



Itchenor News

Brought to you by the Itchenor Society

Winter 2013

Update from the former Chairman Christopher Mead-Briggs

In November my term of office as Chairman ended after 3 busy and very enjoyable years. The Society started in 1989 and continues to flourish. It can now look forward to its first lady Chairman, Mrs Alexandra Webb. Alex has lived in the village for some years with her husband Brian and their two children Ben and Gemma. Every Chairman has brought new and different talents to this office and I look forward to supporting Alex in every way. It has been such a rewarding experience but made so much easier by the enormous help and support from the society officers, the committee and from so many of you in the village. I feel so lucky to live in Itchenor and I am sure that the energy and commitment shown by the Itchenor Society will continue to benefit the village in the coming years. We welcome those new to our village and do hope you will join in our events whenever you can. I owe a huge debt of gratitude to my wife Meryl for all her support during my term of office.

Summer Party – June 2013



Undeterred by the wind and some cloud, the gazebos were erected and the wine was chilled. At 6pm on a sunny (if a little windy) June evening the Itchenor Society Summer Party began. More than 170 people gathered in the front garden of Harbour house thanks to our generous hosts Glynis and Peter Lansdale. The tables groaned with delicious nibbles kindly prepared by so many people. Judging from the favourable comments this was an event enjoyed by all. Rev Jonathan Swindells and his wife Jane attended and we raised £400 for St Nicholas Church in the raffle which was organised by Philip Edwards. Our thanks go to everyone else involved in organising this event - a summer highlight.



Chichester Draft Local Plan – Protecting the Harbour



In April the Society prepared an objection to the Chichester Draft Local Plan. At a meeting with the Parish Council it was agreed that we make a joint approach. We suggested a number of important changes to the draft plan including the need for a specific policy to protect the Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. In July our objection was upheld and a new Policy for the Harbour was published for further consultation.

This is it:

Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

The impact of individual proposals and their cumulative effect on Chichester Harbour AONB and its setting will be carefully assessed. Planning permission will be granted where it can be demonstrated that all the following criteria have been met:

1. *The natural beauty and locally distinctive features of the AONB are conserved and enhanced;*
2. *Proposals reinforce and respond to, rather than detract from, the distinctive character and special qualities of the AONB;*
3. *Either individually or cumulatively, development does not lead to actual or perceived coalescence of settlements or undermine the integrity or predominantly open and undeveloped, rural character of the AONB and its setting; and*
4. *Is appropriate to the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area or is desirable for the understanding and enjoyment of the area (where this is consistent with the primary purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty); and*
5. *Consideration has been given to the requirements of the Chichester Harbour AONB Management Plan.*

Opportunities for remediation and improvement of damaged landscapes will be taken as they arise.

Further improvement is still needed. Throughout we have enlisted support from our District Councillor, Pieter Montyn and from our MP Andrew Tyrie.

This is the first of a series of profiles of people actively involved in Itchenor. We are hoping to include this as a regular feature in future newsletters.

Chichester Harbour: A Profile of the Harbour Master, Richard Craven.

Holding a crucial role in Chichester harbour, Harbour Master Richard Craven is a key member of the senior management team of Chichester Harbour Conservancy.

The Conservancy is led by a Director, (Siún Cranny) who has overall responsibility for safety of the harbour and the many designations for protection of the natural beauty and landscape of the surrounding area. The Harbour Master is one of two key roles on the Director's senior team – one which oversees Environmental protection and development, and Richard's role - who as Harbour Master holds the remit to oversee all leisure and commercial operations in one of the most beautiful and lively leisure harbours in the country.

Based at the Harbour Office at Itchenor Hard, Richard joined the Conservancy in 1998, after previously working in the fire service and a career in commercial fishing. He was initially appointed Deputy Harbour Master, and took on his current position in the summer of 2011.

Richard was born and continues to live locally. He comes from a sailing family (his father was a sailing instructor), and is a keen sailor himself, with a number of long-distance voyages to his credit including Atlantic and Pacific crossings.

Employed by the Chichester Harbour Conservancy (the body charged with overall responsibility for managing the harbour and AONB), Richard oversees a team of six, and has a broad remit of managing all water-borne activities within the harbour, working closely with groups responsible for the broader aspects of harbour management, including conservation, development, leisure activities, tourism and commercial activities.

Although the smallest AONB in the South East of England, the harbour is one of the most intensively used, and its unique mix of sea, coastal strip and land give it an international importance. Some 41% (32 square kilometres) is comprised of water at high tide, with an intertidal area of 24 square kilometres.

The mudflats exposed at low water are extremely important for wildlife, including migratory birds, and there are a number of locally designated sites for nature conservation. One of the main aims for the Conservancy is to maintain the natural habitat while accommodating leisure activities. It is estimated some 1.5 million people come every year to enjoy activities both on and off the water around Chichester including sailing, fishing and walking.

