

Harbour *Life*

Spring 2021



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A Day in the Life

Classic Keelboat Sailing

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HARBOUR
CONSERVANCY



CHICHESTER
HARBOUR
CONSERVANCY

CELEBRATING
50 YEARS
1971-2021

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

This year, brings with it a very special milestone - our 50th anniversary. In 1971 Chichester Harbour Conservancy was created to manage this unique area for recreation, nature conservation and to protect its natural beauty.

It is testament to the well thought out statutory arrangements underpinning the organisation, and in particular the strong involvement of Harbour users in its management, that it has been such a successful body. Thanks go in particular to the impressive contribution of Chichester Harbour Federation, and to enlightened Harbour users demonstrating consideration in sharing this fantastic Harbour with a multitude of others and the rich wildlife.

We've incorporated the 50th anniversary into this year's plaque, and will also be marking the milestone with some new initiatives through the year. Look out for more information in subsequent issues of *Harbour Life*.

Richard Craven, Director and Harbour Master

Welcome

Welcome to the spring edition of Harbour Life. I hope you have enjoyed reading this series of new format magazines that we have been publishing for a year now. We've enjoyed the opportunity to share the breadth of our work that publishing four times a year has allowed.

There's been an increased focus recently on water quality along the south coast and in Chichester Harbour particularly. This season we feature an article exploring the impact of human activity on the health of Harbour waters. We also take a glimpse into the busy life of Senior Deputy Harbour Master, Ed Carter and discover some of the challenges he faces in his demanding role. Read on to find out more.



Richard Craven,
Director and Harbour Master




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 ChichesterHarbour

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We'd love to hear your stories about what you love about Chichester Harbour, and how you use it. Share your thoughts and photos on our social media channels or contact us at the Harbour Office.

News in *brief*

The start of the season

As restrictions lift over the spring and summer we're looking ahead to an unpredictable start to the season. As seen last year it's likely that many people will choose to visit Chichester Harbour after an extended period at home, particularly if the weather is good! As our Harbour shops, pubs and restaurants begin to open, we're keen for everyone to come and enjoy the benefits of natural beauty while supporting the local business community who will be grateful of our custom.

Please help us look after nature and habitats by being extra cautious when you're out and about. Sticking to the footpaths and bridleways will help to protect nesting birds and other wildlife, but the paths remain extremely muddy even after periods of dry weather so wearing sensible footwear such as walking boots or wellies will be necessary for some time to come.

And do bear in mind that many areas across the Harbour are particularly popular including Langstone Bridge, Emsworth, Prinsted, Bosham and Dell Quay, particularly at high water and so may be best avoided. Please also ensure that you park responsibly. Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for the latest news and updates.



Houseboats in the Harbour

We use a series of Planning Principles to guide us when considering planning applications within the AONB. This year we've developed a new Planning Principle on houseboats which, once adopted, will be used to guide our response to applications for planning permission for new houseboats within the AONB. We're inviting the interested general public to provide feedback on the wording of this Planning Principle which you can view on the Planning page of our website. Any feedback will be considered by the Conservancy's Planning Committee at their next meeting. Please send your comments to Richard Austin, AONB Manager at richard.austin@conservancy.co.uk by 30 April 2021. We look forward to hearing your views.

Looking after the Harbour

Joining us as Harbour Technician is Tom Hammond. Tom is a keen engineer and has worked for us as a seasonal Patrol Officer as well as assisting the workshop team. He speaks German and Dutch and is also a talented musician, playing the piano, church organ and saxophone!



Out with the old in with new

The past year has seen the Harbour extremely busy with walkers and cyclists. As a result many of our footpaths are in need of attention, and our Ranger team have set to work on a significant repair and replacement program.

Along Footpath 1 (running from East Head to Itchenor) the boardwalks near Chalkdock are being replaced. They were originally installed over 12 years ago and have been modified and repaired, but it's now time for a full replacement. The new boardwalk is bigger and better than its predecessor, and is being made with a heavier duty wood. It's being staked down to ensure its integrity during exceptionally high spring tides as the previous boardwalk tended to float off, leaving it twisted and out of place. The project is dependent on good weather as access to the site is through a boggy field, so forging ahead when it's too wet would cause damage or risk the team getting stuck.

