

ITCHENOR NEWS

NEWS FROM OUR VILLAGE BROUGHT TO YOU BY
THE ITCHENOR SOCIETY

HERE IT IS AGAIN THE SECOND OF OUR NEWSLETTERS. WE HOPE YOU FIND IT INTERESTING AND USEFUL ESPECIALLY THE TIPS ON ENERGY SAVINGS. THIS NEWSLETTER IS FOR EVERYONE TO SEE AND WE HOPE THAT IF ANYBODY HAS ANY NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS OR INFORMATION ON HAPPENINGS IN THE VILLAGE OR WOULD LIKE TO HELP IN ANYWAY THEN WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

EDITORS: DENISE HENDERSON AND CHRIS BLEVINS

Pond centre of Village wild life!

Our pond and all ponds are very special and they represent for most of us a little of the unknown, primarily because most of the time we cannot see below the waters surface. Our Pond at Itchenor is no different and maybe it's even more secretive as the waters only appear to be clear enough to see through during perhaps ten days in any year.

What we do know about our pond is that it is quite different to some other ponds in our area as ours has for most of the year a constant trickle of water entering from the far end of the copse. This trickle works its way through muddy marsh, which is almost a bog, hence the water is quite brackish. There are numerous trees surrounding the pond, so many in fact, that little direct sunlight ever reaches the waters surface which is bad for the pond and means little or no weed for the wildlife underneath.

Residents are known to include:

A pair of 1½ lb carp that retired from Surrey last year - their pond was drying up - and can be regularly seen enjoying their retirement!

30 common gold fish - many of these fish have been here for years and 10 or so have, in breeding, reverted to dark almost black carp colours.

30 green Tench, that are bottom feeders and only rise in the evening to take insects off the water's surface, do well with mosquitoes and better still are unlikely to be eaten by our resident Heron.

60 golden Tench, introduced last summer - some of these did not survive, hence heavier Heron! The fish that did survive have, local residents agree, reduced the mosquitoes in the neighbourhood.

20 Blue Orf, introduced last summer are almost impossible to see, they are fast and surface eaters for almost 24 hours a day. They can sometimes be seen with other residents on a warm summer's day.

Tens of thousands of bloodworms are buried in the pond's mud are, so if for any reason insect larvae were not in their

current abundance there is a feast of bloodworms available for the fish.

It is of grave concern that there appear to be no Frogs and Newts. Between now and May, if there are any visiting newts this is the time they will be mating. Keep an eye out - there are three types of newt in our part of the world - the crested newt, the smooth or common newt (orange belly which is the one we are most likely to see) and the palmate newt (yellow belly). If the pond had frogs, I am sure that we would have had sight of frogspawn by now, but sadly not, and this is the fifth year running.

Known causes of the lack of amphibians are other residents of the pond in the form of the heron and grass snake that eat them whole and the ducks that feed on the spawn when it occurs. Also we do not seem to have any flote-grass, water forget-me-not, startwort or watercress which are weeds that newts like to lay their eggs on and also happen to be a staple diet for ducks.

Last year approximately 18 young ducklings were successfully hatched, but by late summer only one had survived. This could have been due to the regular day time feeding of the ducks on the Itchenor pond such that the ducklings lose their sense of fear and are seemingly unconcerned of nearby dangers in the form of the fox, the Kestrel, the Heron and the rats which all took their toll. The rats also got fat on some of the food meant for the ducks. Feeding the ducks appears to be upsetting the balance of the pond ecosystem.

Other residents include deer and the mythical water vole - was he seen at all last year? Certainly not by any one the author met!!



Don't miss the Flower Festival

St Nicholas' Church is always well kept and decorated through the year thanks to the unsung work of a band of volunteers, but it is always shown off to its best at the Flower Festival wonderfully organised by Di Cawley over the August Bank Holiday weekend. So spend a few minutes over that weekend to appreciate the Church and the flowers while having a cup of tea or coffee and looking at the stalls.

Woodland Management

The Itchenor Society with the help of the Harbour Conservancy are working hard to improve the woodland in Itchenor and a number of clearance and re-planting projects have been successfully executed. On Shipton Green where the trees are beginning to flourish, in the dark days of January, an Itchenor Society working party of village volunteers cleared the brambles, rubbish and weeds from the planting on Itchenor Road in front of the farm.

