



Itchenor News

Brought to you by the Itchenor Society

Winter 2015

UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Over the past year the Itchenor Society has again been involved in the many aspects that combine to make this village a special place to live. I would like to highlight a few of our achievements this year.

Firstly, we are mindful of our responsibilities to you, our members, to ensure that we promote high standards of planning and architecture, whilst keeping to the remit as set out within our Articles of Association. To achieve this, we have continued to keep a close watch on developments at Old Haven. Although outwardly little has changed, the current situation is that Chichester District Council (CDC) have refused the application on the grounds of "loss of a historic building and the design is inappropriate". We are waiting to see what the owner's response will be and we will continue to work closely with the Parish Council as matters progress.

The planning application for the Northshore site again presented an opportunity for us to work with the Parish Council to ensure that everyone was aware of the proposal and to encourage residents of the need to object if they felt so inclined. We distributed leaflets, sent out emails and ensured that information and opinions were widely disseminated. The opposition to the proposal was significant from a great number of residents and again we will continue to monitor proceedings and inform as necessary. It is worth noting that West Sussex County Council have amended their traffic report based on the data supplied by the Parish Council and they no longer support the application.

Approximately 65% of the village are members of the Itchenor Society. Colin Simpson, our membership secretary has done a huge amount of work to update our membership lists. We now have email addresses for most of our members so that, as with the Northshore application, we are on occasion able to email all of you with reminders or updates. This is not only a far more speedy means of communication, it is also cost effective. Colin has redesigned the membership application form to ensure that an invitation to join the Society goes to all new residents and any non-members - all are welcome so please encourage friends and neighbours to get involved.

Ensuring that there are opportunities for the Village to get together socially is an enjoyable responsibility and we have organised three very successful events this year.

The winter lunch at the Sailing Club was a great affair with many very impressed by the standard of food and service - our thanks go to the Sailing Club for making it an excellent way to spend a Sunday afternoon. The next winter lunch will be at the Ship Inn on January 31st. Forms will come out in the new year but we look forward to seeing you there.

The 25th Anniversary Summer Party in late June was superb. It took a great deal of organising - our thanks to Colin Simpson and Maggie Raggett for their considerable efforts. We were blessed with good weather, the food was delicious and plentiful, prosecco and wine flowed and there were some interesting moves on the dance floor! It was a wonderful evening.

We also organised a celebration for the unveiling of the Queen's Jubilee plaque on the Hard in June. This followed the annual wreath laying ceremony and although we were somewhat let down by the weather, the fizz was enjoyed by all and it was great to have the plaque finally up and in use.

As with any committee, success is dependent upon those who sit on it. We are very lucky to have people who happily volunteer so much of their time. A huge thanks to all of them. My thanks also go to Chris Blevins who stood down from the committee earlier in the year. His efforts over many years are much appreciated.

Committees do change and this year sees the departure of two of our longest serving members. Firstly Ian Christmas who has served the Itchenor Society as treasurer for 23 of the 25 years of its existence. We are enormously grateful to Ian for all that he did to keep our finances in order. His calm, wise council has been invaluable and so from all of us a huge thank you.

Peter Arnold has been on the committee for 16 years, 11 of those as Secretary. His commitment to Itchenor and the Society has been without equal. He has been instrumental in ensuring that many of the projects undertaken by the Society, the John Davis path, the Jubilee Plaque, the VDS, are projects that have been brought to completion. He has organised and kept many committees in order and his knowledge of all things Itchenor related will be sorely missed. Our heartfelt thanks go to Peter for all that he has done.

Presentations were made to both Ian and Peter at the Annual General Meeting of the Itchenor Society on 13th November.





SHEEP MAY SAFELY GRAZE

A large flock of sheep have taken up residence in the field bordered by Itchenor Road and Glebefield Road. They will be there for a number of months and as the footpaths that cross this field are used by many dog walkers we are taking the opportunity to remind you of your responsibilities with regard to livestock.

The Countryside Code advises that you keep your dog on a lead, or keep it in sight at all times, be aware of what it's doing and be confident it will return to you promptly on command.

Furthermore, your dog must not worry – chase or attack – livestock on agricultural land.

If your dog does worry livestock, the farmer has the right to stop your dog (even by shooting it in certain circumstances) and you or the person in charge of the dog may be guilty of a criminal offence as well as being liable for the costs of any resultant injury/damage caused.

CHRISTMAS TREES IN ITCHENOR

Every year the Itchenor Society organise lit Christmas trees at the Church and on the Hard. Once again this year Jonathan Callow has kindly donated a tree from his garden and this will go up at the Church. The tree at the Hard has been sourced from the Goodwood Estate and we are grateful to the Conservancy for their help in erecting it. Do go and have a look - the lit trees at sunset are particularly beautiful!



KEEP THEM CLEAR



With the arrival of winter we would remind residents to ensure that all ditches, culverts and drains running through, under and along side their property are kept clear. This is essential to maintain an uninterrupted flow of ground, surface and rain water.

- 1 Ditches should be carefully cleared of vegetation, cutting back as appropriate and removing all debris.
- 2 Remove leaves and other debris from drain covers .
- 3 Rod through any pipes passing under your property to ensure that these are completely unobstructed
- 4 Rod through any pipes passing under your driveway and clear out vegetation and debris from entry and exit points.
- 5 Never fit a grill or mesh across a ditch or culvert.
- 6 The Environment Agency must be consulted before changes to a ditch, culvert or pipe are made. Failure to do so is a criminal offence!
- 7 Ensure that garden debris, including grass cuttings, is NEVER dumped in ditches.
- 8 If the road side drain outside your property is blocked, please email the Parish Clerk at: parishclerk@westitchenorparishcouncil.org.uk who will ask WSCC to take action.

Please remember your blocked ditch, culvert or drain is someone's flood! KEEP THEM CLEAR

Information about your riparian rights and obligations, which are onerous, can be obtained from the Environment Agency You can download their helpful publication on the subject, 'Living on the Edge' at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/riverside-ownership-rights-and-responsibilities>.

2016 - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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| Sunday 31st January | Winter Lunch at the Ship Inn |
| | Booking details to follow in early January |
| Friday 3rd June | Wreath Laying Ceremony |
| Saturday 25th June | Summer Party, Tidemark |
| Friday 11th November | Itchenor Society AGM |



25th ANNIVERSARY SUMMER PARTY

The weather was perfect for our 25th Anniversary Summer Party on the 27th June 2015. The large marquee in the Memorial Hall car park arrived on the Friday and was erected by the contractors who did a great job. In addition, a smaller gazebo housed the wine and another the hog roast. The marquee was decorated with bunting and lights and the 12 tables laid with white tablecloths, napkins, flowers, cutlery and glasses to seat 120 members and their guests. The evening was warm and a complimentary glass of fizz was served while we mingled with friends before sitting down to a magnificent supper of hog roast and greek salad with french bread. The hog roast was beautifully cooked and there was plenty for second helpings! This was followed by strawberries, cream and meringues. There was an area for dancing and the excellent live music from The Cheese Doctors encouraged many to get up and dance until 11.30pm.

The committee is pleased to confirm the following receipts and expenses:

Receipts (ticket sales, bar) £3,925

Expenses (marquee, catering, printing) £4,151

Judging by the many positive reviews, it was agreed that the Anniversary Party was a successful and memorable event.

Our thanks go to all who helped make it such a good evening.



ITCHENOR CHURCH

We are blessed in Itchenor in having a beautiful historic Church at the centre of the village, which has acted as a focus for village life over many centuries. The Church overlooks the village pond and wetlands behind, reinforcing the rural nature and origins of our village.

The current structure of the Church of St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children and seafarers, dates back to the 12th century, with the larger part of the structure being from the 13th century, but it was probably based on an earlier building. Changes were made to the windows, to give extra light, in the 14th century and there have been minor alterations and additions in the 19th century and more recently with the addition of the porch and vestry and reinforcement of the spire. The core structure, primarily of plastered rubble, is a rectangular building 50ft long by 16 ft wide with no structural division between the nave and the chancel. The roof and all the furnishings are modern. Inside the Church is an octagonal font from the 13th century, which, in addition to its antiquity, is interesting for the way in which the bowl and columns are joined. The vestry includes a framed list of the Rectors of the Church from 1363. The Church also has an Elizabethan chalice of 1568, which is currently kept in the Chichester Cathedral Treasury. The Church bells are from the 16th and 17th centuries and are still rung before all services, as well as for special events such as weddings. The bells were rehung in 1988 using modern apparatus so that the bells can be either swing-chimed or chimed by hand. The original wooden chiming wheels, of a rare early design, have been preserved within the bell-cote. Many of the Church windows have been glazed with modern stained glass, mainly memorials from the



20th century. In winter evenings, when the Church is lit from the interior, these give a reflective glow over the Church yard. The Church is built on one of the higher points in the centre of Itchenor, next to the head of a creek that historically allowed boats to moor at the foot of the Church and is surrounded by a graveyard, including headstones and tombs dating back to the early 18th century. If you have not already visited the St Nicholas, it is

CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN ITCHENOR

Friday 18th December - 6pm Village Carols starting at Stoptide House. A stroll through the village with stops at Church Gate and the Ship Inn, before arriving at the Sailing Club where supper will be available.

Sunday 20th December - 8pm Carols at the Ship Inn



well worth a visit. Brochures are available in the Church which give a more detailed description of the Church and its history.

The Church, which is part of the benefice of West Wittering, Itchenor and Birdham, is very active with regular services each Sunday, as well as a number of midweek services. There is a core congregation of over twenty for all services and for popular services, such as Easter and Christmas, there is standing room only. We are lucky, that in an era where Church attendance is often low, the Church in Itchenor is used so actively and that this building continues to play its role as part of the core of village life. The Church always welcomes all visitors and residents of the village are especially encouraged to be part of the Church community.

Over the Christmas season a number of special services are held and all are encouraged to attend.

St Nicholas Christmas Services

Sunday 6th December - 11am Toy Service and a celebration of the festival of our patron St. Nicholas.

Toys will be given to needy children.

Sunday 20th December - 6pm Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve

4pm Children's Carols by Candlelight

11.30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer

11am Holy Communion for all the family.

If you want any further information regarding the Church, please do not hesitate to contact the Benefice office: wwbi.parishoffice@gmail.com or 01243 514 057



ITCHENOR SOCIETY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

Overall result

2015 was a good year in which we achieved our key financial goals.

Review of Finances

The deficit reported is less compared to last year and well within the Society's financial capacity.

This was mainly due to the absence of:

- Costs of £2,475.19 (net of contributions), associated with the acquisition of the ransom strip between The Oast and Smith's land.
- £260 on the cost of Christmas Trees thanks to the kind donation of two trees by Jonathan Callow
- The usual charitable donations to St Nicholas Church, