

Spring 2017

Friends of
Chichester Harbour



Newsletter



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Harbour water



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One fish,
two fish



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Cobnor Point:

During last winter the seawall at Cobnor Point, one of the best vantage points in the Harbour, was badly damaged and there was an urgent need to repair it in advance of this season. So the landowner and the local community came together and asked for our support. For more information see page 4.

From our New Chairman

Welcome to our Spring newsletter. It contains lots of very interesting articles but before touching on those I want to introduce myself.

I first came to the West Wittering for the windsurfing in the late 80s and in 1995 bought a cottage there. Five years ago I was lucky enough to be able to change direction and focus on voluntary work, organising mountaineering trips, advising small businesses on HR matters and supporting my wife, Kate's, full time career in London.

When in Wittering, I still windsurf off the beach and kayak in and around the Harbour. In October I walked the entire shore footpath with the new treasurer to "walk the bounds".

Like all voluntary organisations, the Friends face challenges. We need to clearly explain what we do, so current and potential Friends can see where their money and time goes. This must cover how we complement the Conservancy so as there is no confusion about roles. They are a body set up by Act of Parliament charged with conserving, maintaining and improving the Harbour and AONB, whereas we are an entirely voluntary organisation set up to preserve and improve the beauty of the harbour, and we do that through projects, work parties and other soft assistance to mainly the conservancy, but also other organisations around the harbour.



I want to keep the Friends as a key force in our Harbour and surrounding landscape for the present and future generations to enjoy. I aim to increase our numbers, through improving our links to all the local clubs and organisations, getting people interested in our Harbour earlier in their lives.



In closing I want to thank a group of people who have worked incredibly hard on our new website (see page 7), which now offers the capability to join and pay on-line.

1. Steph Janes of Red Leaf Design who designed and set up our new front end. We've had lots of compliments on it.
2. Founders & Coders who have implemented the new member database system which allows online access and payment. (They are a not-for-profit social enterprise who provide free, but very high quality, training in coding skills to young people, often from disadvantaged backgrounds)
3. Chris Harvey who has taken over as Webmaster for the Friends.
4. Most of all, to our ex-Treasurer, Richard Evans, who has specified and overseen the development of it all.

Oliver Chipperfield

FoCH News

FoCH Fleeces

FOCH has made arrangements with its supplier, TShirt Print Online to enable Members and their families to purchase garments embroidered with the FOCH LOGO and website address. In order to purchase these garments, please open the link to access the relevant part of the TShirt Print Online site, where you will find a mini-brochure showing the garments

and colours available embroidered with the logo:

<http://tshirtprint.co.uk/page/about-us/customer/friends-of-chi-harbour-apparel>



Event Organiser Needed



We are always looking for new volunteers but, after five years our Events Manager, Val Evans, would like to step down and we are looking for a volunteer to

take the role on. It's likely to appeal to someone who enjoys organising interesting, fun social events and meeting people. It's a unique way of developing a diverse circle of friends around the whole Harbour.

The Events Manager is well supported by an Events Administrator who handles bookings and payments plus an enthusiastic and hard working Events Committee. If you think you might be interested please contact either chair@friendsch.org or events@friendsch.org.

Southern Water - helping keep Chichester Harbour special

One of the key environmental concerns for the Friends of Chichester Harbour, is the water quality and Sarah Newman asked Paul Kent, Southern Water Environment & Wastewater Strategy Manager, to explain their approach.

Each and every day, Southern Water plays a key part in safeguarding Chichester Harbour's environment, enabling it to be enjoyed by tens of thousands of people a year.

Our Chichester Wastewater Treatment Works, located at Apuldram to the south west of the city, serves a population of around 40,000 across the area. The site receives and treats millions of litres of wastewater daily, helping protect and enhance water quality in the River Lavant and Chichester Harbour.