The old steps near Thorney Island Sailing Club, which lead down to the foreshore, have also been replaced. Keith Rathbone, our Lead Ranger, originally made the steps back in 2011. Keith and Tristan, our Countryside Ranger, have worked to design, fabricate and install the new steps, which make a much safer route for those exploring the area.

It's very satisfying watching a project come together and be completed, from doodle at my desk to being real and functional.

Tristan Brougham - Countryside Ranger

There are plenty more projects to come; the second board walk on footpath 1, a new bridge on footpath 1, oak sleeper boardwalks between Salterns Copse and Dell Quay and the completion of the boardwalk in Fishbourne Meadows. Fingers crossed for some prolonged good weather!



Swallows racing in
Chichester Harbour

Photo © Paul Adams



Glorious classic keelboat sailing in Chichester Harbour

Have you ever wondered what all those beautiful boats racing in Chichester Harbour are, with their brightly coloured spinnakers billowing in the distance?

Have all those weeks spent locked down left you hankering to enjoy the water again? Chichester Harbour has a multitude of excellent sailing opportunities and one of them can offer you a very special experience of sailing a classic, former Olympic design, in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Chichester Harbour is blessed in having not one, but three wonderful day keelboat racing classes based at Itchenor Sailing Club, a situation almost unique in the UK. The XOD, the Solent Sunbeam and the National Swallow class all thrive in the Harbour, and each offers a unique experience.

A wealth of history abounds these classic designs. The X One Design was designed by Alfred Westmacott of Woodnutts Boatyard at St Helens on the Isle of Wight. Racing first took place in Southampton Water in 1911 and by 1938 some 81 boats had been built. When the class celebrated its centenary in 2011, 145 boats came to the start line in Cowes. That's competition!

Westmacott then went on to design the Sunbeam, a racing dayboat that was not only pretty but one that could handle the boisterous conditions of the Solent with ease. Thirty-nine Sunbeams were built to his design between 1922 and 1938. They were regularly raced in the Solent and at Falmouth until the outbreak of war in 1939. The designs were almost lost and sadly no more new boats were built until 1976. Thankfully now GRP boats have been added to the fleet ensuring continuing success.

In 1946 the YRA, the forerunner of the RYA, decided that a new keelboat class was needed. The Committee tasked with coming up with the answer had the 'fast forward' impetus of the newly announced Olympics to create a keelboat of 200 sq ft sail area, with light displacement, that was 'fast and lively', and would be suitable for mass production. The first trials were held in a perishingly cold winter with a storm that wreaked havoc for the four prototypes on their moorings in Cowes. In the end it was Tom Thorneycroft's Toucan Too (the fore-runner of the Swallow) which got the nod after a second weekend of trials. No-one quite knows how the design came

to be called the Swallow but what stood out were the smooth lines, the relatively low freeboard and sparkling performance with greater lift from the bow sections than its predecessors. A 'modern' classic was born and went on to be used in the 1948 Olympics with Stewart Morris and David Bond securing the Gold. Swallows have been built in GRP since the mid-1970's and a strong racing fleet continues in Chichester.

These three classic keelboats classes still thrive at Itchenor Sailing Club and there is an extensive programme of racing at regular times each weekend from March to October including a week-long regatta in June. The Swallow fleet are offering special opportunities to get involved for 2021. Crews are encouraged to join the fleet and, for those that know their way around a sailboat race course, Swallows are available to borrow for the mid-summer season.

Harbour sailing can have many advantages over sailing on the open sea. The waters are protected, and the racing is more varied and interesting. Keen sailors, who follow the America's Cup (yachting's premier event; staged this year in Auckland) know the competitors have to invent imaginary course boundaries to make the racing more interesting. Chichester Harbour has them already! And they are different every time you go sailing, adding to the wonderful variety in this incredible sailing spot.

For more information about the fleet, events and racing, please visit www.swallowclass.org.



Lights, camera, action

There are many things which we love to share about Chichester Harbour including some of the key conservation, habitat and wildlife projects and the special features that are unique to this area.

