

ITCHENOR NEWS

Brought to you by The Itchenor Society

Issue 8, Winter 2010

Updating the Village Design Statement

Our Village Design Statement (VDS) was prepared between 2001 and 2003 as a result of a great deal of input by village residents. It was written by residents and coordinated by the *Itchenor Society*, in cooperation with the Parish Council and the Harbour Conservancy. It was such an excellent and well presented document that it was adopted by Chichester District Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance. It is referred to when proposals for development in our village are being considered by the Harbour Conservancy, The West Itchenor Parish Council and by Chichester District Council. We are keen that it should continue to maintain that status and to do this it requires updating.

Please re-read it when you have a moment. It is on the *Itchenor Society* website which is www.itchenosociety.co.uk/html/designstatement.html.

In the intervening years, since it was written, changes have occurred within the village. The most important and the most recent is the establishment of a much larger Conservation Area as a result of the Conservation Area Character Appraisal that was prepared by the Conservation Studio earlier this year on behalf of Chichester District Council.

It was subsequently approved by the District Council on 2nd November 2010. That document is also worth reading; it is on the CDC website on the bottom of the web page in PDF format available at: www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=14586. It is called "West Itchenor revised Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Proposals".

Other changes, since the VDS was written, include the former *Ted Bailey* workshop and yard in the Street, which has been redeveloped by Lansdale Marine; we have also seen a substantial extension of the Northshore boat building yard. By the time the update is underway the new path from the car park to the harbour along the west side of Northshore will have been built.

The Society is concerned that the VDS should be brought up to date so that the document continues to have relevance. We need your input to do this. Our present thinking is not to make any fundamental changes to the policies but merely to bring in the new information in such a way that it fits together. The VDS update has to represent the majority view. If you are willing to contribute please contact our secretary *Peter Arnold* (secretary@itchenosociety.co.uk) and let him have your views. We will undertake the work in cooperation with the Parish Council and the Conservancy and will bring our proposals to the village for agreement.

Christopher Mead-Briggs, Chairman - Itchenor Society

Good food, good wine, good music and good company - What more could we have asked for?

We were blessed with glorious evening sunshine, as the corks popped at the start of this year's Summer Party celebrating the 21st anniversary of the *Society*.



Throughout the day a succulent pig had turned slowly on the spit as the ladies of the committee and their team of helpers set about preparing an array of delicious salads to accompany the hog roast. Fresh English strawberries, hand-picked once again by the ladies, were served with lashings of cream for dessert.

After supper *Willie Austen* and his Band struck up, the dance floor filled and *Itchenor* rocked until midnight. With over 160 people in attendance the evening was declared a huge success.



Peter Arnold, Honorary Secretary - Itchenor Society

Pond News

As was the case last year, a number of volunteers helped with more pond clearing during the early part of the spring this year; thus letting more light in and enabling a further area of grass to be sown at the far side of the pond. Despite the hard winter and an autumn during which the pond was covered in duckweed, numerous fish were seen 'cruising around' and by early summer there were dozens of young fish just visible to the eye. As I was cutting the grass, a passing walker was only too happy to point them out to me!

As happens at that time of year, it was not only the fish that were breeding! One evening, I received on my unreliable answering machine, a message from someone not far from where I live, saying that they had a pair of buzzards nesting in their garden and that there were young in the nest. Unfortunately, I never got to hear how the family survived as the message ended abruptly. However, it is good to know that such wonderful creatures are now able to breed and settle once again in this area.

Other families also bred close by - the heron returned for the second year running, and one of the female ducks, in order to escape their attention, laid her eggs in the chicken run in a garden close by. When the ducklings were old enough, their mother took them down to the pond, (they were not the only family of ducks that took evasive action), however to no avail, as none of the pond's ducklings survived. Sadly, they were all taken by the herons.

Another family took up residence for much of the summer close by to the pond - a family of stoats. The young were seen darting about during the day emitting shrill squeals as they played. Stoats are attractive creatures with a red brown coat and a cream white underbelly. They grow up to about 30cm in length and are quite versatile, both apt at swimming and following their quarry if necessary, underground. During their summerbreak, the immediate pond population of rabbits also abruptly fell.

One of the reasons this year for the unattractive thick layer of duckweed lasting so long, was in part, simply due to the fact, that the ducks with no young to care for departed, normally they would be around and eat a lot of the weed. Still, I noticed this morning that the night's heavy rain has removed most of the green layer, - another year... hey ho!