Richard says one of the most important elements of his job involves overseeing the safety of those on the sea: "One of our most important tasks is to look after the safety of mariners on the water.....the use of tenders has been consistently assessed as one of the most hazardous activities in the harbour when sensible precautions have not been taken..... a third of life jackets recently tested by the RNLI failed to work". He continues - "This season we have been carrying out campaigns to encourage our boat users to be more disciplined about lifejackets and about the dangers of being on the water and alcohol consumption. We have increased our patrols around the harbour and our presence in different areas to engage with people around the harbour to get the safety messages across. This initiative has been welcomed by many, we have had encouraging feedback – we have tried to get the message across in a friendly and helpful way".

The Harbour Team achieve a heavy workload in a busy harbour. There is a resident fleet of some 12,000 leisure vessels in the harbour, 16 sailing clubs with a combined membership of 15,000 people, and it is estimated that each year over 25,000 people are engaged in racing, cruising, and fishing.

In addition, there are a number of commercial enterprises associated with the harbour. As well as sailing and tourism, boat construction and repair, farming, and commercial activities feature heavily. The Harbour Master is charged with operating within this framework, balancing various, and often competing interests but principally focussed on safety.

Looking ahead, Richard emphasises the need for on-going training on the water. While resident sailing clubs put significant effort into training sailors on enjoying the sport safely, the rising number of faster and more agile boats requires that skills keep up with the pace of change in order to avoid accidents.

Ensuring that the harbour's infrastructure is maintained and managed safely is crucial to the team's role as well as working closely with the Environment team to ensure that the harbour develops as a safe, welcoming and protected natural waterscape.



Image courtesy of Millstream Productions



Christmas Celebrations in Itchenor

- Sunday 1st 11.00am Toy Service, gift of toys for a local charity.
- Thursday 19th Erection of Christmas Trees at St Nicholas Church and the Hard
- Friday 20th 6.30pm Village Carols at Itchenor Sailing Club
in support of The Sussex Snowdrop Trust.
Complimentary glass of mulled wine on arrival courtesy of Commodore's drinks party.
One course supper (£8.50) available. Bookings direct with sailing club 01243 512400
or e-mail office@itchenorsailingclub.co.uk
- Sunday 22nd 6.00pm St Nicholas Carols by candlelight
- Sunday 22nd 8pm Carols at the Ship Inn

St Nicholas Christmas Services

- Tuesday 24th 4.30pm Children's Carols by Candlelight
11.30pm Midnight Communion
- Wednesday 25th 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
11.00am Family Communion

The Storm of 2013

Unfortunately the big willow in the pond succumbed to the storm of Sunday 28th October. A big thank you to the volunteers who turned up to unblock the drain by the pond and clear all the debris from the road. The Itchenor Society and The Parish Council are working together to repair the damage to the island and there is every chance we may be able to save the tree and the island.



Church Field

Your Society secured a Certificate of Lawful use from Chichester District Council for the use of Church Field in April this year, "for the parking of motor vehicles by persons attending the church services and church events at St. Nicholas Church, Itchenor Road, West Itchenor, Chichester, West Sussex."

Our thanks to Mrs Susan Pope, the Churchwardens, Rev. John Williams, Rev. Jim Mould and all those parishioners who assisted us by making Statutory Declarations. Their help was invaluable in overcoming some opposition.



2014 - Dates for your diary

Sunday 2nd February

Winter Lunch at the Ship Inn. Booking details to follow in early January

Friday 6th June

Wreath Laying Ceremony, Itchenor Hard

Mid - June

Summer Party. Details to follow.

Friday 14th November

Itchenor Society AGM



Charitable Donations

During 2012/2013 The Itchenor Society made the following charitable donations

Itchenor Memorial Hall	£250.00
Chichester Harbour Trust	£200.00
Friends of Chichester Harbour	£50.00
St Nicholas, Itchenor	£400.00
Snowdrop Trust	£357.00
British Legion	£100.00

Winter membership – Itchenor Sailing Club

Itchenor Sailing Club is once again opening its doors to Itchenor residents and members of The Itchenor Society this winter. You are invited to use the club facilities and join the organised events throughout November – March. Winter membership is free of charge and application forms are available from the Club Bar when you first visit or by contacting the office on 01243 512400 or office@itchenorsailingclub.co.uk. Previous winter members need only contact the office to renew. Winter members are issued a prepay membership discount card giving 10% reduction on all non-event purchases from the Bar and Buttery.



The 'Big Match' 2013

Despite rain, the annual rounders match against the Harbour Conservancy (pictured right) took place on a very wet Thursday afternoon – on the Hard – an inspired suggestion which proved to be a perfect pitch. The competition was fierce but The Society's team (above) won by half a rounder! An excellent tea was provided in the Village Hall – very welcome after the afternoon's activity.



Itchenor Society Committee

Officers

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