

Autumn 2019

Friends of  
Chichester Harbour



# Newsletter



Hermit crab © Amy Lewis, provided by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

## In this issue:



The Friends continue  
their fight against ocean  
micro-plastics  
p4



CHC scoop a  
prestigious award  
p9

## Secrets of the Solent

Many wildlife wonders are below the surface of our local waters. Read about just some of the creatures that thrive here, but also need our help in keeping the waters clean and healthy for them.

## Dear Friends

I hope you have enjoyed the summer and had time to enjoy the Harbour whether that be walking, sailing, picnicking or even swimming as the waters warmed up.

This summer has been memorable for the Friends, we were thrilled to host a seminar about microplastics. It is heartening to see so many people take an interest in this growing problem and to know that our local Universities are at the forefront of research. However, we urgently need to find solutions and ways to prevent future pollution. This issue will not go away and we are determined not to get plastics 'fatigue' but to keep searching for ways to care for our beautiful harbour.

Sophie Evingar from The Secrets of the Solent project run by Hampshire Wildlife Trust has written a wonderful article for us highlighting the wildlife that lies beneath the local waves so we know what we are protecting.

The summer has also been busy with a membership



Presenters at the seminar

campaign. For the first time the Friends ventured out to Junior Weeks at the Harbour's sailing clubs. Armed with a new banner, membership leaflets and competitions, our volunteers made a great effort to raise awareness of the role of the Friends. We need to keep growing, so please tell your friends and family why it is so important that they join us now.

Over the years, the Friends have always been generous supporters of the Conservancy's Education Service. Our funding has allowed the team to develop new ideas and trial them often with no cost to local schools. In 20 years over 150,000 students have been welcomed to the harbour. Therefore, we were thrilled when the Education Team won the prestigious Bowland Award. Read more on page 9.

As we head into Autumn, it is time for our AGM and we look forward to guest speaker Alan Collins on the topic of The Romans in Chichester Harbour. The Harbour has been vital for people since time began and we hope to care for it for many generations to come.

*Oliver Chipperfield*



## Join us for this year's Annual General Meeting

Thursday 17th October 2019

Chichester Yacht Club

Guest Speaker:

Alan Collins, Fishbourne Roman Palace

**The Romans in Chichester Harbour**

Full details on the back page

All members are welcome to have dinner at the Yacht Club after the AGM



# Friends Promotion at Emsworth Sailing Club



In an attempt to promote Friends of Chichester Harbour and the work that they carry out around the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, various sailing clubs around the harbour agreed to host a stand during children's activity weeks, one of which was COW Week at Emsworth Sailing Club (Children on Water).

Despite blustery conditions, Friends Trustees Val Davis and Chris Clode set up their stall and handed out literature and promotional material to both parents and children taking part in the activities.

A competition was held in which the children were asked to write down or draw ways in which the AONB should be protected and how they would go about achieving that aim.

Over 40 entries were received and the Emsworth SC Junior Captains chose the winners from various age groups. The prizes were Friends T shirts with the logo on the back and the slogan 'Keep it Beautiful' on the front.

One of the responses, from a 5 year old was:  
***'We need to stop using the harbour as a dustbin as we have very diverse animals in the harbour, from seals to fish and birds which need help for today and tomorrow.'***

Another, from a 7 year old:  
***'We are all Friends – Let's look after each other'***

And finally a 12 year old:

***'Raising awareness, recycling and using renewable energy are some ways that we could save our beautiful harbour. Sadly, litter is filling up our environment and killing animals every year. Would you like to destroy our animal's habitat and food chain? No. Recycle, re-use, protect. Let's save Chichester Harbour.'***

It was a very worthwhile exercise and as well as promoting the Friends and the work that they do around the harbour, a number of new members were also signed up. *Chris Clode*



Photos by Don Manson

## Volunteer Opportunities

The Friends of Chichester Harbour currently have vacancies for volunteers to help organise events and in other areas.

If you have some free time, are good at communication and organisation and want to work with a great team then please contact the Chairman.

[chairman@friendsch.org](mailto:chairman@friendsch.org)

# The Friends Start a Micro-Fight

It is 10am on the morning after the Microplastics Symposium and I am wracked with guilt. During my morning shower tiny bits of plastic from my shower scrunchie have gone down the drain, followed by fibres from my microfibre cloth as I wiped down the tub. In the kitchen plastic particles drifted off my washing up sponge and gloves and worst of all the load of washing has added another 700,000 minute fibres to the water course. In just one hour I have added around a 1,000,000 plastic fibres to the world's waters.

