



Friends of Langstone Harbour Newsletter

February 2016

Our Portcreek Elms survive!

In 2004 we planted a number of white elm trees at Portcreek west of Anchorage Park estate.

You will have seen the extensive flood protection work going on recently in that area. We were worried that they might have ridden roughshod over these and a few other hedging shrubs we had planted.

Now they have finished it's possible to check and confirm that the elms were protected.

There is a large area of bare earth for which there is a planting plan following the sea defence work. However, because of the inclement weather, the ground is so saturated the contractors have been unable to get onto site. The area is scheduled to become an orchard meadow. Some of the planting will be left so that Portsmouth CC can run a community planting event. When details are available we can let members know.



A new dredger for Langstone Harbour

Most of the sea dredged aggregate that come into Langstone Harbour is brought in by the vessels 'Arco Dee' or 'City of Chichester'. A new vessel is expected to be brought into use in the spring or early summer to supplement current landings.

The commercial harbour dues for this activity are important for the sustainability of the harbour and also tend to reduce road traffic deliveries into our area. Recent bad weather has reduced dredging leading to the need to use road to get aggregate to development sites in Portsmouth & Havant.

Kendall's Wharf Development

The on-going saga of the extension of Kendall's aggregate wharf may now make some progress as Natural England have approved a plan that will form part of the environmental mitigation for the loss of mud habitat. This will involve moving some Tudor Sailing Club moorings off the mud to a pontoon. This will probably facilitate the submission of a new or revised planning application.

Friends of Langstone Harbour Officers

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

Committee Member: Chris Gilsenan

Hayling Billy Trail Repairs

The section of the Billy Trail which was damaged in the February 2014 storms has been repaired and the whole path is now open to the public.

110 m of timber revetment has been installed to repair the path and secure the communication cables running beneath it. This work was funded by Hampshire County Council.

(Report to the HAWG by the Environmental Officer)

See some recent pictures on page 3.

Work Parties

We have welcomed new people at our last two work parties, mainly through publicity on the Marine Conservation Society's web page.

On the January litter pick the wind made it very difficult to categorise and count what we picked up in the 100m stretch we clear as part of the MCS 'Adopt a Beach' scheme. Nevertheless we sent them data on 3 bags weighing 12kg. A further 300m of beach was cleared and a decent pile left for the council to pick up and take away.

The MCS web has already sent us names of three more people who want to join our next litter pick.

Future dates are as follows:

- February 27th. Task to be confirmed.
- April 2nd. Beach Clean up at Budds Farm.

A new kid on the block!

Rob Hill, who was very helpful to us as HBC's Open Spaces Officer, was replaced in November.

Jayne Lake introduces herself thus.

In November I started my role as Project Officer for Open spaces having moved to the area after ten years as a Deputy Head Gardener for the National Trust at Greys Court (Henley on Thames). I obtained a degree in Environmental Protection (Conservation Management) some years ago and am now keen to rekindle the knowledge and get involved in all of the local groups. In my leisure time I love the outdoors, walking, cycling and more recently trying to stay dry on my paddleboard and I am looking forward to exploring as it gets warmer and the paths aren't so muddy!!! I hope to meet you all very soon.



Are we losing our marine life?

A Report by Alan Thurbon

A public meeting was held in January at the Eastney Cruising Association to discuss the deterioration of marine life in Langstone Harbour, mainly focusing on an apparent decline in fish stocks. There was general agreement that marine life has been in decline for several decades, but no-one seems to have any hard data or explanations. At a more recent meeting, Wes Smith from the RSPB explained that they have started to do annual fish surveys to better understand the breeding performance of birds in the harbour, with Little Terns particularly in mind, and they now have three years' worth of data. Fishermen have no shortage of anecdotal evidence relating to the disappearance of bass, oysters, flounder and sand eels for example.

Until quite recently, the pools under Langstone bridge at low tide were an easy place to observe sponges, sea-squirts and other static marine life. (OK, so maybe it's in Chichester Harbour). The picture shows a candy-striped flatworm and light-bulb sea-squirts, taken in June 2005. You would be very lucky to see these now, thanks to the repeated activities of bait-diggers and crab collectors.



Fairly, or otherwise, Southern Water took much of the flak at the meeting, since partially treated waste water is discharged into the harbour during periods of heavy rainfall, though their new Surface Water Separation Scheme for part of Portsea Island has helped to reduce this problem. It is unlikely that any more major improvements will occur unless clear benefits can be demonstrated.

Although the local expertise exists to analyse any existing evidence and gather new data, there seems to be a lack of joined-up thinking, and probably funding, on how best to go about the task.



Three February pictures by John Worley showing damage to recent work on the Billy Trail Sea Wall (see page 2) damage to another part of the wall and a derelict yacht blown onto the Hayling shore.

Have you renewed your membership?

***If not please complete the form overleaf and send it to
Alan Thurbon (FLH)
37 Lealand Road Drayton PO6 1LZ.***

If you have received this newsletter by post and would be willing to have it send by e mail please send an e mail to John@havantnature.net

Name:.....

Address

.....

Phone No. E Mail

I have enclosed a cheque payable to Friends of Langstone Harbour for £4.00

Signed