In the past months, in the wake of the pandemic and numerous lockdowns, there's been a real shift in the way that many of us enjoy content, with video in particular seeing a huge growth. And of course video allows Chichester Harbour, with its stunning views and wildlife spots, to be enjoyed by many people, wherever they are in the world.

So, to help better share our amazing landscapes with everyone, we've begun creating a monthly vlog, recorded by some of our team.

Our first vlogs have concentrated on how the Conservancy was formed and some of our

earliest projects. In January we took a look back at how the Conservancy was set up, and the key responsibilities we look after. In February, the focus turned to some of the first projects including how and why Harbour Dues were introduced and some improvements to the footpaths around the area. It's been wonderful to begin uncovering the Harbour, and some of its history, with you all in this way and through the rest of the year we'll be sharing some of the key milestones, new projects and happenings in the Harbour for all to enjoy.

We'll be sharing all of the vlogs on social media, so do come and take a look! You can follow us on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram and don't forget to take a look back at the vlogs from earlier this year.



My favourite walk

Rookwood Road to East Head



Rose Teal, Admin
Support Officer

We take the bus with our two little dogs (courtesy of the kind permission of the driver) and alight near Sayas Newsagents in Rookwood Road, West Wittering. We then stroll past charming cottages with pretty flower names and The Studio where Sir Henry Royce worked on his revolutionary ideas for motor vehicle design. Then it's a right turn towards the West Wittering carpark and a short walk past the school to the turnoff on the right for the lovely church of St Peter and St Paul at West Wittering. There is a flagstone path that meanders through the well-kept churchyard and a welcome bowl of water for the dogs with a tap nearby.

The path continues across an adjacent field, but the access to it is over a tricky set of steps that hug the side of the churchyard wall. If you have mobility issues you can take an alternative route by carrying on down the main carpark drive to Coastguard Lane. There are signs on the field warning you to keep to the main path as rabbits like to burrow there - and no one wants to step in a rabbit hole! The path passes through Snowhill Caravan Park and then joins Coastguard Lane.

We usually let the dogs off the lead here and keep an ear out for the odd car that may come along. On the right is the lovely row of coastguard cottages - named for the road - and we daydream about which of them we would like to live in and how much the dogs would enjoy the garden.

We cross the field and join the path that follows the shoreline past Snowhill Creek - the view across to East Head is lovely regardless of the state of the tide. If the tide is high the water laps against the grey rip-rap sea defences, if it is out a little we can walk along the stony beach and wet our feet or our wellies in the clear water of the inlet. When it's fully out we can watch the wading birds feeding on the mudflats.

Halfway down the path on the left hand side there is a crabbing pond popular with families. In the warmer weather there are often excited children with their buckets and lines looking to catch the increasingly wary crabs who live there.

When we get to the end of the path, we make a decision on where we will go based on the

tiredness of our small elderly dog, Billy. If he looks in fine fettle, we take a right turn and walk all or part of East Head. At weekends there are usually lots of other dog walkers so it's a nice social time for our two.

Sometimes we walk back the way we have come, although at other times we go through the carpark at West Wittering and back up the road. In the off season we can walk along the beach past all the beach huts with the dogs having a great time running in between them and over the piles of sand the wind has blown up.

There are two possible stops for coffee on this route - The Landing up in Pound Road at the beginning and end of the walk and the new Beach Café in the car park.

Back on the bus we head home with two tired but happy dogs who will soon be dreaming of the day's adventures.



A Healthy Harbour?



Good water quality is essential for the health of the Harbour; especially when it comes to the wildlife that depend on it and the people who enjoy it. Yet our waters do not enjoy pristine conditions, and are heavily impacted by human activity. Richard Craven, our Director and Harbour Master, explains the pressures on Chichester Harbour.

There are a number of key factors which affect good water quality, with the main ones falling in four main areas; bacteria, nitrates, chemicals/ metals and microplastics.

