Harbour Life

In this issue Supporting the Next Generation Sail Boat Project Autumn Spotter's Guide



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CHICHESTER HARBOUR CONSERVANCY

* Emsworth in July/August

Welcome

As the days start to shorten and the temperature cools, we look forward to all the new season has to offer. Although the Harbour waters are less busy than in the summer, we are enjoying the start of the new academic year by welcoming many young people to our Education Service. Autumn also brings new opportunities for leisurely country walks with plenty of refreshment stops; there's walking inspiration and details of our guided walks on the following pages.



We are also looking forward to the arrival of the overwintering bird populations. In the coming months, the bird numbers in the Harbour will be swelled by thousands of returning Dark bellied brent geese and Dunlin amongst other less abundant but equally important species like Sanderling and Knot. You are guaranteed to see many species of birds and find out some interesting facts from an expert, if you take one of our birdwatching trips aboard Solar Heritage, which run throughout the autumn and winter. Read more in our What's On section.



Richard Craven, Director and Harbour Master

Contact us

Chichester Harbour Conservancy Harbour Office, Itchenor, Chichester PO20 7AW Tel. 01243 512301 www.conservancy.co.uk 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*

Education Centre Re-Opens!

Our Education Centre has re-opened and is busy welcoming school children back to the classroom and for field trips in the Harbour. The Centre is based at Dell Quay and has a dedicated team of teachers and volunteers who offer school children the opportunity to discover the Harbour's landscapes and wildlife hands-on, and develop an understanding of the importance of looking after our protected areas. Last year's restrictions saw the Education Centre running outdoor sessions in the form of guided Welly Walks which began at local schools, taking in a particular Harbour location. This year the Centre will be offering a full programme of field trips, outreach workshops and classroom sessions which can be personalised to match learning and curriculums. Some of the schools being welcomed this term include Havant College, Chidham Primary and Headington School from Oxford!

Spirit of the South

In July we were delighted to welcome ITV Meridian for a day's filming in the Harbour. The team joined us at East Head, where they were able to watch an A Level biology group studying the saltmarsh, before meeting with Pete Hughes. our Ecologist, for some seal counting. The wildlife played ball, and we were able to spot no less than 14 grey seals enjoying the area, and basking on the shoreline. The feature was shown on 12th August as part of Meridian's "Spirit of the South" series which celebrates the region's hidden treasures, and can also be seen in All Around Britain, a national ITV programme which began airing in September. If you missed the episode it's still available on the ITV Hub.



Youth Volunteers

Over the summer we kicked off a new taster programme to develop a team of Chichester Harbour Junior Rangers. Young people aged 16-19 were invited to volunteer to help us with some projects in our teaching area including the addition of three new benches and recovering some of the secret paths from nettles and brambles. A new Youth Ranger group has now been set up to offer an ongoing volunteer opportunity for young people. Read more about our work with the next generation in our feature in this issue.



Popping Up

Our summer holiday Pop Up Information Pods proved a great success this year. Running in July and August at Northney Farm Tea Rooms and our Education Centre Classroom at Dell Quay, this newly created information service allowed Conservancy staff to meet visitors and Harbour users to chat about what's on and suggest some things to do in Chichester Harbour. The team were on hand over five days to share information about walking routes and boat trips, ideas for family activities and to answer questions about the wildlife which live in and around the Harbour.



Paddlesports in the Harbour

In the past few years, and particularly as restrictions eased last summer, we've seen an enormous increase in people taking up paddlesports. Kayaks, paddleboards and canoes can be a low impact, healthy and fun way of exploring Chichester Harbour but when craft get too close to birdlife and seals, they can cause disturbance, which can have a negative impact on wildlife survival. Our new leaflet – available **online** or from the Harbour Office – shares some important advice for those using canoes, kayaks and paddle boards. And don't forget you'll still need to pay Harbour dues before taking up any paddle sports in Chichester Harbour.



Don't forget to share any photos of Chichester Harbour on our social media feeds! #chiharbourviews

Every **Picture** Tells a Story

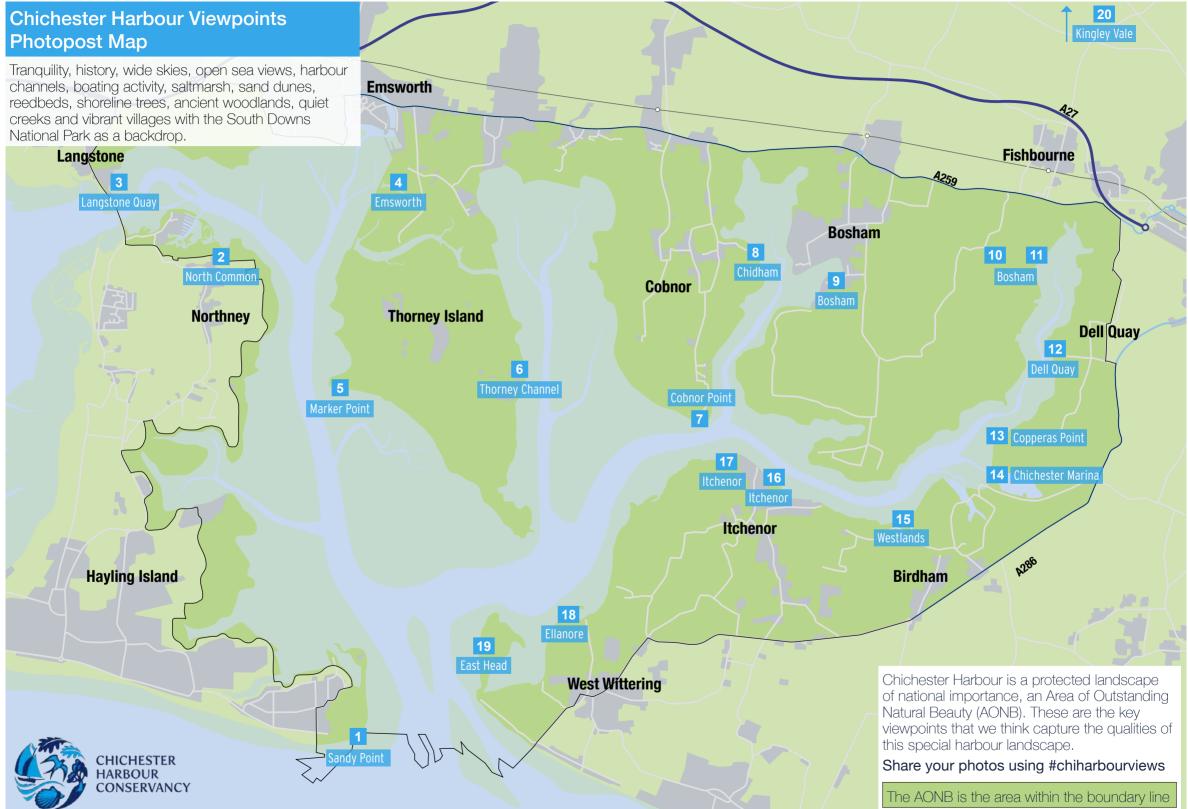
As an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Chichester Harbour offers some stunning views and landscapes. Whether you are click happy or enjoy taking time to capture some of the best Harbour views, our new photo posts will help create the perfect picture every time.

Over the course of the next few months a new project is kicking off in Chichester Harbour. As part of our 50th anniversary celebrations, we are installing 19 photo posts to help visitors capture some of the most iconic views of the Harbour. The photo posts, which can be used to frame a particular view, offer a fantastic opportunity for some fixedpoint photography, which is equally suited to mobile phones or digital cameras.

All 19 viewpoints have been chosen to capture the special qualities of the landscape by framing key vantage points around the Harbour. They'll take in tranquillity, history, wide skies, open sea views, harbour channels, boating activity, saltmarsh, sand dunes, reedbeds, shoreline trees, ancient woodlands, quiet creeks and vibrant villages with the South Downs National Park as a backdrop.

The posts are being installed by our team of Rangers, and you'll be able to find them at the locations shown on the following pages.

We're always keen for everyone visiting Chichester Harbour to enjoy the natural beauty of this nationally important protected landscape, and adding these photo posts will help visitors capture some of our most famous and striking scenes. They'll also provide a fantastic record of how our Harbour landscapes change through the seasons, and over the years.



Inspiring The Next Generation

Chichester Harbour is a fascinating place, with a unique blend of land and sea. An important part of our work to protect this wonderful space is to introduce it to the next generation, its future custodians. In the past few years we've set up some new schemes to encourage young people to get more involved with Chichester Harbour.

Harbour Tots

Launched in 2019, this monthly group for pre-school children has been extremely popular! Harbour Tots lets children between 2½ and 4 years explore the natural environment with their parents and carers. Activities have included making bird food kebabs, muddy walks on the shoreline and plenty of games and stories. The sessions have been run through the summer and winter months and offer a fun and friendly way to get very young children out in the fresh air to find out more about our Harbour and wildlife.



Youth Rangers

We've just launched a Youth Ranger scheme for young people aged 16-19 who are keen to volunteer on a regular basis. Following a couple of taster sessions in August, we're now looking forward to working with a group of young people to tackle footpath maintenance, improve habitats, survey wildlife and carry out tree planting. The group will be working closely with our Ranger and Education team to get stuck in with practical conservation tasks, develop useful experience and perhaps take the first step into a possible career in conservation.



Education Centre

Our Education Centre provides a base for year-round school visits, which offer real-world learning experiences for children of all ages – from primary to university students. Outreach sessions are also used to provide talks and workshops in schools and for community groups. In the last year, as restrictions created limited opportunities for classroom based activities, the team ran outdoor sessions to give children the opportunity to visit Chichester Harbour on a guided walk. Each class enjoyed two Welly Walks - one at high tide and another at low. The walks began at school, taking in a particular Harbour location - Bosham children explored human geography topics, such as the history and age of the buildings and maps of the village, whereas at Fishbourne the children learnt about different habitats, such as the reedbeds and rivers.

Apprenticeships

In 2018, our first apprentice joined us as a Countryside Ranger, working with the permanent team on practical conservation tasks, keeping footpaths clear and monitoring wildlife and habitats. A year later we extended the scheme adding a Marine Technician. Offering apprenticeships is an important new element of encouraging the next generation. The combination of hands-on experience and study which apprenticeships provide enables us to help equip young people with the skills needed to understand the challenges of our protected areas. And we're pleased that our first apprentice, Tristan Brougham, has now joined us as a permanent member of the team and we have just recruited a new Apprentice Ranger, Katie Belbin, in partnership with Sparsholt College.



A DAY IN THE LIFE

Jane Latawski Education Officer



As well as teaching school groups, Jane supports schools visiting Chichester Harbour to ensure they have a successful visit and get the most from the time they spend here. She also manages the team of teachers that facilitate school visits.

What do you do on a typical day?

We're usually welcoming a school on a visit to the Harbour. This could be a class of 30 children but in the busier summer and autumn months we might find ourselves with two or more schools, each bringing 60, 90 or occasionally 120 young people. Our trips usually start at 10am and finish around 2.30pm.

At the start of the day, I help our Team Teachers and volunteers set up the classroom and organise equipment, before discussing the field trip programme and any specific visitor needs, such as if we have a wheelchair user who needs a lift to Dell Quay. If the weather forecast is poor, we decide on a Plan B, as most of the time is spent outdoors.

Usually we drive to meet the children at Fishbourne Meadow, Chichester Marina or East Head. East Head is beautiful, but with no indoor space we keep our fingers very crossed with regards to the weather! Joking aside, if conditions change, as experienced outdoor educators we can adapt our plans to keep everyone safe.

