

SeaView

The New Forest coast 2019



Going Underground

Farewell Roy

Open for Business

Plastic Problem

Chairman's Report

Welcome to the 2019 edition of Seaview magazine

This year reminds us that our New Forest coastline is constantly changing, from storm Eleanor in early January to cliff slips at Barton on Sea in April. Find out about these two events in this edition of Seaview, along with “Going Underground” catching up with the work our coastal engineers do at Barton, and read about the coast protection works we have done at Hurst and Milford.

Step back in time to read about fossils, and how our historic seawall at Milford on Sea is being protected.

On page six we say a fond farewell to our River Warden, Roy Plummer, who has worked with us for the past 10 years.

Elsewhere in the magazine you can read about our plastic problem which the New Forest coast is not immune to.

We hope you enjoy this year’s edition of Seaview.

This magazine can be made available in large print, Braille, an alternative language or on audio tape on request.

General Housekeeping

As beach huts are exposed to the elements, it is important that they are well maintained, to protect from sun, rain, wind and sea. Well maintained huts add to the overall appeal of our coastline.

Please help us to help you, by keeping your hut secure and well maintained, thereby complying with your license agreement. We will make contact with owners whose huts are in a poor state of repair, and we will follow up where there has been a breach of license conditions, for example with regard to subletting a hut.

Beach hut owners should ensure that they have good security in place. Padlocks and door brackets should be robust. Occasionally, it may be necessary for us to contact owners quickly, so please ensure we have your complete and up to date contact details, you can do this by emailing coastal.team@nfdc.gov.uk

It is important that we are kept informed if and when an owner decides to sell their beach hut, please use Appendix 1 in your license agreement to notify us of a change in ownership.

Finally, barbecues are permitted, but please extinguish thoroughly after use and dispose of in the litter bins provided.

Bonfires are not permitted on the beach.

Your coastal management team are:

Steve Cook

Coastal and Public Facilities Service Manager

Pete Ferguson

Coastal Projects Engineer

Lauren Burt

Graduate Coastal Engineer

Catherine Eastick

Coastal GIS Analyst and support

Judith Lacey

Coastal Administrator

Roy Plummer and Steve Wood

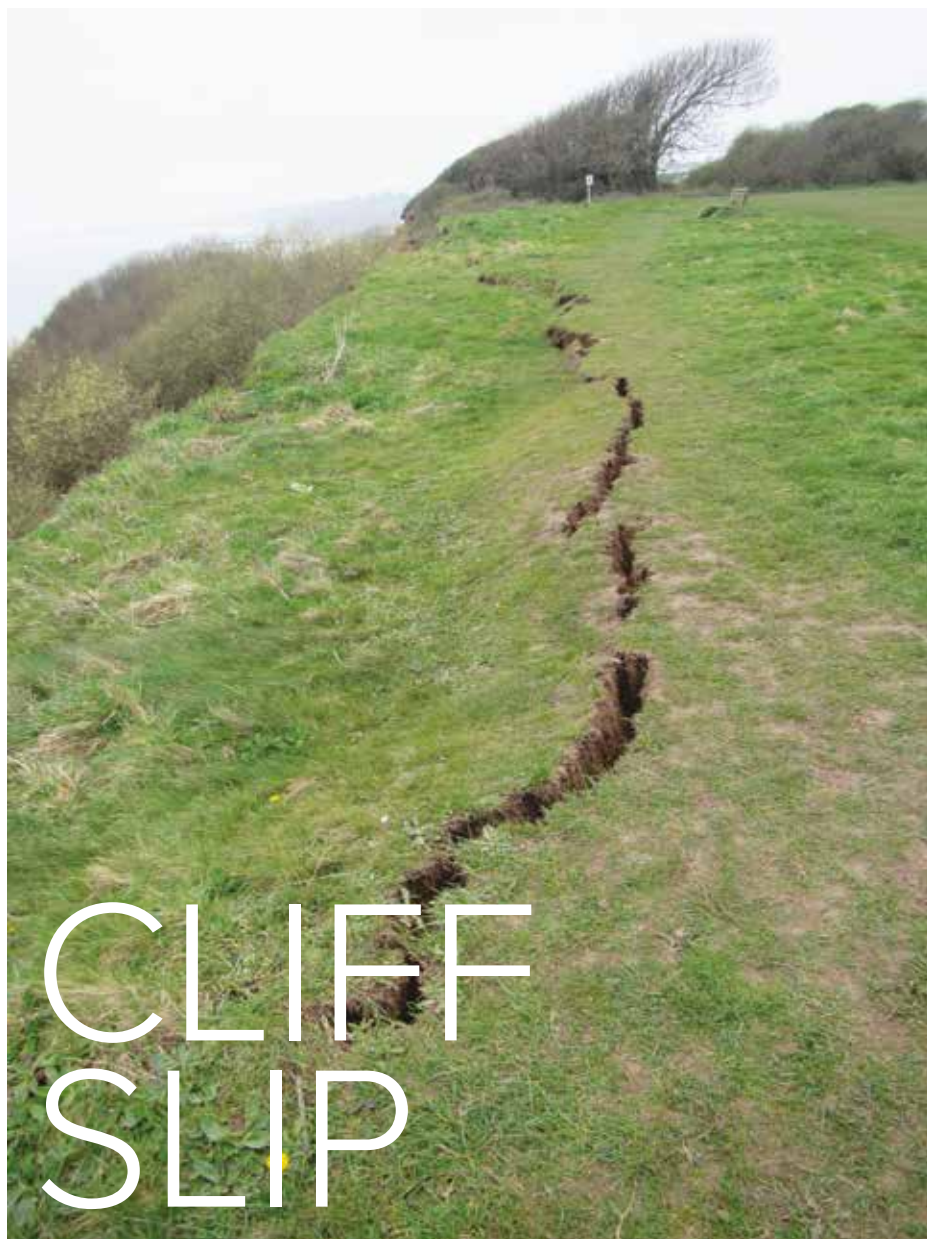
Keyhaven River Wardens

You can contact the team using the email:

[**coastal.team@nfdc.gov.uk**](mailto:coastal.team@nfdc.gov.uk) and

[**keyhavenriverwarden@nfdc.gov.uk**](mailto:keyhavenriverwarden@nfdc.gov.uk)





CLIFF SLIP

Thanks to a vigilant member of the public, the coastal team were alerted to a new failure on the cliff top at Barton on Sea in April.

The area, near to Marine Drive West was fenced off to prevent people from walking too near to the cliff edge, and, a few days later the wedge started to slide down the cliff face. The recent heavy rainfall was thought to have caused the slip.

Although we regularly inspect the coastal cliffs at Barton, we also rely on keen eyed members of the public to alert us to anything they see. You can report any incidents to coastal.team@nfdc.gov.uk.



Doggy reminders

We don't have any restrictions on dogs on our beaches in the New Forest, and owners are free to walk and enjoy the coast with their animals.

Our dog wardens can regularly be seen making visits to the coastal areas reminding people to clean up after their dogs, and they are happy to report that the majority of people do take this responsibility seriously.

Dog mess on the beach is not only unpleasant, but also potentially harmful, so please don't let your enjoyment of our lovely beaches spoil someone else's, but set a good example to others by always cleaning up after your dog. Our litter bins are designed to take dog waste as well as other litter.

Barton Gate Reminder

Barton hut owners are reminded that the gate is open on set days of the month to enable vehicular access to the huts.

Please do not follow the cleaners van, or attempt to go down on any other dates even if you see the gate is open, as you are liable to be accidentally locked in !



