

# Harbour *Life*

Spring 2022

*In this issue*

Our Favourite Sailing Spots

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Water Quality in the Harbour

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Spectacular Spring Views

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# 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.

All moorings are maintained by our team to the highest standard

### 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

For prices and locations visit [www.conservancy.co.uk](http://www.conservancy.co.uk)

Contact the Moorings Officer  
[moorings@conservancy.co.uk](mailto:moorings@conservancy.co.uk)  
or call 01243 512301



CHICHESTER  
HARBOUR  
CONSERVANCY

# Welcome

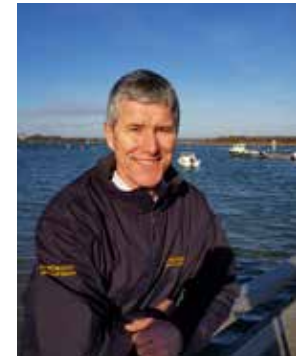
Welcome to the Spring edition of Harbour Life.

In this issue we report our latest news, bid a fond farewell to one of our team members and update on developments on water quality in the Harbour. We also celebrate a successful local athlete as she describes the inspiration that she gets from our wonderful Harbour landscape, and hear from some of the members of the team who share their favourite sailing experiences.

As we welcome people back into the Harbour for another sailing season we're pleased that Chichester Harbour continues to offer visitors and residents alike, sanctuary and tranquillity amidst uncertain times in the wider world.

Until Summer,

**Richard Craven,**  
Director and Harbour Master



CHICHESTER  
HARBOUR  
CONSERVANCY

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 ChichesterHarbour

 @ChichesterHarbo

 chichesterharbourconservancy

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*



## New Plans to Protect Landscapes

In 2019, the Landscapes Review – led by Julian Glover – recommended that more should be done to support nature’s recovery in protected landscapes. The Government has now announced a series of plans to boost nature recovery and safeguard National Parks and AONBs for the future.

A new partnership will bring together the organisations who manage these protected spaces to collaborate, share knowledge and tackle common objectives such as nature recovery and improved public access. Part of the partnership’s remit will encourage local campaigns, events and volunteering

opportunities to help bring people closer to nature and improve access for everyone, especially those on lower incomes.

The proposals also include new agri-environment schemes and management plans for each area, and more work will be done to support local communities that live and work in protected landscapes, helping preserve these areas for future generations.

It’s hoped that this work will support the pledges to protect 30% of the UK’s land by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2050. The plans are now under consultation, and the Conservancy will be responding to lend our voice to the process.

## Farming and Protected Landscapes

The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, which runs until March 2024, aims to help farmers and land managers deliver new projects against four key objectives:

**Climate** – delivering net zero with nature and nature-based solutions to help communities adapt to the unavoidable effects of climate change.

**Nature** – playing a leading role in the delivery of the Nature Recovery Network and achieve the commitment to protect 30% of land by 2030.

**People** – providing a natural health service that will improve the nation’s public health

and wellbeing through increased access to nature across all parts of society, as part of our green recovery.

**Place** – creating centres of excellence and green innovation that are flourishing places to live and work, each with a strong identity and cultural heritage, and recognised as attractive visitor destinations.

Farm managers and landowners in Chichester Harbour AONB are able to apply for grants to support their work, and help achieve on these objectives. To help deliver the programme we are recruiting a Farming Officer and an Administration Officer who will be joining the team later this season.

## Patrol Training Begins

Our new seasonal patrol team will begin their training shortly, ahead of supporting our core team during the busy summer season. The team will be responsible for collecting harbour dues, visitor dues, mooring and launching fees, along with their core duties of responding to incidents, offering safety advice, enforcing byelaws, and supporting the emergency services to ensure the safety of everyone using the Harbour.

As we approach the summer we’re expecting a high number of visitors as local residents, visiting boaters and holidaymakers travel to the Harbour following a couple of disrupted years. The seasonal team help us maintain safety and ensure that everyone has a great time on the water.



## A Fond Farewell

Judi Darley, our Communities Officer, is retiring this spring after an incredible 25 years with the Conservancy. She will be much missed, particularly by those of us who enjoy the Conservancy's programme of organised events; Judi has co-ordinated the year-round programme for a number of years and has also led a range of walks, talks and family activities.