If we're not teaching, I tend to be based in the office – communicating with colleagues, answering enquiries, writing trip programmes and working on next season's bookings and new projects, sometimes in partnership with other organisations.

Once our visitors have left, after what we hope has been an enjoyable and memorable trip, we

tidy up and enjoy a cuppa - a chance to relax and chat after a very full-on day – our programmes keep everyone, staff and children, extremely busy!

What's your main focus in the autumn?

We offer a variety of different programmes tailored for the autumn's tougher weather conditions. This year we're running Harbour School, two-hour outdoor learning sessions with pupils from Harbourside schools, which take place along the stretch of coast closest to the school. We're also restarting our Winter Welly Walks, to encourage local children to enjoy walking and learn about overwintering birds.

We'll also be continuing our popular art and photography workshops and Junior Harbour Conservancy debating days. New for this autumn, in collaboration with a local English teacher, are nature writing workshops for secondary students.

Alongside the Conservancy's Rangers we'll be introducing Harbour Youth Rangers, a new volunteering and engagement scheme for those aged 16-19. We're grateful to the Friends of Chichester Harbour for funding many of these projects, allowing us to offer them to schools free of charge.

How do you feel about working for the Conservancy?

I feel very fortunate to have worked for the Conservancy for 14 years, firstly as a Team Teacher and then, since 2014, managing the



Education Centre and its team of staff. I work in a beautiful place and like all jobs, there are challenges, but it's hugely rewarding. Helping young people to access and appreciate our protected coastal landscape has never been more important and will form an important facet of the Conservancy's nature recovery work.

What's been the highlight of your role?

There have been many but the most rewarding is helping young people and their teachers to appreciate the Harbour. The young children show such excitement and delight at finding a crab on the shore or an elver in Fishbourne stream. Older students can be harder to impress but it's still fulfilling – a quiet parting remark of 'thanks I enjoyed the day' is always wonderful. I really enjoy working with our amazing Education Team who care about the service and give our visitors a great day out. For our visitors they are the face of the Conservancy.

Where's your favourite spot in the Harbour?

It has to be the home of the Education Centre, Dell Quay! But I do have a soft spot for Emsworth shoreline as I spent many happy hours there as a child.

My favourite Walk Bosham Circular



Mel Belderson -Finance Manager

I look forward to the Autumn with its super-blue skies and cooler temperatures which provide the perfect conditions to spend a whole day out on a walk, especially one with lots of stopping points along the way. This circular walk from Bosham takes in the shoreline, along with views of woodland and hedgerows showing the leaves beginning to change colour.

After parking in Bosham, I head towards the water. It's best to avoid high tide as the road often gets submerged, but it can be entertaining to see if anyone has ignored the warning signs and are left scratching their heads whilst their car fills up with water!

I pick up the footpath at the head of the channel that passes between houses before opening out across the fields and this takes me across the Bosham peninsular to the Fishbourne channel on the other side. Here, things feel very different with the towering reedbeds enclosing me and the whispering of the breeze as it passes through them. I walk on to the millpond at Fishbourne and here is the first opportunity for a break. A few meters inland is The Bull pub or a little further along, The Woolpack, both offering a chance for rest and refreshment.

Back on the footpath, I head towards Dell Quay. There are lovely views of the South Downs and Chichester Cathedral from this path and you are sure to see plenty of birdlife. As I reach Dell Quay there are lots of interesting boats on the moorings and also a couple of boatyards continuing the marine tradition in this part of the Harbour. Dell Quay itself was a very important port in Mediaeval times, exporting wool and importing wine and other goods from the continent. Here is another opportunity to stop, The Crown and Anchor offers an excellent spot for lunch or maybe a drink on their waterside terrace.