New Forest Beach Hut Owners' Association

Chairman's Annual Report

As I sit writing this piece for 'Seaview', shortly before Christmas, with the rain lashing at the windows and the wind howling round the eaves of my house, it is difficult to remember the glorious hot summer weather we experienced along our coastline this year. However 2018 was a remarkably lovely summer season and ideal weather for owners to enjoy their beach huts. Unfortunately both climate change (much in the news,) and more frequent storms, (now given a variety of interesting names,) seem to be becoming a more regular feature of our weather and have been taking their toll on our local geology. The cliffs and pathways at Barton and the movement of shingle in significant quantities at Hordle Cliff have been presenting major issues for owners, particularly at Hordle. Our Association committee has been monitoring the situation carefully and working with our members to offer support and advice where possible. This also applies to those members who have had difficulty at Milford on Sea with the doors on their new huts, a situation we hope will be resolved before too long. At the same time, after a quiet summer on the criminal damage front, from which owners have suffered badly in the past, we have just seen a resurgence of this again in December at Barton. A reminder that if you are effected by this sort of activity to report the crime to the police yourself in order to receive a crime reference number

for insurance purposes, as you cannot pass this job onto someone who is not the hut owner concerned.

In happier news, we had the most wonderful Association outing on 'Ocean Scene' at the start of September. It was the equivalent day to the Sunday in 2017 when we had celebrated the opening of the new huts in Milford on Sea with torrential rain and a driving gale! On the occasion in 2018 however, the beautiful blue skies and constant sunshine were instead the backdrop to our sail along Southampton Water out into the Solent. We also got very up close and personal to four cruise ships and a container ship, all in dock that afternoon. It was fascinating to be alongside these vessels from the water rather than the dock side. To round off a most enjoyable afternoon we had a plentiful and tasty afternoon tea on board. A good time was had by all and photos of our outing are in the members' only social section of our website. Speaking of which, our website with its password protected section, 'Stop Press' and 'click and send' email opportunity to reach committee members is one means of communication in regular use for our members, along with a number of more localised facebook pages.

We had a small change to our committee in 2018 at our Annual General Meeting when Sheila Shields retired as our Honorary secretary due to ill health after 3 years of dedicated service to the

Association. In her place Jan Wise moved from Hordle representative to Secretary and we welcomed Paul Major to the committee as the new representative for Hordle.

Also at our AGM in April we hosted a representative from an insurance company and also supplied materials from a second hut insurer, so members present could explore insurance options for their huts over tea and coffee before the official start of the meeting. This year we are hoping to have representatives from those who build and repair beach huts in this pre-meeting slot. Before the formal business of our AGM we also plan to again have presentations from our Council and local police. The date for your 2019 diary is 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start on Tuesday 30 April, once again in Lyndhurst Community Centre. This is an Association members only event, but at £5 per year for membership, I would encourage everyone who owns a beach hut to either renew, rejoin or take up membership for the first time. The membership year runs from 1st April each year and forms are downloadable from our website www.newforestbeachhuts.com, but we welcome new members all year round.

You will be reading this shortly before the new hutting season gets fully underway, so I hope it brings good things for you and your beach hut.

Shirley Taylor

PLASTIC PROBLEM

It is noticeable on our shorelines that plastic pollution is a growing problem. In 2018, about 380 million tonnes of plastic is produced worldwide each year.

In the UK alone, more than 5 million tonnes of plastic are consumed each year, of which only an estimated one quarter is recycled.

Inevitably, this large amount of plastic waste ends up in the oceans, threatening wildlife through accidental ingestion and entanglement. Ultimately, the plastic doesn't degrade, it only separates to form smaller and smaller pieces, and over time, it can transmit toxic substances such as bisphenol A into the environment.

Plastics in the ocean typically degrade within a year, but, however, not entirely. In the process, toxic chemicals like bisphenol A and polystyrene can leach into water. Polystyrene pieces and nurdles are the most common types of plastic pollution within our oceans, and combined with plastic bags and food containers make up the majority of oceanic debris.



It has been estimated that there are more than 5 trillion plastic pieces afloat at sea. This plastic litter can be toxic to marine and human life. Plankton, fish and ultimately humans through the food chain ingest these highly toxic chemicals including lead, cadmium and mercury.



What can we do?