Bacteria

Bacteria has obvious links to human health. In Chichester Harbour bacteria can enter the water from many sources, including the Wastewater Treatment Works at Apuldram, Bosham and

Thornham, although these were upgraded in April 2008 to ensure all treated sewage now receives appropriate treatment before discharge. Storms can also affect the system, with additional water routed into the Harbour, and other pumping stations and combined sewage overflows discharging during storm conditions. Other sources are via streams which pass through fields grazed by cows, sheep and horse, and run-off from land around the Harbour during

heavy rain. Private package treatment plants and outputs from septic tanks from older properties contribute further. Finally yachtsmen and other Harbour users will also have some impact.

Water Quality Testing

Thankfully Harbour waters tend not to be impacted from high levels of bacteria from these sources, but levels can increase after heavy rain or storms, as seen earlier this year. Storm discharges can continue for significant periods in the Chichester area as the water table becomes higher than the wastewater pipes can cope with. To check how the Harbour is impacted we joined forces with Chichester District Council to test the water quality at 11 different sites around the Harbour. These tests take place every two weeks during April to the end of October and monthly in the winter. Thousands of tests have been taken

A Word About Shellfish

Chichester Harbour is classified as a shellfish water and while bacteria levels are generally excellent, E.coli appears to show up more readily in shellfish, which filter feed on the seabed. Oysters are tested every month, and results show they would need treatment before being fit for human consumption. Higher spikes are also found on occasions.

since the regime started in 2007, enabling us to check for long-term trends.

Although Chichester Harbour isn't a designated bathing water, we compare the results with standards from the Bathing Water Directive. Records are available on our website and the Chichester District Council website.



Nitrates

Nitrates enter the Harbour from a number of sources, usually from agricultural run-off and wastewater treatment works. Most enter from the wider Solent with significant inputs from the Test and Itchen rivers. However, during wet winters, nitrate levels are considerably higher at the tops of the channels; Fishbourne Channel levels are 600% higher than those at Fishery Buoy near to the Harbour entrance, pointing to much higher inputs from these areas.

Excessive nitrates lead to the growth of a particular weed which can be seen in the Harbour, particularly in summer, as green mats on the water. The weed prevents birds from feeding, can stop oxygen reaching the mud below (killing off invertebrates) and smothers saltmarsh, causing it to die back. Saltmarsh is an extremely important habitat, supporting wildlife, holding carbon and acting as a very effective sea defence. Concerningly Chichester Harbour has lost 58.8% of its saltmarsh since 1946, to a mixture of excess nitrates, coastal squeeze caused by sea defences and increasingly by sea level rise.

Excess nitrates also impact negatively on seagrass beds, another important habitat in the Harbour

Areas of highest nitrates see the greatest loss of saltmarsh and seagrass

providing protection to young fish and seahorses, and storing carbon.

Chemicals and metals

Chichester Harbour's waters and sediments contain a mixture of compounds and heavy metals; the result of industrial legacy from the wider area, waste water, run-off and usual activity. The Environment Agency tests for a range of chemicals and metals, and recently included tests for PBDE (used in flame retardants, electrics, foams and textiles) and mercury and its compounds, which they found in higher than acceptable levels. Raised levels of copper and zinc are also identified associated with boating. In addition rapidly expanding consumer markets and

industrial manufacturing cause new chemicals to enter the aquatic environment every year. Among these are Endocrine Disrupting Contaminants (EDCs) which have the potential to affect aquatic wildlife, by interfering with their hormones. Concern about the effects in Chichester Harbour has gathered pace following local oyster population declines in the past decade. To help better understand the long-term impacts we are a partner in the Interreg funded Reduce Pollution (RedPol) project, which seeks to identify substances that have significant negative impacts on aquatic life.

Microplastics

Microplastics (generally plastic pieces less than 5mm in size) and microfibrils have a growing and significant presence in today's environment. Chichester Harbour is an important area for scientific research, acting as a microcosm for how microplastics are affecting many seas and oceans. As a highly designated and highly protected area of the South Coast the Harbour is still seeing significant impact on its water quality as a result of microplastics.

