

Spring 2018

Friends of  
Chichester Harbour

# Newsletter



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## Spring Birds

Join our expert John Arnott on one of his many guided events in the Harbour either on foot or on the solar boat. Read more on page 3.

## From our Chairman

Welcome to our Spring 2018 newsletter! We had a very successful year in 2017, culminating in an extremely well attended and enjoyable AGM where it was a pleasure to meet many old and new Friends.

We continue to have a lot to do. This year we have a full program of projects that we support: footpath repairs, especially after the winter storms, tree planting, education centre refurbishment, replacement of access steps and new signage, not to mention all the regular help we give to a range of other tasks within the harbour. Our people are busier than ever on weekly work parties, harbour watching, running Terror and we also have a busy schedule of Friends social events during 2018, many of which are highly informative. As a Friend, you can also join events run by the Conservancy, many for free. Check our website [www.friendsch.org](http://www.friendsch.org) for up to date information on events and work parties.

During 2018 there will be some changes to the way we run the charity, and we are streamlining some activities in order to devote greater time to others that are more of a

priority. In order to keep the newsletter going, we are going to need more help so please let me know if you feel able to become the editor. Without a new editor, we cannot continue to produce it. We will always communicate regularly by email and more frequently on social media, and we will produce an annual report.



With resources being an issue, please encourage friends and family to join - and join in. In particular we have a critical need for new trustees as well as volunteers to help in our regular work. Join online or write to us c/o The Harbour Office at Itchenor if you are not already a member. If you feel able to take on a role, however small, please write to me at [chairman@friendsch.org](mailto:chairman@friendsch.org).  
*Oliver Chipperfield*

## Keep in Touch

### Please don't miss our regular emails

Some members have discovered that emails from the Friends are ending up in a spam or junk folder. And since they (like most of us) rarely check their spam/junk folders that means that they are failing to see any emails from the Friends. To avoid that happening to you could you please add [messenger@friendsch.org](mailto:messenger@friendsch.org) to your email address book. Many thanks!

### ...and just a word about social media

We understand that many of you are not followers of social media. However, the age profile of our membership body is getting younger and we are beginning to use Facebook on a regular basis. We have also recently starting using Instagram to send photos about the harbour to our Friends.

This is how you can follow us on each of these platforms:

**Facebook** simply type **The Friends of Chichester Harbour** or **@FriendsofChichesterHarbour** into the search box, and you will see our page. Then click Like or Follow and you will be friends of our page so



that you can see our regular posts. For example, we posted an interesting Advent Calendar with pictures of the harbour most days in December and plan to post much more regularly from now on. If you are new to Facebook check your privacy settings carefully – or ask a teenager to help you!

Also, please tag us in your photos using the hashtag **#friendsofch** and we will share your images.



**Instagram** our username is: **friendsofchichesterharbour**. This is a new platform to us and we have linked it to Facebook so that any posts on Instagram will automatically appear on Facebook. Again, if you are new to this, you might enjoy browsing the photos of friends of our page and following other photographers online.  
*Ginny Kidd*

One of the photos from our Facebook Advent Calendar



# Discover Spring Birds in the Harbour

Spring is a busy time of comings and goings for our Harbour birds. Away go winter waders and Brent Geese to breeding grounds mostly on Arctic tundra. Arctic summers are short so some waders start to moult into breeding plumage before they leave us. Look for Grey Plover breasts turning black and Black-tailed Godwits developing brick-red heads and necks, with short black breast bars.

Our winter ducks mostly head for boggy marshland in countries north and east of the UK. Drakes look resplendent in spring so watch out for their courtship displays such as chasing, splashing, neck stretching and head bobbing as they pair up and get ready to leave us.

The cat-like calls of Mediterranean Gulls are a welcome herald of spring and they can be heard and seen anywhere over the water, though Emsworth Harbour is a good place to start. The adults have pure white wing tips. Whimbrels pass through in spring from West Africa to Arctic breeding grounds. Their rippling whistle of around seven notes gives them away while pale eyebrows distinguish them from Curlew. Although present anywhere over the water, the shoreline at Bosham is often good for them.

Remember to look out for terns arriving from West Africa. Sandwich Terns start arriving from February, though a small number overwinter in the Harbour. Their long wings, yellow-tipped black beak and grating 'keer-ick' calls easily identify them. Common Terns have black-tipped red beaks.

