# Salvage of Mike Lynch’s superyacht begins as Suffolk estate mourns



A carpet of vibrant spring bluebells has emerged around Loudham Hall, a sprawling 2,300-acre estate in Pettistree, Suffolk, which was once home to British tech entrepreneur Mike Lynch. The estate now stands in stark contrast to the lively activity projected to unfold in Porticello, Sicily, where the wreck of Lynch’s superyacht, Bayesian, will soon be raised from the seabed.

Lynch, who died alongside his daughter Hannah when the yacht sank during a violent storm on 19 August 2022, left behind a family mourning their loss. The couple’s widow, Angela Bacares Lynch, and their elder daughter Esme, have since retreated to their London residence, a £7.2 million Georgian terrace in Chelsea, focusing on a quieter life after the tragedy. Ray Bowler, secretary of the Red Poll Cattle Society, noted that Angela is intent on keeping her late husband’s beloved herd of Red Poll cattle on the estate as a memorial, stating, “she is adamant they’re going to stay as a memorial to Mike, as long as they’re still living at Loudham Hall.”

Once a vibrant family home filled with laughter and cherished moments, Loudham Hall now serves as “a mausoleum of memories” following the devastating loss. The gates remain firmly shut, embodying a poignant reminder of a life once lived together.

In contrast, the fishing village of Porticello is becoming a hub of media activity, with journalists and crews expected to converge as the operation to recover Bayesian is set to commence. Following its sinking, the luxury vessel lies on its side at a depth of 164 feet, after being struck by winds reaching up to 110 mph. The £30 million yacht, featuring a 184-foot hull and a 237-foot mast, was once a pinnacle of opulence and is being salvaged as an intricate operation involving multiple floating cranes and advanced technology. Giovanni Rizzuti, the Lynch family's lawyer in Italy, described the salvage operation as a “delicate” and “challenging” undertaking, highlighting that it would be divided into two phases, including high-tech scanning and underwater cutting.

Concerns surrounding leaks of the estimated 18,000 litres of fuel still aboard the yacht have prompted meticulous planning. The salvage crew, comprised of around 80 specialists, is focused not only on recovering the vessel but also on ensuring environmental safety amidst ongoing criminal investigations into the circumstances surrounding its sinking. The investigation scrutinises the actions of the yacht's captain, James Cutfield, and the crew members involved, who face potential charges of culpable shipwreck and manslaughter related to the seven lives lost that night.

The tragedy has left profound questions unanswered, with speculations regarding possible oversights contributing to the disaster including open portholes or a blackout. The Italian Sea Group, which designed the yacht, has stated plans for legal action against media outlets that questioned its safety following the incident.

Once recovered, Bayesian will be inspected extensively in the Sicilian harbour of Termini Imerese to ascertain what led to the accident. However, a veil of secrecy surrounds both the recovery efforts and subsequent inspections. A substantial security perimeter has been established to regulate access, while special attention is paid to the local community grappling with the loss of life associated with the incident.

Angela and Esme Lynch have chosen to remain in the UK during the salvage operation; however, close relatives and friends offer support amidst a tumultuous legal landscape involving the late Mike Lynch’s business affairs. As many know, before his death, he was embroiled in significant legal controversies linked to the sale of his software company, Autonomy, which had been sold to Hewlett Packard for £7.4 billion. Despite being cleared of fraud in the US, HP’s civil claims could impose devastating financial repercussions on the Lynch family, potentially impacting their assets significantly.

As the families of other victims, including crew members and passengers, await the conclusion of criminal investigations, many seek answers and justice for their loss. Among them are the family of chef Recaldo ‘Rick’ Thomas, who was one of the first bodies recovered from the water. His family demands accountability and seeks transparency in an industry often shrouded in secrecy.

Back in Suffolk, residents reflect on Mike Lynch’s legacy, recalling him as a respected figure who was generous and engaging within the community. With ongoing tributes from those who knew him, there remains a hope that, despite the tragedy's overwhelming shadow, Angela may find moments of solace within the familiar grounds of Loudham Hall, orienting towards a gradual path forward amidst profound loss.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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