It seems that at last the world is waking up to the problem of microplastics and microfibres on our coasts and in the seas and it is going to be a really tough one to solve. Here at Chichester Harbour we are fortunate to have the Universities of Brighton and Portsmouth on our doorstep, who are at the forefront of research. Valuable data is being collected from our local waters to help solve this worldwide issue.

There is no definitive definition of microplastic but in general we are talking about tiny pieces of plastic, 5mm and less, these can be microbeads or fragments of larger plastic items that are breaking down and then there are the microfibres that even smaller still.

Dr Corina Ciocan, Marine Biologist has been conducting research locally. In Chichester Harbour she sampled water from the top 5mm and found 10,000 microplastic pieces per litre. The figures reduced the deeper she went with sampling but zooplankton, the backbone of marine life, live in the top few millimetres of water and these creatures are literally swimming in a pool of plastic.

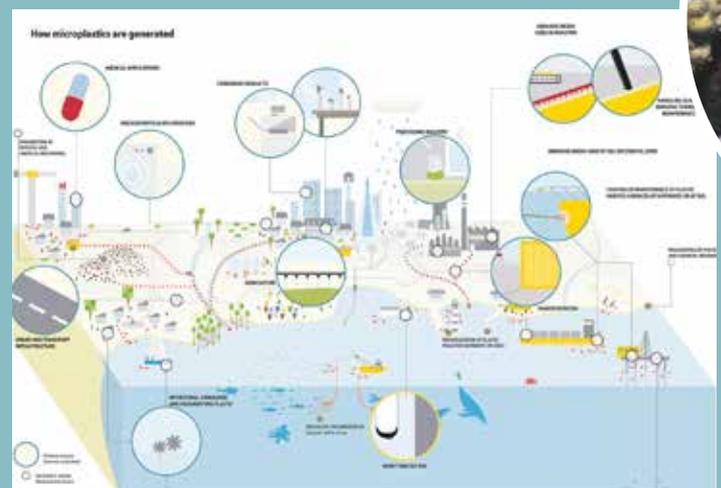
Professor Chris Joyce, University of Brighton, is working on a number of projects. In September he will be releasing results

“The greatest threat is thinking somebody else will solve the problem”

Dr David Jones

Microplastic waste is estimated to be 1kg per person per month with much of it going into the water

## Where does it all come from?



from surveys of sediment and lugworms in Chichester Harbour. So far, microplastics have been found in every sample. Green shore crabs have also been the subject of research and plastic was found in the brains of each dissected crab. In Atlantic mackerel caught at Hastings, 95% had plastic in their stomachs. An ongoing project is also looking at how plastic debris can be a vector for transporting harmful contaminants and residues of pharmaceutical products around the world.

A University of Portsmouth project looked at how these plastics move through the food chain and how far into an animal the plastics could travel. Crabs were fed plastic beads and when dissected the beads were found in the hemolymph (blood fluid) and in the tissue.

Serena Cunsolo, a PhD researcher gave a useful



“Don't doubt how bad this is... we must face up to it now”

Dr Corina Czerski

“Microplastic pollution from the land IS preventable”

Serena Consolo



presentation on how microplastics enter the waterways. It seems that we are all shedding bits of plastic all the time, whether it from our fleeces being washed or shreds coming off our car tyres. In this country the majority of waste water goes through a treatment plant, but only particles 6mm and above are removed. The rest either gets washed back out to our rivers and seas or settles into the sludge that is then discarded, often on agricultural land.

Just because this isn't a particularly visible problem doesn't mean it isn't important. At the moment we don't have enough evidence to know the scale and the consequences of this issue but we do know that plastic in the environment is never a good thing. We can't wait for species to start disappearing before we take action.

Ali Beckett

*Note: The Friends of Chichester Harbour are grateful to all the speakers and contributors to the Microplastics in Chichester Harbour Symposium. The Friends will continue to work with the academic community on this all-important issue.*

# What can I do?

## Some of the delegates shared their tips on how to reduce plastic use

'Spread the word, tell all your friends and family. We all need to find alternatives and cut down on the amount of plastic we use.'

