

# Harbour *Life*

Summer 2021

*In this issue*

Wildlife update

---

Harbour etiquette

---

A Royal visit

---

[www.conservancy.co.uk](http://www.conservancy.co.uk)



CHICHESTER  
HARBOUR  
CONSERVANCY

# The Countryside Code



## Your guide to enjoying parks and waterways, coast and countryside

### Respect everyone

- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
- be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available

### Protect the environment

- take your litter home - leave no trace of your visit
- do not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can
- always keep dogs under control and in sight
- dog poo - bag it and bin it - any public waste bin will do
- care for nature - do not cause damage or disturbance

### Enjoy the outdoors

- check your route and local conditions
- plan your adventure - know what to expect and what you can do
- enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory



[www.gov.uk/countryside-code](http://www.gov.uk/countryside-code)

# Welcome

Welcome to this edition of Harbour Life. Finally, after such a cool spring, the summer has arrived and the Harbour has been bustling with activity in the warmer weather. This will certainly keep our Patrol Team busy, and we take a look in more detail with a feature on Phil Walker, Lead Patrol Officer.

Monitoring the wildlife in the Harbour takes place continually throughout the year by our team with partner organisations and supported by dedicated volunteers. Our ecologist, Pete Hughes, shares a round-up of the findings from last year.

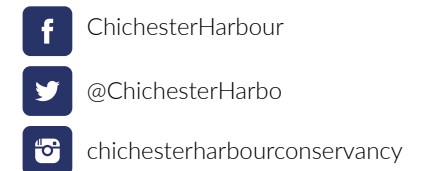
We are continuing our series of articles featuring Harbour businesses, and in this edition we find out more about family-run Northney Farm on Hayling Island. Read on to find out more.

Richard Craven  
Director and Harbour Master



### Contact us

Chichester Harbour Conservancy  
Harbour Office, Itchenor, Chichester PO20 7AW  
Tel. 01243 512301  
[www.conservancy.co.uk](http://www.conservancy.co.uk)  
[info@conservancy.co.uk](mailto:info@conservancy.co.uk)  
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 0900-1700  
Sat 0900-1300 (1 Apr-30 Sep)



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*

## Changing Faces

As you may have seen, we've recently made some changes to our team at Emsworth and Bosham. Rowena Judd has moved from her successful stint at Emsworth Harbour Office to Bosham Quay where she'll be available to give help and advice. Brendon McCallum, who has worked as part of our seasonal patrol team for many years, has come to work with us full time and is now the face of the Conservancy in Emsworth. He boasts extensive experience in the marine industry and will be on hand to help moorings customers in Emsworth.



## Speeding prosecution

Last June, we received a report of a jet ski travelling at high speed from the East Head anchorage area in a north easterly direction. Patrol Officers Brendon McCallum and Phoebe Noble responded to the call and pursued the vessel, recording it travelling at speeds of between 33 and 35 knots, only slowing once it had passed Chalkdock mark.

On returning to Itchenor hard, the driver was cautioned and in court, James Lye, 40, of Wortham Road, Meopham, was fined £250 and must pay £34 victim surcharge, £480 costs, after admitting exceeding the 8 knots speed limit in Chichester Harbour when navigating a jet ski.

Three other prosecutions for speeding in 2020 are being pursued although their cases are currently adjourned.

The speed limit of 8 knots is in place to ensure the safety of all harbour users. Cases of excessive speed will always be prosecuted.



## Sustainable Fishing

Sussex IFCA, the body responsible for fisheries management in the area, is planning to introduce more minimum size controls for fish caught commercially and recreationally. The aim is to ensure better sustainability in allowing certain fish and shellfish the opportunity to grow and reproduce. Details of the consultation are available online and any comments must be submitted before 17th June 2021 to: [ifcabylaws@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:ifcabylaws@marinemanagement.org.uk) and [admin@sussexifca.gov.uk](mailto:admin@sussexifca.gov.uk).



## Tern rafts

We launched our first tern nesting raft of the year in Thorney Deeps in early May. Just 10 minutes after the Rangers left it in position a pair of common terns landed on it! We also deployed a raft on Stakes Island, first trialled last year, in an effort to support breeding little terns. A pair had already made a start nesting on the island, but the expected high tides would probably inundate their nest so hopefully other pairs will be able to take advantage of the raft and have better luck. The tern breeding season has started!

