

Friends' Newsletter

April 2022

We wrote our last newsletter just before the AGM in October. Since then there have been changes in the committee and also among some of the key people in the harbour office.

At the AGM Anne Sayer stood down and since then Janet Mort has resigned. We are grateful to them both for their work during their time on the committee. New members elected at the AGM are Kevin Edwards and Mike Owens who join Alan Thurbon. Chris Gilsenan, John Goodspeed, John Worley and Peter Gray.

In the harbour office of particular note is Louise MacCallum's move to take up a role in the Blue Marine oyster restoration project she wrote about in our October news. We have appreciated her significant work for the harbour in recent years and hope to have contact with her in her new job. We welcome her replacement Megan Roberts and look forward to getting to know her.

Our activities, some of which will be covered more fully in this newsletter, have included the usual litter surveys and picks, tree planting and a few walks.

Litter Picks This month

Sunday 24th April from 10am thru noon - Langstone Village shoreline - meet in the Ship Inn car park PO9 1RD

Kevin Edwards (0836 263984, edwardsinhavant@hotmail.com) is organising and hopes that participants will phone or email him first so that he knows who is coming.

Saturday 30th April from 10am thru noon - Eastney shoreline (Ferry to the Marina) - meet at the bus turn-round opposite the RNLI Lifeboat Station PO4 9LY.

Make yourself known to John Worley (orange FLH sweater) when you arrive. The plan is not to interfere with the many winter-storm wrecked craft on the beach there, but to tidy up the surrounding area.



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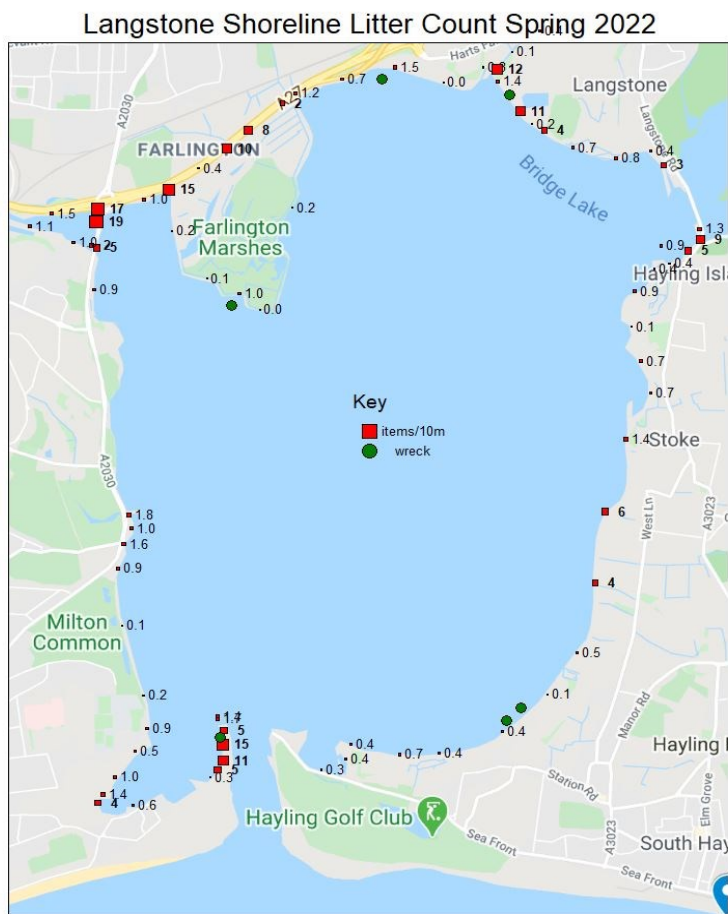
Litter

Litter seems to dominate our attention as Friends of the Harbour but actually there is a lot less litter in the harbour than there was when we started gathering statistics 50 odd litter picks and about 20 years ago.

The map on the right shows the macro-litter (larger and visible) items per 10metre length of shore found in John Worley's spring this year survey.

In our last letter we gave you the results on our 'Big Beach Clean' in September. We had similar results in January and March this year. Although the beaches seem very clean now we will persists in cleaning Budds Farm to sustain the data chain.