**Lucy Hall, Just One Ocean**

'Send plastic waste back to supermarkets or hand it back at the customer information point'

**Taela-Rae Cherry, Just One Ocean**

'Choose clothing made from natural fibres that will eventually break down rather than synthetics that will never go away'

**Kate Chipperfield, Friends of Chichester Harbour**

'Use soap and shampoo bars to reduce plastics in the bathroom'

**Duncan Savage, RYA**

## Be a Citizen Scientist

Take part in the Big Microplastic Survey. If you are near a coast, river or lake you can take part.



1. Register at [microplasticsurvey.org](https://microplasticsurvey.org)
2. Watch a video on how to take a sample,
3. Gather your equipment (you will have everything you need at home)
4. Find a nice spot for your survey, analyse the results and submit your data.

**Make it into a fun family project on your next holiday!**

# Hayling Island Lifeboat Station

It is not surprising that the RNLI's lifeboat station is situated at Sandy Point near the Chichester Harbour Bar, with its often challenging conditions. Founded in 1865 for the fishermen and the busy commercial trade of the Emsworth and Dell Quay ports, now it is concerned with over 10,000 pleasure boats using the Harbour, individuals on the nearby beaches, and boats in the Eastern Approaches to the Solent.

The station averages about 70 "shouts" a year. Recent ones include a call for urgent medicines for a member of a crew on a grounded boat, the rescue of a non-swimmer, two 15 years olds caught in an ebbing tide, and a kayaker in trouble.

The station's Inshore Lifeboats (ILBs) are all specially developed by the RNLI to meet their exact requirements, at their building and maintenance operations based at East Cowes. Hayling Island RNLI has two boats.

Highly manoeuvrable and ideal for shallow water, their D-Class has a 50hp Mariner engine, a maximum speed of 25 knots, fuel for 3 hours and a 2 – 3 person crew. Unlike a normal rib, the D Class has a soft bottom allowing it to ride over rocks and submerged obstacles.

The D-Class are renowned for their toughness and ideal for recovery of individuals with their low profile in the water. They can operate in winds of upto Force 5 – 6.

Their larger B-Class 8.5 metres long rigid inflatable boat has twin 115 Yamaha outboards, a range of 100 nautical miles and a maximum speed of 35 knots – the fastest lifeboat in the RNLI's fleet. The engines have to be restricted to this maximum because of the extreme G-forces experienced by crew in rough conditions.

The boat includes a wealth of hi-technology equipment including radar, and direction-finding and night-vision, and electronic chart equipment. Plus a camera and microphone, which has, as a side aspect, provided some of the most amazing footage of rescues for the TV series *Lifeboat Heroes*.

The boat has self-righting gear in event of a capsize, with the engines inversion proofed to enable immediate restarting. Finally, there are twin ballast tanks able to be filled with ¼ ton of water in 2 minutes to provide much increased stability. These B-Class boats have saved thousands of lives with their revolutionary speed, manoeuvrability, agility and versatility.

**Derrick Battle, the B-class Atlantic 85 inshore lifeboat**



## Launching the Lifeboats

The foreshore at Sandy Point has changed dramatically over the years from tidal erosion and now includes a near vertical drop under the water to be overcome when launching and recovering the boats.

Tractors are used together with specially built trailers. The Atlantic 85 requires a 7,500 kilo / 7.5 ton tractor; its giant tyres contain salt and water to help keep in on the ground at launch and provide traction over the soft sandy beach.

The specially-made Drive-On / Drive-Off rig takes the Atlantic into the water and costs another £50,000.

## The Crew

Hayling Island has 40 male and female staff, comprising 21 boat crew plus operations' management and shore staff who launch the boats. As is well known, all are unpaid volunteers.

Every member has to live within five minutes of the station with individuals working off the island having to be available evenings and weekends, the peak time for rescues. The crew are divided into three watches – one week on, one week in reserve, and one week off.

The training for basic competence takes about two years including a full week each year at the RNLI's College in Poole, which has a water tank capable of taking their boats and creating waves of up to 1.5 metres. Reaching helm, navigator and radio operator levels takes more time and all competences are retested every three years.



Jacob, the D-class inshore lifeboat



The tractor for the Atlantic 85 named after Betty Battle who with her husband Derrick was a fantastic donor to the Hayling Island Station, paying for an Atlantic 75 and its Atlantic 85 replacement (currently £235,000) and a D Class boat (currently £55,000). The tractor can operate with water coming nearly up to its windows.



