not good. Dogs on leads welcome. Suggested donation £1.50 **Leader** John Goodspeed 078 1143 5252 or [john@havantnature.net](mailto:john@havantnature.net)

## New plant discovery

by Alan Thurbon



My monthly bumblebee survey at Hilsea Lines suffers major disruption from the on-going coastal defence work around Portsea Island. Instead of walking along the south side of the creek onto Eastern Road, I presently duck under the railway bridge and walk along the north side. As a result I spotted some plants growing right next to the path, kindly identified by Martin Rand (*Hampshire Plant Recorder*) as American blue-eyed grass, *Sisyrinchium montanum*. This is a new record for the area (outside gardens), but not reckoned to be an invasive problem. The path is worth a visit during summer, and I suspect there are some other unusual plants here. Its not the sort of place to get a lot of dumped garden waste, but I guess that seeds could be distributed along the A27 by the traffic. If you have a GPS, try going to SU 6714 0424. If approaching from the Highbury end, just make sure there isn't a high tide, so that you don't have to dive under the bridge!

## Langstone Harbour Advisory Committee

Friends of Langstone Harbour are privileged to have a seat on the above committee

The Committee meets five times a year to discuss the agenda for the harbour board meeting which will follow a few days later. Membership embraces stakeholders in the harbour including sailing clubs, fishermen, wildfowlers, commercial users and the wildlife organisations. Natural England, The Environment Agency and English Heritage send representatives. Of course the Harbour Manager and key members of his staff are also present.

With this wide membership discussions can be very interesting and between us we seek to ensure that the Board takes account of a consensus of views of users of the harbour. It also ensures that members keep up to date on problems in managing the harbour as they arise.

Most of the news in this newsletter was picked up at a recent committee meeting.

All members get a chance to raise new items which can if appropriate be taken forward to the Harbour Board which is attended by the committee chairman and vice-chairman. If Friends of Langstone Harbour members become aware of a significant issue they should let our Chairman know and if the matter cannot be resolved in any other way it can be taken to the Advisory Committee.

## Newsletter Delivery

If you have received this letter by post but would be willing to receive it by e mail please send a note to [john@havantnature.net](mailto:john@havantnature.net).

E Mail recipients get pictures in colour

## Work Parties

We need more regular, and young able, volunteers on our work parties!

We usually spend around 3 hours one Saturday a month somewhere around the harbour dealing with a path that needs clearing, helping with an environmental enhancement project or, 4 times a year, clearing our adopted beach. The latter project is linked in with the Marine Conservation Society's scheme which monitors litter all round the UK coast.

We aim to meet on the last Saturday each month but this does sometimes change. Contact John Goodspeed if you are interested.

## We also need new committee members.

Contact John Goodspeed or John Worley if you think you could help.