The main type of plastic being used by businesses is petroleum based plastics. Businesses should switch to compostable items which break down within 90 days and do not leave a toxic residue. We can also help by cutting down our use of single use plastics, and use recycled or reusable containers for food and drink. Some supermarkets now charge their customers for plastic bags, and in some places more efficient reusable or biodegradable materials are being used in place of plastics. Other communities and businesses have put a ban on some commonly used plastic items, such as bottled water and plastic bags.

Our own New Forest coastline is not immune to the plastic problem.



Farewell Roy



I caught up with Roy Plummer, our River Warden at Keyhaven recently, who will be retiring in March after 10 years in the job.

I asked Roy about his role as River Warden, and this is what he told me.

"The first thing I do is a visual inspection of the moorings and boats from the quayside to ensure there have been no incidents overnight, for example boats broken free or ending up on the marsh. I then check the weather for the day from two different sources, and then interpolate this and put it up on the information board outside the office. It must be remembered that Keyhaven is quite unusual in that it has a natural micro climate all of its own. I put up information relevant to sailors, dog walkers, birdwatchers and other river users.

I see my role as part police man part PR man, whose main purpose is to ensure the Council's wishes are carried out in the management of the river. It must be remembered that various people come to use Keyhaven, from boating people, yachts with moorings, commercial



fishing, chartered angling boats and it also has a working boatyard. It is the second most important wetland in the UK, with two sailing clubs, a ferry that runs from the quay to Hurst Castle, and accommodates walkers and bird watchers. All these groups have different priorities, and sometimes conflicts, so I resolve these conflicts and try to stop them happening in the first place, while making sure that the Council's requirements are overarching.

As far as income goes, we have two main sources - the launching fees at the quay, and a mooring fee. All income collected goes to the upkeep of Keyhaven. Keyhaven is a special place, which is a SSSI and it is a safe haven, and all of these things have to be remembered if it is to remain an environmental asset.

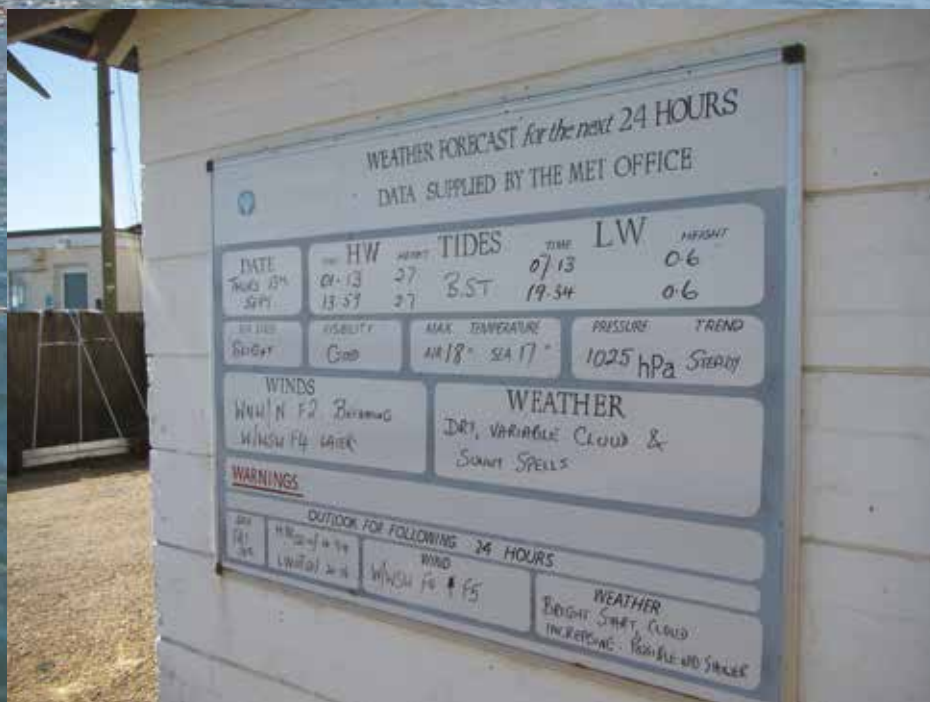
The best part of the job is the interaction with the public in view of people enjoying themselves, and also being on the water which is part and parcel of the job. I very much enjoy the remote working that I do, and working on my own initiative which is key, because I have to make judgements which aren't always in black and white, but always paramount is the safety of yourself and other river users.

