

LANGSTONE

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



Spring Newsletter 2024

In Memoriam.

It is with great sadness we must report the deaths of 3 of our very longstanding members of the Langstone Residents Association (LRA). Dr David Barrett and Christine Normand were committed officers of the committee, devoting a great deal of time and energy for the benefit of Langstone. Also, JJ Price who was a highly efficient minutes' secretary and contributed much to the association especially to conservation projects in the locality. His funeral will take place at Warblington Cemetery on 4 April.

(Individual tributes are attached. See over page.)

LRA website.

The new website [www.langstone.org] was launched earlier this year and provides an overview of the area and the latest community news. Our thanks go to our new webmaster, Steff!

If a member feels that they have an item that may be of interest they should send details to the LRA Secretary at [secretary@langstone.org].

Langstone Mill Pond.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy held a Council meeting on the 29th January and approved a scheme which will help ensure the future of this important coastal footpath. Parts of the wall will be repaired and a bridge built over a section of path, near Wade Lane, which will eventually be allowed to be breached. The concern is that a breach into the adjacent field will threaten the Mill Pond.

The proposal marks some progress and the necessary planning application for the works and bridge will allow the community an opportunity, denied up to this point, to submit comments.

The full CHC Council Report is available and can be viewed at:-

Litter in Langstone.

Despite the dedicated efforts of the Langstone Conservation Group (LCG) litter pickers, and others, this problem continues to grow. Discarded bottles, cans and packaging are regularly cleared by the volunteers, but the volume continues to grow! Councillor Lulu Bowerman has a role in overseeing the activities of NORSE and she has agreed to investigate. The situation is exacerbated along several footpaths where unthinking individuals dump garden waste! There are clearly visible signs prohibiting such action, but the practices continue. Such dumping will encourage vermin, and must cease.

Railway Cottages.

The iconic cottages at 59-61 Langstone Road were subject to an arson attack in 2019 and the site remains an unsightly blot in the centre of Langstone. Planning approval was granted for a replacement building to replicate the appearance of the original buildings, but construction work has not progressed.



An artists impression – CAD Architects

In reply to an enquiry the Agent reports works are “temporarily paused due to matters beyond the occupant’s control”. However an assurance has been given that “it is their intention to commence building operations when circumstances allow”. Havant Borough Council’s Enforcement Team will continue to monitor the site.

Music.

On a happier note, our longstanding member and professional pianist, Beryl Francis is playing twice a week in the centre of Havant! On Thursdays she plays in the Meridian Centre Atrium between 11:30 and 12:15. It is a free concert with a bucket available for donations to charity.

On Tuesdays [10:45 – 11:30] Beryl has a practice session in St. Faith's Church. There is no entry fee (but a donation is welcome), coffee is served and everyone is welcome!

Lunches at Langbrook Farm.

The lunchtime gatherings organised by the Langstone Good Neighbour Network (LGNN) continue to be well attended. Watch out for the invitation to the monthly event.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting is being organised to take place at the Langstone Sailing Club on May 16th. A formal notice will be issued 4 weeks before the event, once details have been confirmed, and will invite members to submit items for inclusion under "Any Other Notified Business", at the discretion of the committee.

We need to elect a committee and its Officers. Both Chairman and Secretary have both resigned, an action to take affect after the AGM, allowing others an opportunity to fill these roles.

Kindly give some thought to this matter and consider if you would wish to be nominated or suggest a friend or neighbour. Committee meetings are not normally very lengthy and are held monthly on a Tuesday evening.

Langstone Bridge

September 2024 will see the bi-centennial anniversary of the building of the first bridge from Langstone to Hayling Island. Plans are being made to celebrate the event and details will be published later in the year.



Tribute to Dr David Francis Barrett.

David was born in Sheffield on 12th March 1934. He would have been 90 tomorrow!

He had one younger brother, Mike, who sadly predeceased him last year.

As children the boys spent the end of the war between boarding school in Dublin and with their favourite Aunt Bess in Auchterarder which they loved.