The equipment at the works now includes a £2 million ultra-violet



disinfection system, allowing up to 300 litres of storm-water to be treated per second. This unique approach to treating storm-water is significantly improving the quality of flows released to Chichester Harbour during storm conditions, in order to prevent the sewerage system from backing up and potentially leading to flooding of local properties. Flows are sent through a concrete channel fitted with a series of powerful UV lamps (see inset photo), with the UV light generated by the lamps killing off bacteria and viruses.

Supporting local growth

The Government has identified the need for hundreds of new homes to be provided in Chichester District over the next decade and a half. As a result, we are investing at the Tangmere works, to make sure we can cater for rising demand for wastewater services, while

continuing to protect and improve the local environment.

We are an active member of the Chichester Water Quality Group, which has been working for a number of years to make sure local development does not adversely impact water quality in Chichester Harbour. The group, which also includes Chichester District Council, West Sussex County Council, the Environment Agency, Natural England and Chichester Harbour Conservancy, is helping to inform our investment approach for the years ahead.

As part of our ongoing commitment to further support the communities we serve, we continue to work closely with the Friends of Chichester Harbour, including sponsoring this publication and we will now have a regular column to explain our activities.



21 lorry-loads of Purbeck stone placed by a partnership of local people



Paul Adams

One of the most spectacular parts of the Harbour, Cobnor Point, needed some urgent repairs after last winter's storm damage. So the Friends of Chichester Harbour partnered with the Cobnor estate plus the landowners (the Beale family), and the Conservancy, to repair the damaged wall using 420 tonnes of stone from Swanage.

Cobnor Point is important for its strategic position with a truly magnificent, expansive view of the water of the Harbour, its wonderful wildlife habitat and because it is one of the most accessible for the disabled community – the damaged footpath has been constructed to take wheelchairs. In early 2016 the seawall took a real beating from Storm Katie and holes began to appear in the banks and the footpath became difficult to pass especially for wheelchairs.

The Friends of Chichester Harbour were asked for help and this came in both a financial grant of £12,500 to pay for the stone and labour with many hours provided by our voluntary rangers, in particular. This was not easy work! The stone was

delivered by a small dumper truck, driven by Pete Baldwin of B&M plant hire (see panel opposite) and the stones individually placed by hand. They used a mix of large base stones to withstand the waves and smaller ones to add to the aesthetics and to provide a base for vegetation.



and smaller ones to add to the aesthetics

Diana Beale, owner and manager of the Cobnor estate, said, 'The contribution from the Friends was invaluable. It enabled us to complete the work in minimum time and ensuring we were ready for this winter's storms. Thank you.'



Diana Beale



Diana Beale

Note: Other footpaths with wheelchair access – Prinsted, Itchenor, North Common (Northney), Sandy Point (Hayling Island). For more information see: www.conservancy.co.uk/page/access_for_all/343



Pete Baldwin is a big friend of the Harbour. Not only has he lived in Chidham for 65 years, he has also worked for B&M plant hire for over 30 and has therefore been involved on Harbour projects, as well as being a local volunteer, for many, many years.

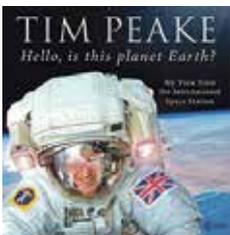
Not surprisingly, his favourite part of the Harbour is Cobnor, though he had a little fishing boat which he launched from the end of Harbour Way, when he was a child, so he also loves being on the water.

Pete has played a unique role in the development of Cobnor Point over the years as he has acted as an unofficial advisor especially to Diana Beale, using his knowledge of the environment as well as his physical energy, to make things happen. This time his biggest challenge was the difficulty of getting the stones from the lorries to the seawall because the dumper could not use the bridges and access is limited. His mantra in all these projects is to let common sense prevail! Pete would like to see a Chichester Harbour consultative group with people with an in-depth knowledge and experience of the environment, advising on major development projects before they are handed to outside contractors. [editor: could the Friends make this a reality?]



