



“The Oyster Catcher”



Restore - Learn - Enjoy

Friends of Langstone Harbour is a team of volunteers, helping to connect local communities to the wonders of an internationally important environment through the protection and improvement of our rare natural surroundings.

*Welcome to the **Summer Edition '26** of the Friends newsletter, designed to keep members up-to-date with the gradual regeneration of our amazing Harbour - citizen science projects; local talks; events and interesting Harbour facts.*

“Pint of Blue” Talk

“The Good; The Bad; and the Slimy”





Members and guests applauded as Alison Mayor from our local Nautical Archaeological Sub-Aqua Club finished her insightful presentation showing photographs showing of the amazing species her team of divers has discovered under the waves of Langstone Harbour. A place where bright yellow sea squirts mix with prehistoric seahorses and sinister looking 'Red List' European eels who make their way to Langstone from the Sargasso Sea (some 5,000 km off the coast of Bermuda) and return a decade later.

With drinks in hand, members and their guests learned that Project Portunus (named after the Roman god of harbours) has logged 250 species to date, 18 of which have been identified as 'Non-Native' – including a Japanese Sea Spider . The audience were also treated to a short video showing the array of fish living adjacent to the Withern, one of several Harbour wrecks. Despite the amazing range of sightings, Alison posed the question – 'over the long term, is our harbour thriving, surviving or dying?'. The data gathered by the divers is helping to answer the question.

(Images courtesy Alison Mayor.)

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Project-Portunus-Discovering-Our-Local-Harbour-Marine-Life-61571784308287/>

Introducing “The Langstone Loop”



The Friends are delighted to announce our new waterside trail extending some 14 miles around the Harbour's foreshore.

The 'Langstone Loop' includes 35 educational plaques spread along the trail, with QR codes linking to a new website containing local historical and environmental information - topics range from Seahorses and Seals, to Mulberrys and Mallards. Keep your eyes peeled for the 'Soundwave' plaques with short video clips and readings associated with the area - featuring a rare cross section of artists - HG Wells (Portsmouth) to Elton John and Roger Daltry (Kings Theatre).

For more Information:

We're looking for small teams to walk sections of the Loop as part of the formal opening launch in September. Can you join us?

Contact Polly: pollydinnage@hotmail.com.



Follow the Langstone Loop on Instagram

Events - Sunset Cruise



Members will recall our successful evening two years ago. This year's event will take place on *Thursday 3rd September at 7pm* when we climb aboard the Hayling Ferry (at Hayling or Eastney - your choice). Light refreshments will be supplied as we glide around the Harbour for about an hour and a half looking and listening out for noisy Whimbrels, diving Terns and Curlews with their long curved bills and haunting 'cur-lee' whistle - let's hope the seals turn up again this year.

For more information:

Tickets £15pp for Members and their guests from flhmembership@gmail.com

Update: At time of sending, tickets are going fast and we only have 6 places left

Nature Watch - “Flying Barn Doors“



Has anyone spotted the UK's largest bird of prey over the Harbour? With a wingspan of over 2m, the Sea Eagle (or White-Tailed Eagle) had been extinct in Britain for over 200 years, until being reintroduced to Scotland and subsequently to the Isle of Wight in 2019.

The good news is that populations have been growing. Another 12 birds were released locally in 2021 and Exmoor National Park announced the release of 6 more young eagles this summer.

Eagles regularly return home to the loW, crossing over Langstone, after weeks away hunting and checking out potential mates in Scotland and Northern Europe.

For further information:

Young eagles are tagged, they travel 1,000s of miles and their trackers can be seen on various websites.

<https://roydennis.org/white-tailed-eagle/>

(Image source The Guardian)

Langstone Harbour Board - Update



A busy few months at the Harbour Office as the team guide and cajole and keep safe the influx of water users during an unprecedented summer of heatwaves. Day to day environmental activities also continue including fish and seal surveys. Last month's fish survey found this deceased seahorse.

Experts advise it is the skeleton of a female short snouted Hippocampus (hippo meaning 'horse' and kampos meaning 'sea monster' in Ancient Greek). Seahorses have tiny fins and don't travel far, using their tails to cling to seagrass. This is a mature one - extending to some 7" – which is likely to have been born and breed in the harbour.

Behind the scenes there's also a lot happening. The purchase of the University's boat (RV Noctiluca) has added capability to help with harbour duties including conservation studies and LHB is especially pleased to announce a new Environmental Plan to support the regeneration of the Harbour. More in our Winter Edition.

For more information

Check out LHB's Annual Report at:

<https://www.langstoneharbour.org.uk/general-5>

Marine Rangers – Quarterly Update



FLH Marine Rangers have been out in force this summer. Monthly litter picks in the cool coastal breeze have been as popular as ever, removing fishing equipment and discarded consumer packaging, as well as larger items such as old tyres and boat debris, before they rot further on our foreshore.

A particular project has been preparing for the Langstone Loop, including a couple of wonderfully sunny afternoons refurbishing the old Puffing Billy gates at Havant Station and 'planting' oak posts for the new educational plaques. Rangers have just received consent from Havant Borough Council to refurbish some of the tired noticeboards around the harbour in conjunction with Southsea's 'Men's Shed' charity. Recycling must be the way forward. Look out for those improvements appearing during the autumn.

For more Information:

Check out FLH website for details of our regular working parties and citizen science projects which the Rangers also support.

<https://www.friendsoflangstoneharbour.org/>



Coming Next Month:

Langstone Loop launch and our Winter talk programme.

New Members Always Needed!

Please forward this email to friends and family. We're always keen to accept new members. They can get in touch on: flhmembership@gmail.com

And finally...



'As the Autumn equinox approaches the sun sets over Portsmouth. The Oyster Beds on The Hayling Billy Line make for an atmospheric evening walk and a nice spot to watch the sunset. A good reason perhaps to journey out of Portsmouth and enjoy the view back towards the city. It is a place of tranquility and brings a new perspective.'

(Words and image courtesy of Richard Jones)