

# Harbour *Life*

Spring 2023

*In this issue*

Inspiring young sailors

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Harbour heritage

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Spring spotter's guide

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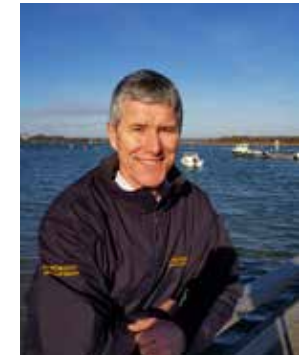


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# Welcome

As we look forward to spring and the renewal that it brings to the natural world, it seems that this year it will be mirrored amongst the Conservancy staff. As you read on, you will see that I shall be moving on to a new chapter in my life by retiring after 25 years with the Conservancy. That 25 years has seen many changes, to the coastline, to the environment, to the technologies we use in our work and to our expectations for the future. However, so many things remain the same, the dedication and expertise of the Conservancy's staff team, the care with which they go about their work to either ensure the safety of harbour users, protect and enhance the wildlife or educate the next generation about the importance and special qualities of Chichester Harbour. I leave the organisation in very safe hands.



Moving on as well as Ed Carter, Senior Deputy Harbour Master, to new challenges in Weymouth. His departure at a similar time as mine has allowed us the opportunity to renew the Conservancy's management team by recruiting for a new Chief Executive Officer and a new Harbour Master. I look forward to seeing how they develop the Conservancy over the next 25 years and face the challenges brought by climate change, sea level rise and development pressure. We will bring you more news of these appointments in the Summer edition of Harbour Life.

**Richard Craven**  
Director and Harbour Master

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

# News *in brief*

## Slipway improvements in Emsworth

Recent improvements have been successfully completed to the slipway at Emsworth. The slipway was deteriorating as a result of shoreline drift, which had caused some of it to be eroded away, creating a step into the water. After trying to maintain the area with shingle, the time came for an extension ensuring that the slipway is now much more resilient for the future.

Further work in Emsworth is planned for the season, with the planned replacement and renewal of the jetty taking place this spring. There will be a short period between the old jetty being removed and the new one added, driven in part by the weather conditions and the tides – which will both play their part!



## New waters for Ed Carter

After almost ten years with the Conservancy, Ed Carter, our Senior Deputy Harbour Master, left us in January to move west with his family and take up the post of Harbour Master at Weymouth. Ed originally joined us as part of our seasonal patrol team for a year, before moving into the role of Harbour Technician. From there he took up the post of Moorings Officer before being promoted to Senior Deputy

Harbour Master in December 2019. It's been wonderful to see Ed's career progress, and we wish him success in his new role in the West Country. The whole team came together to give Ed a good send off ahead of his move.

We're looking forward to sharing the appointment of our new Harbour Master shortly – look out for details on our social media feeds and in the summer edition of Harbour Life.



## Sailing season begins!

Don't forget that our teams will be out and about in Itchenor, Emsworth, Bosham and all around the Harbour to collect harbour dues as the sailing season opens.



## Restoring saltmarsh

The Conservancy is undertaking a trial of an innovative new technique to help restore saltmarsh habitat.

Saltmarsh is an amazing coastal ecosystem which stores carbon, helps natural sea defences, improves water quality and promotes biodiversity. The trial will use clean sediment collected from local maintenance dredging within the Harbour. If successful, it could radically transform the way dredged sediment is used for saltmarsh habitat restoration. This would help to reverse the declining trend in biodiversity within the Harbour, restore the features of the SSSI and develop a circular economy model. The project will be taking place at West Itchenor where historic saltmarsh once existed, close to two thriving areas of

saltmarsh, Chalkdock Marsh and a site west of Northshore boatyard. Both these areas will provide a natural supply of seed to help colonise the new area of raised sediment. By restoring saltmarsh here we also hope to protect the coastal footpath behind. It's expected that the site will be seeded by the nearby saltmarsh sites and that pioneer species will start to grow within the first year. The trial is part of the Solent Seascape Project, and the Conservancy is working as a partner through CHaPRoN (Chichester Harbour Protection and Recovery of Nature). You can find out more about [www.chapron.org.uk](http://www.chapron.org.uk).



## Keeping control

In early autumn we sadly received reports of dead swans in the Fishbourne, Thorney and Bosham Channels.

