

Summer 2017

Friends of
Chichester Harbour



Newsletter



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After a very successful season in 2016, Oysterboat *Terror* has been going through a substantial refurbishment programme at the Emsworth Yacht Harbour. Follow her progress on page 4.

From our Chairman

After the winter, now spring and summer and a glorious start as I write in mid-April.

We have continued our work throughout the winter - work parties meet every week and continue to provide extremely valuable man hours across the Harbour. We are continuing our funding programme of various projects, and in conjunction with the Conservancy we are looking to support the refurbishment of the Dell Quay Education Centre. Education is one of our key objectives and by providing a facility that is used throughout the year by 100s of schoolchildren, we are building the foundations of another generation to carry on our work.

On our other activities, *Terror* has a full programme this summer, and if you have not been aboard - please go and do so. It is a truly memorable experience, and it is also a marvellous demonstration of how a volunteer organisation can help support a key tourist activity working hand in hand with the Conservancy.

One of the big issues for the us and the Harbour is the upcoming England Coastal Path. The exact route is not confirmed yet, but it will require all sorts of effort to make sure the paths are in strong enough condition to handle what extra footfall comes our way. We are already considering supporting upgrades to some key areas and we

will know about this later in the year.

If you've tried to use the 'Members Sign In' on our new website recently you may have seen that teething problems caused us to take it offline for a few weeks. We're glad to say that it's now back online and members can access it once more. If you've previously logged in as a member, our apologies but your password won't now work. So when you login you'll have to give your membership number or email address, click on 'Forgot Password' and you'll get a temporary password by email usually within a few minutes. Of course, you can reset your password to something more memorable any time later.

We continue to have a full programme of Friends events, and discounted events run by the Conservancy. Please come and take part.

Thank you for your continued support.

Oliver Chipperfield



Preparing Beaky's for all the school visits

A Friends work party met in March to prepare the Beaky Education Garden in Dell Quay for this coming season. The hedge needed to be cut back and weeds cleared from the paths.

To show the children how compost is made, the garden waste and weeds were put into a collection bin to rot down. We emptied this newly rotted compost into another bin to be used for growing this season's crops. All the weeds we pulled up were then put in the first bin to make next year's compost.

We also cleared the two raised ponds so that the children could see the pond life.

Donald Wells



Life Afloat

I'm sure that many who saw the Channel 4 series 'My Floating Home' were inspired to think about selling up and moving to a houseboat. Local singing teacher and musician, Bubsie Yates, did just that last year. She moved from a spacious Victorian apartment in the heart of Chichester to the tranquil waters of Chichester Canal. *Ali Beckett* went to meet her aboard her 1960s houseboat 'The Bees'.



What made you choose a houseboat and what do you love about it?

When I was looking to move, I saw 'The Bees' for sale and immediately fell in love with the lifestyle. The setting is beautiful, I am surrounded by nature. A female duck often waddles to my front door looking for food. Living onboard has made me much more aware of the weather. I really notice when the rain pounds on the roof, the wind makes the boat sway or when the sun floods in through the large windows. Opening the front door and having my morning tea looking across my garden to the fields beyond is a magical way to start the day. Compared to Chichester it is very dark here at night and I am much more aware of the stars.

What did you have to get used to?

I had to find my 'land legs'. The boat rocks a lot, especially in bad weather. It took me about 10 days to be able to walk from

the boat onto the land without swaying. I'm ok now! Also, the only access is along the tow path so I have had to get used to piling my shopping and instruments into a trolley to transport them from the boat to the car and vice versa.

How many boats are there and what are the neighbours like?

Boats started arriving on the canal in the late 1950s. There are now 31 moorings managed by Premiere Marinas and 20 permanent residents. The tow path runs through our gardens so I've got to know most of neighbours quite quickly. There are quite a few new residents like me, demand for the boats is high. I have had notes put through my door from perspective buyers.



Are you tempted to move on?

No, I love living here and see it as just the start of a long adventure.

What is your favourite part of the AONB?

I love walking from here along to Dell Quay, especially past all the twisted oak trees on the shoreline at Salterns Copse.

'It took me about 10 days to be able to walk from the boat onto the land without swaying.'



Annual refit for Terror

Every year Oysterboat *Terror* goes through a maintenance programme and we have followed this season's, for the Friends. She is berthed at the Emsworth Yacht Harbour under the watchful eye of Neil Brooke the Manager and the Vice Chair of the *Terror* Operating Committee, Matt Townsend.