Try visiting reedbeds with scrub such as at Little Deep on the west side of Thorney Island. Sedge and Reed warblers arrive from Africa and resident Cetti's Warblers become more vocal



Sedge Warbler



Reed Warbler



Whimbrel and colour-ringed Greenshank



Common Terns

with their explosive song. This is a good place to see Bearded Tits and you may also hear your first Cuckoo here.

In early spring Wheatears travel through on their way from Africa to north and west Britain. Later in spring any shrubby areas around the Harbour will have Whitethroat and sometimes Lesser Whitethroat warblers arriving from Africa. A good place for these species, together with Skylarks and Meadow Pipits, is along the western shoreline of the Chidham peninsula. Wheatears are particularly attracted to the realigned sea wall (a bank reinforced with boulders).

Woodland walks around Salterns Copse (by Chichester Marina) or Nore Barn Wood (west of Emsworth) in spring soon reveal the arrival of warblers such as Blackcap and Chiffchaff. Our more familiar resident birds such as Robin, Wren and Blackbird are also singing.

*John Arnott*

**Finding birds is a lot easier if you know their songs and calls. See the Conservancy's events brochure for my bird song walks (starting 8th April) to help you find some of these spring species. Also the special event on 6th May celebrates International Dawn Chorus Day.**

# Conservation Work Parties

Richard Austin, from the Conservancy, explains how The Friends of Chichester Harbour Conservation Work Parties help to conserve and enhance habitats in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. As well as being great for nature, they provide an excellent work out for everyone that takes part! If you'd like to take part with the ongoing practical work of the Friends, please visit our website to find out which site we'll be visiting next. Here's a round-up of some of the good work that has taken place.



## Emsworth

The rip-rap sea defences along Western Parade are subject to the full force of nature, and from time-to-time the rocks need to be put back in place. The Volunteer Rangers helped protect the Solent Way footpath and the houses behind by lifting the rocks from the foreshore and carefully putting them back into the sea defence.



## North Common

North Common is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, managed by Havant Borough Council. The Friends have helped with hedge planting, tree weeding and footpath maintenance here. The habitat management also includes bramble clearing, which creates a much greater feeding area for barn owls. The Conservancy has also installed a barn owl box here.



## Gutner Point

Gutner Point, also a nature reserve, is home one to largest roosts in Chichester Harbour. The assemblage of wild flowers and associated invertebrates make the site a haven for wildlife. The Friends help with bramble and ragwort clearance, fence repairs, and with planting over 100 metres of hedges.



## Sandy Point

Sandy Point has hardly changed for over 100 years! It is one of the few sites in Hampshire where Dartford Warbler's breed. Hampshire County Council has a management plan for this nature reserve. The Friends help to deliver that plan by clearing bramble and gorse. The waste is usually disposed of on-site through a controlled bonfire.



## Thorney Island

Eames Farm is owned by our partner organisation, the Chichester Harbour Trust, on a long term lease. The Friends help to manage the track to the north of the Farm by clearing bramble. To the south of Thorney Island, the Friends help with the beach clean, tree weeding at Cortice Copse, and clearing the WWII pillboxes.



### Prinsted & Nutbourne

The Friends help with footpath maintenance by the boat ramp at Prinsted. Further east along the footpath is Nutbourne Marsh, a site recently acquired by the Conservancy through a short-term lease, in order to manage it back to favourable condition. The Friends have helped with the fencing, maintaining the footpaths, and with ragwort clearance. A combination of the grazing management regime (left) and recent wet weather has literally returned the site to a marsh again – which is great news for wildlife!



### Chidham

The Friends have helped clear brambles and the stream at The Dell, as well as footpath maintenance work and tree planting. At Maysbush Copse, they have helped with tree weeding, tree planting, and maintaining the footpaths with wood chips. They have also helped to install kissing gates, fencing and bat boxes. Ragwort is also being managed along the Chidham Bund footpath.



### Cobnor

The Cobnor sea wall repair project was a significant undertaking in recent years. The Volunteer Rangers strengthened the sea wall by hand-placing new rocks alongside the coastal footpath. As if that effort wasn't hard enough, the sun was out in force when the maintenance took place! Thirsty work indeed! The Volunteer Rangers demonstrated what a fantastic team they are.

### Bosham

The Friends helped with the management of the footpath to the south of the peninsula, as well as litter clearance at School Rythe. There is plenty of other practical conservation work that takes place at Bosham without the support of the Friends, mostly by private landowners, and similar minded organisations, like the National Trust.



