

Autumn 2017

Friends of
Chichester Harbour

Newsletter



In this issue:



New Sports

During our wonderful summer, I am sure you will have seen stand-up paddle boarders enjoying the calmer waters of the Harbour in the morning or evening. This relatively new sport is taking Chichester Harbour by storm.

From our Chairman

The summer has been extremely busy for all of us who are actively involved in the Harbour - work parties continue every week, Terror is having its busiest year ever and of course our partners across the Harbour are dealing with the holiday increases in traffic, footfall, cycling and of course boating.

We will be having our AGM in October and I hope to see as many of you there as possible. We will be having a slightly changed format to make it more interactive, a bit quicker on the formalities and start earlier to be more convenient for everyone. Details to come.

Finally - a plea - a voluntary organisation like ours needs people to be actively involved all the time. As well as our work parties we have a strong team running the events.

This is now going to be led by Ginny Kidd and supported by Jennie Hallet now that Val Evans and Gill and John Smith have stood down after years of sterling service, but there is always stuff to do. We need help to work on communications, IT, membership, fundraising, administration, finance and in charity governance as trustees. Please get in touch with me if you have any interest in helping us.



Oliver Chipperfield

New campaign to help protect Chichester Harbour's environment

Do you enjoy being in and around our Chichester Harbour's fantastic marine environment? If so, then read on for details of how you can help protect and improve this unique place.

The Harbour boasts a wealth of world-class estuary habitats and conservation designations that reflect its significance as a jewel in the UK's environmental crown.

Sussex Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (IFCA) and the Environment Agency are helping raise awareness of the local marine environment through the Clear Seas project. It's in partnership with Chichester Harbour Conservancy, Sussex Wildlife Trust and Southern Water.

The marine environment is under stress from human pressures - for example, from something as seemingly harmless as dropping an empty crisp packet on the beach, or an incident like an oil spillage, which can have far wider consequences.

The Clear Seas campaign is designed to help all those using the sea, whether it's on a daily basis, or, if you are simply passing by, to play a part in looking after it. Chichester Harbour was chosen as an initial focus area due to the level of commercial and recreational boating activity locally, plus its status as an important natural habitat.



Paul Adams

There's an easy-to-read Clear Seas guide, setting out the variety of ways in which people can make a big difference to the marine environment. It's hoped this will lead to people being more conscious of their actions and also of what their local area has to offer in terms of wildlife and protected marine and coastal locations.



You can view the campaign materials online at www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk/clear-seas.

Two New Sports for the gentler waters

For many years there has been leisure activity on the water of Chichester Harbour. *Sarah Newman* and *Vivien Morgan* explored two new ones with increasing participation – stand up paddle boarding (SUP) and gig rowing.

Chichester Harbour is an ideal place to start the sport of SUP. In it's relatively safe waters, newcomers can explore the inner reaches of the Harbour usually in the early morning or evening. It needs little skill – balance, coordination and a good core but is truly accessible – dogs and children can often be seen enjoying the trip. Jayne Lake leads a group of about 50 on trips around the Harbour (or to the pub) and a group is based at the Emsworth Slipper sailing club. She says "There is no better stress relief than gliding across the water under your own steam, while listening to the birds and experiencing the elements even if it is the rain."



However, SUP can also be a much more adventurous sport and there is a centre at the Wittering windsurfing club (2XS) where they ride the waves of the other side of Chichester Bar with the surfers, kite surfers and windsurfers. From here they race along the coast.

In April there was a championship in Emsworth which tested both technical and sprint capability.

Cornish Pilot Gig Rowing started as a purely Cornish sport. It's a great physical workout and exercise but also a sociable sport, demanding good teamwork. This is appealing to a growing number of rowers, many of them women and also enthusiastic with rowing members being aged from the 12 to 16 year olds in the strong Junior section right up to the over 70s.

Its history is fascinating, for these fast, light boats were designed for a very specific task, putting pilots aboard ships that were inbound and needing navigational expertise to take them up the English channel. Each Gig had its own pilot, and first to reach the ship got the job, so the boats were designed for



speed, and were very lightly built. It was from this need for speed that the sport of gig racing developed. They are 32 feet long and having been designed to cope with the seas between the Scillies and Cornwall they are also particularly seaworthy.