Judi was instrumental in setting up our award winning Education Centre in 1999, with her teaching qualification and first class degree in geography standing her in good stead with many of the school, college and university groups who visit the Harbour.

Judi's knowledge of the Harbour is second to none and during our 50th anniversary she was responsible for creating our first ever series of vlogs to explain the history of the Conservancy and explore some of the key projects undertaken over the years. This saw her working with volunteer Shirley Rushmer, and quickly developing some impressive presentation skills, to interview Conservancy staff – both old and new – and tell the story of Chichester Harbour.

She worked on some of our pioneering projects funded by the Heritage Lottery, which included 'Junior Conservancy' inspired by the national curriculum guidance on citizenship. This saw children being able to explore the Harbour, experience local meetings and debate at County Hall on important environmental issues.

Judi was presented with a Long Service Award from the National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 2016. Those of us who know Judi well know she's happiest outdoors, and we look forward to seeing her out and about in the Harbour at leisure!

[Watch all Judi's vlogs on our YouTube channel.](#)





# Daring to dream

Christina Dove, who lives in Emsworth, took up duathlon just two years ago but now represents Great Britain in her age group. She enjoys using Chichester Harbour for many of her training sessions.

Christina had always been a keen cyclist, but not a competitive one, cycling for pleasure around Chichester Harbour and across the South Downs. In 2017 she took on the challenge of cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats, raising £6,000 for charity along the way, and in 2019 tackled the London Marathon where she raised a further £3,000. These events gave her an appetite for new challenges, but she wasn't sure what to try next. After reading BBC Breakfast presenter Louise Minchin's book 'Dare to Tri' about her journey to becoming successful triathlete, Christina was inspired to push herself further but was put off by the swimming element of triathlon. Then a chance conversation led to the discovery of duathlon; another event within the triathlon family.

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*"I was told about the duathlon, which is running and cycling, and thought - I can do that!"*

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*"I was so proud to have made the team and the day the Team GB kit arrived was so exciting! The European Championships were amazing, especially competing with my family of other age-groupers and I was delighted to place 11<sup>th</sup>"*

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Christina entered her first duathlon event in Chichester in 2019 and was hooked. She enjoyed the competition and wanted to take things further, joining British Triathlon so she could compete in their official events. After discovering that her times might be good enough to qualify to represent Great Britain in her age group, Christina really did dare to dream.

In order to qualify for the team, Christina had to compete in a number of qualifying events for her age group (then 50-54) with each race comprising a 5km run, 20km cycle, and finishing with a 2.5km run. She qualified for the team for the European Championships held in Spain in March 2020, just before lockdown.

She then went on to qualify for the World Championships, again held in Spain, in November 2021, finishing 13<sup>th</sup>.

Christina takes inspiration from the Chichester Harbour landscape as she goes about her training. She's also a keen photographer and shares views of her Harbour runs with her followers on Instagram.

And the future looks bright. Last year Christina made the decision to retire from her busy corporate job to concentrate on being a full-time athlete and is working with a coach and nutritionist to advance her performance. She also shifted age-groups last year to the 55-59 bracket, and has been selected for the team GB 2022 World and European Championships. So will she make World Champion? In Christina's words: "Dream big, it's where the magic happens."

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*"We're so lucky to live in this beautiful place, it makes my training a pleasure. I like to think that other people can be inspired by my journey and the photos are a big part of that. I run regularly around the Harbour and do most of my cycling in the South Downs".*

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Find out more about duathlon and the other events within the triathlon family by visiting [britishtriathlon.org](https://www.britishtriathlon.org)



Follow Christina's progress on Instagram - @duathlondove



# A Day in the Life



Jess Vagg,  
Nature Recovery Officer

Jess joined us in 2021, to work on habitat restoration, wildlife monitoring and conservation engagement projects. Her specific focus is the “Return of the Tern” project, which is being funded by a grant secured by the Friends of Chichester Harbour.

## What do you do on a typical day?

My role at the Conservancy is very varied, so no day is ever the same. Currently, the main focus is planning for the rest of the year; working with suppliers and contractors on how we are going to be delivering the objectives of the *Return of the Tern* project. Some days find me out around the Harbour looking at areas where we are planning habitat restoration but as we move further into the year, I'll be getting out to different stakeholders in the community to engage them with the project and promote nature recovery in Chichester Harbour. I'm also looking forward to working with the Education Team at Dell Quay to engage young audiences with nature recovery. There is lots to do, but I am excited for the year ahead.