## Chichester Harbour Conservancy 50th Anniversary Vlogs

As part of our commemorations of 50 years since Chichester Harbour Conservancy came into being, we have been releasing a series of vlogs that explore the work of the Conservancy over the last 50 years and some of the changes, from the wildlife populations to the infrastructure and the way things are run. The films are presented by Judi Darley our Communities Officer and she has been supported by Shirley Rushmer, a volunteer who has provided the camerawork and directorial input. Look out for future vlogs on our social media or catch up on our website ([www.conservancy.co.uk/page/films-and-videos](http://www.conservancy.co.uk/page/films-and-videos)) or our YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/user/ChiHarbourAONB](https://www.youtube.com/user/ChiHarbourAONB))



## Photo posts

Another project that will commemorate our 50th anniversary is designed for people to capture some of the most iconic views of Chichester Harbour. We have chosen 20 locations around the Harbour that highlight the special qualities for which it is renowned and will be erecting photo posts with a mount for your camera or phone allowing you to capture the highlighted view and to return to the same spot and record it at different times of the day or the year. The Rangers will be fixing them in place over the course of the next few months as they work around the Harbour and we will feature more about them and the chosen locations in the next edition of Harbour Life.

In response to the growing interest in houseboats (or equivalent), Chichester Harbour Conservancy developed a draft new planning principle to help guide feedback to new planning applications. Between 12th March and 30th April 2021, the Conservancy consulted on this new document, which is still available to read on the Conservancy's website. The Consultation Report was published on 28th May 2021, which summarises the responses received. We're now considering the next steps and will liaise with the Local Planning Authorities, and would like to thank everyone who responded. More information is available at [www.conservancy.co.uk/page/planning](http://www.conservancy.co.uk/page/planning).

# A walk on the Wildside

During the past year Chichester Harbour became a very different place for wildlife. Weeks of lockdown made for a quieter and more tranquil place than usual, yet as restrictions lifted, large numbers of people flocked to coastal areas to enjoy open spaces. This yin and yang certainly brought with it some great opportunities for wildlife to breed in unexpected places, and then significant challenges as the public returned. Against this backdrop Pete Hughes, the Conservancy's Ecologist, shares a round-up of how the wildlife in Chichester Harbour fared over the past year.

## Winter Visitors

Ahead of last year's first lockdown our winter visitors saw a better season, and after relatively low numbers of brent geese were recorded in the 2018-19 season (where we saw a peak of 8,721) numbers were back to a more 'normal' level in 2019-20, with a peak count of 11,582, and over 10% being juveniles indicating a successful breeding season. However, the mild winter into 2020 did seem to affect some of the other waders and waterfowl, including dunlin, which were seen in very low numbers.



## Tern Triumphs

Two tern rafts were floated at Thorney Deeps in May 2020, with the permission of the MoD. As in 2019, when we floated a single raft, this was a very successful project, with a minimum of 33 pairs of common terns raising approximately 50 young to fledging; a remarkably productive season.

Little terns fared less well. Three pairs of little terns attempted to nest on Stakes Island, but were sadly flooded out by a spring tide, along with a small number of common tern nests. At least one pair of little terns nested for a second attempt on the RSPB reserve at Pilsley, off Thorney Island, where they raised one chick to fledging. This was despite a large increase in visitors on Pilsley during the months of June, July and August as lockdown restrictions lifted.

In mid-summer, a tern raft was also trialled on Stakes Island, off Cobnor Point, with the plan to launch fully in 2021, aimed at encouraging little terns to breed. It's very much hoped that this will encourage the little terns back, given their attempts last year.

---

*The two tern rafts on Thorney Deeps hosted one of the largest and most successful common tern colonies in the Solent in 2020.*

---

## Fish

Perhaps the most remarkable wildlife event of the year was when, in early September, an Atlantic bluefin tuna washed up dead on the eastern side of Thorney Island. It was around 2 metres in length and weighed 180kg. This is the first known 'up-close' record of this species in modern times in Sussex and fits with the increasing presence of tuna in the English Channel.