New projects include, in the vicinity of the pond, the clearing of dead wood and fallen leaves to improve the drainage and light access to the pond and the planting grass seed to improve the pond edges. However we are in serious competition with the ducks who of course will take any new shoots but we will try to plant some indigenous plants around the edges which may also help. The Conservancy have advised that it is best to let nature take its course and eventually it will improve.

Coppicing, which made a great improvement by removing lots of dead wood last year, will again take place this coming autumn at the top end of the pond copse towards the Spiney, off Chalkdock Lane. The Harbour Conservancy have secured funding through the Lottery and will control this project.

Christmas in the Village

Christmas kicked off with the installation of two trees, one at the church and one at the Hard. The team had great fun putting up the lights on a freezing cold day, though it was actually quite hard work, digging holes and sawing branches and we certainly couldn't have secured it properly



Mike Goddard & Brian Cawley digging the hole!

without Brian's pegs and Mike's fantastic knowledge of knots!!

I laughed a lot except when I was pushing lights onto the tip of the tree on the end of a very long pole precariously standing at



the top of a ladder! We managed a sort of "s" shape round the tree and *yes* we do

realise that more lights are needed this year. Our thanks go to Peter Dean who donated the tree in the church from his garden and to the Conservancy who kindly secured the harbour tree and helped with the electricity for its "s" shaped lights.

The Carol singing through the village was well attended, no doubt due to the mulled wine and mince pies before we set off from Stop Tide, and raised £300 for the Snow-drop Trust, many thanks to all who contributed, a lot of fun was had by all.

Denise Henderson

Winter Lunch— big apologies from Itchenor Sailing Club

As some of you maybe aware Itchenor Sailing Club was having a few problems with new suppliers earlier this year and unfortunately this resulted in a somewhat disappointing Itchenor Society Winter lunch.

To make amends the secretary has invited us all back again and agreed to maintain the same price for next year and to supply two extra courses at no extra cost – I am assured the food will be excellent value and we will not be disappointed – Thank you Martin we look forward to seeing you then. *Peter Arnold Hon Sec Itchenor Society*

West Itchenor Parish Council needs you!!

Due to retirement there are two vacancies on the Parish Council. Any aspiring Prime Ministers should contact the Parish Clerk

Cycle Path access to Chichester, West Wittering and beyond

The recently opened Salterns Way cycle path is a great new village and area amenity supported in principle by the Itchenor Society during the planning phase it is great to see it in use. Though the route is a little indirect by not following the harbour shore, it has opened up the possibility of some great trips out either on foot or cycle to the Beach or the Downs. Recently, Clare Blevins as part of her training for the Marathon Playtex Moon Walk walked from Itchenor to Lavant and back, a distance of 20 miles, using Salterns Way and Centurion Way in five hours, now that is an achievement – What can you do??!!

Chris Blevins

West Manhood Venturers

A registered charity runs a local community transport service. For an annual £10 membership fee it provides twice weekly door to door shopping trips to East Wittering and twice monthly to Chichester. The latter costs an extra £1.00 return. Using a comfortable minibus with a tail-lift and wheel chair clamping facility, the service is available to any person who is retired and/or has a disability and is a local resident. Other activities include lunch clubs, a diabetic club, tea and chat club and

women's institute. New members will be warmly welcomed as are new volunteer drivers for a once a month duty. Many Society members have been drivers and your Vice-Chairman; Peter Dean will confirm that it is an enjoyable and rewarding experience. For information about membership or driving contact Michael Pettman on 01243 672696 or talk to Peter Dean or Keith Moate.

Buses

Bus availability in the Itchenor Area has improved substantially in the past year as there is a bus to Chichester every 15 minutes from the crossroads, so energy conscious parents can avoid driving up and down the Birdham straight!!!! Also some over 60s might like to take advantage of the new bus passes. More information available online at www.stagecoachbus.com/south or phone: 0845 121 0170

The Lay-by at St Nicholas's Church

One hundred messages of support from Society members published on the District Council's website amply demonstrated the strength of village feeling for restoration of this historic amenity. This support must have been extremely welcome to the Parish Council in its application to the planners for a Certificate of Lawfulness. This Certificate is being sought in order to place a hopefully final and indisputable legal seal of approval on its planned works. The result of this application should be known by the time of distribution of this newsletter.

Keith Moate

ITCHENOR VILLAGE IS ON THE WEB!

At long last the Itchenor Society has its own website, if you have not yet seen it, take a look at www.itchenorsociety.co.uk. On it you will find a copy of the minutes of the original Steering Committee together with the minutes of the Society's Inaugural meeting. There is a complete copy of the Village Design Statement in Adobe pdf format; this has been split into three sections to make it easier to download.