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

Moving into spring, I'll be progressing different aspects of the project and, of course, awaiting the arrival of the terns back to the Harbour! We'll also be deploying tern rafts at various locations and enhancing natural nesting sites with the aim of increasing tern populations across Chichester Harbour. It'll be great too, as the weather improves, to be out in the Harbour and engaging with the growing numbers of the public who are out and about.

## How do you feel about working for the Conservancy?

I'm really excited to be working with the Conservancy and the Friends of Chichester Harbour on this dynamic project. I've always lived by the coast and have a huge

Photo © Paul Adams



*I have fond memories of spending summer days at West Wittering Beach and East Head with my family*

interest in marine and coastal wildlife, so this is an amazing opportunity to spend time working in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and help the team restore nature in the Harbour.

## What's been the highlight of your role?

The highlight has been working in such a beautiful part of the world. I love spending time by the water, and feel very lucky to get to work in the Harbour office down on

the waterfront in Itchenor. I've also really enjoyed getting out on the water and along the coast on site visits and meeting some of the project stakeholders.

## What's your favourite Harbour spot?

I have fond memories of spending summer days at West Wittering Beach and East Head with my family, but since joining the Conservancy my favourite spot has been walking along the shore at Pilsey Island.



taking a breather...

The past two years have helped us all better understand the role of the outdoors in supporting our health and wellbeing. Almost half of us are spending more time outside than before the pandemic, and studies show our happiness increases when spending time in nature.

Chichester Harbour offers endless opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. Some of the most iconic views offer tranquillity, history, wide skies, open sea views, harbour channels, boating, saltmarsh, sand dunes, reedbeds, shoreline trees, ancient woodlands, quiet creeks and vibrant villages – all with the South Downs National Park as a backdrop.

Here are some of our favourite views...





Langstone Quay



Photo © Ben Cooper

Thorney Island



Photo © Paul Adams



Ellanore

North Common, Northney

Photo © Paul Adams



Sandy Point, Hayling Island

Photo © Ben Cooper



Bosham

Photo © Paul Adams

Emsworth Quay



Photo © John Tweddell

East Head



Photo © Wendy Chalk

Dell Quay



Photo © Paul Adams

Bosham





The Friends of Chichester Harbour

# A helping hand

Preserving and improving Chichester Harbour is an ongoing job, and over the years the Friends of Chichester Harbour have been an enormous support in helping look after this very special area.

The Friends of Chichester Harbour is a friendly community who share a love for Chichester Harbour and have a common interest in preserving and improving its unique beauty. Established as a registered charity in 1987 there are now over 3,000 individual members – walkers, sailors, nature enthusiasts, fishermen, wildfowlers, local residents, visitors – plus 30 organisational members.

The Friends make grants, currently running

at £30-40,000 per year, towards the maintenance and public enjoyment of the Harbour. This is achieved through a combination of subscriptions, donations and legacies.

### Practical Help

Members can join the regular Work Parties run by the Conservancy Rangers – maintaining paths, planting hedges and trees and all the other tasks essential to managing Chichester Harbour and the



AONB. The Friends also provide volunteers for activities such as monitoring the shoreline, doing bird counts, helping with the Conservancy's education programme, and some members take part in the admin side of things including committee work, manning stalls at events and so on.

### Keeping It Social

As well as getting stuck in, the Friends organise lots of regular social events for members. Over the years these have included walks with a nature guide, talks, birdwatching, boat trips and the famous annual BBQ. These fun and varied sessions are a great opportunity to meet others in a social environment.

### Sailing the Seas

Friends can book trips on Oyster Boat *Terror*, a lovingly restored 125 year old wooden sailing boat. There's also the chance – if you are a keen and experienced sailor - to run trips on the *Terror* throughout the summer.

### Being Heard

The Friends have a spot on the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Advisory Committee offering a voice in the management of the Harbour and playing a role in helping preserve its unspoiled character.