Good water quality is a key area of our work, and we will continue to regularly monitor levels, and work with other organisations to protect our waters for the years ahead.



what's *on?*

Getting out
and about safely

Events Update

With restrictions on organised activities continuing, don't forget that a selection of self-guided walks and cycle rides can be downloaded from our website. As guidelines change, and more people visit the Harbour, it will be important to take note of the latest signage when visiting. If you're cycling please use the dedicated cycle paths – the footpaths have been extremely muddy over the past few months, and with bikers adding to the 'traffic' we are having to build in a programme of extensive repairs. And if you're walking make sure you are wearing sensible footwear such as walking boots or wellies, given the footpaths are likely to remain slippery for some time. As the season changes we're looking forward to re-introducing boat trips on our Solar Heritage back to Itchenor. Keep an eye on our social media for updates!



Photo © John Bartholomew



Photo © Paul Adams

Welly Walks

With schools returning our outdoor sessions will be kicking off to ensure that local schoolchildren are still able to enjoy the Harbour. These Welly Walks will give classes the opportunity to visit Chichester Harbour on a guided walk with one of our Education Team, to enjoy the fresh air, some activities and see the wildlife and views. Each class will take part in two walks - one at high tide and another at low tide.

We're mindful of the restrictions and so each walk will begin at the school to a particular Harbour location allowing each class to experience something on their doorstep. Bosham children will explore human geography topics, such as the history and age of the buildings and maps of the village, whereas at Fishbourne the children will learn about habitat, particularly reedbeds and rivers. Our Welly Walks programme is open to all Harbour schools, so to learn more please contact our Education Centre on 01243 789173.

A Breath of Fresh Air

With spring upon us, it's a lovely time to be out and about in Chichester Harbour. Warmer days and changing wildlife means there's always something new to spot so don't forget to check out our Spotter's Guide for inspiration.

Being out in the fresh air is also beneficial for good physical and mental health, more important than ever in what's been a very challenging time. But don't forget that time spent outside helps relieve stress and tension, offering the chance to breathe deeply, take in the quiet and enjoy simpler pursuits. As an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Chichester Harbour can be a haven if you need to relax or find some time for yourself. The opportunities for 'time out' are endless – there are beautiful walks along stunning footpaths, leisurely bike rides along dedicated cycle paths, and for times when you just need to pause there are many points from which you can simply stop, sit or gaze at beautiful vistas.



Bluebell Woods

One of the most wonderful things to do in spring in the UK is to discover a bluebell wood. Britain is home to almost half of all of the bluebells in the world, and across the Harbour we have a number of stunning sites which become a carpet of bluebells from late March. If you are lucky enough to stumble across a wave of these wonderful flowers don't forget that's its against the law to pick or uproot them. Please also take care if you're near to a patch - if damaged or trampled on it takes the plants years to recover.

Fun for families



Create a nature stick

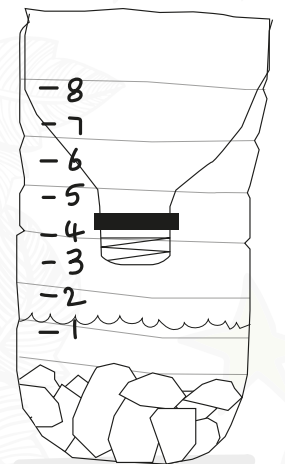
A great activity to tempt little ones out on a walk is to encourage them to make a nature stick (also known as a story stick or journey stick). As you walk collect items along the way - look for fallen leaves, twigs,

flowers, feathers or any other natural treasures. Younger children can take a piece of cardboard with double sided tape attached to secure their items to the card. Older ones can use a traditional method, choosing a stick and attaching items to it using string or wool. The stick then represents a lovely memento of your walk. They are a very old custom, originally being used by travellers who would use them to relay a story of their travels once they had returned. Today, they can be really helpful if you want to keep a walk interesting for children, and can also be useful to help with discussions about nature and how to take care of it.



Make a rain gauge

One which is good for April showers or if there's a spell of wet weather! This simple activity can be managed in your garden, and needs just a few items. Use a plastic bottle with a flat bottom (you can always create a base by pouring a little jelly in the bottom of the bottle and leaving to set) and make a cut two thirds of the way up. Then invert the top part of the bottle into the bottom part. Fix with tape and stick a scale in centimetres up the side. Choose an open spot, away from trees and pop your rain gauge into a small hole so it doesn't get lost on a windy day. Check the gauge at the same time each day and make a record of the number of centimetres rain which has fallen. Empty out each time you check, and see how much rain falls over a few days or a week.