David was incredibly bright and took his "A" Levels a year early in Greek and Latin. As he wanted to study medicine and follow in the footsteps of his parents he had to add Maths and Science to get into Medical School. This he achieved in a year! Then, qualified as a doctor with an enhanced rank, he spent his National Service largely in Cyprus. However, he did not enjoy the restrictions of being in the Military with its hierarchy and being told what to do.

David met Deidre in 1964 at Old Church Hospital in Romford, Essex. David was a registrar and Deidre a student nurse. Five years later they were married in Auchterarder, and moved to Scotland and then to Langstone in 1973 where their daughter, Ann, was born. She was followed 15 months later by their son, Andrew.

David had a long career as a Consultant Dermatologist for the Portsmouth and Isle of Wight group of Hospitals. He was known for his "no nonsense" approach, dislike of bureaucracy and, importantly, his absolute dedication to his patients.

Langstone – verbatim from Ann's eulogy, excepting substituting "David" for "Dad"!

"David is remembered as an active committee member for Langstone Residents Association and I particularly remember his weekly updating of the noticeboard on the Billy Line. In addition David was a passionate member of Langstone Conservation Group in particular leading the weekly stream cleaning and his updating on the number of cans and bottles each week, - as well as the occasional mattress and bike. The post clean beer was always a welcome reward."

David was a true "Piscean". He was a member of the Langstone Sailing Club, where he moored his Westerly Yacht. From here he would sail, with his friend and co-owner, off into the Solent and from time to time across the channel to France. He also enjoyed windsurfing and snorkelling, and passed these pleasures on to his children.

He was an active member of the Catholic Church and had many hobbies. Amongst these were reading, listening to classical music, art (he had a fine collection of paintings) and photography. In his last years, when he was housebound, he spent hours watching the birds in his garden. Whilst he was still able he was frequently seen walking his dogs Oli and Evan, and then his neighbour's dog, Gypsy, along the Billy Line.

Our condolences go to Deidre (his wife for 54 years), Ann, Andrew and the rest of the family.

Tribute to Christine Normand.

Christine Mary Normand. 11th of November 1938, 7th of February 2024.

Having been a friend of Christine's for at least 20 years, I did not realise quite how much she had achieved until I attended her funeral on the 13th of March and was able to chat to her family and friends afterwards.

She was born in Buckinghamshire and went to Saint Mary's, Gerrard's Cross. It was a small, rather restrictive girls' school where to be a good student of maths was thought to be rather unusual! According to the Internet, Saint Mary's is now highly progressive!

Although Christine would have liked to have run her father's construction company, it was considered more suitable for her to leave it to her brothers. She was, however, allowed to go to university and chose Royal Holloway College at Egham, where she read English. After that she worked in London using her degree until she met and married John Housley, who was the father of her four boys. Christine spent much of her time supporting them.

She had a fine alto voice and sang in St Joseph's church choir, and a choral Society. The boys also joined the choir. Not always their choice!

Christine lived in Denvilles, with John and the boys, and stayed on there after he died very unexpectedly in 1992. She led a very busy life delivering meals, first for the WRVS and then HCCS (Havant Council of Community Service), and at the same time being secretary of the RNLI and raising large sums of money through the collections she organised. Christine furthered her interest in English literature and gained an MA at Southampton University.

For many years she taught WEA courses in Havant. The last course she taught was entitled the 19th century novel. These were incredibly interesting sessions enhanced by her deep knowledge of social history. She became an expert in local history and was the author of many pamphlets, several books and took guided tours to places of interest, including Langstone High Street!

About 20 years ago Christine met and subsequently married Ian Normand. Apparently she had always wanted to marry a test pilot and he was a very distinguished fighter pilot.

They bought a house in Langstone Road in the early 2000's and here began her Langstone life.

She had barely moved in when David Barrett, a friend of hers from Saint Joseph's church, arrived at the monthly LRA committee meeting and said "we need a secretary and have found just the right person". She was!

I believe she took up the reins immediately and then became chairman, and an attendee at LVA committee meetings.

She was a great animal lover. In her younger days, she rode horses and always kept dogs. After Ian's death during the epidemic, she took on two Spaniels, a mother and son, whom she adored.

Christine had suffered from very poor health for the last few years, but to quote her son, "she was stoic to the end".

A great character!

She will be sadly missed!



Angela Armstrong