### Fishbourne Meadows

Fishbourne Meadows is owned by our partner organisation, the Chichester Harbour Trust, on a long term lease. The Friends have helped with laying footpaths and boardwalks, and installing bridges, bird and bat boxes, fencing and a water trough for the cattle. Other conservation work at this site includes bramble and ragwort clearance.



### West Wittering

The Friends help with the conservation tasks at Snowhill Creek, which includes ragwort pulling, tree planting, and tree weeding. There are also occasional fence repairs that are undertaken here.



### Itchenor

There are various footpath maintenance works in Itchenor. The Friends also helped to install fencing near the Memorial Hall, along the Salterns Way and plated blue bells at Itchenor Meadow. The coastal path requires ad-hoc attention as and when needed.



### Salterns Copse

Salterns Copse is near to Chichester Marina. The Friends help with the management of this site by coppicing, and looking after the footpath and footbridge. There are occasional repairs needed to the Salterns Way cycle route as well.

# Historic Photographs of Chichester Harbour

The Bosham Gallery has set up an archive to preserve and restore historic photographs of Chichester Harbour with the aim of hosting a series of exhibitions and talks that will bring alive some of the most exciting passages of the harbour's history since the advent of photography in 1840 - namely the harbour's oysters, wooden boat building and merchant trading. It is a collaborative project with West Sussex Records Office and in addition to the exhibitions commencing in April the archive will be accessible in a collection of albums on permanent display within the gallery in Bosham.

Do you have old photographs of Chichester Harbour and would you consider contributing copies for an exhibition? To make a deposit or to hear more about the archive please contact Luke Whitaker at the Bosham Gallery (01243 681271 or [luke@boshamgallery.com](mailto:luke@boshamgallery.com)).



Please visit [www.boshamgallery.com](http://www.boshamgallery.com) to hear about the 2018 exhibition programme.

## Book Reviews

We may feel that Chichester Harbour is just a small corner of the British Isles but it is significant in many ways. Two recent books include local events that have gone down as part of history.



### **Tide: The Science and Lore of the Greatest Force on Earth | Hugh Aldersey-Williams**

This fascinating book gives an introduction to everything you ever wanted to know about tides, whether it's science, history or folklore.

The book ranges around the world but our little part of the earth's coastline does get a

mention with the tale of Cnut. This is a must-read for anyone who feels the draw of the oceans and especially for those who live their life by the ever-changing tide.

### **Making of the British Landscape | Nicholas Crane**

As one of our best known geographer's Nicholas Crane is in a great position to share his wonderful knowledge and research on what has shaped the land we share. He starts around 12,000 years ago and tells the story of the major events that have given us our landscape. Chichester Harbour gets a mention in the section on the Romans, who Crane describes as 'an army of psychopathic builders'.



**Books available at Waterstones, Chichester. Price £9.99.**

## ...And Something New

The West Wittering cafe has been a focal point of the beach for many years, and has supplied a range of drinks, foodstuffs and beach essentials to the public since the beach opened.



There have been different buildings on the site, and the current one was deemed unfit to cope with demand several years ago after the estate bought the operation in house. This was made more urgent by the fact that a fire damaged the building making temporary mobile kitchens a necessity. The plans for the redevelopment have been a long and drawn out affair as inevitably a redevelopment in one of the most high-profile and well visited parts of the harbour was going to attract a lot of interest and comment. However, there are now revised plans and they were shown to the public in late 2017.

These plans - viewable on the estate website [www.westwitteringbeach.co.uk/nov2017consultation.html](http://www.westwitteringbeach.co.uk/nov2017consultation.html) show a building designed to cope with the heavy use over the summer months, as well as providing a better offer for the more seasoned all year visitors. In particular the focus will be looking northwards over the marshes towards the Downs. At the time of writing the plans have only been out for general consultation and planning permission will be sought via the usual channels.

## Discovering the Harbour all over again


Imagine the scene, I was out with a group walking around Thorney Island, the weather was fair and the companionship felt good for the soul. Suddenly, I noticed something flicker on the shoreline boulders, and yes! there was a wheatear, my first for the autumn and the first for my own Harbour 100 list. Even though looking out for wheatears over the years has become a regular spring and autumn activity for me, as I was now working towards my Harbour 100 it was extra special, like seeing it again for the first time.

