



Newsletter

September 2020

It is now around 6 months since you last received a newsletter from us. The reasons are obvious. However there have been some ad-hoc activities on a small scale. We did have to cancel at short notice a much anticipated meeting on Climate Change.

Since then small groups have reacted to the presence of litter at a number of sites (details are on page 3) and cleared it and we plan to go ahead with a litter pick coinciding with the Marine Conservation Societies 'Big Beach Clean' on 19th September, however we will not be going in for major publicity in view of continuing Covid 19 guidance.

The 'Round the Harbour' walk will happen on 26th and you will find details on page 2. And we are hoping to hold an AGM on October 27th but that may have to be on Zoom!

Your committee have met, on Zoom, but with no Harbour Advisory Group meeting being held there has not been much of significance to talk about. We have discussed various papers and news items that have been circulating.

John Gifford

South Moors Sea wall—27th August,



Collapse of the Southmoor sea wall has been long anticipated, and the sea finally broke through a few days before these pictures were taken. The Friends anticipate a gradual transition to valuable saltmarsh habitat of the meadow behind the wall.

The right hand pictures show how far the sea washed into the field and glass from the illicit infill now laying in the field. As the breach erodes the sea, at high tides, will work its way further in land.

Friends of Langstone Harbour

c/o Hon Sec John Worley, 23 Queen's Keep, Clarence Parade, SOUTHSEA, PO5 3NX

Annual Round the Harbour Walk

Sat 26th Sept 2020
All Welcome

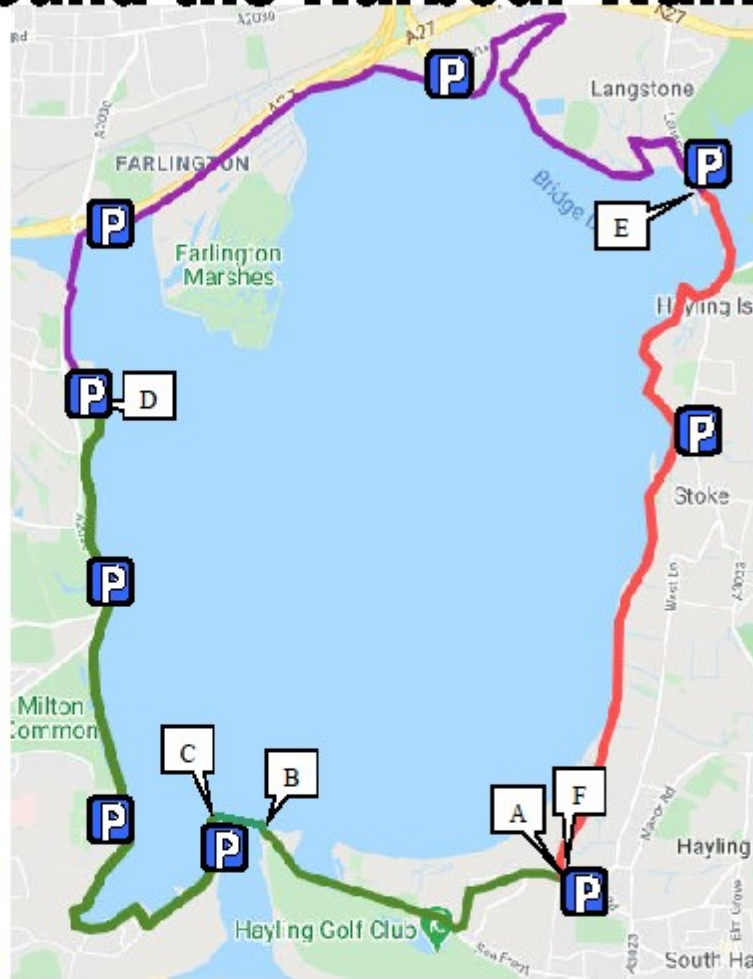
You are invited to join in the Friend's 22nd annual round the harbour walk. The full 13 miles, or just a part.

Langstone Harbour has a good footpath round most of its shoreline offering unrivalled and ever changing views. Our Annual Walk is an opportunity for us, in good company, to see the Harbour in the round, review the state of the path, onshore developments and note cumulative effects of the Friends' workouts.

The walk is in 3 legs, starting at Hayling Station Theatre (free car park) catching the 9.50am ferry to Eastney and finishing at the Hayling Theatre at 3.15pm. All at an easy pace with breathers at the Outdoor Centre and the Langstone Sailing Club.