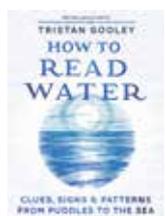
Good Reads

Hello, is this planet Earth?: My View from the International Space Station, Tim Peake



If like me you are still suffering with withdrawal symptoms from following the adventures of Tim Peake during his time in space, then this book is the perfect antidote. Featuring 150 of his photographs, showing views of the earth we have never seen before, and with a warm and witty commentary this is a book you

will come back to time and time again. Don't miss the photo on p178, showing our own beautiful harbour and Tim's home town Chichester.



How to Read Water, Tristan Gooley

Tristan hails from Arundel but has travelled extensively throughout the world. He has previously written about natural navigation and now has turned his attention to what we can learn

Available from Waterstones

from water. Using knowledge he has picked up on his travels, Tristan has taught himself how to look at a patch of water and to 'read' it. It includes such useful tips as how to recognise dangerous water in the dark and how to read the patterns in the sand. Chichester Harbour is one of his favourite places locally, he told us, 'I love walking at East Head on a sinking spring tide. It is a time to watch the Winner bank slowly rear its head out of the water, like some lackadaisical gravelly whale.'



Chichester Harbour is one of his favourite places locally

News in Numbers

The AGM

1800 man hours given to harbour projects

£11.5k to Conservancy projects

Terror passengers +53%



Dark-bellied Brent Geese

Great Britain: 113,253

Chichester Harbour: 16,446
ie almost **15%** of the country's birds winter here!

Data from: Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) for winter 2014/15



iStock

An interesting Grave at Northney

Last October a re-dedication was held at a grave for a Russian Princess, Northney. *Martin Rhodes* tells us her story.



The eastern shore of Hayling Island marking the western side of Chichester Harbour AONB is not easily accessible by the public but the attractive village of Northney and its picturesque church St Peter's is, and well worth visiting. Try Walk 7 in Chichester Harbour "A Walker's Guide" or drive and park in St Peter's Churchyard.

See historical graves of interest in the Churchyard and read about their lives in the telephone box, converted to a Visitor Centre, by the village hall. The most prominent is Princess Catherine Yourievsky. She was the youngest daughter of the Emperor of Russia, Tsar Alexander II and related to Queen Victoria through Victoria's great granddaughter, Alexandra, married to Tsar Nicholas II. The Bolsheviks murdered Nicholas and Alexandra along with their children in 1918. [editor: as of War and Peace fame!]

Princess Catherine Yourievsky spent the last 27 years of her life living on Hayling Island. The inscription on her gravestone, which had become barely legible, has been renewed and the stone refurbished. A service of rededication, panikhida, was held last October.

First Secretary Alexander Novikov led a small group from the Russian Embassy and one of the three Orthodox Archpriests conducting the panikhida was local too, The Very Reverend Archpriest Maxim Nikolsky BA. He had been brought up in Northney. His father, an immigrant, worked on

Northney Farm but was also a prolific well known local artist. His mother was a sculptress. They are buried close to Princess Catherine Yourievsky' grave.

A fuller account of Princess Catherine's life can be read in leaflets available in St Peter's Church or in the telephone box Visitor Centre. Briefly, in 1878 she was born into the glittering world of St Petersburg. Her father the Tsar was assassinated when she was 3 years old. During the Russian Revolution she and her second husband Prince Serge Oblenski slipped out of Russia and settled in England. A successful professional singer she moved to Hayling Island when she and Serge divorced. Alone, she lived quietly, struggling financially, until her death in 1959.



Martin Rhodes

Pay Your Subscription Online by Credit Card

We are pleased to say that you can now pay your annual Friends membership subscription (and make a donation if you wish) online by credit card or PayPal.

If you go to the Friends website at friendsch.org (or <https://friendsch.org>) and click on the 'Member's Sign-In' button on the Home page you will be able to look at your membership details online and change them if you need to. If you are a member paying an annual subscription you can also check when your next annual subscription becomes due (your due date) and you can see how much you owe if your subscription is unpaid.