Overall the lifeboats must be afloat and operational in under 10 minutes from the time of the callout. The crew have 5 mins approx to get to the station, 90 seconds to get kitted up and 90 seconds for the ILBs to launch.

The crew's kit is fitted to each individual to match their size. It includes an all-important bunny suit to keep them warm, a dry suit on top, a life jacket for them and any victim, a helmet, gloves and boots with a Kevlar toe cap. Each person's kit costs the RNLI £2,000.

## In Conclusion

The Hayling Island Station illustrates how very fortunate we are to have the totally self-funded RNLI and its facilities on our doorstep. Visitors are welcome at the station on Sundays from 10:30 – 12:00 and Wednesday evenings at 19:30 – 21:00 when its training sessions can be viewed. Donations can be given at <https://rnli.org/support-us>.

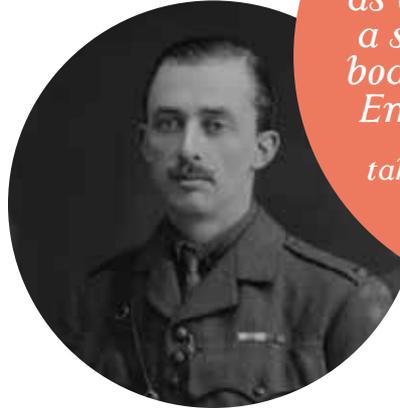
*My very grateful thanks to Nigel Roper for his briefing in support of this article. He is currently Chairman of the Station and was previously the Lifeboats Operations Manager. He has been a member of Hayling Island RNLI for over 43 years!* **Iain Pulley**

# A Centenary of Sailing

Emsworth Sailing Club was started after WWI by returning Army officers. The building was originally constructed in 1792 as a bath house. Since the Club was formed in 1919, membership has grown from 64 members and six boats to 1,700 members and several hundred boats. The Club is a leading RYA Champion Club and training centre.

*'Our dream has come off for I have secured a house as a Club station and a small fleet of light boats to start with on Emsworth Harbour'.*

*taken from a letter from Major Whitaker to Viscount Bury*



HRH The Princess Royal attended the Club's centenary celebrations on the 2nd May. Her Royal Highness took to the water in glorious sunshine to observe some of the youngest members' training activities, as well as current British Olympic Sailing team member, Jess Lavery, 24, who began sailing at the Club as a toddler.

centenary plaque commemorating her visit. Expressing her pleasure at attending the centenary event, she commented on the location being "an extraordinary area for sailing". She went on to commend the Club for its "many highly accomplished sailors" and praised the work of all the volunteers who do so much to sustain the Club's success.



1915



The Club is one of the oldest sailing clubs in the country and is well known for its training of successful Olympic sailors. The Princess is President of sailing's national governing body, the Royal Yachting Association, with which the Club is affiliated, and is a great supporter of young sailors and their development.

Princess Anne also has a family connection to the Club as her Great Uncle, Lord Louis Mountbatten, was Club Commodore from 1931 to 1932 and Admiral of the Club in 1969 and 1979.

After a tour of the Club, Her Royal Highness unveiled a

"We are hugely honoured that The Princess Royal attended the celebrations for our 100th anniversary; her visit has marked the highlight of our centenary year," Michael Geary, Club Commodore, said. "Her encouragement of the next generation of sailors and Olympic hopefuls meant that this was also a day that will live long in the memories of all the children who got the chance to meet her and display their skills out on the water."

1969



Major Whitaker: National Portrait Gallery / Princess Anne: Christopher/son



# Education Service wins a National Award

The Conservancy has been recognised nationally for its Education Service, winning the prestigious Bowland Award. The Bowland Award is presented annually for the best project, best practice or outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It recognises the tireless work of those who contribute to making the UK's 46 AONBs wonderful places to visit, live and work in.

The Education Service, which has just celebrated its 20th anniversary offers children the opportunity to learn about coastal habitats and wildlife, and take trips aboard *Solar Heritage*, the Conservancy's solar-powered catamaran. The classroom at Dell Quay provides a centre from which groups can go out and explore the Harbour.