The next stretch of the walk is all about the wooded shoreline, something very particular to Chichester Harbour. I look across the channel to Old Park Wood and enjoy the changing colours of the leaves before arriving in Salterns Copse where the oak trees tip into the water and you can glimpse the sea and the sky through their branches.

The path then opens out onto

Chichester Marina and I wait whilst some yachts motor out of the marina through the lockgate. Crossing the gate I can choose to visit The Boathouse café for a cup of tea and a cake, or perhaps just pick up an ice cream to take with me. The path then leads across the end of Chichester Canal and I get a chance to see some of the houseboats moored there. A short distance further on it opens out onto Birdham Pool and the small marina there before weaving through some Harbourside properties and then coming out on the shoreline by Itchenor Sailing Club. The views across the water towards the South Downs are particularly lovely here.

Once in Itchenor, I could stop off at The Ship for a drink or carry on past the Harbour Office and down onto the jetty. Here I can pick up the ferry across the channel. Up to 30 September the ferry runs daily, after this in the autumn and winter months it's weekends only. You can check the times on itchenorferry.co.uk. I have a chat with Andy the ferryman as we take the short journey to Ferry Landing. Once back on dry land I can walk along the shoreline northwards but if the tide is up I need to take the lane all the way back to Bosham taking in the iconic and much photographed view of the village. Time for another rest before going back the car, I can choose from various cafes or The Anchor Bleu pub, or perhaps a moment of reflection in Holy Trinity Church, the oldest place of worship in West Sussex. All in all it's an enjoyable day's ramble making the most of the sights in the autumn.



what's on?

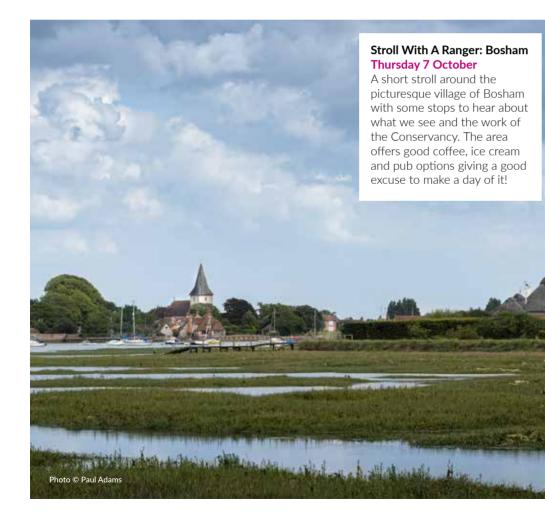
Getting out and about safely

Events Update

Autumn is a wonderful time to explore Chichester Harbour. A combination of crisp mornings, big skies and changing colours offers the chance to get back to nature once the busy summer season has passed. Our organised events offer a chance to explore new areas with a guide, or strike out on your own using our self-guided walks and cycle rides which are all available on our website, www.conservancy.co.uk. For up to date event details visit the What's on page of our website www.conservancy.co.uk, or call the Harbour Office on 01243 512301.

Guided Activities

A series of walks with our rangers will be taking place through the autumn including:



<section-header>



Our solar powered boat, Solar Heritage, moves back to Itchenor in September, offering Harbour Discovery, Bird Watching and Seal Safari tours through the month. Book online to enjoy a unique experience slipping through the waters and getting up close to many of the birds and habitats that make this place so special.



Bird watching

With lots of winter visitors starting to arrive, the autumn months are a great time for bird watching. Look out for the Godwits, Oystercatchers and Brent Geese, as well as the Plovers and Snipes. There are a few simple steps to be aware of if you're planning to birdwatch.

Move slowly, stay quiet and don't get too close – startling birds can cause them stress which stops them from feeding, breeding and resting. Use binoculars and let the birds come to you!

Check the tide times before you come – birdwatching from the shore is often best around 1-2 hours before high water, as the tide can push the birds nearer to you.

Use bird hides – there are a number of bird hides across the Harbour – the perfect place to stop, watch and shelter too.