Those dead swans were reported to Defra, and the UK Health Security Agency collected two carcasses for analysis, both of which tested positive for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. In Chichester Harbour the disposal of any dead birds is the responsibility of Environmental Health, Chichester District Council and the landowner. However, as part of the response we pro-actively stepped in to help manage the situation and co-ordinate all activity with Chichester District Council and West Sussex County Council.

Members of our team had been fully trained to safely recover sick or dead birds, using appropriate masks and other PPE, and the carcasses were taken by a licenced contractor. Thankfully since then we have had very few new reports of any dead birds or Avian flu in the Harbour, and we hope that this situation continues to be a good example of successful disease control. Nevertheless we're continuing to monitor the situation, and would still encourage any sightings of two or more dead birds to be reported to [birdreport@conservancy.co.uk](mailto:birdreport@conservancy.co.uk).

# Sails away

## Inspiring Young Sailors

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Living near the water offers a fantastic opportunity for youngsters to become keen sailors from an early age. With a number of sailing clubs dotted around Chichester Harbour there are plenty of options to get started, have fun on the water and develop solid sailing skills. As well as helping improve physical and mental health, sailing can allow children to develop leadership and teamwork skills, as well as inspiring an appreciation of the natural world and how important it is to protect and conserve this very special place. Most local sailing clubs operate a junior programme, and there are also some schemes and centres helping encourage the next generation of sailors.



### Bosham Sailing Club

Offers family membership and race coaching, with a number of young members selected for regional and national squads, and even Team GB at international events. Two pathways are available for under 18s: 'double-handed' (two-person dinghy) or 'single-handed' (one person dinghy). The fleet includes Optimists, Toppers and Lasers and there's an August 'Junior Week', training courses and expert coaching weekends. The BSC Youth Sailing Fund provides support to young sailors under 25 too establishing a partnership with Bosham Primary School to introduce pupils to sailing with complimentary tuition, giving youngsters from the community the skills and confidence to get afloat safely and enjoyably.



### Christian Youth Enterprises (CYE)

Located on the Cobnor Estate CYE benefits from sheltered conditions and consistent winds. The centre has a variety of boats including dinghies – Hartley 10s, Zests, Fevas and Wayfarers. There are also four Drascombe Long Boats and a range of high performance boats. The fleet of kayaks are perfect for learning with TG Lites, Master TGs and Sit On Top kayaks. A range of instructor Kayaks, Canoes and raft building are also available.

Photo © Paul Adams



### Cobnor Activity Centre

Cobnor offers sailing tuition for young people with courses following the syllabus of the RYA (Royal Yachting Association) or fun taster sessions including trips around Chichester Harbour. The Centre has a fleet of Laser Picos, RS Fevas and Wayfarer Dinghies with a team of qualified and experienced instructors. Private sailing tuition is also available.

### Dell Quay Sailing Club

Runs Sunday Fundays for Junior Members aged over 10 years. Sessions encourage developing a love of messing about in boats with a choice of Dinghy Sailing, Rowing, Stand-up Paddleboarding, Kayaking/ Canoeing or a mixture of all four. Dell Quay Junior Week is an opportunity for all Juniors to progress their sailing skills, have some fun on the water and to enjoy time with their friends. Throughout the week, Juniors follow the RYA Youth Sailing Scheme and Older Juniors can access the RYA Seamanship Skills course.



### Chichester Yacht Club

Offers a wide range of sessions for juniors who have completed their RYA Stage 3 to develop their confidence and skills in a safe and fun environment. Options include Fun on the Water, Start to Race for those progressing towards competing in Club races, Start to Race Camp, Race Development, Turbo Regattas and Sail Aways to Fishbourne or Itchenor. Private Tuition is available too, and the Club encourages young sailors to become RYA Assistant Instructors to help develop the next generation of sailors.



### Emsworth Sailing Club

With an active junior section there are a wide range of sailing opportunities for young people of all levels, from those venturing out for the first time on the Emsworth millpond, through to aspiring national racers. Older juniors help encourage the younger sailors using the skills they have gained at the Club, led by junior captains. The junior programme is structured around training events, a programme of RYA courses, winter squad racing, children's sailing events including COW week every summer, Junior racing and Club racing. A range of boats suitable for juniors are available for members to hire.



### Havant Youth Sail Training Scheme

Based in Langstone this scheme works with young people aged of 8 to 18 offering affordable sailing with fully qualified instructors. All programmes follow the Royal Yachting Association training from Stage 1 through to Stage 4. The fleet includes three Wayfarer dinghies and one safety craft, Jubilee Rose. HYSTS operates as a registered charity and is run by volunteers providing sailing opportunities for young people.