Meet the Team

Ed Carter,
Senior Deputy
Harbour Master



Our dedicated team are responsible for the smooth running of the Harbour, and help deliver our duty to conserve, maintain and improve the area for recreation, leisure, nature conservation and natural beauty.

Ed Carter is our Senior Deputy Harbour Master and is responsible for the day to day management of the Harbour Team and overseeing their operations. Ed joined us in 2013 as a seasonal Patrol Officer then progressed to Harbour Technician before becoming Moorings Officer in 2016. He took up his current role in 2019. He has a background in recreational sailing and is a seasoned sailing instructor, after spending time teaching in the Mediterranean.

What do you do on a typical day?

This has been my first year in the role of Senior Deputy Harbour Master and I think it's safe to say that there has never been a year like it! For part of the last year, no recreational boating was permitted, but once people were allowed out again we had the busiest times on and off the water that anyone can remember. So it's quite difficult to describe a typical day. However, the main responsibility of the Harbour Authority is ensure the safety of navigation for all harbour users and so this is my main focus every day – usually by deciding how to deploy our

resources in the best way possible to achieve the day's priorities. Every morning I speak to the Workshop and Patrol teams to share information that has been communicated by the public or which has come from official channels such as the coastguard or police that might affect their work over the coming day. I also hold a weekly briefing where the teams, including those working remotely, can come together and keep up to date with everyone's activities around the Harbour.

What's the main focus in spring? How do things change through the seasons?

Spring's main focus is recruiting and training our seasonal Patrol Officers. We train the team in towing vessels, conflict resolution, equipment maintenance and administration procedures which all require knowledge that is particular to Chichester Harbour. The Workshop Team are busy with replacing top chains, completing their service schedule and private contract work. In the summer, we focus mainly on the needs of our harbour users which change daily depending on the weather and tides. A wet and windy, low-

tide Monday morning presents a different set of challenges to a breezy, sunny, high-tide Saturday afternoon! The team might be helping vessels that have run aground, giving advice on safety to paddleboarders, collecting visitor's harbour dues from yachts anchored at East Head, replacing a channel marker that has come adrift or engaging with a speeding vessel or one that's creating excessive wash. So I always need to ensure that the available resources are used in the most effective way.

Once we reach Autumn, the Harbour almost breathes a sign of relief and it's a chance to review what has gone well and what needs improvement. This is also when we conduct the Port Marine Safety Code Audit and look at our Safety Management Plan which develops according to the changing nature of harbour use. I usually take a break in December as this is our quietest time, but once the new year comes the Workshop Team are busy again completing their service and renewal programme and taking advantage of the time when boats are off their summer moorings. The billing cycle for the year starts again and before we know it Spring and the new season are on us.

How do you feel about working for the Conservancy?

After growing up in Cornwall I've always loved the coast and been interested in wildlife. It's what drew me to my first role here and the chance to work not just in the marine industry but in an organisation that valued and protected the environment and ecology of such a beautiful place. The work of the Conservancy is so varied which has given me the greatest opportunity to learn about so many things that are outside of my day to day work.

What's been the highlight of your role?

After the enormously difficult spring and summer of 2020, it's been great to see how well the team pulled together not just get through the season, but also to support each other. We've also achieved excellent results in the Port Marine Safety Code Audit which has made me very proud.

What's your favourite Harbour spot?

I love the feeling of getting away from it all and it's difficult to beat sailing peacefully on a quiet but sunny day with the Harbour all around you and just an inquisitive seal for company.



A Vibrant
Harbour

Chichester Harbour is a living, working landscape and commercial activities, both past and present, have helped shape its character. Many businesses support the Harbour's use as a recreational destination with employment in boat building, services and visitor facilities.