"A lot of our rowing takes place in the early morning. It's at times like this that the Harbour is at its best, with sometimes an inquisitive seal. Stopping for a breather there's time to take in the lovely scenery that we are so lucky to share."

Andrew Berry rower and club member Langstone Cutters Gig Club is based at Northney Marina, Hayling Island. Established 4 years ago, as the first Cornish Pilot Gig Club in Hampshire. Gig rowing is a year round activity. Bosham Sailing Club has also started to support this sport with a new boat.

More information at:

www.emsworth.org.uk/news/stand-paddleboard-national-championships-come-emsworth
www.langstonecuttersgigclub.co.uk



Women Inspired by our Waters

Living near the Harbour with its visual feast of sky, shore, water and wildlife is inspiring to so many women. **Vivien Morgan** met with photographers, silversmiths, ceramicists and painters all of whom use their creative talent to translate their proximity to the sea into art.



Julie Turner, artist, Emsworth

Julie walks from her house down the road to the beach at Emsworth with a view to Hayling and to Thorney Island.

Brought up by the sea, it is only natural that it features in her prints. Using screen and mono print making processes, she abstracts and translates Harbour scenery. www.julie-turner.co.uk

Likes

- Colours at different seasons and times of tides
- Kayaking, SUP and sailing on the water
- Expressing how she feels about nature and the environment



Charlotte Cornelius, professional jeweller, Hayling Island

A bright blue beach hut means days spent by the sea. A renowned jeweller with a shop in Southsea, Charlotte draws her designs from the seashore: like the pebbles - translated into a 'bubbles' collection of rings and bracelets. www.charlottecornelius.co.uk

Likes

- The sound of the waves crashing as well as the gentler lapping of the water
- Looking out to sea - with views to the Isle of Wight and Portsmouth
- The big skies, wildlife and sounds that come from being on the beach



Rebecca Williams, ceramicist, Thorney Island

Rebecca lives near Thorney Island. She translates the bleached colours of the boats, rusty hulls and the shapes of wildflowers and clouds seen on walks with her dog and son Tom, into the stone pottery and ceramic ware that she makes. www.rebeccawilliamsceramics.co.uk

Likes

- Blues and greys of stones
- Scorched and bleached colours of the boats
- Clouds





Sue Long, artist, Emsworth

Sue lives in Emsworth close to the ponds. A recent resident artist, her engraved collages and etchings of the wilder East Coast seashore in navy and blacks are now joined by images from the Chichester Harbour. sueclong@tiscali.co.uk

Likes

- Rhythm of the water that reflects the light
- People interacting with their environment
- The softer and gentler Sussex sea



Lou Johns, professional artist, Fishbourne

Lou uses her waterside garden at Fishbourne as a gallery for her sculptures. An internationally known artist, her striking figures in resin and bronze are widely exhibited and many owned by people in Sussex. The slim shapes appear organic in amongst trees and by water. www.lou-johns.co.uk

Likes

- The Harbour's changing light
- Mud shapes and channels at low tide
- Fishbourne Creek's wildness, reeds and birds



Jenny Tyson, artist, Bosham

Jenny goes out very early in the morning from Bosham with her dog just with a camera and takes photos from which she does drawings. If she thinks one of them is good enough she'll do a painting. She doesn't usually work from a watercolour but from a gouache. If it's a lovely day she might take her watercolours out with her. www.jennytysonpaintings.co.uk



Likes

- Sussex landscape
- Space – looking out and seeing the horizon going away to nothing
- Colours of the mud, seaweed and gravel



Camilla Hyde, professional silversmith, Chidham

Camilla uses seedpods, grasses, shells like limpets to either cast in silver or adapt to make wonderfully wearable pieces. An agapanthus seed can become the inspiration for a bracelet. www.camillahyde.com



Likes

- Marram grass that you can blow to make sounds
- The movement or calm of the sea to free her mind and creativity
- The architecture and organic shapes on the seashore