## Eagles

The Isle of Wight White-tailed eagle reintroduction project, run by the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation has now completed its second year (six birds were released in 2019 and a further seven in 2020). Several of the birds, which all wear satellite tracking devices, have been recorded over Chichester Harbour during the past year, usually on their way to and from the Isle of Wight as they roam widely across southern England. Always a spectacular sight!



Photo © Shirley Rushmer



## Seals

Due to COVID restrictions, the seals had the water pretty much to themselves for part of the spring. As usual, the population was monitored by monthly surveys, in partnership with Langstone Harbour Board. At least seven Harbour Seal pups were recorded in Chichester Harbour during June and July, and encouragingly the numbers of both species (Harbour seals and Grey seals) have increased steadily over the past five years.

## Amazing Avocets

In an encouraging development 16 pairs of avocets bred at Snowhill Marsh (West Witterings Estate) in April-May 2020, producing around 24 young. The last time these birds bred in the Harbour was in the 1980s! Avocets are a scarce breeding bird on the Sussex and Hampshire coast, and their numbers have been gradually increasing for many years. There are two possible reasons why they appeared; they might have been displaced from another nearby site, or fewer people in the area because of lockdown may have made it a more attractive environment.



## Waders

On RSPB Pilsey, three pairs of Oystercatchers and two pairs of ringed plovers fledged young, a significant improvement on previous years. At National Trust East Head, a pair of ringed plovers again hatched young, but it is unknown whether the chicks fledged – sadly the vast increase in recreational pressure when lockdown restrictions were lifted meant that it was unlikely. In addition, on Thorney Deeps, five pairs of lapwings and two pairs of redshanks nested. At least three pairs of lapwings and one pair of redshanks had young in May, but again it is not known whether they fledged young.



## Habitat Management

Working with a number of different landowners, our Ranger team managed several local sites, from reedbed to woodland to open grassland to improve conditions for wildlife. At Thorney Deeps, in partnership with the MoD and the tenant farmer, wetland enhancements were carried out on the grassland to improve conditions for nesting waders such as lapwings and redshank, and wintering waterfowl (primarily wigeon, teal, black-tailed godwit, curlew and snipe). This involved removing some encroaching scrub and bramble and digging small ponds or 'scrapes'. The outcome has been very successful with up to five pairs of lapwings and two pairs of redshank using the newly created wet areas, and during the winter the pools were regularly used by a range of ducks and waders.

## A Year Unlike Any Other

The past year has seen wildlife making the most from some of the periods of quiet, as a result of the lockdown of spring 2020. It's perhaps unlikely that these periods of calm will happen again, but we hope that some of the tranquil months of 2020 will help 'reset' the scene for some species. As ever, the Conservancy team will continue to support the careful balance of nature and recreation for the benefit of all.



Photo © Rupert Pye



# My favourite bike ride



Gina Simpson –  
Finance Officer

I love this cycle ride around Hayling Island. It gives me a chance to see some of the best views across the water whilst not having to tackle any hills!

I take my bike on the train from Chichester to Havant and then make my way to Langstone using the extension to the Hayling Billy Trail. Once on Langstone Bridge I enjoy the view of two harbours and the old Billy line bridge which always makes interesting reflections in the water. I usually travel anti-clockwise around the island so I follow the signs to the Hayling Billy Trail and set off along the west coast of the Island. The view across the open water toward Portsmouth give a real sense of space and there's usually lots of sailing and windsurfing activity to watch.

At the end of the trail is the old station which is now a popular theatre and after a short way on the lane I pick up the shared off-road walking and cycling path that runs along the seafront. You get lovely views of the Isle of Wight from here and then across to Selsey Bill. On windy days there are always kite surfers or windsurfers to spot and gulls wheeling overhead.

Once I reach the end of the off-road path

I like to continue on to Sandy Point and the Lifeboat Station. There are fantastic views across Chichester Harbour from here and something about the perspective make the Downs seem nearer. It's also a great vantage point to watch the boats coming and going through the Harbour entrance, or to enjoy the International Moth foiling craft almost fly across the water.