Dr Richard Austin, AONB Manager at Chichester Harbour Conservancy, commented: "Since 1999 we've welcomed over 150,000 children to Chichester Harbour, in a bid to better connect them with nature. I nominated the service as I felt the team deserved national recognition for their outstanding efforts."

Jane Latawski, Education Officer, added: "We are all delighted

to win, and I'd like to thank everyone connected with the Education Service including staff, teachers, volunteers and visiting schools. It is a wonderful boost for our work to be acknowledged with this award, and we look forward to proudly displaying this incredible sculpture in our newly refurbished Education Centre."



Howard Davies, Chief Executive of the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, presenting the Bowland Award to Jane Latawski and Dr Richard Austin

Every year the Friends make considerable contributions towards the Education Service supporting initiatives such as free boat trips for schools from deprived areas, Forest Schools, Junior Conservancy and a number of art and photography projects. We are proud of this national recognition and look forward to continuing to work with the amazing Education Team.

## Leading the way on plastic education

Since the Centre opened in 1999 an important part of our work has been to make young people aware of how humans can have a negative impact on our coasts and nature. Our first 'plastics' project was in 2016, when we helped inspirational local teacher Jenny Quest do a beach clean with her pupils at East Head.

Jenny had talked to her pupils about plastic pollution and the children were so shocked about the harm caused to marine animals, that they wanted to 'do something to help'.

These beach cleans with Birdham School continued and when a young artist, Charlotte McCarthy, got involved they developed into an art and science project.

Charlotte, from the University of Chichester and on placement at the Education Centre, worked with the children to create a mural from the beach clean plastic.

Since then we've helped other schools to do beach cleans and, if possible, incorporate a 2-minute beach clean into our field trip programmes.



In 2017 we developed a Plastics in our Oceans workshop for primary age pupils, which our harbour teachers and volunteers take into schools to help raise awareness and understanding on this issue. We have visited many local schools with the workshop, which is received very positively by staff and children.

Unsurprisingly the issue of plastic marine pollution is resonating powerfully with young people. What is heartening, is how aware they are of the issue, and how interested they are in finding solutions to this huge problem. As a Centre we would like to do more work with young people, for example developing sessions for secondary age students.

Jane Latawski

# Secrets of the Solent

The Solent is a special place, with many wildlife wonders hidden just beneath its surface.

Our waters are home to a huge range of important habitats, from intricate chalk reefs to expansive saltmarshes, and an incredible diversity of fascinating wildlife.

Walking along the shore at Chichester Harbour, you can encounter all sorts of interesting species. The vibrant green and purple tentacles of the snakelocks anemone are often on show, as it makes energy from sunlight using a special alga. The beautiful dahlia anemone can be many different colours, and often sticks fragments of shell and gravel to itself for camouflage. If you see a ring of blue beads you might have found a beadlet anemone, which uses these stinging cells to defend its territory from rivals.

Crustaceans are another common sight on the shore. A shell that seems to have a life of its own could be a hermit crab – these animals move into empty shells, and prize their homes so highly they will fight each other for ownership. To identify a spiny spider crab, look for spindly legs and a spiked shell which may have a shaggy covering of green algae. Check under rocks for a chance to see

a tiny broad-clawed porcelain crab,



## Corkwing wrasse hide their young in underwater meadows

named for its ability to shed a leg if grabbed by a predator. Always remember to put back rocks as you found them though, to avoid disturbing their residents.

Common seals can often be seen hauled out in the harbour, especially during the summer months when they're caring for their young. Common seal pups can swim when only a few hours old and look noticeably different from grey seal pups, which must moult their long white fur before heading into the water. Adult common seals sometimes adopt a 'banana' pose with both their head and tail in the air, and can also be seen sleeping vertically in the water in a posture called 'bottling'.

## The broad-clawed porcelain crab...can shed a leg if grabbed by a predator



## Bottlenose dolphins can sometimes be seen (in the Solent) following ships

During low tide you might catch a glimpse of some sea-grasses – the world’s only true underwater flowering plants. Several species grow in the UK, and in greater quantities can form seagrass beds. These important environments are one of nature’s most effective carbon sinks and slow coastal erosion by anchoring sediment and reducing the force of waves. They also shelter amazing animals like corkwing wrasse, bass, and cuttlefish, which use these underwater meadows to have their young and hide from predators.