### Hayling Island Sailing Club

HISC has an emphasis on encouraging young people to have fun on the water, engage with other children and make friends, as well as learn to sail and improve their skills. A variety of programmes are on offer including Seals for under 10s, Race Camps and Training Weeks and Red Ribbon training, enabling children to sail across the best tides of the early season in small groups under the tutelage of qualified dinghy instructors. A mentoring scheme is also run to assist those over 15 to prepare for the RYA Dinghy Instructor course.

### West Wittering Sailing Club

West Wittering offers a strong junior programme with RYA courses, a Junior Week at East Head and a weekend Oppie & Topper Club. Term time after school sailing for West Wittering school pupils is also available through May and June to introduce children at the village school to sailing and encourage local families to get involved too.

### Mengeham Rythe Sailing Club

As an RYA Training Centre, MRSC is focused on introducing the younger generation to sailing. Training courses and social events are on offer, as well as a Youth Race Week. Children begin their sailing journey in the safe and sheltered water in front of the clubhouse with a focus on having fun and learning the basic skills. As they progress, there are opportunities to sail on West Mud before racing in and around Chichester Harbour. A range of club owned boats can be hired with RS Teras, RS Fevas, Laser 2000s, Lasers 4.7, Radial rigs, a Wayfarer and an RS 400 on offer.

### Itchenor Sailing Club

With a focus on encouraging and developing young sailors, Itchenor Sailing Club offers a friendly and fun environment for children and teenagers to learn the ropes. The Club has a variety of boats including a Mirrors Class – the biggest fleet in the Club and with over 90 boats is the most active Mirror fleet in the country. Other options include Toppers, Optimist Dinghies, International 420s and RS Feva for children aged 12/13 and over.



### Thorney Island Sailing Club

Encouraging children to sail is a long-established sailing tradition at TISC and the Club's Junior sailing week, which takes place in the summer school holidays, is always very popular. The Club has three Visions, four Fevas, ten Picos, six Fusions and two 2000s as part of its training fleet.



### Langstone Sailing Club

LSC has a strong junior section for those aged 8-18 meeting regularly on and off the water and racing in open events at clubs in the harbour. Specific events are run for junior and youth sailors including the JIB Juniors in Boat sessions. The objective is to improve sailing skills and confidence of being on the water. Junior Week runs each August offering five full days of RYA instruction, teamwork, friendship and fun.





# Retiring ways

Richard Craven, our Director and Harbour Master, retires this spring after almost 25 years with the Conservancy. During his tenure Richard has skilfully overseen Chichester Harbour, weighing the demands of recreation and leisure with conservation and landscape protection. Two of Richard's colleagues share their thoughts on the significance his leadership and guidance has made.

Richard Austin, AONB Manager,  
Chichester Harbour Conservancy

"Over the course of his career, I would say Richard Craven was a perfect fit for Chichester Harbour Conservancy. With his background in sailing and boating, and his enthusiasm, commitment, and expertise, it's fair to say that Richard understands all aspects of the Harbour, and his colleagues, the Members, and partners recognise that he's been an absolute asset to the area and the Conservancy.

One example of how Richard excels is his breadth of knowledge. He passionately cares about the environment of Chichester Harbour and takes great interest in the landscape, the habitats and the wildlife, becoming something of an expert in his own right – even though he is naturally modest by nature. The combination of this awareness and his background as a Harbour user made him the ideal person to be appointed as Director & Harbour Master. He thrived in the role, bringing stability to the organisation and a sense of leadership across the whole Harbour.

In 2019, Richard attended a meeting with the late Chris Savage, of the Chichester Harbour Federation, and Oliver Chipperfield, the former Chairman of the



Friends of Chichester Harbour, when it was concluded that due to the deteriorating state of the Harbour a new environmentally focussed partnership was needed to try and turn things around. Richard took this concept forward over the coming months and established the CHaPRoN partnership (Chichester Harbour Protection and Recovery of Nature). Today, the partnership meets on a frequent basis and has generated much interest from other coastal organisations as they admirably look at the template

that was established, and the momentum which has been generated. The excellent work of CHaPRoN will continue, and over the coming years Richard can be proud of each and every achievement that the partnership delivers as we collectively seek to improve the state of Chichester Harbour.