Now it's time for the return leg, I cycle through residential streets before a short stint on the main road past the Donkey Sanctuary and then off onto the lanes that take me through the countryside to Northney. There are lots of opportunities for refreshments on this part of the journey. I can choose to stop at the café at either Meadow Farm Nursery or Northney Farm, or I can push on a bit further and choose the Langstone Hotel or the Salt Shack café in Northney Marina.

When I pass North Common, I often take the opportunity to stop, where I can chain up my bike, and take the footpath along the shoreline and take in the fabulous views across to Emsworth and the Downs beyond. Then it's back across the bridge in time to catch my train home.



*Enjoy it yourself*

*You can find a map of this cycle route on the cycling page of our website.*





# A Royal Visit

On a bright, sunny day in May, Chichester Harbour enjoyed a visit from royalty. We were delighted to be invited by Chichester Harbour Trust to take part in their visit from HRH The Princess Royal. The visit took place at Bosham Sailing Club, with its spectacular views of Quay Meadow and Holy Trinity Church, and across to the South Downs.

Her Royal Highness joined the team at Chichester Harbour Trust and the Conservancy to learn more about area, and its special qualities. We were able to share the valuable work that our organisations do to conserve and enhance the landscape and wildlife of the area, and explain the challenges and pressures on the Harbour and its wildlife presented by increased local development, water quality and sea level rise.

During the visit The Princess Royal met with John Nelson and Nicky Horter from Chichester Harbour Trust who explained some of the challenges and opportunities facing the area. She was shown displays about wildlife, conservation, education and young people by some of the Conservancy's staff and volunteers. A display on sailing and recreation was also provided by Paddy Mirams, commodore of Bosham Sailing Club.

The Princess Royal is a keen sailor and enjoyed time on board a Chichester Harbour Conservancy RIB, skippered by Richard Craven, our Director and Harbour Master. During the short trip she was shown some of the sensitive areas of the sheltered coastal waters in the Harbour and the high tide bird roosts at Stakes Islands, Pilsey Island and Ella Nore Spit.

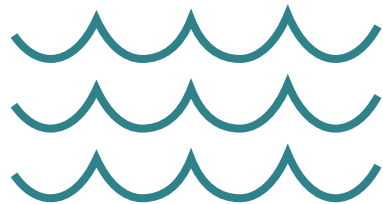


# A QUICK GUIDE TO SHORELINE ETIQUETTE



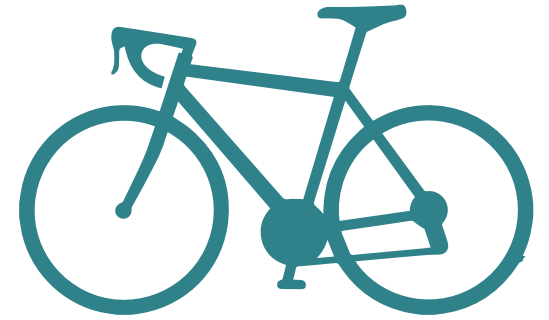
**Fires and BBQs** – please don't light fires along the shoreline. Much of the Harbour's shore is protected for species of plants and animals that would be impacted by fires. Disposable BBQs are bad for the environment, if they haven't been properly put out, they can also be a fire hazard if left behind or thrown in a public bin. Even if they've been put out and taken away, the ground beneath, particularly if it is sand, can stay very hot for some time afterwards and burns to people's feet are reported every year.

**Tides** – if you are walking a shoreline footpath then please check the tides before you set out. Some of these paths become submerged at high tide and you risk getting cut-off or getting very wet feet. Likewise, people ignoring the signs can get caught out parking on the shore in Bosham village, occasionally to the point where cars float away!



AS IN THE WIDER COUNTRYSIDE, PLEASE FOLLOW THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE WHEN YOU VISIT THE HARBOUR.

**Cycling** – please stick to the cycle paths and bridleways and leave the public footpaths for feet. Over the past year there's been a huge rise in the number of cyclists using waterside footpaths which are designed for walkers only. Cycling on these footpaths has caused some significant damage which is difficult and costly to repair. There are plenty of routes suitable for bikes right across the area so do enjoy these!