Elsewhere in this letter there are details of two future picks—one aimed at finding nurdles and micro plastics and another at the particularly dirty Eastney spit.



Showing macro-litter items per 10 metre length of shoreline in Spring 2022

Water Quality

This is the other burning issue of the day. It's a national issue affecting the sea, our harbours and our rivers. It crops up on the agendas of various local official and community groups and there are now a number of associations campaigning locally and nationally on the issue.

Friends of Langstone Harbour are supporting these moves and have pledged to donate £1,000 to the Clean Harbours Partnership (CHP). This will go towards the cost of a survey of the sewage and domestic and agricultural chemical pollution of the harbour. This study is crucial in establishing clear data on the state of the harbour and is being led by a Portsmouth University professor. We will be making our payment as soon as we are advised where to send it.

There is more information on the CHP web site. <https://cleanharbourpartnership.co.uk/>.

The Langstone Harbour Board have hitherto joined with the local authorities in referring the issue to the Environment Agency and OFWAT. They have more recently agreed that CHP may attend and speak at Harbour Advisory Group meetings as a non-voting member. Southern Water also attend some of these meetings.

Seagrass Restoration in Langstone Harbour

By Alan Thurbon



Seagrass meadows were once common in the Solent but most have been lost in the last 90 years due to developments, pollution and a wasting disease. There are two species of seagrass locally, and they create an important habitat for marine life in our relatively sheltered harbours.

Carbon capture and storage are now high on the environment agenda, and seagrass helps not only by absorbing carbon as it grows but also by trapping particles and adding them to the sediment.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust has a two-year project to explore ways of restoring seagrass beds. Last summer their team collected about 25,000 seeds, bagged them up into 1025 petite hessian bags neatly tied at the top and planted them upside down in two plots, way out in the mudflats of Langstone Harbour.

As you may have seen on BBC Countryfile (10th April), they have recently planted a more modest test strip across a gully, to see what difference the depth of water may make to establishment. The results of this will help to guide future large-scale replanting plans.

There is still work to do, so if splashing around in the harbour wearing wooden pattens appeals, please join in. Ellie Parker is Marine Officer for the Solent Seagrass Project.

- Contact: Ellie.Parker@hiwwt.org.uk Tel. 01489 774446
- Watch the Video: https://youtu.be/ixV28_HCMzE
- Read the Blog Post: <https://www.hiwwt.org.uk/blog/tim-ferrero/solent-seagrass-restoration-project-story-so-far>.

Subscriptions

- **Is your subscription up to date? It was due in October.**
- **You can check by contacting our treasurer.**
- **You can pay up by sending him a cheque or making an internet banking payment to Sort Code 30-93-97 Account No. 21966760 Account name 'Friends of Langstone harbour' giving your surname as reference.**

Harbour Comings and Goings

AI Avocet. This dredger has been out of action for some months needing repairs after a grounding. She is currently in Appledore. No other aggregate vessels bring cargoes to the harbour mso there have been no commercial payments to the LHB compounding their current financial issues.

Sunken vessels. A vessel that sunk in storm Eunice was thought to be in the main channel but was not found. A survey established that there was no hazard to navigation. It did find an additional unknown navigationally insignificant wreck (a 20m barge) in mooring area D and this will be added to charts in due course.

Jetties and linkspans. A contract has been placed for the replacement of Hayling link span and quotations are being sought for some work on the Eastney pontoon.

Southern Water Survey. A survey of the Solent between Chichester harbour entrance and Gilkicker Point and including subtidal areas within Langstone Harbour was due to start from about 11th April and will involve both sonar scans and benthic grab sampling. The area where Blue Marine have laid an oyster reef will be avoided. The survey is aimed at providing data in support of their marine licensing application for changes to the long sea outfall off Eastney.

No Take Zone.

The Harbour Manager and Environment Officer have agreed to discuss with the Southern Inshore Fish Authority a suggestion from an FLH committee member that the harbour should be designated 'a no take zone'. The proposal is aimed at the conservation of fish stocks in the harbour.



Around sunny Southmoors at high tide on 18th April

