

ITCHENOR NEWS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE ITCHENOR SOCIETY

EDITORS: DENISE HENDERSON AND CHRIS BLEVINS

COPPICING - PHASE II

Well the time has come for the second phase of the coppicing and Robert Perry, who works for the Conservancy, has offered to come and meet anybody who is interested and would like to take an active role in helping to decide which trees should go and which should stay.

Work will hopefully begin before Christmas or at least very soon afterwards on the part of the copse that runs south and parallel with The Spinney in Chalkdock Lane. We rely on the Conservancy for their expertise and guidance and we hope this important and necessary work will help keep the copse in a condition which will continue to sustain all the wildlife, currently dependent upon it. We have fixed **Friday 8th December at 11 am** and hope that you will join Robert Perry, Anne de Poitier and myself for a very informal meeting preferably with your wellies!

Denise Henderson

Looking for supper! Captured by Peter Arnold



CHICHESTER HARBOUR URGED TO PREPARE FOR SEA-LEVEL RISE

Professor Mike Clark of the Geodata Institute urged Chichester Harbour to prepare for the effects of climate change when speaking at the Rhythms of the Tide conference held in September.

The conference, hosted by Chichester Harbour Conservancy, considered the 40 HLF-funded projects that have been completed over the past three years as part of the Rhythms of the Tide project. Included in these has been the purchase of a 50-seater solar-powered boat *Solar Heritage*, the construction of the Salterns Way cycle route, the clean up of derelict sea defences and an expansion of the harbour education service.

Commenting on the future of Chichester Harbour AONB, Professor Clark said 'none of us are ready for climate change, but following the Rhythms of the Tide, Chichester Harbour is in a perfect position to get ready.' He told the conference that climate change and the resulting sea-level rise will happen and it is essential that coastal communities start to prepare now.

The two-day conference was attended by over 120 people representing local councils, landowners within the AONB and community groups. The conference encouraged the Conservancy to put forward a further bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to continue building on the huge amount of work completed in the last three years.

*Ali Beckett, Publicity & Information Officer
Chichester Harbour Conservancy*

Your Voices are needed!

Carols begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday 14th Dec

We hope you'll join us to sing carols this year. As usual we shall progress through the village and sing at various stops as detailed in the Itinerary *overleaf*

Two Trees are booked, one for the Hard and one for the Churchyard. We have also bought more lights this year so although they won't be Blackpool illuminations we do hope they'll stretch right around the tree!!

We are hoping for a good turn out this year, with all donations going to the Snowdrop Appeal. Please come along and bring the whole family - children, grandchildren, parents and grandparents, the more the merrier.

To find out more about the Snowdrop Trust visit www.thesussexsnowdroptrust.com

Carols 2006 Itinerary

6 p.m. - Meet at Glebefield Road for mulled wine & mince pies

6.30 p.m. - Walk to the Church for carols outside

7.15 p.m. - Walk to the harbour for more carols.

7.45p.m. - Meet at the Sailing Club for more singing, mince pies and mulled wine.

8.00 p.m. - Bangers & Mash if you like.

Supper Tickets will be £6.00 adults and £4.00 for children and can be bought from

Cate Russell on 01243 512322

Remember your torches!

DRAMA ON A BUDGET

Jonathan Church the recently appointed Artistic Director at CFT and new resident of Itchenor gave a humorous and enlightening talk at the AGM as our guest speaker. His enthusiasm was infectious and we were all intrigued as to how he has turned the theatre around financially. I am sure that if you haven't been this season and you came to the AGM you will certainly want to see what's going on there now!

St Nicholas Church

The Christmas trees will be put up on the 12th December and we are happy to have one in the churchyard for the second year.

There will be a children's carol service on Sunday 17th December at 3.00 p.m. followed at 6.00 p.m. with a candlelight carol service - all voices welcome!!

The Village Pond

Following on from Phillip Edward's excellent article on the village pond in the last Itchenor News, I have been asked to write a short article describing the work that the Parish Council is undertaking at the pond, and the reasons for doing this work.

Background

Your Parish Council owns half of the pond and leases the other half from the Woodger Trust. The Council has an obligation under law to undertake risk assessments on anything that they own or for which they have responsibility.