## ALCOHOL

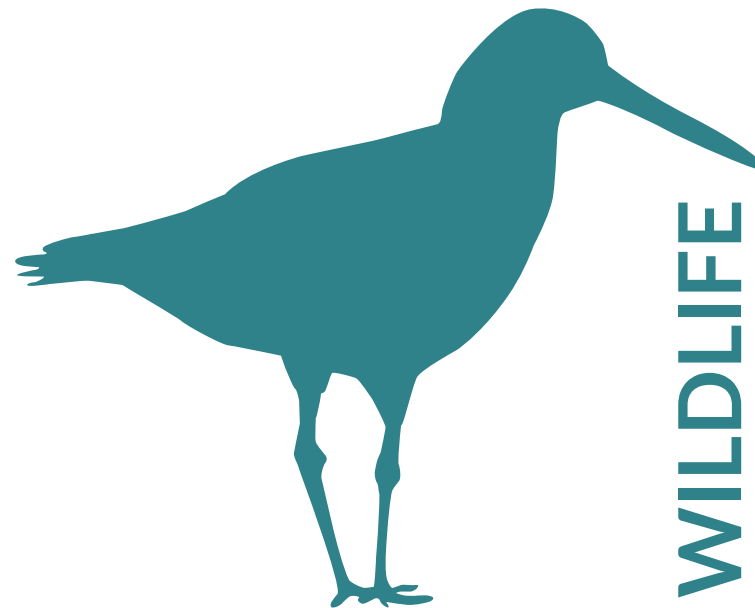
If you're enjoying a drink or two, be aware of others who might be using the area to rest and relax quietly. Also, try to avoid bringing glass which is never a great idea at the coastline – it can break easily, and the magnifying effect can be a fire hazard if left in the sun.



## PARKING

Please use dedicated parking areas where possible. If you are parking on the street, please take care not to block the access for residents or cause the carriageway to become too narrow for larger vehicles to pass. It might seem like common sense, but it has become a particular problem in popular spots over the last year.

## RUBBISH – VERY SIMPLY PLEASE TAKE IT ALL WITH YOU WHEN YOU LEAVE!



## WILDLIFE

This is a very special area as thousands of birds breed or pass through the Harbour in the spring and summer. Waders, terns and gulls often nest or rear their young on shorelines, beaches and saltmarshes and they are extremely vulnerable to disturbance. Please keep dogs on a lead in sensitive areas where birds are nesting or roosting at high tide. If you are setting out on a kayak or SUP please plan your route to avoid getting too close to spits and islands like Pilsey Island, Ella Nore Spit and Stakes Island as they will all have nesting birds during the summer. Also, give any seals you see a wide berth, June to September is a critical time for breeding and moulting their coats. If they are hauled out but take to the water when you come near, then you are definitely too close. Please give wildlife the space it needs.



# A DAY IN THE LIFE

Phil Walker,  
Lead Patrol Officer

### What's a typical day or your main day to day responsibilities?

A typical summer's day begins with a briefing of the Patrol Team. The Harbour is a very large body of water and so we have to make sure that we deploy our resources to where they can be most effective each day. We carry out a range of regular activities like visiting the East Head anchorage to collect Harbour dues from visiting vessels, patrolling the various channels, enforcing Harbour byelaws to ensure that Harbour users are protected from speeding vessels, anti-social behaviour, undue wash or dangerous seamanship.

We provide friendly advice, assistance and directions that can help people launch their boats, find a great anchorage for lunch, start a troublesome outboard or a find a suitable overnight mooring. Sometimes things don't

go to plan and we may have to deal with a incidents such as vessels sinking or aground, a failed engine, oil spills or a medical emergency.

The Harbour Patrol also manages much of the Harbour facilities that are used by everyone. These include our hards, pontoons and the Itchenor car park and we carry out routine maintenance of our RIBS and other vessels.

Our job is made easier by the vigilance of residents and harbour users who help keep us informed. They are our additional eyes and ears covering the 50 miles of shoreline and 17 miles of navigable channels of the Harbour. If you see someone needing assistance, anything suspicious, a boat low in the water, an injured bird - no matter how small or seemingly insignificant - please get in contact.

### Can you share any thoughts and feelings about working for the Conservancy?

I've worked for the Conservancy for 16 seasons, starting out as a seasonal Patrol Officer and the beauty of the place and the lovely people have kept me coming back. I worked full-time as Deputy Harbour Master for seven years but am now enjoying a seasonal role again which allows me to pursue other interests in the winter months.

