



**The Friends of Langstone Harbour (FLH) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to preserving and enhancing the natural beauty and ecological importance of Langstone Harbour**

## **Welcome to our second newsletter of 2024**

### **Harbour cruise**



We are currently working on a range of events. Our annual Harbour Cruise has now been booked for Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May. Leaving from both Hayling and Eastney pontoons we have again chartered the Hayling Ferry, the Pride of Hayling, with its managing Skipper Colin Hill. Last year's cruise provided a good social opportunity for members to meet others, as well as a chance to see the Harbour from the water and to possibly learn a few sea shanties! The Cruise is popular and given that ticket numbers are limited, they will be allocated on a first come basis with further details in our next newsletter.

### **March Work Party**

John Worley our Secretary and volunteer work out organiser advises that the task this month is collecting beach litter, seaward side of the car parks at Farlington Marshes. We will be meeting in the middle car at 10:00 on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March. All members and visitors welcome. Suggestions of other neglected areas of the harbour always appreciated.

### **University of Portsmouth plastics research**

An interesting initiative has been launched by the University of Portsmouth evolving from the Revolution Plastics initiative that began in 2020. Since then, it has grown into a community of around 100 staff and 20 PhD students. World-leading experts at the University of Portsmouth believe the global plastic crisis demands more than traditional, monodisciplinary research and isolated technocentric solutions. The Revolution Plastics Institute will adopt an inclusive, solutions-focused strategy, inviting contributions from diverse disciplines and fostering partnerships with the global plastics community. Find out more about the Institute [here](#).

This is something that the Friends of Langstone Harbour are keen to be associated with in the future. Watch their introductory video here [YouTube video](#).

## Current Events;

### Curlew Action webinar



Image by Barry Carter

Members who attended our AGM will remember Roger Morgan-Grenville talking about his walk from the south to north of Great Britain to highlight the declining plight of the curlew. This talk is well recorded in his book *Across a Waking Land*.

In 2018 he founded the Curlew Action group and this Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March they are hosting a webinar on the following:

*What do we know about the diet of Curlews?*

*And what do we need to find out?*

*Will the 'insect apocalypse' impact Curlews –*

*What is the 'insect apocalypse'?*

Members are welcome to join this webinar by signing in [here](#).

### Project Portunus

Southsea Sub-Aqua Club members have agreed to conduct a series of underwater surveys in both Langstone and Chichester Harbours. Called Project Portunus fellow member Alison Moyer says “We will be reporting on the presence (or absence) of seagrass, oysters and non-native species. This open source data will, gathered by members of the Club, will then be made available to all groups with an interest in the marine habitats and wildlife of the Solent”. They have already had discussions with Langstone Harbour Board who are supportive and hope to get the endorsement of the Chichester Harbour Conservancy shortly. The official launch will be this Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March starting at 19:30 at Tudor Sailing Club Eastern Road Portsmouth PO3 5TG. The event will cover the aims of the project and given that the Friends have been identified as a potential stakeholder, all members are invited. Further details of Project Portunus can be found at [portunus@southseasubaqua.org.uk](mailto:portunus@southseasubaqua.org.uk)

### Friends of the Earth Sea Grass talk

Havant Friends of the Earth have organised an open meeting in their series '**Protecting Our Coastal Areas**' on Thursday March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Havant United Reformed Church in Havant. The talk, '**Regenerating our Local harbours: from streams to sea grasses**'. will be given by Havant Climate Alliance's marine biologist, Rayner Piper. He will talk about his work in our harbours, regenerating sea grass and saltmarsh, and monitoring the streams that feed them. He will also share ideas as to how our members can get involved.



## Clean Harbour Partnership findings



Researchers testing water quality in and around two harbours say a worrying number of chemicals have been identified, including prescribed and illegal drugs

The Clean Harbour Partnership (CHP) released their initial findings into water quality in both harbours last summer and have made some startling findings. At one point in Langstone Harbour they found E.coli readings 780 times over what is deemed safe, according to the European Bathing Water Directive. The CHP are monitoring discharges and pressing for more accurate and timely reporting of storm discharges by Southern Water into both harbours.

They have a reporting form on their website - [www.cleanharbourpartnership.co.uk](http://www.cleanharbourpartnership.co.uk) - for use by anyone who thinks they have become unwell as a result of contact with polluted water in Chichester or Langstone harbours.

Dr James Collings Wells medical advisor for the CHP says: “We hope the information we receive will help to clarify the relationship between illness amongst water users and recent rainfall and accompanying discharges of sewage into the harbours.

“When we receive a report of illness, we hope to be in touch (if wanted) within 2-3 days. Users can also opt to receive a three-monthly update of the type and location of illnesses that have been reported to us.

“We want to have a dialogue with local water users about this: Is your use of these harbours affected by what you know about the water quality? Have you had illness in the past which you think was caused by polluted water?” You can email him at [james@cleanharbours.co.uk](mailto:james@cleanharbours.co.uk) to share your view.

### Membership

If you are reading this and you are not a member of the Friends Of Langstone Harbour or have just forgotten to renew please consider it now. Annual subscription is just £5... with all funds being directly used for the benefit of the Harbour and its environs. Please contact our membership secretary Heather White for more information; [FLHmembership2@outlook.com](mailto:FLHmembership2@outlook.com),

**And finally:**

The news that crocodiles could be introduced to Langstone Harbour to improve water quality by devouring some of the sewage being discharged, as reported in our last newsletter, has certainly



created a bit of a stir worldwide. One member responded *"I raced my Laser among such crocodiles. As long as they are not fed they are safe. Perhaps Friends of Langstone Harbour should sponsor signs similar to those where I walked into the water to my dinghy advising them of this fact!"*

It is planned to hold a public drop-in consultation on the matter at the Ship Car Park on Langstone Quay, Langstone, on Easter Monday April 1<sup>st</sup> between 9am and 12 midday! Come along and share your views.

As you can see there is an interesting and varied series of events coming up over the next few weeks. Please let us know of anything you would like us to profile in future newsletters.

Kevin Edwards  
Chair, Friends of Langstone Harbour.