In order to discharge this obligation, this year we asked ROSPA, who normally carry out such work for local councils, to undertake a safety audit of the Pond. Their report made some general recommendations, but of more significance identified three control measures, which "need to be introduced to reduce risks on the site". These are:

- Railing by narrow path boundary, between path and pond edge.
- Railing at 3 sides of grating.
- Keep bank side foliage cut back at points on frontage to make water area visible.

In addition a recommendation was made:

- Additional sign warning "Deep water and silt" could be installed.

Proposals In order to satisfy the above, we proposed:

Cutting down the nettles and long grass on the pond frontage. This has been done.

Erecting twin rail and post "Sussex Fencing", 900mm high, on three sides of the grating and continuing it between the path and the pond edge as far as the tree close to the lane.

Putting up a 600mm x 450mm sign DANGER - DEEP WATER AND SILT either on a nearby tree or on a post near to the present information board.

As you can imagine these proposals would have a significant visual impact on our pond.

The ROSPA inspector was contacted with regard to the sign, as it was only a recommendation not a requirement and he has suggested a smaller and less obtrusive solution.

Following a very well attended (and lively) November Parish Council meeting it was decided to ask the ROSPA inspector to revisit the pond in order to investigate ways of avoiding having to erect any fencing. The danger here of course is that, as when appealing a sentence, the second verdict may be worse than the first!

Together with Alison Fowler from the Conservancy, we are looking into putting up some bat boxes in the copse behind the pond. Who knows - this may have an impact on the mosquito population!

We on the Parish Council are very aware of the enormous amount of work put in by Itchenor Society members and indeed by other residents of Itchenor, around the Parish and we intend working closely with both your Society and the Harbour Conservancy to minimise the impact of any changes we may be forced to take.

****STOP PRESS 29/11/06. After a very constructive meeting at the pond with the ROSPA inspector we are now confident of a "no fence" solution. We are still waiting for the written report, but we understand that by upgrading the covering over the grating & redefining the line of the footpath/shortcut by suitable planting, fencing around the pond will not be necessary****

Ric Dukoff -Gordon (Parish Council)

News from the Village Hall

The Itchenor Memorial Hall is currently being used for Art, Yoga and Navigation classes, as well as private functions and Parish Council events including being available for fortnightly planning meetings.

Nigel and Elisabeth Pattison have kindly given the Hall a Belling Hot Cupboard and their montage of photographs of the party held at the Hall to celebrate the Queen Mother's 100th birthday has been hung in the hall.

A significant number of Itchenor residents have been using the cycle route alongside the Hall, which is popular for both cycling and walking. A 'walk through crossing' to the footpath has been provided at the Southern end of the Hall's ground for the benefit of Itchenor residents.

The water colours painted by Ethelwyn Duckworth have been reframed and titled and the newly framed pictures will be hung before Christmas.

Robin Payne

Shipton Green Trees & Shrubs

Many thanks again to all who helped plant out over 100 shrubs last year at the large plot at Shipton Green.

After a very dry summer this year some of the shrubs struggled to stay alive, I might add the same fate did not befall the weeds; we could have won prizes for our gigantic thistles.

We are very grateful to the Conservancy for using their expertise in trimming down these heavy weeds. This work allowed our plants to take advantage of the heavy rain in the late autumn and they are looking a lot better for it.

Our next task at the site is to tidy up the hedgerow against the road. It needs to be cut down to a more manageable height giving a view of the shrubs as they grow but at the same time leaving the few indigenous trees that are growing within the hedge.

Again, thanks to all who help.

Peter Dean

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 8th December 11.00 a.m. - Coppice meeting at Village Pond
- 14th December - Carols in the village - see itinerary.
- 17th December 3p.m. - Children's Carol service followed at 6.00 p.m. by a Candlelight Carol Service at St Nicholas's Church
- 20th December 8.00 p.m. onwards - Carols at The Ship
- 4th Feb - Winter Lunch at Itchenor Sailing Club
- 2nd June 2007 - Summer Party - at "Fairfield"
- May 2007 - Rounders match against Harbour conservancy
- 16th November 2007 - AGM