Over time the nature of the boat building and repair industry has changed in line with customer demand, but traditional methods are still used on wooden day boats, whilst yachts are repaired at boatyards around the Harbour. Chichester Harbour also supports many marine related businesses, including marinas and sailing clubs, which collectively provide jobs and volunteering opportunities and make a valuable contribution to the local economy.

One business with a long history in the area is the family-run Emsworth Yacht Harbour. This part of the Harbour began life as a logging pond but was later dug out as a berthing area in the 1960s, with the first boats arriving in 1965. The Wakelin family invested in the marina in the early 1990s and took control of the whole site in 2009. Their ownership has seen a range of new tenants following significant development work including refurbishing the shipyard, creating several smaller workshops and extending the offices, which are now home to award winning restaurant, The Deck.

With Alison Wakelin as Managing Director, the Yacht Harbour now boasts over 200 berths and a wide range of marine businesses offering services including diesel and outboard engine installation, service and repair, small craft maintenance, yacht maintenance and restoration, rigging, stainless steel and aluminium fabrication, boat brokers and a navigation school. Alongside are businesses with broader appeal including kayak and paddleboard hire, yurt hire and competition angling.

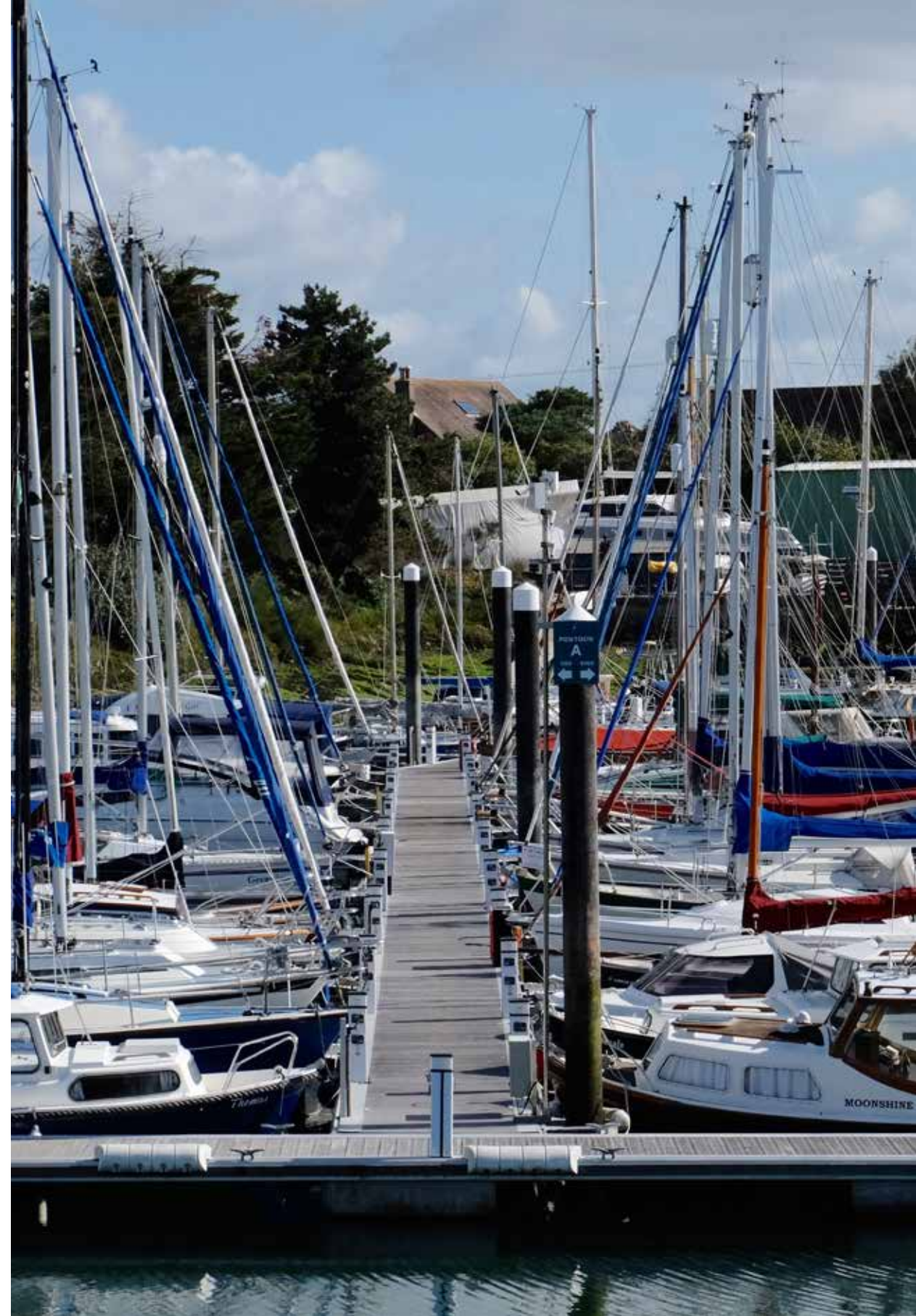
The Yacht Harbour is also home to Oyster Boat Terror, the last example of an open decked, gaff-rigged working sailboat. This 125 year-old vessel is now beautifully restored and available for public sailing trips for up to six passengers.

