

# Bridport (West Bay) & Lyme Regis Harbours Report

Harbours Committee  
23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

James Radcliffe

Bridport (West Bay) Harbour Master

Lyme Regis Interim Harbour Master



# Bridport Harbour Use

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 To Date
Season Tickets	97	98	118	108	74
Single Launches	522	513	415	454	405
Visiting Boats Nights	88	136	138	183	49
Boat Lifts (New 2018)			62 £8,804	76 £9,463	£3,975.37
Quay Side Parking	£3,935	£3,690	£4,566	£6015.42	£4,409.18
Shop (New 2018)			£7,917	£21,042.01	£8,064.47
Diving Air Fills	£18,691	£19,455	£18,352	£15,522.68	£9,003.33
Boat Repairs (New 2018)			£411	£12,517.06	£3,983.33
Waiting List	56	36	40	14	25
Private Moorings	141	141	141	139	139
Commercial Moorings	22	22	22	25	25

## End of March position

- The season ticket, launch fees and quayside parking haven't increased and this is normal for time of year
- The shop and boat repairs have shown a steady increase and continue to do so
- The diving air fills have increased only slightly, due to the continuing poor weather and divers not being able to go to sea. No air fills have been done on weekends compared to last winter where the divers dived all winter. Also, the quality of the scallops caught by the commercial divers are not at their best, resulting in less value for the divers

## To date position

- Season ticket sales are lower but single launches are already in line with last year, due to the shortened season people opted to pay by day rather than the year
- Visiting boats seem low, it has been noted many regular visitors haven't been this year
- Boat lifts will be expected to be lower this year, due to mooring holders choosing not to returned to the water and leaving their vessels on the harbour side instead
- Quay side parking has been well used
- The shop has been steady, however COVID restrictions have had an impact. We hope to see winter maintenance pick up the sales
- Air fills continued for key workers (commercial divers) but since the easing of lockdown, recreational diving has still remained quiet and a reduced income is expected
- Boat repairs, last year's figures included sales from equipment used for repairs. This has now been separated and goes through the shop. Very few repairs were carried out during lockdown and the shortened summer season. We continue to push the service. Bookings have been made for this winter period

- The waiting list remains higher currently than last year and we are looking at promoting availability to maintain a full harbour

# Lyme Regis Harbour Use

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 To Date
Season Tickets	41	51	63	39	44
Single Launches	150	165	180	217	178
Visiting Boats Nights	180	210	340	223	133
Boat Lifts	70	68	75	76 £11,248	£3,002.49
Quay Side Parking			£250	£4066	£4,305
Waiting List	28	28	20	28	27
Private Moorings	208	206	208	177	182
Commercial Moorings	34	36	36	37	34

## End of March position

- The season ticket, launch fees and quayside parking haven't increased and this is normal for time of year
- Income for boat lifting remains high with the lifts in due to take place at the end of March

## To Date Position

- Following the easing of lockdown and great weather, season tickets and launching sales increased reaching numbers seen last year
- There has been a steady stream of visiting vessels with the pontoons and buoys being well used. We have seen an increase in fin keeled yachts resulting from the new dredged depths
- Boat lifts will be expected to be lower this year, due to mooring holders choosing not to returned to the water and leaving their vessels on the harbour side instead
- Quay side parking is proving to be popular and well used
- Waiting list remains steady with a lot of allocations this year and new people joining the list

# Harbour Staff

## Bridport

- Harbour Master – James Radcliffe
- Assistant HM – Ben Harvey
- Harbour Engineer – Ben Renshaw
- Seasonal Assistants
- John Hilton & John Penny

## Lyme Regis

- Harbour Master – James Radcliffe(Interim)
- Assistant HM – Mike Higgs
- Seasonal Assistants
- Stuart Wain, Rich Quint, Phil Noakes & Rosa Parkin

## Harbour Admin

- Becky McGowan

## Current situation

Simon Hanley left Lyme through the winter so there was a need to recruit.

