

ITCHENOR NEWS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE ITCHENOR SOCIETY

EDITORS: DENISE HENDERSON AND CHRIS BLEVINS

The Village Pond

Phase II of the coppicing behind the pond was a bit of a shock to us all but I am advised by the Conservancy it will take no time at all before the Alder Carr regenerate. The wood that is left behind makes a perfect habitat for the smaller beasts in the copse and as it is much lighter it may help with the mosquito problem.

Thanks go to everyone who helped from the Itchenor Society and WIPC when the pond was given some well needed TLC. Ducks had destroyed so much of the grass around the edges, posts had to be replaced on the roadside and hedging planted in line with the ROSPA recommendations. There was no shortage of volunteers and in a morning we had mowed, planted, raked, seeded, and cleared fallen branches - it was very satisfying and we seemed to gather helpers as the morning went on!

Two months on and the grass is growing all has settled and we hope you'll agree it all looks rather nice. Once autumn comes we can think about clearing the island but from personal experience I know you can't just walk across, the pond is extremely deep, so as mad as it seems we may need a boat to reach the other side - now that will be worth watching!!



Let's keep it Rural

The Society is very grateful the Conservancy and in particular to Alison Fowler for her guidance and advice about the continuing work completed at Shipton Green.

Two further work parties were arranged 3rd February and Monday afternoon 5th March.

The task was to clear the majority of the bramble and weeds left, then to plant a further 100 shrubs that would blend in with existing saplings. These shrubs were generously supplied by the Conservancy, together with canes and rabbit guards and planted by willing helpers in a manner that would reflect the rural aspect of the village.

These new shrubs and indeed the previous planting are growing well and will soon create a very attractive area, so many thanks to all those who gave their time and energy.

Our problem, as always are the weeds and the speed at which they grow this time of the year. Very soon we will need to use the strimmers, if you would like to help with an hour of your time **please contact Peter Dean on 01243 513624**

Rare endangered species thrive in Itchenor!

The pair of Suffolk Punches pictured are members of a species that are more endangered than the Giant Panda but are a regular sight in Itchenor. Itchenor residents Baron 18 hands and Winston 17.3 hands are owned by Sara and Mark Billingham and live at Briarfield on Itchenor Road. They are seen here drawing the last dray which the Bognor Coal and Coke Company last used to deliver fuel in the 1940s. Suffolk Punches first bred in 1745 are the oldest breed of Heavy Horses in the country and only 350 remain in the UK, most of them in Suffolk. They were originally bred as Agricultural Horses and numbers reduced dramatically after WW2 with the use of tractors and the availability of fuel. They were also used in WW1 to draw heavy artillery. There are also a few in the USA and Canada, where they are still used for agricultural purposes.



CHICHESTER HARBOUR PHOTO COMPETITION

All photographers are invited to explore the Harbour with their cameras this summer for the first ever Chichester Harbour photography competition. The competition has been launched to celebrate all that Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has to offer. This unique area incorporates the harbour itself along with the surrounding land. The Harbour offers some of the most stunning scenery in the local area.

The theme of the competition is ‘Enjoying Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty’. Many thousands of people visit and enjoy the harbour each year, in addition the area is internationally recognised for the wildlife that thrives here. Photographers are invited to interpret the theme as widely as they like. The entries can include people, wildlife, plants, photos taken on the land, on the water or even under the water as long as it shows something or someone clearly enjoying the harbour!

The competition, which has been organised by Chichester Harbour Conservancy, closes on Friday 10 August so photographers have all summer to find the ‘perfect picture’.

Two local photographers, Louise Adams of Chichester Observer and Mike Repp of Whitby’s Imaging Centre will judge the entries, which will then be on public display at Dell Quay on the 11 August. Four cash prizes will be awarded with a top prize of £100. Competition entry forms and rules can be picked up from the Harbour Office, Itchenor or Whitby’s Imaging Centre, South Street Chichester. Forms can also be downloaded from www.conservancy.co.uk.

Anne Retires from the Conservancy

We are grateful to Anne de Potier who has worked closely with the Itchenor Society giving advice on planting and conservation she has always been extremely helpful, we wish her a happy retirement and welcome Edward Rowsell who will take her place in May.

Accompanying this newsletter is a leaflet describing the work of Chichester Harbour Trust. I am delighted to say that Sir Jeremy Thomas KCMG, the Chairman of the Trust, has agreed to be our guest speaker at this year’s Itchenor Society AGM on Friday 16th November 2007.

Peter Arnold Hon Sec

Dates for your Diary

30th May 2007 - Rounders match Harbour conservancy -v- Itchenor Village - Meet at the Ship 12.30 - first ball at 2p.m on the cricket pitch at Itchenor Park Farm

2nd June 2007 - Summer Party - at “Fairfield” courtesy of Mr & Mrs J. Hartley

16th November 2007 - AGM

December (date TBA) -Village Carols

3rd February 2008 - The Winter Lunch

The Committee

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|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Tony Anstee | 512244 | Chairman |
| Peter Dean | 513624 | Vice Chairman |
| Ian Christmas | 512509 | Hon Treasurer |
| Peter Arnold | 513721 | Hon Secretary |

Committee Members

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|-------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Chris Blevins | 514279 | |
| Chris Creak | 512900 | |
| Cate Russell | 512322 | |
| Denise Henderson | 512341 | |
| Di Cawley | 512661 | |
| Liz Fox | 512828 | |
| Mike Goddard | 511134 | Membership Secretary |

The committee are always looking for new blood to join the committee and as there will be a couple of gaps after this AGM please contact any of the above if you would like to be involved.

Christmas Carols

We raised £200 for the Snowdrop Appeal at the carol singing and despite a low turnout the evening was a great success. Please put this date in your diaries for this year so that we can raise more funds for a very needy cause.