Ali Warner, professional photographer, Bosham

Ali lives by the water. Her photos of people and animals - dogs and horses - seen at recent exhibitions in Sussex, capture the very essence of her subjects on the beach, at a wedding or in nature. India is her passion and she holds photography courses there. www.aliwarnerphotography.com



Likes

- Taking photographs around the Harbour because of the light
- Walking her two dogs
- Kayaking and sleeping out by the water

It's a Bugs Life

When I started researching this article I was a bit daunted by the wealth of information available online. Everyone was offering project worksheets to build a grand bug hotel or make your whole neighbourhood into a 'nature street'.

These were the top tips I came across that I thought many of us could easily manage and will make our gardens a better place for wildlife this winter.

Plant winter flowering plants such as helibore, erica and snowdrops. These flowers add some interest to the winter garden and also provide essential food for pollinators that wake up on the



and is loved by the Holly blue butterfly and ivy bees. Leave things to rot, such as piles of leaves which make a warm, damp shelter for

bugs and eventually good compost for your garden.

Make a hedgehog highway. These prickly customers need a hole about 13cm square so they can clamber through gardens, they like to travel over a mile radius so encourage your neighbours to do the same and then log your hedgehog hole on www.hedgehogstreet.org.

If you want more tips and ideas then the best website I found was www.buglife.org.uk which has a Wildlife Gardening section.

Ali Beckett



Then the best bit of advice I came across was to just pick one or two things that can be easily incorporated into your garden. And even better when you start going through the advice most of it is perfect for lazy gardeners!



warmer days. Make a wood pile. Find a corner and leave a pile of logs there. It is as easy as that! The wood makes a perfect habitat for many invertebrates including woodlice,

centipedes, slugs, ground beetles, ants and earthworms.

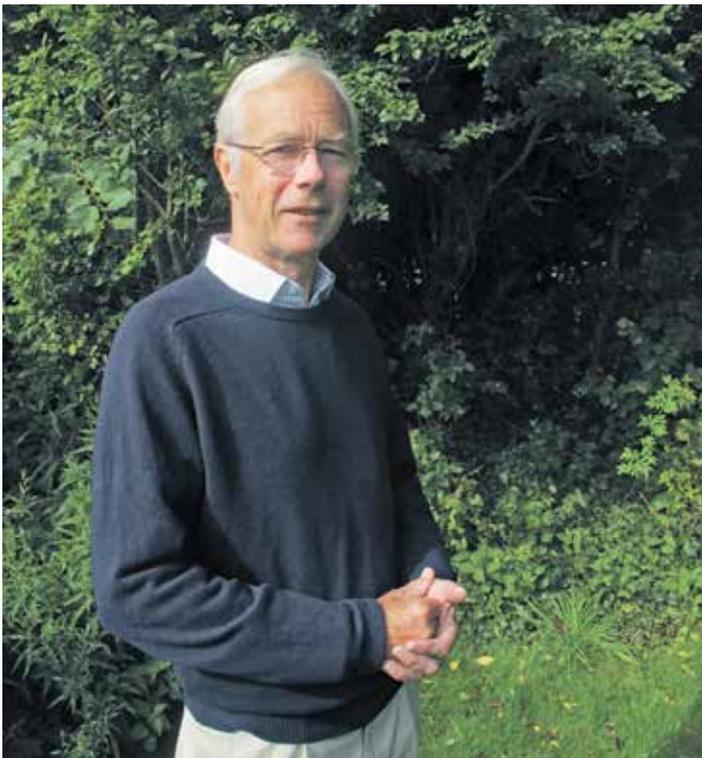
Give up battling with ivy and just let it flourish. Ivy provides shelter and food

Friends of Chichester Harbour AGM - 19 October 2017

The Committee very much hope that many Friends will join in the AGM on October 19th at the Chichester Yacht Club (CYC). This year it will start at 6.30pm, with wine and canapés with a series of table top displays to browse. The formal elements will be much shorter so that we can also enjoy supper at the club at about 8.30pm. The latter needs to be booked direct with CYC – 01243 512918.