I've also seen some funny moments on the quay - lots of them - but data protection doesn't let me make them public!

In retirement I'm going to be out and about within the UK as much as possible, when the weather is good, and also going out on my own boat."

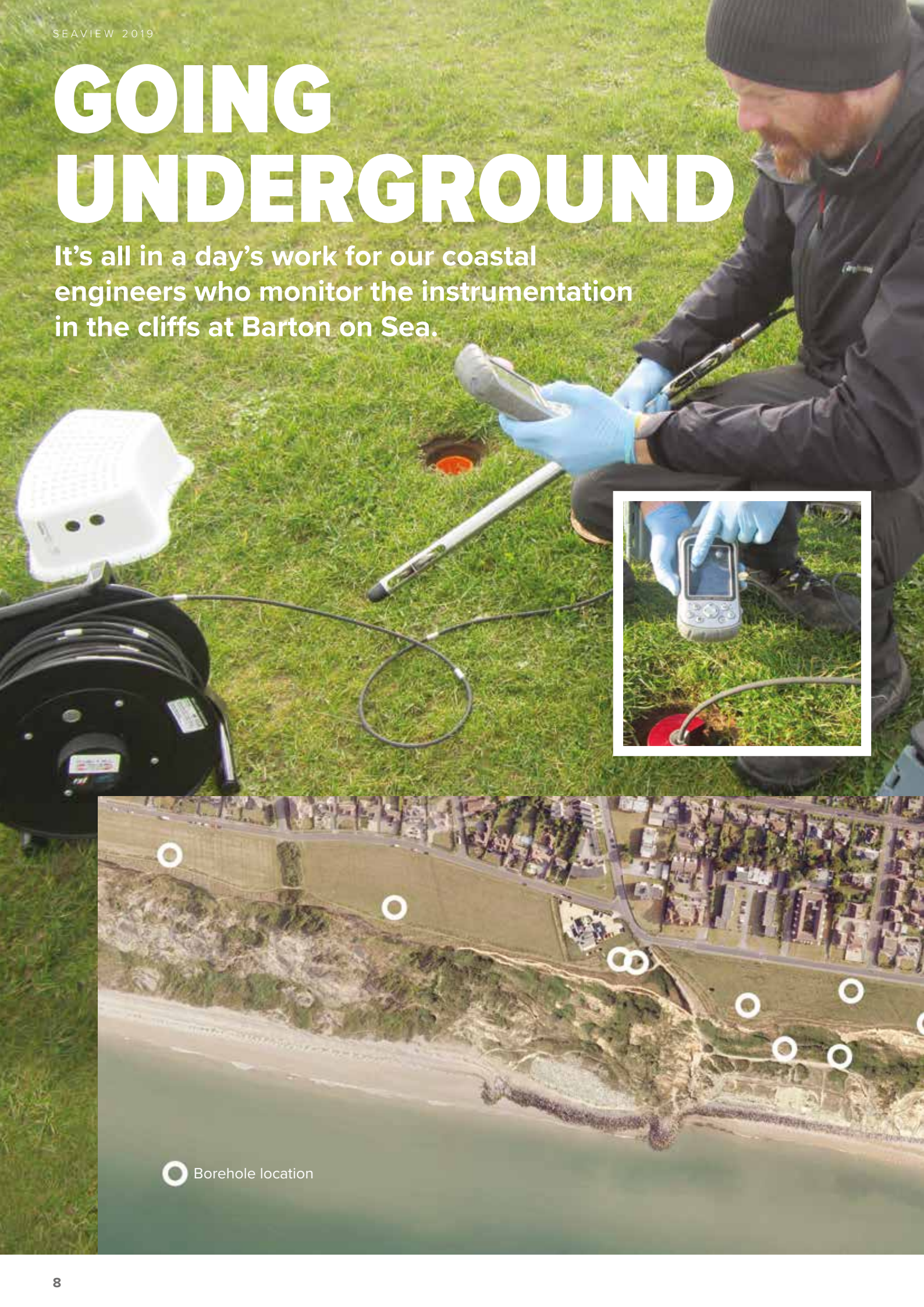
Roy, we wish you well!