We now have 3 new seasonal staff, enabling us to have continuous harbour cover throughout the season.

We delayed starting the new staff due to lockdown.

The new Seasonal staff and Ben Harvey have worked well across both harbours giving us more of a consistent approach to implementing harbour rules and charges.

Allowing us to cover the harbour for more hours has had a positive effect on the harbour income.

# Harbour Works

## Lyme Regis

### Slipway Improvement works

- An application has been sent to the MMO.
- A planning application has also been submitted.

### Pontoon Anchor system

- Final decision was made on the piles not being an option.
- EMFF grant has been approved for 75% of the cost towards the new anchor system, the equipment didn't arrive in time for this season but is all at the harbour ready for next year.
- The EMFF grant has been claimed and is awaiting payment.

### Harbour Master and Fishermen storage building

- The storage area near to Ozone Terrace has been identified
- An application has been submitted and is awaiting committee approval
- I have been informed finances for the build have been approved

### HRO

- A paper is being presented at this Committee regarding the development of Harbour Revision Orders for Bridport and Lyme Regis. The Committee previously agreed to the Lyme Regis HRO, but having consulted with a maritime solicitor recently it was determined that it would be prudent to update legislation for all harbours.

## Bridport Harbour

### Timber piles

- Works were delayed until 26<sup>th</sup> February when the 2 weeks planned works took place. This phase of the works is now complete.
- Further timber pile renewal is planned for late 2020 for which a budget of 20k has been set aside.

### Dredging

The tendering process for the dredging took place through February and Royal Smalls have been appointed.

The dredging was delayed until July due the lockdown on areas restricting the movement of the plant. Lyme Regis was dredged first and we managed to achieve depths on the pontoons ranging from 1meter below chart datum at the landward end to 2 meters below at the seaward end, these depths haven't been achieved before.

Bridport followed and depths of 2 meters below chart datum were achieved. Material was deposited on the far West Beach.

# Accidents and Incidents

## Bridport

This summer we have had a couple of small boats sink mainly due to poor mooring and inadequate fendering.

## Lyme Regis

In January a member of the public slipped off the high wall into the sea and was rescued by two paddle boarders and then handed the casualty to the lifeboat crew and coast guards to be checked over.

Following the incident safety inspections and signage were checked and reviewed.

The review highlighted some better signage would be beneficial and these are now in place on each access point to the high wall.

The new signs have the following warnings

- Slippery surface
- Unguarded edge
- No access in high winds

The new large signs have warning symbols clear enough for all to see.

## Weather

Remarkably both harbours have fared very well during recent winter storms.

# Lockdown

When Harbours went into lockdown both Bridport and Lyme Regis were in the fortunate position that the private/leisure users hadn't returned to the harbour for the season. This made it easier for us to control.

Locking both slipways and stopping boat lifting meant the opportunity for the private user to get out to sea was managed easily.

During lockdown the staff used their time to maintain areas which would normally be difficult during the summer period.

Tasks included

- Painting
- Mooring maintenance
- Cleaning
- Pressure washing

The commercial fishermen classed as key workers carried on with their daily routines and the landing areas were closed to the general public to assist giving them a clean and safe environment to work in.

Notice to Mariners (NTM)

Several NTM were issued during lockdown. Official guidance was slow in being released and unclear which made it difficult to put measures in place and inform harbour users of the restrictions.

This caused issues with harbour user's especially the charter/tripping vessels. A NTM was issued with permission to operate, the next day official guidance was clarified and an updated NTM was issued with permission being revoked along with sincere apologies.

Following the easing of lockdown, we managed a slow opening of the harbours, now fully operational. Both harbours have been busy with harbour usage being higher than expected.

# Events

Bridport's Boxing day swim was cancelled due to the weather.

Lyme's New Year's Day swim went ahead and was very well attended.

The events calendars for both harbours were full but due to the current situation all events up until now have been cancelled. The powerboat event is due to go ahead at Bridport in October.