The website is still in its infancy and like a good wine should improve with age. Please use the 'Contact us' option if you have any comments or suggestions regarding the website. Finally I am extremely grateful to Nick Bottomley of www.ocean-marketing.com for his patience, skill and help in creating and publishing this site.

Peter Arnold Hon Sec
Itchenor Society



The web site's welcome page

We need your Ideas

Have you any ideas for Village events?

Halloween /Bonfire Party

Christmas Bazaar

Jazz Night

Summer Ball

Perhaps the children would like an event?

ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS???

Water shortages

Visit www.southernwater.co.uk for information. Email flush-savers or call 0800 027 6152 for a free information pack along with a device to reduce the volume of water used every time you flush your toilet.

While you're on the site visit the 'Water efficiency link' and test how efficient your family is - I got an *Ooops!* and am feeling rather guilty So I'll be trying to cut down in the future and I thought I was being quite good. The site gives all sorts of advice so :-

Divert your shower/bath water into a butt.

Use a bucket & sponge to wash your cars.

And mulch your garden!

Energy

Want to save energy? Take the West Sussex County Council Initiative 10% challenge at www.10percentchallenge.org.uk

The 10% Challenge is a campaign to raise awareness about the effect we all have on the environment, and to encourage households, communities, and businesses to reduce their impact by at least 10%.

"Did you know..... Every year TVs and videos left on standby consume enough electricity to power the Blackpool illuminations continuously for 10 years"?

Now not a lot of people know that!

Your Drinking Water

Drinking water provides us with health on tap and it is good value too. It might be fashionable to drink bottled water but it's an expensive trend. You pay less than one penny for 15 litres of tap water, whereas the same amount would cost more than £5 if you bought it in a bottle.

On top of that, your tap water has to undergo far more rigorous tests than the bottled variety. It frequently exceeds tough quality standards making it among the best drinking water in Europe.

(quoted from the southern water web site)

The drought - Why is the situation so serious?

There hasn't been enough rain. The south of England is currently experiencing the driest period since 1933, with low rainfall over the last two winters.

Water companies collect winter rainfall in reservoirs and underground stores, to ensure there is enough water for everyone to use throughout the year. However, with only 75% of average rainfall since November 2004, the resources are being stretched.

In addition, modern lifestyles and equipment such as washing machines, dishwashers and power showers, mean we each use more water than ever before.

In the south east we each use an average of 160 litres of water per day, almost 50 per cent more every day than 25 years ago.

This current problem is one that needs the combined efforts of everyone to overcome. (quoted from the 10perchallenge web site)

THE ITCHENOR SOCIETY

Dates for your diary

Weds 31st May 06 - Rounders match between the Harbour Conservancy & the Village

Sat 17th June 06 - Summer Party to be held at Harbour House

Sat 26th to Mon 28th Aug 06 - Flower Festival at St. Nicholas Church

Fri 3rd Nov 06—Itchenor Society AGM

Support your Village Hall !

Itchenor's Memorial Hall is a great asset to the village having been used by almost all of us at some time or another. Currently the Chichester Harbour Conservancy make use of it for their education department and there are thriving Yoga and Art Classes. The hall has maintained it's hire charges for a number of years but now feel that the rate should be appropriate to the various type of user. They are split as follows:- those meeting the Hall's charitable objectives, Commercial events open to the public and Parties and private events.

The new rates are:

Charitable events £4.00 per hour

Commercial hiring £5.50 per hour

Parties and private events £8.00 per hour

Day and Half-day rates available on request

For more information about the village hall it's facilities and booking enquiries

please contact :- Di Jerwood on 01243 512253

Robin Payne-Itchenor Memorial Hall Chairman

NEWSFLASH - Clare Blevins duly completed her Playtex Moon Walk on the 20th May in 7 ¾ hrs - fantastic! There were 15,000 entrants at this fund raising event for breast cancer and Clare said it was an amazing experience—thank you all who gave generously to a such a worthwhile appeal and has raised over £2000.

**WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HERE?
PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS?**

**THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL HOPEFULLY BE SENT OUT IN
THE AUTUMN SO PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR NEWS**

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Letters and comments are welcome

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Have you paid your Itchenor Society Sub- scription?

The Society is dependent on your subscriptions to continue its work in support of the Village so if you have overlooked this years it's not too late!