With Covid precautions this year we suggest that all walkers bring their own drinks and refreshments.

The walk has never been stopped by weather.



The leader's phone will be 07923 876409

Itinerary

A - 9.10am meet Hayling Theatre car park - walk (1.7m) walk to ferry

B - 9.50am ferry to Eastney (£2.75)

C - 10.00am at Eastney Pontoon (to Outdoor Centre 3.5m)

D - 11.30am Outdoor Centre (to LSC 5m)

E - 2pm Langstone Sailing Club (or the Ship Inn) (3.5m to end)

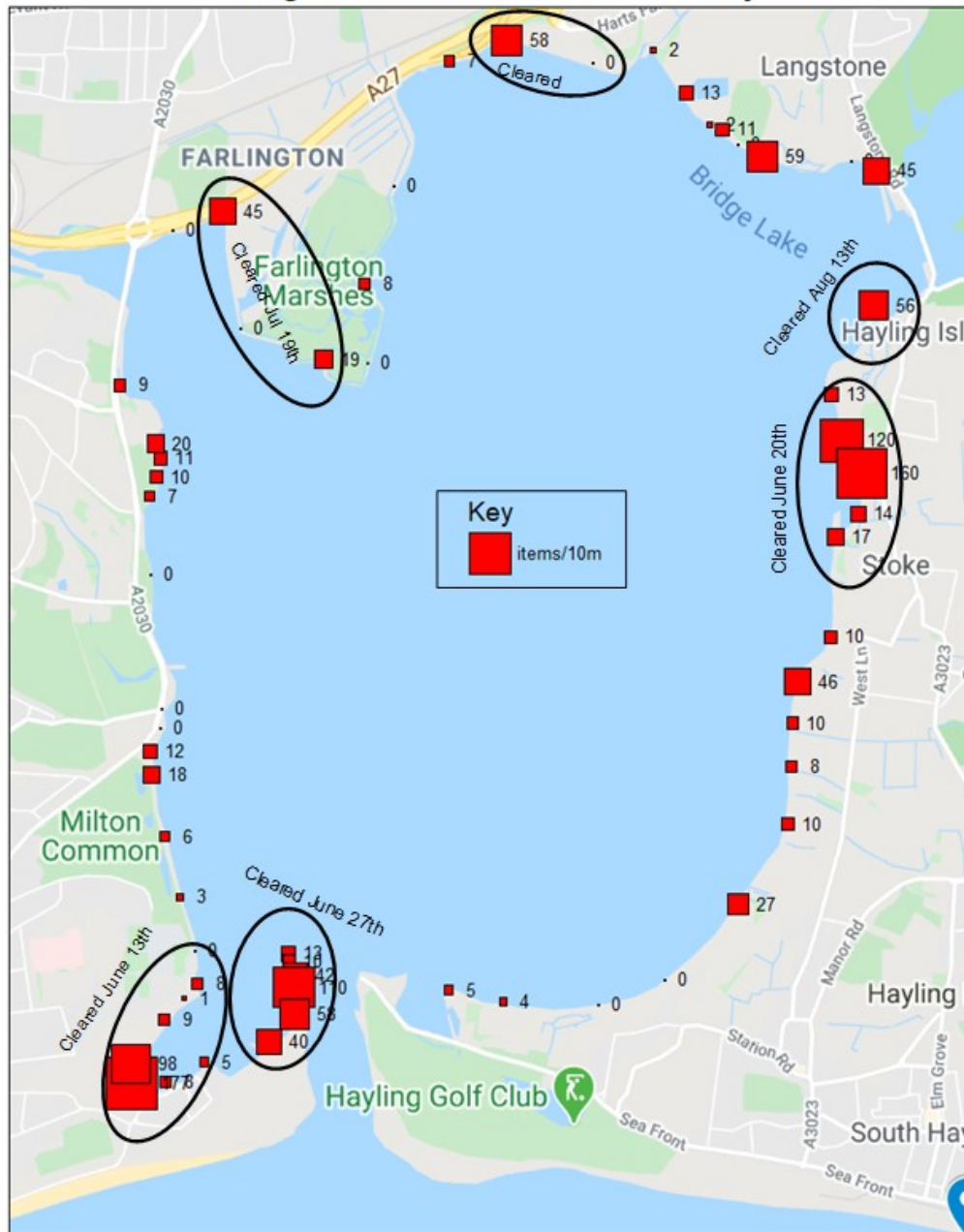
F - 3.15pm back at the Hayling Theatre (for lifts to the ferry for Portsmouth starters)



A word from our treasurer.