“I've thoroughly enjoyed my time here as the full time River Warden, no two days are the same.”



GOING UNDERGROUND

It's all in a day's work for our coastal engineers who monitor the instrumentation in the cliffs at Barton on Sea.



○ Borehole location

The cliffs are comprised of layers of clay and sand with a capping of gravel, and the process of erosion is due to both the sea attacking the base of the cliff, and the presence of ground water.

The rock structures along the base of the cliff provide protection from the sea, without these the sea would remove clay and sand, thus leading to instability, slumping and recession of the cliff.

Ground water moving through the sands and gravels to the impermeable clay strata can also cause instability, by exerting pressure at the interface between the different layers which can result in landslides.

History

Since the late 1960s the engineering response to coastal instability has focused on maintaining the stability of the cliff. This has been achieved using rock armour and rock groynes to protect the cliff toe from wave attack and to add weighting to reduce the landsliding risk. Additionally, a groundwater drainage system, consisting of a sheet piled wall and drainage pipes removes the water from the cliff.

Recently, a series of deep seated landslides and shallow mudslides has caused significant sections of the sheet piled wall and drainage system west of Hoskin's Gap to fail. There are concerns that further cliff instability could reduce the effectiveness of the toe protection structures.

Funding

So in 2010, we secured government funding of £300,000 to carry out ground investigations at Barton on Sea. A number of boreholes were installed to sample, test and monitor the subsurface geology. A total of 18 boreholes were installed, with 10 situated on the cliff top and a further 8 along the undercliff. Each borehole was installed to a depth of between 20 and 35 m and a subsurface geological survey was also undertaken along the cliff top.

Following consultation, the adopted policy at Barton on Sea is managed realignment. The intention of this policy is to maintain a degree of control over cliff recession through the maintenance and adaptation of existing defences and to investigate ways to improve drainage and reduce the erosion rate. This study is the first stage in helping to deliver this policy.

Monitoring

Monitoring instruments were fitted inside the boreholes to detect subsurface movement and ground water levels.

We regularly download the data from these instruments, combined with monthly slope movement monitoring and rainfall data collection. This data will be used to produce a feasibility report that will detail options for the future management of Barton on Sea.

Aims

The aims of this study are to:

- Enable a better understanding of the site
- Gain better information on current ground movement, cliff erosion and groundwater level
- Develop viable engineering and management options





Open for business

Eling Tide Mill, a Grade II* listed mill, has stood at the centre of life in Eling for centuries and is one of only a handful of working tide mills left in the UK.

In 2015 a partnership between New Forest District Council the mill owners and Totton and Eling Town Council who operate the facility, invested in its future after securing a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and during its closure, work on all four parts of The project began. This included essential conservation works of the mill, extending and developing the visitor centre to include a hands on interactive display and café, and improving access to our outdoor areas of Goatee Beach and Bartley Water.

It opened it's door as Eling Tide Mill Experience in early April and was officially opened by HRH The Duke of Gloucester on 24 April 2018, the event was witnessed by many locals and school children alike.

Flour continues to be milled at Eling and this makes up an important revenue contribution to ensure the mill's future sustainability.

Find out more at
elingexperience.co.uk



New exhibition at Hurst Castle

A brand new exhibition has been erected in one of the gun rooms at Hurst Castle.

This new exhibition replaces the one which has been in place since the major recharge scheme at Hurst in 1996. The new exhibition tells the coastal management story of Hurst, and our plans past, present and future.



Milford on Sea shingle top up

We undertook works to increase beach levels at Milford on Sea in Spring 2018.

The works involved delivery of 5000T of shingle to the beach over a period of 3 weeks, commencing on 23 April.

The public were still able to access the lower promenade and beach huts from all access steps apart from the central set adjacent to the public conveniences where the shingle was delivered to the beach. Public safety was managed by banksmen and there was provision for the public to walk around the perimeter of the compound.