### What's been the highlight of your role since you joined?

Every season where you think you've seen most scenarios a new one pops to challenge you, make you laugh or occasionally despair!

I really enjoy seeing the team develop over the season and perform well as a group when called

upon. Many of our younger staff do four or five seasons with us and it's great to see them up their skill and confidence levels in that time. You feel like you have sent them into their future careers better equipped to prosper at work and in life generally.

### What's your favourite Harbour spot?

The view from HISC on a good day takes some beating but my favourite is taking the flag down at Itchenor after a hot and busy weekend when the visitors have departed happy and the peace and tranquillity returns to the sleepy Harbour village.

# what's *on?*

Getting out  
and about safely

## Events Update

We're delighted that our walks and boat trips in Chichester Harbour have begun again. After more than a year without any activities, the team has been working hard to create a new events calendar. As you'd expect all are being operated under Covid guidelines with limited numbers to keep everyone safe.



## Walks With a Ranger

We've planned some new 'Walk With A Ranger' events, which offer a guided walk with one of our knowledgeable team. We've been mindful about which days of the week, times and meeting points are best to make all walks as considerate as possible for our local communities, who've seen nothing short of a huge number of visitors in the past months.

Some of the highlights for the summer months include:

### Stroll with a Ranger: Chichester Marina

A stroll of less than two miles with a Conservancy Ranger around Chichester Marina and to Birdham Pool with stops to hear about the Harbour area and the recent work of the Conservancy.

### Walk With a Ranger: Northney to the Old Oyster Beds and Emsworth

An 18km (11 mile) walk from Northney Farm on Hayling Island across fields to the shoreline of Langstone Harbour, past the bird reserve of the old oyster beds and on to Langstone in Chichester Harbour and then Emsworth, for a lunch break, before returning to Northney Farm.

### Wildflower Walks

A stroll in one of the wildflower areas in the Harbour taking time to look for and identify the wildflowers and hear something of their mythology and past uses for medical ailments. With John Arnott, wildflower enthusiast and all round naturalist.

For dates, times and full details of these and other events, please visit the What's on page of our website [www.conservancy.co.uk](http://www.conservancy.co.uk), or call the Harbour Office on **01243 512301**.

## Boat Trips

Solar Heritage, our solar-powered catamaran, is sailing again! After being moored up during lockdown she's now back on the water at Itchenor (Emsworth during August) and a range of Harbour cruising, bird watching and seal safari tours are planned over the summer months. Solar Heritage has long allowed visitors to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Harbour, with minimal disruption to the environment and wildlife. You can slip through the waters and get up close to many of the birds and habitats that make the area so special. Our experts join each sailing and are on hand to answer questions and point out some of the sights. View the sailing timetable at [www.conservancy.co.uk/page/solar-heritage](http://www.conservancy.co.uk/page/solar-heritage).

The Oysterboat Terror – a beautifully restored Victorian wooden sailing boat that originally supported the oyster industry in Emsworth – is also sailing. Trips can be booked through the links on our website or at [oysterboatterror.org.uk](http://oysterboatterror.org.uk).



## Don't Forget to Book!

All events and trips must be booked in advance. You can do this through our website using the What's on section and the events calendar. If you'd prefer please phone the Harbour Office to book any of the events.

Photo © Tom Hammond

# Fun for families



## Summer Nature Walk

Summer offers so many things to see and look out for. How many of these can you see on your next Harbour walk?

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lizard       | <input type="checkbox"/> Cornflower  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Butterfly    | <input type="checkbox"/> Crab (you may need a bucket and line, and some bait to tempt them out!) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tern         | <input type="checkbox"/> Seal – pups can be seen from June or July time                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sea Lavender |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cricket      |  |

## Beach Art

Creating a piece of beach art is a fun and creative way to make the most of a trip to the coast. Use pebbles, sand, small pieces of driftwood and shells to make pictures or patterns. Or you could even try to make beach people by laying on the sand and getting others to draw round you before filling in the details!