Richard will be fondly missed by everyone that knew him. Should he ever need a break from running his new small holding in Wales, he will always be welcome here to visit.



Robert Macdonald, Chairman of the Conservancy Advisory Committee

I first met Richard Craven in October 1998 when we took a trip out into Chichester Harbour to discuss the positioning of some racing marks to help avoid conflict with the safe navigation of non-racing vessels. This was soon after he had been persuaded to rejoin the Conservancy as Deputy Harbour Master, following the appointment of the late Colonel John Davis as Harbour Master and Manager the previous year. Richard had previously held the post for some eighteen months, but had wanted to seek an alternative career. Thankfully for all of us he returned, and when he retires at the end of April 2023 he will have completed some 25 years service with the Conservancy, the majority of which he has held responsibility for the safe running of the Harbour.

Throughout his years he has always exuded a calm demeanor and measured response despite being provoked on many occasions. His preference to work with rather than antagonise protagonists to reach a solution has successfully resolved many issues and

has of late resulted in the formation of CHaPRoN, to push forward his passionate belief in the need for us all to adopt new measures to enable us and our successors to continue to enjoy the wonderful Harbour and surrounding countryside. However you would be wrong to underestimate the quiet but steely determination of the man to achieve his goal.

Highly personable, he has operated with both the local community, national and international organisations and government agencies to ensure a cohesive approach to solutions and to understand the problems of a club, the aspirations of a marina and the concerns of environmentalists; he similarly shares the frustrations of many of us in policies which have not been properly thorough. His ability to communicate easily made him and wife Marcella popular guests at Harbour gatherings such as commodore dinners or drinks parties, as he recognised the importance of enabling stakeholders to be able to chat outside of a formal meeting. Professionally he is well regarded by his peers, as is the reputation of the Harbour under his capable stewardship.

I can well remember when, as Deputy Harbour Master, he laid new proposals before the Advisory Committee for the relocation of the West Pole Beacon, to ensure safe entry into the Harbour. The Advisory, led by the Chichester Harbour Federation and backed by the RYA and the RNLI, would not support the proposal for a single pole structure, and recommended that a larger beacon was required with appropriate lighting, in keeping with other major Harbour entrances. After the meeting had concluded I spoke with Richard to amplify our view, and he immediately responded by saying 'no need'; it had been his preference too, but he had been told to cut back for cost reasons. We now have the substantial West Pole beacon in place. Over his tenure he has had to cope with many problems, and his first temporary

tenure as 'Acting Manager' following the premature demise of John Davis was difficult, but his experience when he was reappointed 'Acting Manager and Harbour Master' and subsequently confirmed as Director and Harbour Master has proved a success for him and all he has served. His care for those working for him was without doubt, and he never feared constructive criticism. I, like many, will miss his extensive knowledge, easy demeanor, and sound thinking along with the odd pint of beer or glass of wine at the end of a working meeting to chew the cud. I still believe he is too young to retire, but the very nature of the man has concluded that it is time to give his wife his undivided time, and to enjoy a well-earned but part-time retirement as they embark upon running a smallholding in Wales.



# My favourite bike ride

## Chichester Gravel Loop



Adrian Karn, Deputy  
Harbour Master

This ride, a loop starting from Chichester, is one of my favourites. It's not too long at about 25 miles, flat and suitable all year round especially when the trails on the South Downs become a little too muddy. It can either be a fun, quick blast or you can take your time and visit the many cafes on route.

The first leg of the ride is approximately 8 miles along the Salterns Way from Apludram and follows this well marked cycle route past Chichester Marina, through Itchenor Village before joining the main road at West Wittering.

There is always time to stop to watch the boats leaving the Marina for a day out on the Harbour and I wonder where they will all be off to and, in my head, wish them a safe passage.

Taking the B2179 through East Wittering and onto Bracklesham village offers the chance to stop at the Goat Coffee Co at Bracklesham - they know all about making great coffee and collaborate with many local brands. Onwards the route moves along Clappers Lane, past Earnley Church and reaches the start of the Medmerry Way - a permissive bridleway that will take you through to the National Cycle Network route 88.

This opens up to fantastic views across the Medmerry reserve.

Although the path in this section is fast and flat, the skylarks singing as they fly above the grasses always slows me down as I savour their songs. I have been fortunate to visit many places on cycling holidays but the sound of this song always lets me know why Chichester is my home.