It was a two month programme by a team of volunteers from the skippers and crew, which began before she was lifted out of the water and laid up ashore in early March. The bilges were drained and sponged dry. She was then left to fully dry out for about four weeks before work started to scrape off old paint from the bilges and repair before painting. The spars, mast, boom, gaff and bowsprit have all been rubbed down and re-varnished. Also, all the galvanised metal such as chain plates and cleats have been rubbed down and re-painted with galvanising paint. Two coats of anti-fouling have been applied before all the woodwork was re-painted. The engine has been serviced and the battery charged, the prop was cleaned and checked for anodes, and all the safety gear assessed thoroughly.

She looked quite magnificent as she re-entered the water on April 24th. *Terror* has one more hurdle to overcome before she can begin her busy season of sailings – she has to be inspected by Adrian Karn, our Deputy Harbour Master (Health and Safety) and given authorisation to operate for the 2017 season.



Get Afloat!

Last year *Terror* sold 309 seats on 59 trips of which two-thirds were fully booked.

Bookings are streaming in for this summer so we are very confident that she will do at least as well this year.

If you have never been on this beautiful craft do ring 01243 377727 or see www.oysterboatterror.org.uk.



Southern Water - supporting local growth, protecting the environment

To meet rising demand for new homes due to population growth, hundreds of new properties are set to be built across the Chichester area by the end of the next decade. Of course, these new households will need to dispose of wastewater from their kitchen and bathroom facilities, all without any adverse impact on the local environment.

by *Paul Kent*, Southern Water Environment & Wastewater Strategy Manager

Work to upgrade our wastewater infrastructure to support new development in Chichester district is already well underway. This significant multi-million pound investment will also ensure we continue to protect and improve valuable natural assets, including Chichester Harbour, the River Lavant, local countryside and a wide variety of plant and animal life.

A cost-effective approach

For technical and environmental reasons, it is not cost-effective to expand the current capacity of our Chichester wastewater treatment works within the timescale required to serve new housing. Importantly, we are already developing a clear plan to enable the works to serve future properties in the longer term, while at the same time safeguarding the environment in the decades ahead.

Given the above, our solution is two-fold:

- We are currently delivering an £8 million investment scheme at our Tangmere wastewater works. This will enable it to receive and treat to a higher standard the additional flows from over 2,700 new homes due to be

built in the Chichester area by 2029. Of course, this will be without affecting the Aldingbourne Rife, the watercourse which receives treated wastewater from the works, in line with a new permit granted by the Environment Agency. Construction work started on site at Tangmere earlier this year and is due to be completed by the end of December.

- We are also planning to invest more than £7 million to expand our local sewer network, so we can transport wastewater from new homes to our upgraded Tangmere facility. Under our current plan, this work is scheduled to finish by late 2018.

In summary, our new and improved wastewater infrastructure should be ready to serve new households from the start of 2019, supporting important local development and making sure the area's environment, including Chichester Harbour, is protected and enhanced.



News in Numbers



Our investment in the educational outreach in 2016

Junior Conservancy:
7 workshops, 195 children and 29 adults.

Get Afloat!
484 young people and adults.

Outreach in Schools:
482 young people and 30 accompanying adults.

The Pilsey work party of 26 volunteers in March collected:

20 bags of litter



a large quantity of nurdles (pre-production micro plastic resin pellets, only about 5 mm across and mainly blue, black, grey or white in colour. They are used to make our plastic products that we all use daily). Please pick them up when you see them too!!

Events round-up

The Solar Heritage bird watching cruises from Itchenor with John Arnott on the 22nd February and the 3rd March

The cruise got off to a good start, with birds filling the opposite shore. We moved silently off down the channel. John Arnott began his brilliant commentary once underway. There was plenty for him to point out, including Red-breasted Merganser, two species of Plover, Black-tailed Godwit and the odd Grebe popping out of the water in front of us and disappearing just as quickly. There were also Brent Geese in abundance. The weather was cold but very clear, and our intrepid skipper was able to get close the shore to give close ups of the birds in many places. After the trip we walked to the Ship Inn to enjoy a welcome lunch. *Jenny Harvey*



Our Winter Series of Talks was launched on the 17th March with the fascinating and highly entertaining Smuggling on the South Coast presented by Margaret Henderson.

She began in the time of Chaucer with England growing rich on wool exports and imported wool clothing, which the king began to tax. Over successive centuries many high value imported goods such as silk, lace, brandy, coffee, tea (this at 127%) were taxed. Smuggling became big business benefitting all levels of society often alleviating the effects of poverty. By the 1700s civil unrest was such that on land and sea Revenue Officers were



fighting a losing battle against smuggling. The inn sign at Felpham shows the Revenue Cutter Fox chasing smugglers. Napoleonic wars and blockaded French ports curtailed their activities. Waterloo and peace gave way to a return to smuggling after poor harvests and wartime privations. The Royal Navy took over all Revenue ships and instituted a Coastal Blockade, most effective along the shoreline of Sussex and Kent. By 1831 it had brought smuggling under control after many fierce battles and much loss of life on both sides.