Choose appropriate clothing – you may have to wait longer than expected and so be sure that – rain or shine – you're properly kitted out.

Want to bird watch with an expert? Book one of our bird watching trips aboard Solar Heritage - check our website for details.

Fun for *families*

Leaf Insects

Autumn leaves are everywhere, so use them to create some interesting art, whilst learning about some of the creatures which live in and around the Harbour. After collecting leaves in different shapes, sizes and colours choose a few insects to recreate – perhaps butterflies, dragonflies or beetles. Draw parts of the insects and place the leaves to create the wings. Colour in the body parts to finish!

Pine Cone Animals

Pine cones are a lovely base for making a cute animal, owl or hedgehog. Collect your cones and take them home to dry before painting in a bright colour. Then use paper, card or felt to shape some features and decorate the animal.

Autumn Nature Walk

This season look out for the following on your walks and cycle rides around the Harbour:

Conker	Berries	
Squirrel	Acorns	
Bare tree	Helicopter seeds	
Funghi	Coloured leaves	

Rememb<mark>er not to touch or</mark> pick berries, mushrooms or funghi!

WE ARE SAILING

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74

Sailing is a tool that can hugely improve life skills, knowledge and attitudes. Sail Boat Project, a co-operative group based in Chichester Harbour, provides a range of learning activities based around sailing to help anyone get started.



Sail Boat Project has been operating as an RYA Training Centre from Itchenor Reach for over 10 years. As well as running courses for the general public, the team helps widen access to the sea by offering sail training onboard and navigation training on land. The aim is to increase confidence and a sense of well-being, particularly to marginalised coastal community groups. The team has a flexible approach, tailored for each individual, learning need and ability.

Sail Boat Project focuses on developing core skills to help people:

- Build confidence and set challenges
- Develop employability skills
- Work collectively
- Improve decision-making skills
- Work towards internationallyrecognised qualifications

A Focus on Funding

The success of Sail Boat Project is on networking and building relationships with individuals and organisations who are, or who work with marginalised people, helping them to get the most out of the activities and opportunities. Sail Boat Project raises funds through a Community Sailing Fund to enable training bursaries to be offered to those on very low incomes or from marginalised communities. The Fund was established to help people from community groups in Sussex access the sea and sailing activities using a mix of grant funding and donations. Last year supporters included UnLtd.org, Sport England, RYA Sailability, Comic Relief, the local council and private donors. Sail Boat Project recently held its first Blue Spirit community sail, with a group from ESTEEM Brighton, the first youth group to benefit from this very special bursary fund, match funded by Sport England. Four participants were awarded their RYA Start Yachting Certificate and said the course had given them a new perspective on life.

The Boats

The Sail Boat Project has two boats currently in use. Recent funding success has helped the team

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spend five months in scenic friendly Thornham Marina, fitting out S/Y Karic, the Project's Westerly Renown ketch. During lockdown the other vessel, S/Y Jalapeno - a 43' Standfast, was in Portugal, with the team's Chief Instructor, who was on sabbatical onboard (some people get all the luck). However this did enable a lot of work to be carried out in a warmer clime, which made winter jobs easier. Now both boats are reunited again in Chichester Harbour and are literally ships that pass in the night as they busy themselves with courses and trips... near and far. Although the team haven't been able to sail abroad in the last 18 months they have had extended coastal trips, as well as making use of Chichester Harbour and getting to know more of its wonders.

Keeping Everyone Fed

Fuelling everyone on board is an important element and Sail Boat Project takes the quality of food offered onboard seriously, often adding home cooked meals and vegetarian and vegan options to help with a commitment to lower its carbon footprint. The team have also created a Skippers' Vegan Cookbook and a Cooperative Skipper Handbook and regularly deliver free webinars on a variety of popular topics including Navigation and Cooking.

Sail Boat Project's Board consists of staff, skippers and volunteers, but the team are always on the look out for new directors and volunteers in Sussex, particularly in the Chichester area.