Cross the main Selsey road and continue along the NCN Route 88 past Sidlesham Quay and north back towards North Mundham. Joining the road again the last section of the ride brings you to Hunston where you join the canal towpath back into Chichester.

The Canal Café situated at the end of this loop is the ideal opportunity to relax with a well deserved drink and some light refreshments, while enjoying the local wildlife and watching the activities in the Chichester Canal basin.





# what's *on?*

Spring into Chichester Harbour

## What's on this spring?

As the Harbour emerges from the winter, new life is all around. The buds and blossom are starting to appear on the trees and hedgerows, and there's lots of nesting activity from our wildlife. With warmer weather and longer days ahead it's a great time to get outdoors and enjoy our beautiful open spaces.

## Boat trips in Chichester Harbour

Over the spring months we have a number of sailings on our solar-powered catamaran *Solar Heritage*. The boat is virtually silent and is a great way to visit the Harbour and learn more about the wildlife and history of this special place. Each sailing offers the opportunity to get up close to many of the birds and habitats that make this place so unique – with an expert on board. Details of all sailings, and how to book, can be found at [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk). It's also possible to charter the boat for a private trip, celebration or group outing – just contact the Harbour Office to discuss your plans. ▼



Photo © Paul Adams



## Beautiful birdsong

Listening out for birdsong is a wonderful excuse to pause and take in the calls of our feathered friends. Research has found that listening to the warbling of birds has a powerful effect on our wellbeing, helping to reduce stress and improve mood. With International Dawn Chorus Day on Sunday 7th May, it's a great time to learn how to pick out some of the calls of the birds in the Harbour – the gulls are particularly easy to pick out, although here are some of the other to listen for:

**Whimbrels** – a rippling whistle of around seven notes

**Terns** – grating 'keer-ick' calls

**Cuckoo** – one of the easiest to pick out with the distinctive simple two-note 'cuc-koo'

**Whitethroat** – a distinctively scratchy and jolting song. Phrases are short, chattery and hurried, with fairly short pauses between them

**Skylarks** – known for its song flight with a liquid warbling sound

**Blackcap** - pretty, flute-like song, with a sweet, chattering warble

**Chiffchaff** – a sweet song, which has a 'chiffchaff chiffchaff' sound

**Robin** – high pitched, drawn out notes which quickly descend in pitch, but increase in speed

**Wren** – a rich, complex series of tinkling trills and whistles with short, sharp 'tac' contact calls & other 'tiuch' calls



### Striding out

A new event is being held in the Harbour this spring with the Chichester Harbour Chidham Half-Marathon taking place on Saturday 11th March. The trail route winds around Chidham Peninsular and the harbour-side paths offering spectacular views of the Harbour including views over Bosham Hoe, Itchenor, East Head and the South Downs. The route is being run at low tide to include a small section of the foreshore. Two distances are available - 21.3km or 15km. Booking is through the event organisers – UK Running Events.



### Harbour Tots

Our monthly session for pre-schoolers is a fun and friendly exploration of Chichester Harbour and the natural world. Each 1.5 hour session will involve a short walk and activities outside – so please come dressed for the outdoors!

### Spring Into Life - Fri 17th March 2023

See how the Harbour is changing as the plants, trees and animals begin to prepare for Spring. Join us to hug a tree, plant seeds and enjoy nature.

### Harbour Animals and their Young - Wed 19th April 2023

Join us to celebrate the birth of baby animals in the Harbour. Fun activities to celebrate the new chicks and baby rabbits, with lots of hopping and tweeting!

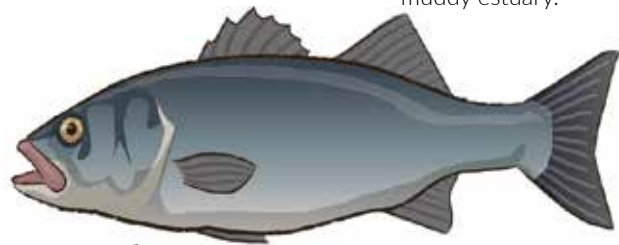
All sessions begin at 10:30am at the Education Centre with a £7 fee for 1 adult and 1 child. Additional children and adults are charged at £3 each. Details and booking through Ticketsource.



# Fun for families

## Go on a Mud Hunt

Chichester Harbour is a muddy estuary, one of 1,130 estuaries in the UK. When you're next on the shoreline look out for these common creatures that live in a muddy estuary.



