



Friends of Langstone Harbour

Summer 2024 Newsletter

In May, some 25 members enjoy a two-hour excursion into the Harbour aboard the Pride of Hayling. Tide



timing this year was not ideal for seal sighting but it did provide an excellent opportunity for members to meet in an informal setting - the interaction between members all out on the

water with a common call for the protection and wellbeing of the Harbour.



We are lucky to have an established a seal colony at Langstone. The Harbour Seal



(*Phoca vitulina*) is a rare sight on the south coast of England. It is obviously of interest for all to understand the importance of not disturbing them especially when feeding their young.

Just one interrupted feeding can threaten that pup's life chances... life for the seal is very precarious!

More information can be found [here](#).

Harbour Board Environment Report

Harbour observers maybe intrigued by the presence of dredgers depositing shingle off Long Island. Megan Roberts, Environment Officer for the Harbour Board, explains that this is part of the RSPB's nationwide programme *Life on the Edge*. Langstone has been selected, given its Special Protection Areas status (SPA).

Approximately 1000 tonnes of shingle has been placed on an existing ridge of the island for the benefit of breeding and roosting shorebirds and seabirds. The enhanced ridge is approximately 150m in length and backed by a brushwood fence. Long Island, which previously had a public landing point, is now - like all of the RSPB islands - closed indefinitely to protect nesting seabirds.

Megan also advises there is a project taking place at Gunner Point - this is the beach on the Hayling side of the Harbour entrance channel. A fence has been set up to protect nesting plovers. She asks visitors to "avoid crossing the area and give these birds space and peace at this vital time; it is hoped that we will see many more ringed plover chicks make it to adulthood in the coming years"!

Hampshire Water Transfer & Water Recycling Project

Southern Water are currently holding a consultation on a water recycling facility they are planning to site at Broadmarsh, Havant. There are many concerns about the proposal, primarily because of the lack of local consultation.

Approval for the Havant Thicket Reservoir made by Portsmouth Water made no reference to the recycling of sewage. This change of use was submitted by Southern Water who have subsequently taken over the scheme and applied directly to the Secretary of State for the Environment, defining it as a nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. If the scheme is approved and a development consent order granted, then Local Authorities will have no further say.

The Friends are particularly concerned that the disturbance of the landfill site at Broadmarsh, with its unknown compounds and possible forever chemicals, could leach out into the Hermitage stream and then into the Harbour.

The committee have formulated a response and would urge all members to read the attached statement together with the SW consultation document and take part in the public consultation. Further information can be found at

<https://www.hampshirewtrp.co.uk/feedback.html>

Interestingly SW commissioned a report with Stantec plc in 2022 who suggested that Nano technology could significantly improve the viability of desalination, and yet they have chosen to ignore this advice and gone for unproven and possibly un costed technology.

Friends News

Following local elections in May there are many new members on the local councils and Harbour Board, many of whom are Friends of the Harbour. Congratulations on your appointment; let us all work together to protect our special Harbour.

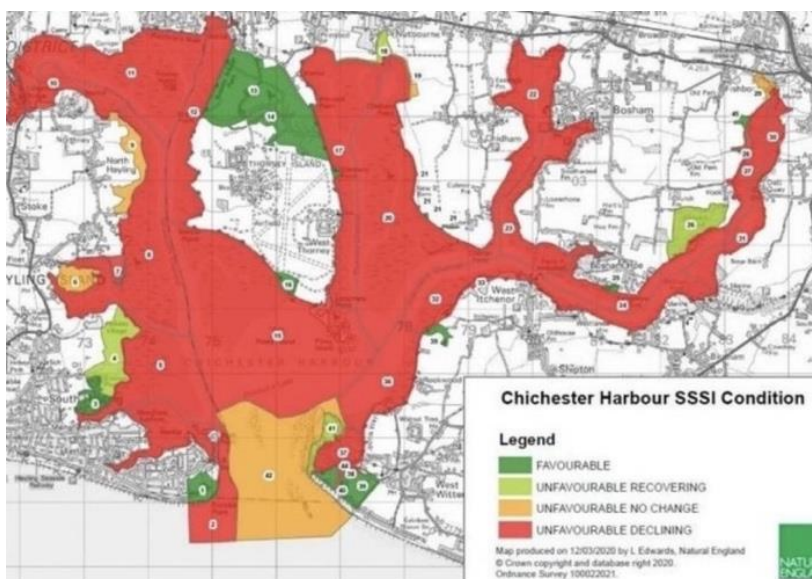
The Langstone Village Association (LVA) have recently joined the Friends as an affiliated organisation. This has significantly increased our membership and extended our membership offer to their members. We are keen to reach out to other community groups with a common objective and pleased to associate with both Save our Shoreline Coastal Alliance (SOSCA) and the Waterlooville Trashbusters.

John Worley, our work party organiser has been running a series of effective work projects across the Harbour. The next event is on the 27th July when we will be clearing beach detritus at Southmoor. This is the area to the east of the breach in the sea wall, where access has recently made possible by the removal of fencing. Meet at the end of Mill Lane Langstone @ 10:00, but please park in the main road layby.

The Friends are still trying to establish a reliable footpath across this land which ultimately could become part of the King Charles III England Coast Path.

The Committee are committed to providing a varied and diverse range of activities. To ensure deliver this further, we are looking to enlarge the committee and currently have space for a further two members. We meet 4/5 times a year and would welcome fresh ideas and enthusiasm for the ongoing protection of the Harbour and its environment. Please make contact at this email address if you are interested?

The long-awaited Condition Report for Langstone Harbour commissioned by Natural



England is due to be published shortly. By way of background this picture shows the condition of Chichester Harbour in 2022.

The areas in red indicates an unfavourable declining condition! It is possible that the report for Langstone will record a similar verdict. The Friends of Langstone

Harbour intend to hold a meeting to discuss the report when it is finally published.

And finally, this little beauty was caught in the Harbour and promptly returned. Look



out for the full story in our next newsletter.

If you are reading this Newsletter and you are not a member, or you have just forgotten to renew.... annual subscription is just £5 and further details can be obtained from our membership Secretary Heather White.

**She can be contacted at
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