Mechanical plant was located on the beach to spread the shingle to both the east and the west in order to fill up the groyne bays that require a top up, above the level of mean high water.

On this occasion, the shingle is “beneficial use” material, rather than from a quarry, which means it originates from a marine source. This means the material is being reused rather than being disposed of and there are significant savings and environmental benefits.



HURST RECYCLING



We undertook routine maintenance to Hurst Spit in the early spring of 2018, as part of our Beach Management Plan, which was funded by the Environment Agency.

For these works, shingle was recycled from an area known as North Point, which is located at the end of Hurst Spit, where it recurves back towards the land, and a location where sand and shingle naturally accumulates.

This recent operation was undertaken by Earlcoate Construction, who are a locally based contractor with substantial experience of working in the coastal environment. The operation consisted of shingle being removed from the tip of North Point, using a land based excavator, before being loaded into dump trucks and then transported back onto the Spit.

The shingle was placed on the landward face of the Spit in areas which have been subjected to erosion and narrowing following winter storms. In total, approximately 7,200T was excavated and placed onto the shingle bank which is equivalent to about 300 dumper truck loads.

This work enabled the Spit to be widened by up to 3 or 4 metres in places, thus increasing stability and protection to future wave impact.



Safety First

Safety is very important at the coast, and for this reason we own and operate a total of 29 life rings and 4 life lines on our coastal frontage, stretching from Eling near Southampton right down to our boundary with Christchurch at Highcliffe.

The life ring is designed to be thrown into the water to provide buoyancy to the person and to prevent drowning. The ring has a connecting line allowing the casualty to be pulled ashore. The life ring is designed to be used more than once.

Our coastal safety inspector checks them on a weekly basis to make sure they are in good working order.