Bass



Ragworm



Shrimp



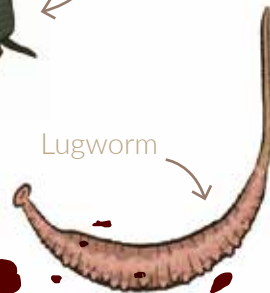
Periwinkle



Cockle



Shore crab



Lugworm

# Spot the spring flowers!

Take a walk in the woodland around the Harbour and see what you can spot:



**Lesser Celandine**

One of the earliest flowers to appear, these have star-shaped flowers and heart-shaped leaves.



**Primrose**

Look for these pale yellow flowers from December to May in woodland clearings. They are an important source of nectar for insects.



**Common Dog Violet**

Look for these from April, the flowers are the same shape as pansies and the leaves are heart-shaped.



**Wood Anemone**

Pretty white flowers, growing in old woodlands. They can smell like foxes! Look for them in March.



**Forget-me-not**

Tiny bright blue flowers (sometimes with the odd pink one) from April, the leaves are hairy. They do well on disturbed ground as one plant can produce a lot of seeds.



**Bluebell**

Flowering from April, these blue flowers can carpet a woodland. They have a lovely scent and a bell-shaped flower.

# Protecting the heritage of Chichester Harbour



A pillbox on the west side of Thorney Island before and after vegetation clearance



The importance of the historic environment is recognised in Chichester Harbour Conservancy's Management Plan, and the Chichester Harbour Heritage Partnership represents the group of interested parties who carry out this work. Peter Murphy and Mike Kallaway of the Chichester and District Archaeology Society explain how the heritage of Chichester Harbour is being safeguarded, and detail an exciting new discovery which came to light last year.

As well as surveying and recording newly discovered archaeological sites Chichester and District Archaeology Society (CDAS) keeps a close eye on various sites of historical importance around the Harbour. The aims are to monitor the condition of any archaeological sites and make recommendations for their management to the Conservancy. Some places of particular

importance include the WW2 sites on Thorney Island including the Pillboxes, Gun Emplacements and Air Raid Shelters. These areas are regularly cleared of vegetation by volunteers from the Conservancy or CDAS.

## A Fishy Discovery

Last year archaeologists from CDAS supported by colleagues from the former



East Head 1, showing the circular pound and east leader. Photo by Peter King.





CITiZAN (Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network) and the National Trust recorded several wooden structures which had been exposed on intertidal sand flats at East Head. The structures were first reported to CDAS by local people exploring the area. Although they'd been seen intermittently, at extreme low tides, for several years, they'd never been recorded. These wooden structures are the remains of two fish traps, formed of roughly circular post-and-wattle pounds between 5m and 7m in diameter with linear lines of posts and wattle panels, known as leaders, which would have funnelled fish into the pounds as the tide dropped. More recent movement of the sandbanks has largely buried the structures so they are only visible at extreme low tides.

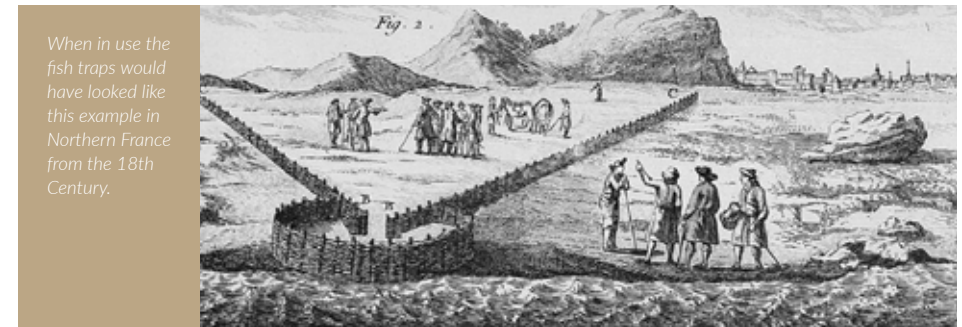
When in use the fish traps would have looked like this example in Northern France from the 18th Century.

### How did Fish Traps Work?

Fish traps needed to be accessible regularly to collect the catches. From the beginning of the archaeological work, it was clear that the modern coast must have differed from the time when the traps were built; the positions of the traps were fixed but the coastline was not.