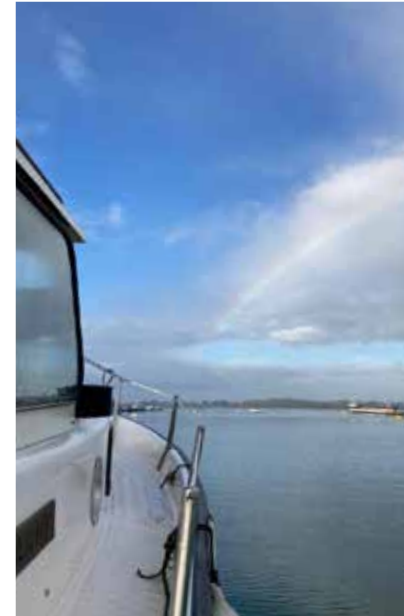
### Want to join?

There are lots of options to join the Friends of Chichester Harbour. Individual, couple, family and corporate annual subscriptions are available, or you can choose a lifetime subscription too. Find out more at [www.friendsch.org/about-membership/](http://www.friendsch.org/about-membership/)



# My favourite sail

Many of the Conservancy team enjoy taking to the water in their spare time, and exploring in and around Chichester Harbour. Here some of them share their favourite places to sail.



Ed Carter – Senior Deputy Harbour Master

**What do I sail?** I've got a motor boat – a Hardy Pilot 20.

**Who do I sail with?** I tend to be with my family – my wife and our two boys.

**My favourite route** I love sailing from Itchenor to Pilsey Anchorage.

**Best feature of the route** It has to be the expanding view of the south harbour as you leave the bustle of the Itchenor Reach and head out into the Chichester Channel.

**Spots to stop** We tend to choose Pilsey Anchorage. There's great shelter in most conditions, and good holding too. This anchorage is always much quieter than the 'beach party' of East Head.

Sarah Moran – Receptionist

**What do I sail?** A clinker-built small sailing boat called *Red Tub*.

**Who do I sail with?** Usually I'm out and about with my family but we often take friends with us too.

**My favourite route** It has to be from Itchenor Hard down towards Pilsey Island and up the Thorney channel. This route is very dependent on the tide, so otherwise our preferred option is up towards the Marina.

**Best feature of the route** It's brilliant for seal spotting but you just can't beat that feeling of the sunshine on your face, and the sound of the boat travelling through the water.

**Spots to stop** Normally we just drop an anchor on the edge of the channel and have a picnic but otherwise it's always wonderful to stop near East Head and enjoy the views.



Kate Keeping – Education Officer

**What do I sail?** I love getting on the water whenever I can; sailing when there's wind and paddling on a SUP or kayak on calm days.

**Who do I sail with?** I'm usually with my family but sometimes I'm on my own to get away and enjoy the peace of our beautiful Harbour.

**My favourite route** I love sailing from Gutner Creek on Hayling Island to East Head by Hobie Cat with our two Labradors.

**Best feature of the route** It's great to head out of the creek to Thorney Island shore and if we're lucky spot some seals.

**Spots to stop** I love landing at East Head to have a swim with the dogs and then walk round the area, taking care not to disturb any birds and keeping out of the dunes at nesting time. Then it's back to the boat before the tide falls too much and a sail back to Hayling Island!



Mike Watkins – Solar Heritage crew

**What do I sail?** During spare moments I can sometimes be found in my kayak, usually around Emsworth.

**Who do I sail with?** On my own in the kayak, but as part of the Solar Heritage crew I love sailing with our expert skippers and talking to our passengers about the sights, sounds and history of the Harbour. I also help to crew the Conservancy's restored 19th century oysterboat Terror during the summer months taking passengers, up to six at a time, for a two-hour sail from Emsworth to experience vintage sailing. Terror is unique and the trips are very popular.

**My favourite route** I've been a local sailor for many years, mainly in Chichester Harbour. My favourite day sail was always from our berth at Northney across to Itchenor.

**Spots to stop** It's interesting to see how the Harbour changes with the seasons, busy with other users in summer, and deserted in winter - but always stunningly beautiful.

Sarah Chatfield – ChaPRoN Manager

**What do I sail?** One of my favourite things to do is a sunrise SUP on a bright and calm morning.

**Who do I sail with?** I'm sometimes on my own, or with my husband.

**My favourite route** I usually launch from the foreshore at Emsworth, at the bottom of Warblington Avenue and do a wide circular lap around the top of the Emsworth channel. My route bears west past Nore Barn Woods towards Langstone, cutting over towards Northney, then east towards Thorney and back down towards Emsworth Sailing Club, following a wide loop around Fowley Island.