To find out more visit **www.sailboatproject.org**. Sailboat Project CIC is registered as a Community Interest Company and in 2015 became an RYA Sailability organisation.

#TheSeaForAll #MoreThanSailing





Chichester Harbour

Spotters. Journal of the second secon

Autumn is a treasure trove of nature spots, and there's plenty to look out for. Here's what to keep your eyes peeled for this season.

Wheatear

What A small migrant bird with a distinctive white behind and black tail band.

Where Probably flying ahead of you from rock to rock on a seawall, showing you it's white bottom as it flits away. Wheatears turn up on beaches. sea walls, fields with areas of short grass and can be seen anywhere around the Harbour.

When Southbound wheatears start to appear on the south coast around mid-August and can be encountered throughout September and October.

Did You Know? Wintering in Africa, and breeding across a large swathe of Europe, some wheatears that appear in the UK on passage will have bred in Greenland. This involves one of the longest nonstop flights of any songbird when they fly across the North Atlantic to and from north west Europe.

Wild Service Tree

What A rather uncommon species of tree, sometimes mistaken for a maple and often overlooked.

Where In old, (usually very old!) woodlands, and sometimes planted in new hedgerows and copses.

When All year, but most obvious in autumn when the leaves turn a dazzling orange and the peculiar small brown berries are visible.

Did You Know? Wild service trees are at home in the Sussex and Kent Weald, and are particularly rare on the coastal plain, so if you do see one within the Chichester Harbour AONB you have found something rather special.

Sea Aster

What A knee-high pale blue or sometimes white flower, looking rather like the closely related Michaelmas-daisy.

Where Growing at the landward edge of saltmarshes and around marshy pools near the shoreline. It's common all around the Harbour as long as it is wet and salty!

When Flowering from later summer throughout September.

Did You Know? A rare bee, the Saltmarsh Mining Bee Colletes halophilus is dependent on the presence of sea aster as it collects pollen exclusively from this plant. Although it has not been recorded from Chichester Harbour, it may appear as it is present at other sites along the south coast.

Turnstone

What A small shorebird, mostly dark brown with a pair of white 'braces' over the back. If you get close to a feeding flock, they can often be heard muttering to themselves and flipping stones about.

Where Usually on the top of the shoreline, amongst the pebbles and piles of weed, in various places around the Harbour including Prinsted and Nutbourne and the Fishbourne Channel. At high tide, they often sit on moored boats or pontoons, rather odd for a wader.

When A few are seen in the summer, but most spend only the autumn and winter here.

Did You Know? One of the best named waders. spending all day turning stones, weed, or anything else that might have food underneath. They also eat small invertebrates and carrion (dead fish) found when rummaging through the strandline.

Conservation work parties

Our Rangers, Keith Rathbone and Tristan Brougham have been delighted to start running the Friends of Chichester Harbour volunteer work parties once again following their summer break. They will be joined by our new Apprentice Ranger, Katie Belbin.

Their work is as important as ever with lots of tasks to complete. This season they are focusing on habitat management and clearing vegetation at North Common and Earnley Road nature reserve on Hayling Island, also at Ella Nore and Fishbourne Meadows. Salterns Copse will see some coppicing work, the footpath from Itchenor towards Ella Nore receives maintenance and West Chidham a beach clean. The volunteers from the Friends of Chichester Harbour are vital for us to deliver practical conservation and management work and we are very grateful for their enthusiastic and hands-on support.

If you want to get involved, find out more at www.friendsch.org/workparties.



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

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- Enjoy exclusive members' talks and social events.
- Join a vibrant community.
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CHICHESTER HARBOUR CONSERVANCY

CELEBRATING 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.

Richard Craven, Director and Harbour Master

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
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All moorings are maintained by our team to the highest standard For prices and locations visit www.conservancy.co.uk

Contact – Anna Perkins, Moorings Officer moorings@conservancy.co.uk or call 01243 512301



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