## Wildflower Shadows

This is a great way to while away some time either out or in the garden. Bring some paper or a sketch pad outside and sit next to a patch of wildflowers letting the shadows fall onto the paper. Then draw round or paint the shadows that are cast onto the page using watercolours, pencils or pens.



Chichester Harbour

# Spotter's guide

It's a wonderful time to be out and about in the Harbour with so many obvious signs of summer getting underway. Look out for these plants and animals when you're out and about.



## The HISC Grey Seal

**What:** A young grey seal, that seems inordinately fond of hauling out (resting) on the beach at the Hayling Island Sailing Club (HISC) despite all the people and boat traffic.

**Where:** HISC, obviously!

**When:** First seen in April, it's still frequenting the area as we go to press in early June.

**Did you know:** Grey seals don't breed on the Sussex or Hampshire coast, and judging their age is very tricky, but this individual was probably born in the winter of 2020-21, perhaps on the east coast of England where large numbers breed. It appears healthy, so please give it space (at least 30m), don't touch it, and keep dogs on a lead. If any hauled-out seal has its head up and is looking at you it's not relaxed and you're too close!



## Mediterranean Gull

*Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

**What:** A 'black-headed' gull with a bright red bill, pure white wing-tips and a distinctive 'yaar' call.

**Where:** All around the Harbour.

**When:** Can be seen all year, but most common in spring and, particularly, late summer.

**Did you know:** A rare bird in the UK about 25 years ago, the increase in numbers and spread of the 'Med' Gull has been remarkable, and they now breed in large numbers along the south and east coasts of the UK, as well as in Holland, Belgium and North France. Thousands are present in the Harbour during July and August each year.



## Sea Campion

*Silene uniflora*

**What:** A low growing, white flower with five petals and an inflated calyx.

**Where:** Along the very top edge of saltmarshes and shorelines, sea walls and shingle ridges – it's fairly local around the Harbour, but can form dense carpets where it does occur.

**When:** Flowers in mid to late summer.

**Did you know:** The flowers are superficially very similar to the much more common red campion and white campion, but the plant itself is very different, having fleshy leaves and growing in low 'cushions', quite unlike the campions of hedgerows and fields.



## Laver Spire Shell

*Peringia ulvae* (aka *Hydrobia ulvae*)

**What:** A very small snail, barely 5mm long, with a conical, spiralling shell.

**Where:** Pretty much everywhere on the muddy inter-tidal zone. If you've ever walked across the mudflats of the Harbour, you've probably stood on many thousands!

**When:** All year.

**Did you know:** Present in their millions, and feeding on detritus and seaweeds, this tiny snail is surely one of the most important creatures in the Harbour. As planktonic larvae they are fed upon by numerous other invertebrates and small fish, and as adult snails they are food for many birds, from the tiny dunlin to the hefty shelduck.

# Farming the Land

Photo © Paul Adams

Much of the land within the boundary of Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is farmland. The whole area is blessed with fertile, easily tilled soils so it is no wonder that we have some thriving farms that are able to take advantage of less intensive farming methods to work with wildlife, not against it.

Northney Farm is one such farm, occupying an enviable location on the north-eastern shoulder of Hayling Island partly in the AONB.

A significant part of their work falls within the High Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme. This voluntary scheme helps to maintain field

boundaries, plant hedgerows and pollen and nectar mixes and allow ditches to grow wild for longer periods all of which supports wildlife on the farm.

Two metre wide, uncultivated strips are left around many of the fields to encourage



The farm started out growing fruit and vegetables in the early part of the last century but has developed more recently into a mixed dairy and arable farm. In their dairy herd, they have 120 Ayrshire cows. These are favoured over the familiar black and white Holstein stock because Ayrshires are very hardy and long lived – reaching 15 or 16 years of age. There are also two very impressive and good natured Aberdeen Angus bulls called Brooklyn and Bishop.

The herd is a 'closed herd' meaning that new animals are born and bred within the herd itself rather than being bought in from other farms.

One Ayrshire cow produces 6,000 litres of milk per year. The cows are milked twice a day in a computerised parlour. The milk is transported to the Medina depot at Swanmore for pasteurising and bottling before being distributed to shops and supermarkets. Some of the milk is processed to make their popular ice cream which is available for sale in their tearoom and other local outlets as well as the Harbour Office in the summer months.