**Best feature of the route** It's the most special time of day; so peaceful and still. The only sounds you can hear are the melodic calls of the birds and the lapping of the water against the SUP or moored boats. The water is perfectly flat and clear, sparkling in the early sun.

**Spots to stop** If I stop to pause I can spy cockle shells and seagrass on the seabed, and the fish swimming by. Golden cord grass stands tall through the incoming tide. It's a chance to feel connected to the Harbour - the most perfect start to the day!

# A clear perspective

Good water quality in Chichester Harbour is essential for the ecological processes that support wildlife and necessary for those who use the Harbour for recreation.

The Conservancy has been working to achieve better water quality in the Harbour for decades but never has the topic received as much attention as it has recently. It's encouraging that so many local residents and organisations care so much about Chichester Harbour and the surrounding area. Here we take a look at some of the topics surrounding the issue of water quality.

Historically we focussed on the dual threats to water quality in the Harbour; of bacteria entering the water from Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW's) and other sources during storm events, and

excess nutrients in the form of nitrates, largely generated by past or current farming practices in the Harbour or in the upstream catchments, and elevated levels of nitrates in the Solent as a whole. In recent years we've also turned our attention to other forms of pollution, working closely with neighbouring universities to understand the impacts of microplastics and endocrine disrupting compounds.

Last year we noted the current state of understanding on these factors - that information and the latest test results and analysis are available on the Conservancy's website.

To follow is an update on the Conservancy's contribution to understanding water quality and impacts over the past year, and a summary of the bodies with responsibility for aspects of water quality in Chichester Harbour.

Growing awareness of the level of storm discharges and environmental impacts have led recreational sailors through Chichester Harbour Federation to ask the Conservancy to increase the sensitivity of their current water quality testing regime. To provide a greater level of reassurance we've added a twelfth testing site at Northney Beacon, to pick up any issues emanating from Langstone Harbour. We also moved the testing sites in the Thorney Channel and Itchenor Reach closer to the creeks where the Thornham and Bosham WWTW's discharge into the Harbour. Sampling times have been moved from high-water to two-hours after. This means using two vessels to undertake all 12 sites, but it's suggested, increases the likelihood of picking up any adverse results.

Over the latest 12 months (February 2021 - January 2022) there have been two failures against the Bathing Water Directive standards: Emsworth Jetty in April 2021, and Chichester Yacht Club slipway in January 2022. This is from over 200 samples tested in that period; a failure rate of less than 1%.

Frothy white foam, accompanied by a brown slick or scum on the surface of the water now seems to be a year-round phenomenon and is often mistaken as evidence of sewage. The Environment Agency advise that these are the breakdown of algal blooms and tested some in January 2022 which confirmed the presence of oils from algal breakdown and sediment/silt. Treated sewage discharges and storm water overflows very rarely

form foams or scums on the water surface; they are usually only visible as a grey discolouration of the water around an identifiable source.

## What studies are currently being run?

### PhD

Work with Universities continues to develop and the Conservancy, Manor of Bosham and University of Brighton are jointly sponsoring a PhD to underpin habitat restoration work in Chichester Harbour with a particular emphasis on understanding pollutants and their impacts. This will underpin the work of the Chichester Harbour Protection and Recovery of Nature (CHaPRoN) partnership which brings together organisations that are able to take practical steps to improve habitats around the Harbour both in the water and on the land.



Photo © Arnie Chamberlain





### RedPol

RedPol stands for Reduction of Pollution by endocrine disrupting compounds at source. The aim of this project is to develop innovative tools that can determine whether chemical pollutants in our environment interfere with the endocrine systems of wildlife. These pollutants are known as endocrine disruptors. They can interfere with endocrine (or hormonal) systems in humans, causing cancerous tumours, birth defects and other developmental disorders, as well as impacting the wider environment. Endocrine disruptors can cause reproductive, developmental and behavioural problems in wildlife and plant populations, leading to an imbalance in environmental health.