The Lady in Blue a Great Grandmother to Margaret, returning from France at this time with two lady chaperones, was drugged the night before departure, wound about with a roll of rich lace, dressed the next day and escorted onto the ship. On arrival at Portsmouth she was relieved of the lace and the ladies disappeared with their loot! *Chris Dalby*



Winter Series of Talks. The Harbour and its History by Judi Darley.

On the 7th April, Judi entertained a packed audience with an Illustrated talk. She had been given access to all Richard Williamson's correspondence and photographs relating to Chichester Harbour over the last 40 years and had discovered that the people interested in the Harbour all those years ago were considering the same imponderables that we are today – boating versus wildlife, dogs, water quality, nesting sites away from flooding and harm from humans. Early maps in Richard Williamson's notebooks, show the Harbour without the Emsworth Channel.

Access for All

It is vitally important that all residents and visitors to Chichester Harbour are able to access the water, if they wish, whatever their ability. *Sarah Newman* went along to meet the Sailability Group at Langstone Sailing Club, who provide a facility for people with disabilities.

The group, run by Dave Weinstock, is affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association Sailability Scheme. It offers the opportunity to sail for those with moderate learning difficulties who can have a whole new world opened up to them. Carers who come with the people with profound disabilities have noticed how relaxed and calm their charges are after a period out on the water. Also it caters for those who have sailed as able-bodied people and for many differing reasons find themselves no longer able to do so, Sailability can offer the opportunity for independence and freedom once again, thereby dispelling frustration and depression.

The Club has a selection of craft to meet this wide range of needs.

- There is one traditional sailing dingy – a Wayfarer
- Also they have a Norfolk Oyster which is a very stable boat able to take 6 people.
- The Club has two Challenger Trimarans which are also very stable and easy to sail. All controls can be operated

- from a sitting position in the cockpit and it is steered with a tiller in front of the helmsman's position in the aft seat.
- The support boat, *Hilary Farrow*, is able to carry eight people including two in wheelchairs
- Lastly they own a Windrider 17 trimaran which seats two in different cockpits in the central hull and two more on the trampolines. This boat can, remarkably be steered using either foot pedals or by hand using cords running inside the hull.

This activity offers so much to a wide range of people including the benefits from becoming a member of a very sociable club.

Jenny Quest, who is an able-bodied volunteer at the Sailability Club says 'A whole new range of skills can be learned. It can be a humbling experience, too, when on occasions you are thanked by someone whose efforts to participate are far greater than your own'.



Contact the centre:
www.langstonesailability.org.uk or secretary@langstonesailability.org.uk
 Note: Disabled facilities are also available at the Cobnor Activities Centre.

Thank you

Sadly, our wonderful cartoonist Roger Smith from West Wittering has decided to retire from drawing for the Friends' newsletter. We will miss his wit and drawing skills and there is certainly a gap in this edition. Thank you so much Roger for your years of humour and drawing, often with little advanced notice! We wish you well.

Hence if you, or if you know anybody else who would like to provide us with some other visual device for future newsletters, do please let me know.
editor@friendsch.org





Ferry Across the Channel

On a wonderful, sunny April weekend, it was great to catch up with Andy Larson who operates the Ferry which plies between Itchenor and Bosham Hoe – a popular sight in the Harbour.

This ferry which has operated since 1998 and runs for 10 hours every day through the summer months, and weekends in the shoulder months. It not only takes up to 11 walkers and / or cyclists over the Itchenor Channel but also offers a vital taxi service to sailors who keep their yachts moored in the channel. Peter Ulph, who owns Kristell and has had a mooring off Itchenor since 2000 says 'it is very convenient for boat owners, especially the less able, and saves the effort of using a tender'.

As part of the planned England Coastal Path, (proposals for our area are, as we go to press, with the Secretary of State) there is a proposal to operate this ferry every day throughout the winter too, because it would form part of the main route around the Harbour, as it is expected that the Chichester Channel will be by-passed.

Andy says that really very little has changed about the ferry over the years. The ferry has mainly had a very peaceful existence chugging back and forth from the Itchenor jetty to the



beach on Bosham Hoe, and rarely has to dock for bad weather. Yes, there are stories of the occasional capsized rescue or stray inflatable to be picked up but I couldn't elicit any tales of misdeemeanour or scandal from him! A second craft is moored in Bosham and is brought on for peak weekends, otherwise it can be hired out for wedding parties or other special events.

Thanks to the Friends Working Party who recently worked to improve the landing area at Bosham Hoe. Editor



For the schedule or more information:

www.itchenorferry.co.uk or
telephone 07970 378350.

Yachtsmen call 'Itchenor Ferry'
on VHF Channel 8

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