Philip Edwards



Success for Local Itchenor Sailing Club Members at Cowes Week

Three Chichester sailors achieved their ambition during Cowes Week by winning the coveted XOD trophy, the Captain's Cup. Sailing out of Itchenor Sailing Club, brothers *Steve* and *Peter Lawrence* together with *Paddy Smart* were the top team in the XOD Class. Widely considered the most competitive class at Cowes and the largest with 88 boats entered this year, the X's provide the ultimate test for a sailing team. The *Lawrences* and *Paddy* have been close before in their beautifully maintained 1923 built XOD - *Catherine*. They have been 2nd in this competition four times over the past 10 years.



This year they started impressively with a win by some four minutes over 7 times winner *Stuart Jardine* from Lymington on the first Saturday. Sunday brought bad news as *Catherine's* crew were disqualified under the black flag rule for crossing the line prematurely. With only one race to discard in the eight race series, this meant additional pressure not to be disqualified in any of the remaining six races. This did not appear to hold back the Itchenor crew. They won on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, were 5th on Wednesday and 2nd on Friday. Going into the final race on Saturday last, *Catherine* had to score no worse than a mid 30s finish, which they achieved by sailing an ultra conservative race to secure the Captain's Cup.

Catherine also won the overall White Group Trophy and the Westmacott Trophy, both of which had never previously been won by an XOD. *Steve*, *Peter* and *Paddy* were welcomed back to Itchenor and showered with champagne to recognise the first local victors in this competition for twelve years.

Thanks to Chris Blevins for this article and for capturing X26 under a rainbow.

Christmas Time

“Christmas comes but once a year “ as does National Tree Week, which takes place from 25th November to the 6th December, one of the best time to plant new trees in your garden. So why not plant a Christmas tree to mark the occasion? Let's take a little latitude on the date and plant one after 12th night.

About 500 years ago, townsfolk of Latvia used to set up a tree in the square and decorate it with paper flowers. I guess it had little to do with our Christian celebration and we have moved on from there.

Queen Victoria enjoyed private trees in the family home since childhood but after her marriage to Albert, the custom spread across the country and today the Spruce has become more popular than the Pine and Fir. About 60 million Christmas trees are produced for the European market.

The Norway Spruce (*Picea Abies*), is the most important forestry tree and is one of our favourites for Christmas. It can be purchased at most garden centres with roots in a pot. Find a cool place at home, keep it well watered, then plant it out after the holiday.

It is best planted in a semi shady position, in loose loamy soil and a good supply of moisture. Once established it will grow about a foot a year and be one of the most attractive trees in your garden. I have some fine examples that were started in this way. If you are careful, you could bring it in again to celebrate a second, or even a third time. Enjoy your Christmas tree and your garden!

Extracts taken from 'Tree News' - Peter Dean, Itchenor Tree Warden



Dates for your Diary...

Village Carols

Friday 17th December, 2010

Winter Lunch – Ship Inn

Sunday February 6th, 2011

Wreath Laying – Itchenor Hard

Friday 3rd June, 2011

Summer Party – River House

Saturday 18th June, 2011

Annual General Meeting – Village Hall

Friday 11th November, 2011



Christmas Carols

Supporting The Sussex Snowdrop Trust

Back by popular demand, Mike and Clare Goddard will be organising this year's Christmas Carols in Itchenor on Friday, 17th December.

Meet at 6.00pm at Stop Tide House, Itchenor Road (near Glebefield Road) to wassail your way through the village, finishing with a bite to eat at the Itchenor Sailing Club around 7.30pm to 8.00pm.

Supper tickets cost £6.50 each (£4.50 for children under 10) and are available only from Mike Goddard (telephone 51134 or email sunnybrow@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.



Peter Arnold,
Honorary Secretary - Itchenor Society

Womens Breakfast

There was a very successful Women's Breakfast held in the Memorial Hall on the 6th November. It involved the three churches in the Benefice plus visiting ladies, once the word had got around! A delicious breakfast was served of cereal, yoghurt and compote followed by local fresh baked croissants, coffee and fresh fruit. This was followed by a very thought provoking talk by Ginny Fox from a London church who has several friends down here. There has been excellent feedback and requests for it to be repeated next year.

Di Cawley, Vice Chairman - Itchenor Society

New Members of the Parish Council

Our congratulations and good wishes go to Sue Taylor and Jim Hartley - our new Parish Councillors.

Itchenor Society Committee

Officers

Chairman - Christopher Mead-Briggs	511092	christophermead-briggs@itchenor.plus.com
Vice Chairman - Di Cawley	512661	dianacawley@btinternet.com
Hon Secretary - Peter Arnold	513721	secretary@itchenorsociety.com
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Executive

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If you are not yet a member, why not consider joining?

*Details available from our Membership Secretary:
Mike Goddard - 511134
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