RedPol is part of the Interreg France – (Channel) England partnership and draws on the collaborative work of French and UK research institutions, members of industry and regional organisations. The consortium is led by the Université Le Havre-Normandie (ULHN) and is composed of l'Université de Caen, TOXEM, Chichester Harbour Conservancy, the University of Brighton and the University of Portsmouth.

An additional work package is being developed to see if endocrine disrupting compounds may be a component in the decline of the native oyster in Chichester Harbour, and why, by contrast, the non-native Pacific oyster seems to be thriving.

Find out more at [redpol-interreg.com](http://redpol-interreg.com)

### What organisations are involved with water quality?

There are a number of organisations who have different responsibilities when it comes to Chichester Harbour's water. It's important to understand this framework, especially given increased focus on water quality in recent months.

#### Chichester Harbour Conservancy -

we have a duty for the conservancy, maintenance and improvement of the Harbour and the Amenity Area for recreation and leisure, nature conservation and natural beauty. As the statutory Harbour Authority the Conservancy is responsible for the safety of navigation, the regulation of moorings, works and dredging, enforcement of harbour byelaws and the collection of dues and charges.

The Conservancy also acts as the Joint Advisory Committee for the Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). As such, we are consulted on planning policies and planning applications affecting the area but are a non-statutory consultee with no decision-making powers.

The Conservancy undertakes water sampling in Chichester Harbour. Those samples are passed to Chichester District Council for testing.

**Chichester District Council** - monitors the results of water quality testing in the

Chichester District, primarily bathing waters but also including Chichester Harbour, which is not a designated bathing water, and reports the results to the Environment Agency. It also has a responsibility to monitor whether shellfish collected in the area are fit for human consumption. It's also the local planning authority setting planning policy and granting planning permissions in Chichester District (excluding the South Downs National Park).

**Environment Agency** - a government body set up to protect and improve the environment, that, amongst other duties, regulates waste producers and has responsibility for water quality.

**Southern Water** - undertakes waste water treatment – carrying away sewage and surface water drainage and then treating it before release.

**Portsmouth Water** - supplies the drinking water in the Chichester Harbour area.

**Havant Borough Council** - the local planning authority setting planning policy and granting planning permissions in Havant Borough. It monitors bathing waters in the Borough as well as sampling oysters in Chichester Harbour.

**OFWAT** - a government body that regulates the activities of all water companies in England and Wales to ensure they properly carry out their licensed activities and statutory functions.



