



The Solent Protection Society

Newsletter - December 2013



21st Century Coastguard

SPS Winter Talk Series
January 22nd 2014

IN THIS ISSUE

Solfire report

Medmerry opens

Kahu - Medina River salvage success

Habitat creation conference

The October Storms

Solent Now

Forthcoming events

21ST CENTURY COASTGUARD

Forthcoming lecture by Geoff Matthews, MCA

Coastguard stations are closing including those in the Solent. The changes have caused consternation among recreational sailors. This lecture by a senior Coastguard will explain the changes and provide for a Q & A session about their potential consequences for marine safety in the Solent

Venue - Southampton Solent University Conference Centre, January 22, 2014 7:30 pm. Tickets £5

For further details, click [here](#).

To purchase tickets, click [here](#).

MEDMERRY MANAGED REALIGNMENT OFFICIALLY OPENED

One of the most ambitious managed realignment schemes on the South Coast has opened. Read the detail on the SPS Blog [here](#).

'SOLFIRE' - JOINT SOLENT EMERGENCY PLAN TEST

Even the best laid plans can go wrong so it is vital that they are tested, The emergency services in the Solent area have collaborated to produce an emergency response plan to deal with marine accidents that could arise in the port areas of Portsmouth and Southampton. By agreement with HM Coastguard the plan will also extend to cover the West Solent. From time to time the plan, known as Solfire, is tested in a realistic exercise. The latest test took place on November 14th. Our observations and photographs from the day's activity can be found on the SPS Blog [here](#).

KAHU – A TEXTBOOK SALVAGE OPERATION

On November 11th, the £5M 'superyacht' Kahu caught fire and sank at her mooring in Cowes, giving rise to a significant pollution risk in the Medina River. The resulting salvage operation was a model multi-agency response to a complex pollution incident. Further detail can be found on the [SPS website](#) and on the [News column](#).

HABITAT CREATION CONFERENCE

With more than 60 habitat creation sites in place (and more in the pipeline), the UK is leading the field in this activity in Europe. That was only one of the messages from an excellent conference held in London that was organised by [ABP Mer](#). SPS was one of the sponsors because this meeting was a logical follow on from the Saltmarsh conference that we organised some 5 years ago. Further detail can be found on the [SPS Blog](#).

THE OCTOBER STORM

The Met Office got it just about right. But the Solent got off relatively lightly. The main band of winds seems to have headed along the M4 corridor. Even so coastal winds reached almost 100 mph at the Needles.

In mid Channel waves built up to 5 metres high. At Chichester harbour entrance, in the lee of the Isle of Wight, waves of 2.3metres were recorded.Using [Solent Now](#) on our website we were able to monitor the progress of the storm

The weather station at the Bramble Bank showed incredible gustiness in the small hours, with average windspeeds of only 10kts, but gusts of 40 Kts.

In a slightly more localised meteorological event, we reported on the Tornado which recently struck Hayling Island, a [news item from October 20th](#).

SOLENT NOW

Bookmark the SPS '[Solent Now](#)' page for up to the minute information about shipping movements, weather and sea conditions in the Solent area.

EVENTS

The 2013-2014 winter series of events contains the following highlights.

ART AS A TOOL FOR UNDERSTANDING COASTAL CHANGE

A fascinating subject and one which was presented by Robin McInnes at the Island Sailing Club in Cowes on November 7th. Observations on this interesting talk can be found on the [SPS blog](#).

SPS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held on Monday December 2nd at the Royal Southampton Yacht Club. Jeremy Clark delivered the Chairman's report "This has been another interesting and varied year for the Council..."

[Read more](#)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

21ST CENTURY COASTGUARD

Venue: **Southampton Solent University Conference Centre**

Geoff Matthews, Maritime and Coastguard Agency **WARNING:** Note change of date to 22nd January 2014 This event is open to all, including non-members. Prior reservation essential. Coastguard stations are closing including those in the Solent. The changes have caused consternation amongst recreational sailors. This lecture by a senior Coastguard will explain the changes and provide for a Q... [Read more](#)

HABITAT CREATION – ARE WE DELIVERING?

Venue: **Fuller/McLellan Room, Lymington Community Centre**

Thursday 20th Feb 1930 , Lymington Community Centre This event is open to all, including non-members. Prior reservation essential. Speaker: Colin Scott, ABP Mer This event is a follow up arising from the London conference in November, but with an emphasis on local habitat creation projects. Consents for development are frequently depend on the restoration or creation of habitat as... [Read more](#)

This newsletter was sent to you because your email address is currently registered on the Solent Protection Society member database. If at any time you would like to be removed from our newsletter mailing list, please send an email to spsnews@solentprotection.org with the word 'Unsubscribe' in the subject line.