If you haven't paid your subscription since October 2019 we would be most grateful for your contribution. Please send a cheque for £5 to Alan Thurbon, 37 Lealand Road, Drayton, Portsmouth PO6 1LZ, made payable to Friends of Langstone Harbour. A bank transfer can be made to account no. 21966760 sort code 30-93-97 with your surname as reference. If you are not sure whether you have paid ask Alan by email: alan@alanth.plus.com or phone 023 9232 5570. Thankyou.

Langstone Harbour Litter Survey



Showing litter density around the harbour in June 2020
Circles indicate areas subsequently cleared by FLH informal litter picking events.

Langstone Litter Survey 2020

Friends of Langstone Harbour used the lockdown leisure opportunities to walk the whole harbour shoreline counting the litter density at more than 60 spots where litter accumulates. The result was this litter map.

Subsequently at least six informal parties have been out in the lovely weather and cleared all the worst litter areas as shown on the map. "We have been meaning to tackle the Farlington litter trap for 20 years" says John Worley "With a bunch of young people we cleared it of litter in less than a half hour!"

Friends of Langstone Harbour Officers

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News from the Harbour Board

The following items are edited versions of the Harbour Manager and Environment Officers Reports at the Harbour Advisory Working Group.

Covid 19 restrictions.

The Harbour Office remains closed during the week with limited access at week ends but this policy is under review. The Hayling slipway is being monitored but closure will only be a last resort if that is necessary to preserve public health.

Enforcement of Byelaws on the water.

Hampshire Marine Police Unit have been reporting incidents and the Harbour managers issuing warnings. The Harbour manager is considering the drafting of a Solent-wide code of conduct for small craft.

Nature Recovery Area

Defra's 25 Year Environment Plan was published in 2018. The Plan set a target to develop a "Nature Recovery Network" linking existing protected sites and landscapes, as well as urban green and blue infrastructure.

As well as helping wildlife thrive the Nature Recovery Network could be designed to bring a range of additional benefits e.g. greater public enjoyment; pollination; carbon capture; water quality improvements and flood management. In addition to natural environment objectives the Network should also deliver socio-economic benefits, contributing to people's health, well-being, recreation and economic prosperity, and helping to secure greater environmental equity across communities. It therefore needs to be both an urban and a rural network.

Working in partnership with Chichester Harbour Conservancy, the relevant local authorities, RSPB and Wildlife Trust a plan for a new Nature Recovery Area as part of the national network which would potentially cover both Langstone and Chichester Harbours, and perhaps even Pagham Harbour is in the very early stages of development.

Shellfish Gathering in The Kench

Following reports of large groups of people hand-gathering shellfish from The Kench Local Nature Reserve (LNR). Checks by the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority revealed that the species of shellfish being targeted was *Crassostrea gigas* (Pacific Oyster) which is an invasive non-native species in Langstone Harbour. Collection of this species for personal consumption is within the law.

Reports suggested that the volume of shellfish being collected in some instances were too big to be for personal consumption, and some of the vehicles parked close to The Kench were restaurant branded. Local Authority environmental health teams carried out unannounced spot checks at restaurant premises. No evidence of *Crassostrea gigas* being stored or sold was found.

Seal Survey & Disturbance

During July co-ordinated monitoring of the Solent Seal population re-started. Survey teams from Langstone, Chichester and the Isle of Wight took part and, on the 15th July 2020, the highest seal numbers since surveying began were recorded. Forty eight Harbour Seals, 18 Grey Seals plus 2 further seals that could not be identified to species level were recorded bringing the total to 68 animals between Langstone and Chichester Harbours.

Although the seal population in the Solent is increasing, there has been a decline in the number of animals utilising the haul out in Langstone Harbour. This decline is probably driven by disturbance when water sports participants get too close. Both the Andrew Simpson Water Sports Centre and a private company operating kayak tours in the Broom Channel region of the harbour were contacted and provided with the Solent Seals Code of Conduct in digital and hard copy, as well as further information to help them to educate their clients about wildlife disturbance. Measures to reach the wider water sports community are underway.