Historic maps and other evidence show that East Head has moved significantly eastwards. The traps were originally in a north-south-flowing intertidal creek protected by the spit and dunes. Near constant submergence since then, as the spit moved eastwards, has resulted in waterlogging of the wood and surrounding sediments. In these conditions the deposits are oxygen deficient (anaerobic) so bacterial decomposition was inhibited and consequently the wood is preserved.

Most fish traps from the English coast are V-shaped structures of posts with attached



panels of wattling, creating fences which channelled fish to the point of the V as the tide fell, where they could be scooped into baskets. The examples from East Head are of a less common form, known as 'pound and leader', which so far has been reported in England only from the Solent region. The only examples previously recorded were at Ashlett Creek in Southampton Water, Binstead on the Isle of Wight and Langstone Harbour.

### When were Fish Traps used?

Radiocarbon dating of stakes taken from Ashlett Creek place their use at around 700 AD, with the Langstone Harbour trap dated to around 980 AD. Consequently, comparable Saxon dates were expected for the East Head structures. However, the samples returned dates from around 1550 AD. Given similar traps in use in Northern France in the 18th century perhaps this is not really so much of a surprise!

The geographical and age distribution of this type of trap is particularly interesting. It shows that coastal communities, living similar lives, were closely connected, so ideas spread. The design of the fish traps remained essentially the same for a period of 800 years, and each trap could have been in use for a long period with regular repairs. This could imply that the knowledge

of the design and operation remained embedded in the coastal communities throughout this period although without written or archaeological evidence this can't be confirmed.

### A Window into Coastal Communities

Although these finds aren't spectacular archaeology, what's interesting is their relevance to everyday subsistence. The site provides a window into the economies of coastal communities as well as revealing some of the changes in the coastline which have occurred over the last 600 years.

Our coastline continues to change, and erosion is continuing too, so recording intertidal archaeology is a fragile process. Volunteers and local residents regularly walking our coastline are very helpful in reporting new exposures of archaeology, and any observations and reports are very welcome to the CDAS team – please do always share anything you may stumble across so that we can investigate.

To learn more about the work of CDAS in Chichester Harbour visit Emsworth Museum which has a number of exhibits and displays that cover the subject in more depth.

Find out more at [www.cdas.info](http://www.cdas.info) and [www.emsworthmuseum.org.uk](http://www.emsworthmuseum.org.uk).

Chichester Harbour

# Spotter's. guide

As the Harbour springs into life look out for these impressive nature spots.

## Tapered Dronefly (*Eristalis pertinax*)

**What?** A hoverfly, with a dark brown and orange abdomen (looks a bit like a bee!)

**Where?** Find in gardens, woodland and grasslands.

**When?** All summer, but it's one of the earliest hoverflies on the wing each year, so can be seen on warm days from mid-February or early March.

**Did you know?** The larvae of *Eristalis* hoverflies are the wonderfully named 'rat-tailed maggots' that live an aquatic life in ponds and ditches, feeding on decaying plant matter. As adults, hoverflies carry out important pollinating work.





## Cuttlebones

**What?** A flat, white, roughly oval-shaped 'bone' which is the hard internal 'shell' of a cuttlefish.

**Where?** Any shoreline around the harbour, but particularly those that are exposed to the open sea.

**When?** All year, but frequently washed up in later winter and will persist on the shoreline all spring.

**Did you know?** Cuttlebones are remarkable structures, unique to cuttlefish, made of a carbonate material called aragonite which controls the buoyancy of the cuttlefish. Three species of cuttlefish are regularly found in UK waters *Sepia officinalis* (the Common Cuttlefish), *Sepia orbignyana* (Orbigny's Cuttlefish) and *Sepia elegans* (the Elegant Cuttlefish). All can be identified from the cuttlebones that wash up on the shore.



