



# Friends of Langstone Harbour

## Newsletter September 2023

Committee member Bianca Carr, Founder of the Final Straw Foundation and co-founder of the Clean Harbour Partnership (CHP) was recently seen patrolling the waters of Langstone harbour alongside an illustrious crew from the BBC. The high profile CHP *Operation Spotlight* campaign has been highly influential in raising the concern of the water pollution in our Harbour at a national and international level. The BBC will be broadcasting their Breakfast Show live from the banks of our favoured harbour shores this Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> from 0600. Watch as Bianca and other members of the Friends of Langstone Harbour join national celebrities including Feargal Sharkey and Kate Mosse as they broadcast live from the University Marine Biology Unit overlooking the Harbour at Eastney. They will be raising concerns at the declining quality of our local waters and ways we can work together to redress this. The programme will be going out live, with a further contribution from the Secretary of State for the Environment Therese Coffey. Credit must go out to the team for focusing the spotlight on the sad declining water quality of both Chichester and Langstone Harbours. Moving forward both the Friends and the Clean Harbours Partnership and keen to find ways we can work together with both Southern Water and other major stakeholder to address this problem. Member suggestion would be most welcome. Should you miss the programme it should be available to watch on BBC I Player after it has aired?



We are hoping to arrange a further visit to Budd's Farm in October for those that were unable to make the last one in May. We have further questions to follow upon following our last visit in April and Committee Member Mike Owens will be advising of the precise details shortly.

We always welcome feedback from our members; Ann Buckley has written asking us to respond to a planning application for 628 homes at Campdown, a site next to South Downs College at Crookhorn. The Friends have produced the following letter of objection that should be read alongside the statement made by the RSPB. The constant demand for housing that has been set by national government for housing in this area is a perennial problem that is putting intolerable pressure on our overworked Sewerage system. Each storm overflow directly impacts on the water quality of the Harbour. We have put forward the following objection to the scheme and would encourage all of our members to look at the proposal and respond accordingly; Havant Borough Council Application 23/00488.

***The Friends of Langstone Harbour heartily endorse the points made by the RSPB in their robust objection to this scheme. The loss of such open green space in an urban environment is regretted.***

***It is of concern to the Friends of Langstone Harbour that the Budd's Farm Waste Water plant in Havant is already struggling to cope with existing demand. Over the past three years there has been an average of 67000 minutes of storm water discharge into Langstone Harbour. The contents of these discharges are of great concern, as highlighted in the recent report conducted by the Clean Harbour Partnership.***

***Paradoxically, whilst acknowledging that there is a sewage/storm water separation on this site, it has been noted that this will inevitably lead to a greater concentration of contaminants with any storm discharge, given they will not be proportionately diluted by the diverted/withheld storm water.***

***We would like to see a micro sewage processing facility incorporated into this plan. We feel that a moratorium on all future development on this scale should be in place until such a facility can be provided by the developer or that it can be proven by the waste water authorities that they have the capacity to cope with these additional volumes of discharge.***

Viola Langley, is a Friend of the Harbour and has a special interest in protecting Milton Common. She wrote in recently to advise of the LIFE on the Edge Project. This is a 4-year [LIFE Nature](#) project lead by the Life Programme of the European Union together with both RSPB and the National Trust. It aims to improve the condition of the coastal sites while also building their long-term resilience and informing future work. Both Chichester and Langstone Harbour having been designated as an SPA are fortunate to have been included in this pan Europe project which should lead to the restoration of a 1.5-ha island in Langstone Harbour and re-profiling of several islands (covering 0.2 ha) at Hayling Oyster beds. It is hoped that these activities will provide new and safer nesting habitats for little, common and sandwich terns, and will also benefit a variety of roosting shorebirds. For more information contact [LoTE@rspb.org.uk](mailto:LoTE@rspb.org.uk).



**Never was so much done in such a short space of time by so few.** Drivers leaving Portsmouth on the Eastern Road will no doubt be familiar collection of rubbish on the south western corner of the Farlington Roundabout. Still designated as part of Langstone Harbour (the boundary is actually the railway bridge) regular members of the Last Saturday of the Month Work Out Group rose to the Challenge

of our treasurer Alan Thurburn, who had previously noted the unsightly build-up of sea borne detritus.

An intrepid task force, on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, suitably equipped and resourced, descended into the great morass by rope, to transform the site in a matter of hours to provide a more acceptable lasting memory for visitors exiting Portsmouth.



Guests on our recent Harbour Cruise might be interested to know that Colin Hill Managing Skipper of the Pride of Hayling was recently featured in an interesting short video. Colin's life is accurately portrayed in this documentary by local film maker James Dunlop. He is currently faced with funding issues and the simple message to all members of the Friends of Langstone Harbour, use it or we may lose it!



The film ***Britain's 3 Minute Ferry*** can be

viewed on you tube and is a fine tribute to Colin and his hard effort to keep the enterprise afloat.

**Future Events:**

# **Round the Harbour Walk Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September**. This annual event starting at the former Hayling Island Railway Station at 1000 and will embrace all of the Harbour. It is arranged so that you can join and leave at any stage to suit you. Full details will be sent out nearer to the event.

# **The FLH AGM November 2<sup>nd</sup>** will be held at the Langstone Sailing Club with guest speaker Roger Morgan Grenville. He is an intrepid traveller, author and broadcaster and should provide an excellent culmination to what has been an action packed year for the Friends.

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