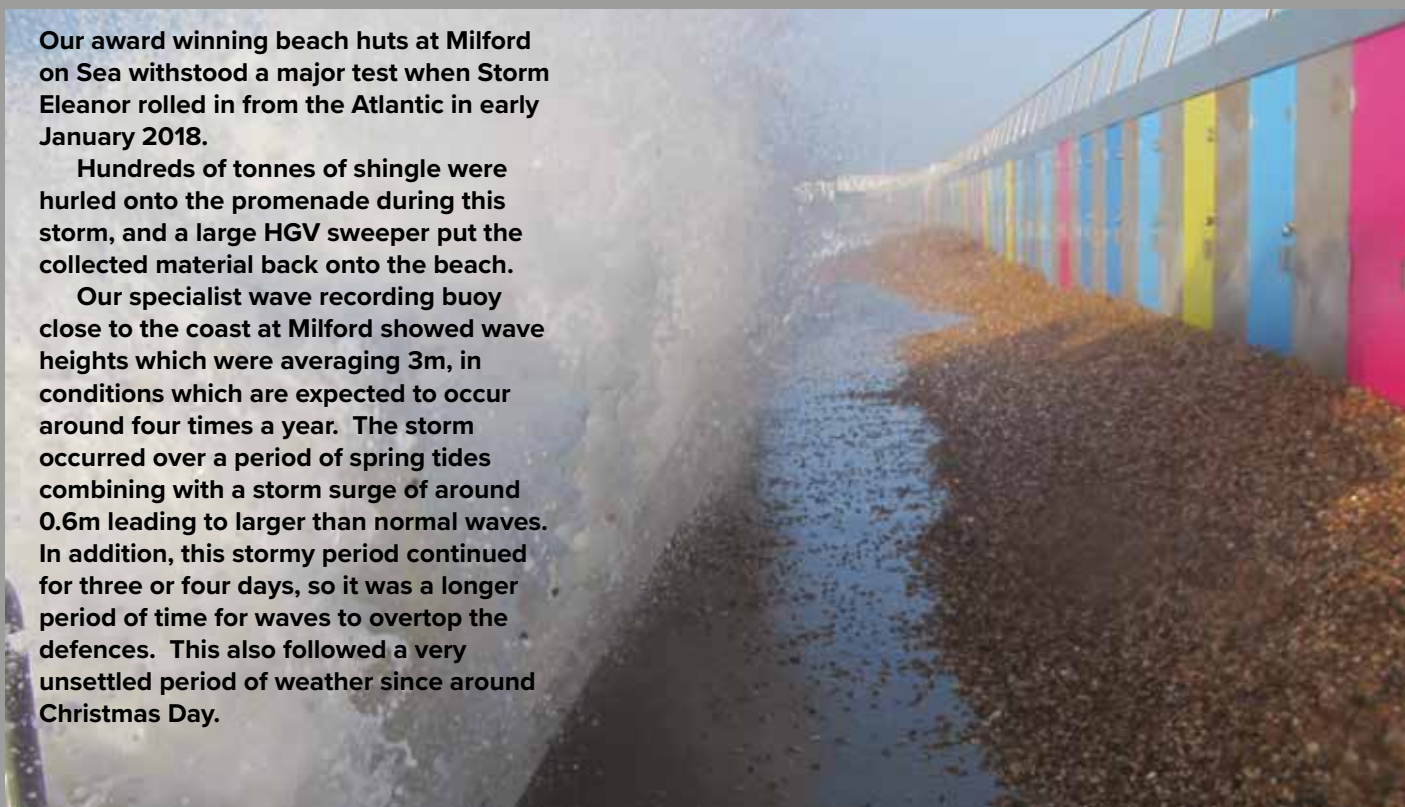


Storm force

Our award winning beach huts at Milford on Sea withstood a major test when Storm Eleanor rolled in from the Atlantic in early January 2018.

Hundreds of tonnes of shingle were hurled onto the promenade during this storm, and a large HGV sweeper put the collected material back onto the beach.

Our specialist wave recording buoy close to the coast at Milford showed wave heights which were averaging 3m, in conditions which are expected to occur around four times a year. The storm occurred over a period of spring tides combining with a storm surge of around 0.6m leading to larger than normal waves. In addition, this stormy period continued for three or four days, so it was a longer period of time for waves to overtop the defences. This also followed a very unsettled period of weather since around Christmas Day.



Seaview Survey

The audience of Seaview magazine are invited to participate in this feedback survey, the results of which will be used to inform future editions of the annual magazine. The survey should not take any longer than five minutes to complete.

Your responses are highly valued. We do not require any personal information or registration to participate in this survey.

<https://goo.gl/forms/K4ig5nAT3glJpq283>



Great British Beach Clean

25th
year

The Marine Conservation Society have reported that their Great British Beach Clean, which we reported on last year in Seaview magazine, was the biggest mass participation beach clean and survey event in the UK.

The charity says the event, held over 4 days in September, involved just short of 15000 volunteers, double the number in 2017.

A total of 8550 kg of litter was picked up across the whole of the UK. Volunteer cleaners picked up an average of 600 items of litter for every 100 metres of beach surveyed. On average, for every 100 metres of the UK coastline cleaned, there were:

- 189 plastic or polystyrene pieces
- 38 plastic caps and lids
- 21 cotton bud sticks
- 16 drinks bottles and cans
- 12 wet wipes
- 5 plastic bags
- 3 plastic or polystyrene cups



Find out more at: <https://www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch/greatbritishbeachclean>

Holes in the wall

We carried out essential repair works to the stepped seawall at Milford on Sea over the autumn period. Since its construction in the 1960s, it has suffered repeated damage by shingle and wave action, and needed urgent attention to ensure its future stability.

Several holes had appeared, and these were filled with concrete, however, without maintenance, it is likely that over time, the wall's condition will deteriorate further. This was the first phase of works; subsequent works will be undertaken in 2019/20.

The work was carried out by Graham Attrill Civil Engineering, based on the Isle of Wight, and lasted approximately five weeks, with work being undertaken as the tidal and weather window allowed.



THE NEW FOREST
HORDLE BEACH

LEAVE NOTHING BUT FOOTPRINTS

Take your litter home