New era for Chichester Harbour Trust

Chichester Harbour Trust was set up 15 years ago in 2002. *Ali Beckett* visited *James Davis*, who was employed from day one as he prepares to retire.



How did the Trust come about?

Sir Jeremy Thomas wrote a report on the value of Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. In it he attempted to value not only the tangibles such as housing and businesses but also the intangibles like tranquility and beauty. As a result, the Conservancy realised the best way to protect threatened land was to own it, so it was decided to set up a new charity with the specific purpose of acquiring and managing sites throughout the AONB.

How did you become involved with the Trust?

I had left the Royal Navy and was working for the Chichester Harbour Federation and also the RYA. I was thrilled to be in at the start of this exciting new charity.

What have been the main achievements of the Trust?

In 15 years we have acquired 10 sites around the AONB, some have been bought and others gifted to us. Originally we

thought we would need a large pot of money at the ready to buy land, but we have found that it is easier to raise funds with a specific project in mind which we have now done successfully on a number of sites.

Which project are you most proud of?

It has to be Maybush Copse. We worked with the community to raise the funds to buy Maybush even though we were in competition with developers. The site is now managed by the Conservancy and local supporters to benefit wildlife and has become a valuable recreation space for the community.

What are your plans for retirement?

I am really looking forward to more time on the water in my boat.

What can the Friends do to help the Trust?

They already do so much – we really couldn't manage without them. We are grateful to the work parties that do the practical maintenance work on our sites in co-operation with the Conservancy staff.

Who will take over your role?

I am delighted to be handing over to Nicky Horter who many of your readers will know as she has been working for Chichester Harbour Conservancy. Over the years Nicky and I have worked closely on the management of the Trust's sites, so I can't think of anyone better so I wish her the very best of luck.

Friends visit to the Hayling Billy

Back in July a large group of Friends met at the foyer of the Hayling Island Amateur Dramatic Club for a talk by Peter Drury before walking the length of the line to Northney. They were joined for a short period by Wez Smith the RSPB local warden. To watch a wonderful video account of this walk (by Mike Beel) go to youtu.be/4qfEmNGAwPM



PRINSTED – “the place where pears grow”

As you rush along the busy A259 or walk the Harbour shoreline, you could easily miss the peace and tranquillity of my family’s home for 60 years - the village of Prinsted. It has gone through a remarkable transformation since it was mentioned as a thriving rural area in the Domesday book.

Some Roman remains have been found, but the first firm evidence of a community here dates back to the Norman Conquest when the village was part of the estates of Earl Godwin, father of King Harold. After this it became part of the Manor of Westbourne and was a Manor in its own right from the late 16th or early 17th century.

The boom years for the village were the Napoleonic Wars when troops were supplied from Portsmouth, but unfortunately for Prinsted, as for much of the local area, this was reversed with the enclosure of lands in 1818-1823.

In the eighteenth century, attempts were made to reclaim parts of Prinsted Bay and to tame the tides, however the lane often flooded when winds were from the south and tides were springs. Ice flows filled the bay in 1963 and it suffered enormously after the great storm of October 1987.



At the turn of the twentieth century, there were 44 houses with most inhabitants employed in the village, and this grew to 160 at the end, with most people working in Portsmouth or Chichester, fuelled in the 1950s and 1960s by the arrival of many Naval families.

Whilst today it would strictly have to be labelled a hamlet, it was a thriving village a century ago, with a chapel next to Rose Cottage, a coal merchant at Dolphin Cottage, a funeral director / coffin maker at Freeland, bakery and Post Office at the Old Bakery. The Harvest Home pub was in the village before it moved to the A259 plus two others – the Old House and the Black Fox, plus, of course, fishing and the farms.

Sea Scouts, set up by a local farmer in 1933, have been a big feature of the village ever since and their hut is a landmark at the beach today.

No longer do planes like the thunderous Hercules, disturb the skies (the RAF left Thorney Island in 1976) and Prinsted definitely manages to be a place of peace and tranquillity today with its wonderful chocolate box thatched cottages and beautiful gardens.

Sarah Newman

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