If you head out onto the water you might come across one of our more elusive marine species. Bottlenose dolphins can sometimes be seen following ships – these social animals can be individually identified by unique nicks and notches on their dorsal fins. During the warmer months we’re also visited



## Adult common seals sometimes adopt a 'banana' pose

by thresher sharks, which catch fish by stunning them with whip-like tails that can be as long as their bodies.

We have spectacular marine wildlife in our region, but sadly many of our species and habitats are under pressure. One way to help protect them is getting involved in our project Secrets of the Solent. With support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, we’re celebrating the amazing people and wildlife that share our waters. There are lots of ways to take part, from joining our shore surveys to spreading the word as a Marine Champion.

For more information visit  
[www.hiwwt.org.uk/SecretsoftheSolent](http://www.hiwwt.org.uk/SecretsoftheSolent)

## The vibrant green and purple tentacles of the snakelocks anemone make energy from sunlight using a special alga.





# Annual General Meeting 2019

## 5:30pm Thursday 17th October 2019

The thirty second Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Chichester Harbour will be held at 5.30pm on Thursday 17th October 2019, at Chichester Yacht Club PO20 7EJ. Please inform the Secretary if you are unable to attend and wish to have your apologies for absence noted.

### AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting (available at the meeting)
3. Matters arising not otherwise covered on this agenda
4. Presentation of the 2018/19 Annual Report by the Chairman (available at the meeting)
5. Presentation of the 2018/19 Accounts by the Treasurer (available at the meeting)
6. Election of the Honorary Accounts Examiner
7. Election of the Officers and Executive Committee for 2019/20

#### The 2018/2019 Officers and Executive Committee were:

Chairman ..... Oliver Chipperfield (2015)

Vice-Chairman ..... Heather Baker (2018)

Treasurer ..... Andrea Steer (2018)

Secretary ..... Mike Lewis (2012)

Membership Secretary..... Pam Marrs (2012)

Events..... vacant

Newsletter Editor ..... vacant

Others Members: Chris Harvey (2012), Mark Stanton (2017) and Chris Clode (Terror) (2015). Val Davis and Nigel Bennett were co-opted as Trustees at the July 2018 Executive meeting.

Mike Gilpin (Committee) and Ginny Kidd (Events) stood down during the year. The Chairman invited Val Davis and Nigel Bennett to join the Trustees as co-opted members in July 2019 and they are willing to stand for a full term at the AGM. All other Officers and Committee members are willing to continue. The dates of their first election are shown above.

Any other person wishing to stand for election as an Officer or member of the Executive Committee should submit their nomination in writing and ensure it is received by the Secretary at least 14 days before the AGM. All nominations received will be announced at the AGM and a ballot will then be held if necessary.

9. AOB followed by close of formal AGM
10. Report from Richard Craven (Director and Harbour Master) Chichester Harbour Conservancy
11. Guest speaker; Alan Collins (Fishbourne Roman Palace) "The Romans in Chichester Harbour"

After the formal business of the AGM and the Speakers, members will have an opportunity to view various stands outlining the work of the Friends and the Harbour Conservancy and to speak to representatives of both organisations. Wine and soft drinks will be served.

Please note - Members are also welcome to have dinner at the Yacht Club after the AGM (approx 7.30pm) but should make a booking with the CYC (phone number: 01243 512918).

### Contacts

Chairman: Oliver Chipperfield, [chairman@friendsch.org](mailto:chairman@friendsch.org)

Secretary: Mike Lewis, [secretary@friendsch.org](mailto:secretary@friendsch.org)

Treasurer: Andrea Steer, [treasurer@friendsch.org](mailto:treasurer@friendsch.org)

Membership: Pam Marrs, [membership@friendsch.org](mailto:membership@friendsch.org)

Events: vacant, [events@friendsch.org](mailto:events@friendsch.org)

Design & Production: [www.alibeckettdesign.co.uk](http://www.alibeckettdesign.co.uk)

Registered Charity: 1051162

### Friends of Chichester Harbour

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PO20 7AW

[www.friendsch.org](http://www.friendsch.org)



### New Members Welcome

Membership rates:

Single: £20

Couple: £30

Family: £40

Members receive regular newsletters, invites to special events, discount on Conservancy events and the opportunity to join environmental work parties.

To join please email: [membership@friendsch.org](mailto:membership@friendsch.org)

**Existing Members:** please check your standing order is for the correct new rate.



Working with  
The Friends of Chichester Harbour