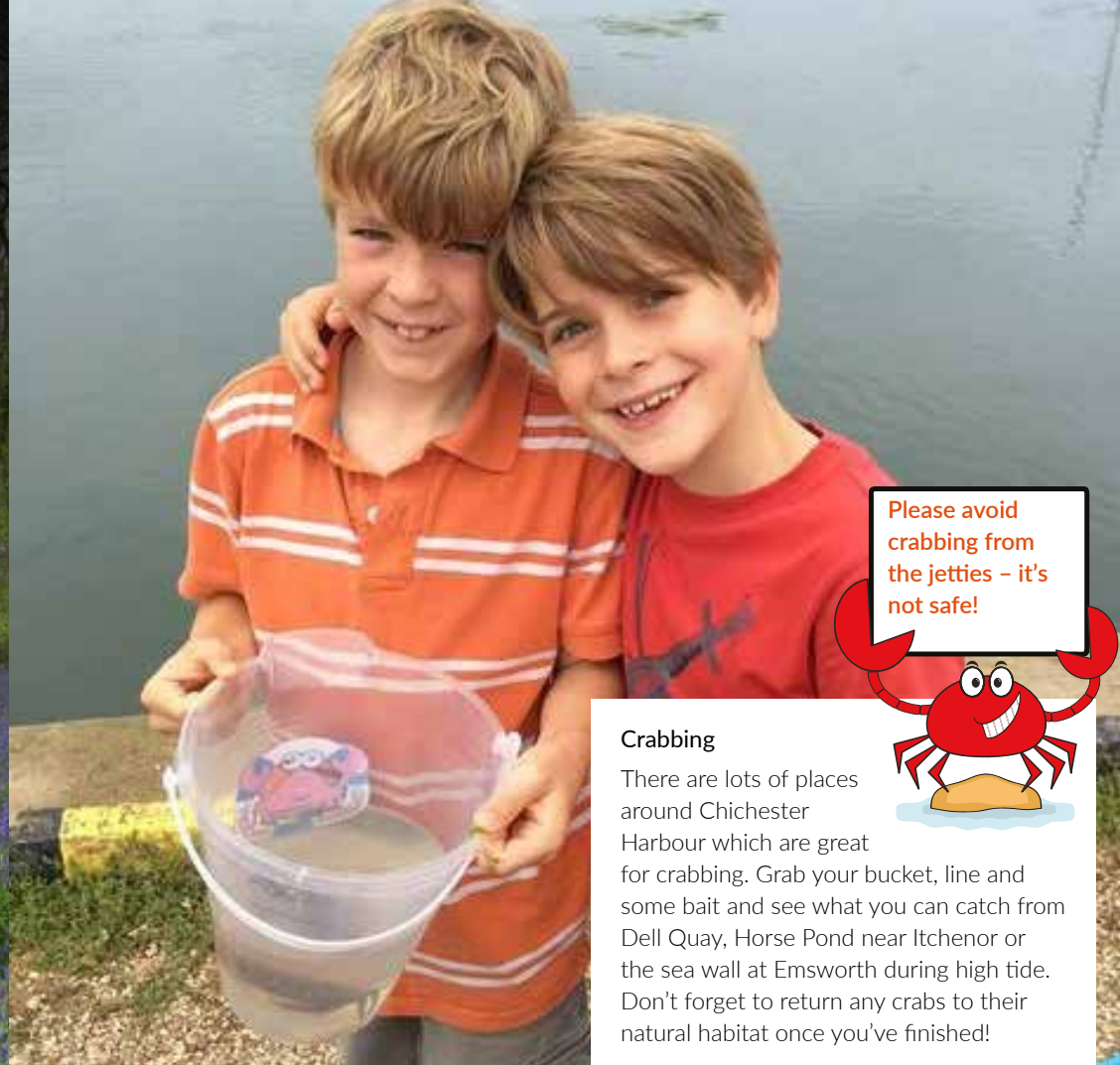
Photo © Paul Adams

# Fun for families



## Bluebell Walks

Bluebells are always such a wonderful sight but only bloom for a short time in April and May, so it's worth making the most of them when they are with us. Although bluebell woods are relatively common in this country, worldwide they are a rare habitat. One of the best places to see the bluebells in the Harbour is at Salterns Copse, where you can follow the Salterns Way and spy the beautiful flowers at their best.



Please avoid crabbing from the jetties - it's not safe!



## Crabbing

There are lots of places around Chichester Harbour which are great for crabbing. Grab your bucket, line and some bait and see what you can catch from Dell Quay, Horse Pond near Itchenor or the sea wall at Emsworth during high tide. Don't forget to return any crabs to their natural habitat once you've finished!

## Wild Art

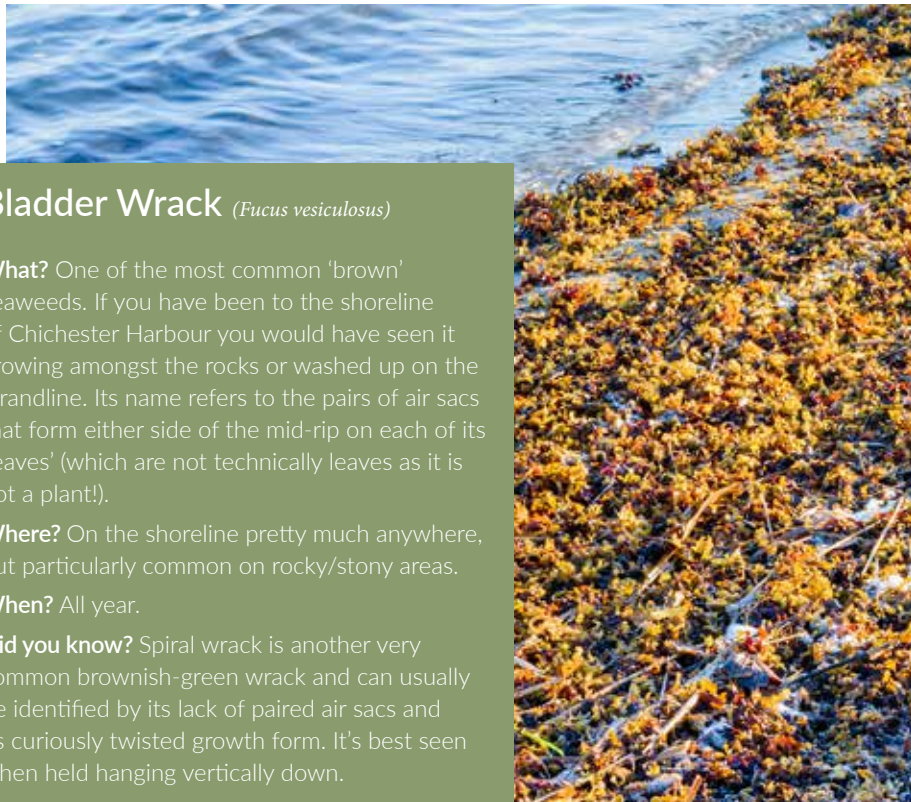
A wild art project is a brilliant way to help you think differently about nature. When you're planning your wild artwork it's useful to find things that vary in colour and texture to give you lots of choice, and the opportunity to make something very unique. Look out for some or all of the things on the list and then let your imagination run free!