If you don't know about Harbour 100 please may I tune you in now? It is an initiative run by the Conservancy, encouraging everyone to choose a topic of their own choice, to begin it at a time to suit them and to let it last for as long as it takes. There are no official lists of subjects and timescales, just an encouragement to develop an interest in the Harbour and within the boundary of the Area of Outstanding Natural

Beauty and work towards a hundred of something. There are no medals at the end but there is a special pin badge that we will send out for everyone to wear who has registered for the challenge. I am looking forward to the time when I will come across other people in the Harbour wearing their pin badges and I will know we will have something in common to share. All this inspired by our wonderful Chichester Harbour!

*Judi Darley*





For more information please see [www.conservancy.co.uk](http://www.conservancy.co.uk) and type in Harbour100 in the search bar.

## Our water quality theme this year

By the time you read this, we will have held two talks at Eames Farm, one by Plastic Oceans, engaging everyone in a conversation to rethink plastic, and another by Blue Marine Foundation, talking about the Solent project to install oyster cages under marina pontoons to clean and purify the water.



Your interest in water quality in the harbour is clear. Of our more oversubscribed events, the visits to Apuldram Waste Water treatment plant in 2017 set new records. So, by popular demand, we have six visits scheduled in 2018, each for a maximum of 12 people followed by a pub

lunch at the Crown and Anchor in Dell Quay. Book early to secure your place!

### Have your say on Southern Water's future plans

Southern Water wants to hear your views on its plans for the coming five years and beyond.

The company provides wastewater services to tens of thousands of customers across the Chichester area, with Portsmouth Water supplying properties with drinking water.

Southern Water's Business Plan for 2020-25 is being

published for consultation, setting out the range of improvements that will be delivered by the middle of the next decade. Together with Southern Water's longer term strategies, the document is available online at [www.southernwater.co.uk/have-your-say](http://www.southernwater.co.uk/have-your-say).

Joel Hufford, Southern Water's Sussex Stakeholder Engagement Manager, said: "Our plans for the future are based on detailed research to clearly identify what our customers and community representatives, such as councillors and environmental groups, want us to achieve for them in the years ahead. We would really like to hear what people think of our proposals for 2020-25, with improved services and performance, while keeping bills as low as possible. So, please do take the time to visit our website or watch out for local publicity for more information."

Meanwhile, Southern Water recently submitted a planning application for a new 10km-long sewer to cater for the hundreds of new homes expected to be built locally by 2030. The proposed pipeline will convey wastewater flows to Tangmere treatment works, with upgrade work at the site due to be completed by April of this year to create the required additional treatment capacity. Together, the new sewer and expanded Tangmere works represent an investment of £23 million in new infrastructure for the area.

**Further details can be found at [www.southernwater.co.uk/chichesterpipeline](http://www.southernwater.co.uk/chichesterpipeline).**

# Going Native

All trees are good trees, but some trees are better than others. If you are thinking about adding a couple of new trees to the grounds of your home then do think carefully about the species you will choose.

The Woodland Trust and the Conservancy promote the use of native trees. These are ones that naturally made their way to the UK during the last Ice Age. As the glaciers melted, the seeds were released and gradually our woodlands grew, filled with species such as oak, maple, elm and yew.

Native wildlife and plants and native trees go hand in hand and that is one of the main reasons why we should support the planting of these trees.

For example the dense canopy of a beech tree, provides the perfect habitat for a variety of orchids including red helleborine. Whereas the airy canopy of the ash tree, gives more light allowing dog violet and wild garlic to thrive.

Hawthorn provides a rich meal for many of the moth caterpillars, including the orchard ermine and light emerald and Field Maple attracts aphids which in turn become a food source for ladybirds and hoverflies.

The flowers on a spindle tree are a source of nectar and pollen, especially enjoyed by the St Mark's fly and holly berries provide a source of winter food for birds and small mammals.

If you haven't got space in your garden for a rotund oak or towering poplar tree, then you could try a mixed native hedge or join in one of the Friends' tree planting work parties and help provide habitats for our precious native wildlife.

*Ali Beckett*



Beech



Spindle

## Ask the Ranger

**How many trees are being planted this season and where?**

1,200 trees will be planted between two sites in Bosham. One at Old Park Farm, along the road verge and the other at Steeles Lane.

**How have the Friends helped?**

With manpower which is invaluable and also with funding to buy in the trees and tree guards.

**Where is your favourite woodland?**

Keith – Quarter's Copse on Thorney Island which isn't open to the general public. Georgia – Sherwood Forest (right), I love the ancient oak trees there.



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Working with  
The Friends of Chichester Harbour