## Pacific Oyster *Magallana gigas*

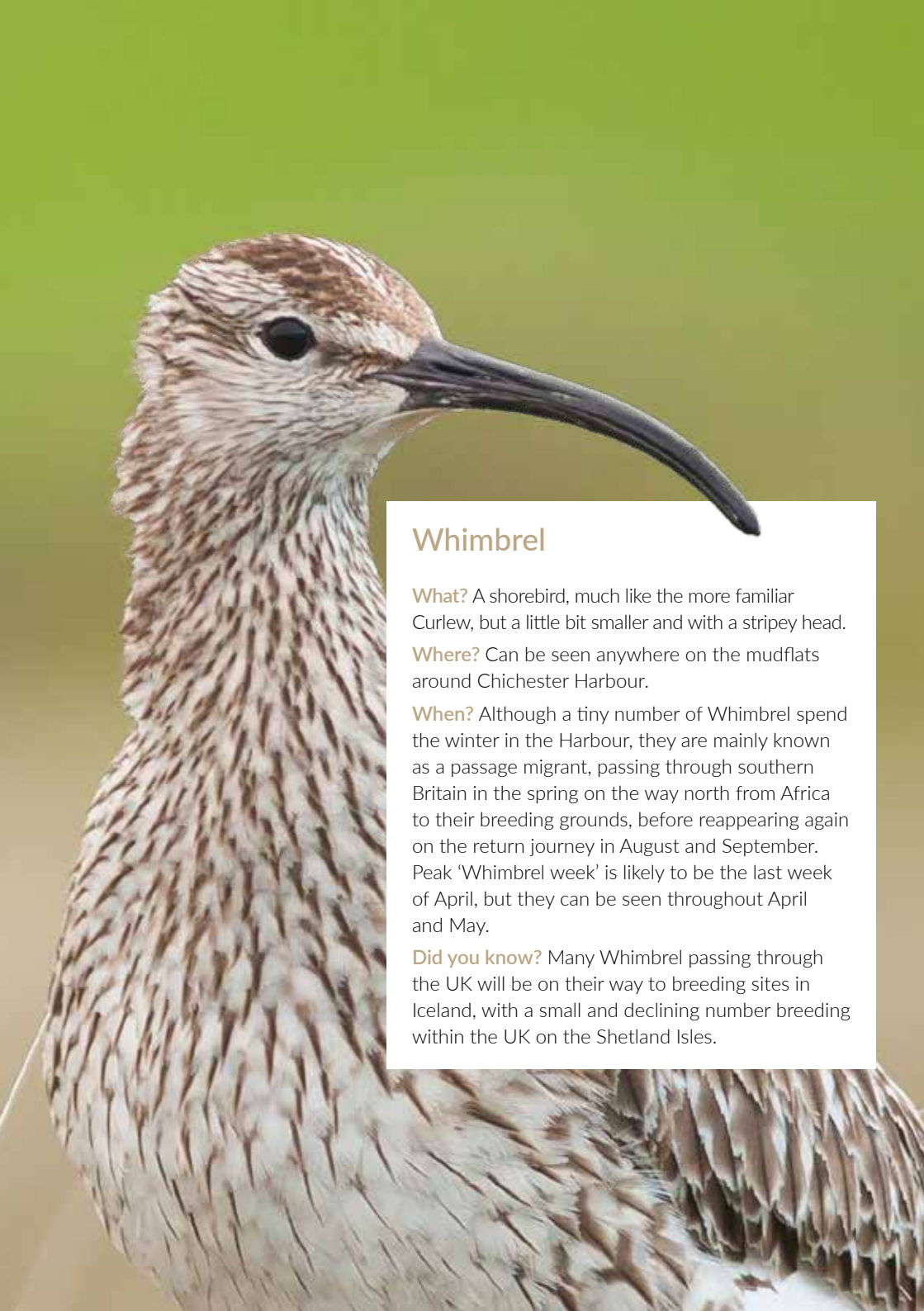
**What?** A marine bivalve, usually about 10-15cm long. They are more angular in shape and have much crinklier ('crenulate') shells than the native Oyster – be careful if you pick one up, the edges of their shells are razor sharp!

**Where?** On the intertidal and subtidal habitats around the Harbour. They can live down to about 80m depth but are often found in very shallow or intertidal sites.

**When?** All year.

**Did you know?** Pacific Oysters, as the name suggests, are a non-native species that have been increasing along the south coast of the UK in recent years. Today they're appearing in ever greater numbers and in more locations around the Harbour.





## Whimbrel

**What?** A shorebird, much like the more familiar Curlew, but a little bit smaller and with a stripey head.

**Where?** Can be seen anywhere on the mudflats around Chichester Harbour.

**When?** Although a tiny number of Whimbrel spend the winter in the Harbour, they are mainly known as a passage migrant, passing through southern Britain in the spring on the way north from Africa to their breeding grounds, before reappearing again on the return journey in August and September. Peak 'Whimbrel week' is likely to be the last week of April, but they can be seen throughout April and May.

**Did you know?** Many Whimbrel passing through the UK will be on their way to breeding sites in Iceland, with a small and declining number breeding within the UK on the Shetland Isles.

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\* Emsworth in July/August