In its position close the centre of Emsworth, the Yacht Harbour is very much part of the wider community. It's popular with residents of the nearby black and white houses and with walkers frequenting The Deck take-away coffee cart. Neighbouring businesses include an established soft furnishings company and a fresh fish shop.

Emsworth Yacht Harbour is just one example of the vibrant economic mix which Chichester Harbour helps sustain. Over the years it's been able to evolve with the times, and looks set to continue to do so for many years to come.



Read more:
www.emsworth-marina.co.uk
www.oysterboatterror.org.uk



Spotter's guide

It's a wonderful time to be out and about in the Harbour with so many obvious signs of spring. But why don't you try looking out for some of these more unusual sights?



Alexanders *Smyrniurnum olusatrum*

What: A large, thick-stemmed and sturdy umbellifer, with yellowy-green flowers

Where: Alongside the footpath, at the edge of the hedge, often by the sea

When: Flowers very early in the spring (March-April) and the plant itself is usually growing strongly by early February

Did You Know? Alexanders has been used as food and herb for centuries, and its appearance is often associated with past human habitation – the leaves smell of celery, but be careful to identify the plant correctly if you intend to eat it, there are some close relatives of Alexanders that are definitely NOT good for you!



Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

What: A small shore bird, with black bib across its breast, black eye mask and bright orange bill

Where: Watching you from the shingle, or running away across the sand

When: All year, with largest numbers present in winter and a few breeding pairs around the Harbour in summer

Did You Know? Ringed plovers nest on the ground on sandy, shingly beaches and shores only a few metres from the spring high tide mark. There are now only two or three sites around the Harbour where they are able to breed due to human development and disturbance.



Porcelain Crab *Porcellana platycheles*

What: A small crab (only about 15mm long) with ridiculously outsized claws and a 'hairy' body

Where: Under a rock, in the lower intertidal zone

When: All year

Did You Know? The whole body and its 'enormous' claws are flattened, presumably to enable it to better hide under stones and other shoreline debris. This, their small size and their 'hairy' camouflage, makes them hard to spot – if you do find one, be gentle as they are not called 'porcelain' for nothing!



Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

What: A large, brown and white, migratory, fish-eating bird of prey

Where: Circling or hovering over the water, perhaps sitting on a channel marker

Did You Know? A translocation project aimed at restoring breeding ospreys to Poole Harbour started in 2017 – we may well see breeding ospreys in the south coast harbours and on the Solent coastline in the next few years.

Looking at the Harbour from a different perspective – view from the Trundle from Fishbourne Channel down towards Chichester Marina with the English Channel beyond.



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Photo © Paul Adams

To advertise in any
 edition of *Harbour
 Life*, please call the
 Harbour Office on
 01243 512301.



The Countryside Code

Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Park carefully so access to gateways and driveways are clear
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Follow paths but give way to others where it's narrow

Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit, take all your litter home
- Don't have BBQs or fires
- Keep dogs under effective control
- Dog poo - bag it and bin it

Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead, check what facilities are open, be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs and obey social distancing measures



*Enjoy,
 be safe*

Make a new home...

in **your** favourite destination

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