Best of all the Friends have joined the 21st century - to make life easier for you (and for us) you can now pay online by credit card or PayPal.

And just to put your mind at rest, payments are handled over a secure link and your credit card details are not retained or stored (the Friends don't even see your credit card details). If you are an annual member, we'll email you (or send you



a letter) when your subscription becomes due just to remind you (and we'll remind you again when it's overdue!)

To make it as convenient as possible for everyone, you can get online, change your membership details and make a payment from your smartphone or tablet as easily as from your PC or Mac.

If you have a friend interested in membership then they can join and pay their initial subscription by credit card online as well. Just go to friendsch.org, click on the 'Become a Member' button on the Home page - and follow the instructions.

We are pressing on with final stage of development of our new system which will allow you as a member to book - and pay for - Friends' events online. We'll let you know when it's available. Whilst we've done quite a bit of testing we don't doubt that there will still be teething troubles. If you encounter a difficulty please let us know by emailing administrator@friendsch.org or webmaster@friendsch.org. *Richard Evans*

Friends' investment yields results in our local community

Over the last two years the Friends of Chichester Harbour have supported a number of the Conservancy's initiatives to encourage the local community to be involved in the Harbour. Below are a few of the excellent results.

Get Afloat

- 10 Solar boat trips and day out in the Harbour with over 360 young people and adults.

Outreach in schools

- Two new education sessions to take into schools. FoCH funding has helped to offer these free of charge to 10 schools = More than 1,130 young people.

Photography Project

- Chichester Harbour in Focus, exhibition and workshops.
- 68 individuals exhibited work and 270 people visited it.
- Paul Gonella hosted six photography workshops which were attended by 112 young people from schools and one community group of adults.

Junior Conservancy

- In the autumn term, five Junior Conservancy workshops were delivered - three for Bosmere Junior Schools' Year 6 and two for Barncroft Primary for their Year 6. =>133 children plus 25 accompanying adults benefited from this experience.



A Fishy Tale

Kathryn Nelson loves counting fish. Talk to her and she is bubbling over with enthusiasm for the task. She has been doing it since 2012 and thousands of the slippery, little creatures have passed through her hands.

Kathryn is part of the team from Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) who work closely with Chichester Harbour Conservancy to monitor the harbour's fish stocks. They are particularly interested in the juvenile fish and twice a year since 2010 have got up early, donned wetsuits and headed out to the Pilsey, Copperas and Winner to undertake the surveys.



Sussex IFCA

Using Conservancy boats, the group deploy a 2m beam trawl and a 43m seine net. The beam trawl is drawn along behind the boat and the catch then hauled onboard. The fish are identified, measured and recorded. Other non-fish species such as squat lobsters, sea squirts and juvenile cuttlefish are also

noted. The seine net is deployed from shore, with people at each end to draw in a catch from the shallows. Again the contents of the net are carefully recorded before being returned alive to the sea. The two methods are used at all three sites to give as full a picture as possible.

In 2016 the following was recorded:

- 1,983 fish
- 25 different species
- Bass and sea smelt accounted for 30%
- Common goby and sprat were the next most abundant species, in all accounting for 90% of the records.
- Three times as many fish in September compared with June / July
- Pilsey had the highest variety of species (22), whilst Winner had just 11
- Highest number of fish, over 1000, were counted at Copperas
- Three new species were recorded, brill, worm pipefish and five bearded rockling
- During the five years of surveys, over 25,000 fish, comprised of 48 species have been recorded.



The survey results are of interest as they show not out the ecological health of the harbour but also record the food availability for birds.

Sussex IFCA carry out similar surveys at Medmerry and Rye, but Chichester Harbour has the longest running dataset. However, Kathryn says we really need at least 30 years worth of data to be able to track trends. So it looks like she has many happy, fish counting, years ahead of her!

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