- |                 |                          |              |                          |
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| Pine Cones..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mud.....     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Seed Pods.....  | <input type="checkbox"/> |              |                          |

Chichester Harbour

# Spotter's guide

As the season warms up the flora and fauna of Chichester Harbour offer some great nature spots.



## Bladder Wrack (*Fucus vesiculosus*)

**What?** One of the most common 'brown' seaweeds. If you have been to the shoreline of Chichester Harbour you would have seen it growing amongst the rocks or washed up on the strandline. Its name refers to the pairs of air sacs that form either side of the mid-rip on each of its 'leaves' (which are not technically leaves as it is not a plant!).

**Where?** On the shoreline pretty much anywhere, but particularly common on rocky/stony areas.

**When?** All year.

**Did you know?** Spiral wrack is another very common brownish-green wrack and can usually be identified by its lack of paired air sacs and its curiously twisted growth form. It's best seen when held hanging vertically down.

Photo © Paul Adams



## Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

**What?** The UK's regular large heron; as its name suggests it is mostly grey, but has some white on its neck and face, standing around 1m tall with a wingspan of over 1.5m.

**Where?** Can be seen anywhere around the Harbour on the margins of any fresh or salt water, or flying slowly overhead.

**When?** All year.

**Did you know?** Grey herons nest colonially in trees. There are three main heronries around Chichester Harbour – the easiest one to see is in the trees surrounding Langstone Mill Pond, where they nest alongside little egrets and cattle egrets. Their breeding season starts early, with herons visiting nest sites as early as January and egg-laying usually from late February to mid-March. The growing chicks are often very visible in their nests from mid-April.



## Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)

**What?** The most common and widespread species of dolphin around the UK. Adults are between 2.5-3.5m long, dark grey with a distinctive dorsal fin in the middle of the back and highly social in behaviour. Don't confuse with the much smaller harbour porpoise, which has a low, stubby dorsal fin and is rather unobtrusive in its behaviour, rarely showing themselves for long.

**Where?** Off-shore, rather than within the Harbour. A pod of around 10-15 bottlenose dolphins have been seen regularly off Selsey Bill and in the eastern end of the Solent for several weeks at the start of 2022.

**When?** All year, but highly sporadic in appearance.

**Did you know?** Bottlenose dolphins are long-lived, slow breeding animals with females taking at least five years and perhaps up to 13 years to reach sexual maturity. Each female probably only breeds once every few years. This means they are vulnerable to threats such as fishing by-catch and marine pollution.



## Crab moults

**What?** The shed exoskeleton of the various species of crab, but usually shore crabs (*Carcinus maenas*)

**Where?** All along the strandline.

**When?** Much of the year, but generally more common in spring and summer when large numbers of crabs are growing and moulting.

**Did you know?** Crabs grow out of their 'skins' and need to shed them periodically. Shore crabs are such abundant creatures that sometimes hundreds of thousands of these 'moults' wash up on the shoreline all together, and can be mistaken for a mass of dead crabs. Usually the moults are pale grey or white and are of course empty, so they can be quickly identified as such and it is no cause for alarm!

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