They also raise a small number of beef cattle (Ayrshire / Aberdeen Angus cross) on the farm. These are born and raised on the farm for up to 30 months, spending much of their time grazing on the low-lying fields.

Northney Farm land mainly consists of pasture for the grazing of the cows and young stock and making silage to feed the cows in the winter while their sister farm, Stoke Fruit Farm, uses some of the fields to grow wheat, potatoes and peas as part of a crop rotation plan. Maize is also grown as a forage crop for cattle. At harvest time, the whole plant, cob and all, gets cut in one go. The machine chops the plants into rough chippings that will be stored and fed to cows in winter.

In common with many small farming businesses, Northney Farm has diversified and also runs a popular tearoom where they serve homemade, freshly prepared food with a particular emphasis on their own produce with burgers made from their own saltmarsh grazed beef and lots of different flavours of ice cream from their dairy herd.

wildflowers, insects and ground nesting birds to flourish. Ladybirds, skylarks and butterflies are all benefiting from this initiative. Hedgerows are grown and maintained to provide further habitats and cover for wildlife. Cereal stubble is left in the fields after harvest for birds to forage in.

The marshlands bordering the shoreline on both the north-east and north-west of the farm are designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). These areas are looked after by the farm. They dig and maintain ditches so that rain water can flow back to the sea at low tide. Across Hayling, flooding is an ever-present danger and the maintenance of ditches to allow rain water to return to the sea is crucial.

Find out more about visiting the farm or the tearooms at [www.northney.farm](http://www.northney.farm)



Care, Repair & Maintenance  
Now incorporating Hayling Glass Fibre Repair

All aspects of marine service available including :-

- GRP cosmetic & structural repairs
  - Marine carpentry •
  - Osmosis treatments •
- Antifoul removal & application
  - Copper coating •
  - Polishing & valeting •
  - Gel coat re-sprays •
- Bow or stern thruster fitting •

Find us at Sparkes Marina, Hayling Island  
02392 464109 / 07887 747385  
3dmarineltd@gmail.com  
www.3dmarineltd.co.uk

**WINDSURF**  
**KITESURF**  
**WINGFOIL**  
**SURF**  
**SUP**  
**TUITION**  
**HIRE**

**2XS® WEST WITTERING BEACH**

*"Pragmatic Surveys in Plain English"*

If you need your **boat surveyed** for  
**Insurance** Renewal,  
**New boat purchase Survey**,  
**Damage Survey**, **MCA Coding**  
then contact  
**Matt West** your local **Boat Surveyor**  
www. Marine Surveys UK .com  
 **07798 55 45 35**  
 info@boatsurveyor.net  
5 Star Google Reviews ★★★★★

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

# Make a difference

join the



Your subscription provides much needed funds for projects aimed at conserving and enhancing Chichester Harbour, improving accessibility for all and providing educational opportunities.

## Member benefits

- Get involved with practical conservation work, no regular commitment necessary.
- Enjoy exclusive members' talks and social events.
- Join a vibrant community.
- Recieve regular newsletters.



Join now - [www.friendsch.org](http://www.friendsch.org)



# Make a new home...

in **your** favourite destination

Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty offers the most idyllic setting for a mooring. - We have vacancies available throughout the Harbour offering a cost effective way for you to enjoy being based in this special place.

## Conservancy moorings

- Regular water taxi - Tender storage
- Toilets and showers (Itchenor)
- Maintenance piles - Fresh water - Pump out
- Locations at Itchenor, Dell Quay, Nutbourne and Emsworth
- Our friendly team on hand to assist you

## Bosham Manor moorings

- Peaceful location with stunning views
- Quick access to the sailing area
- Ferry access from Bosham or Itchenor
- Beautiful historic Quay with full services
- Quaymaster customer support

**All moorings are maintained by our team to the highest standard**  
**For prices and locations visit**  
**[www.conservancy.co.uk](http://www.conservancy.co.uk)**

**Contact – Anna Perkins, Moorings Officer**  
**[moorings@conservancy.co.uk](mailto:moorings@conservancy.co.uk)**  
**or call 01243 512301**



**CHICHESTER  
HARBOUR  
CONSERVANCY**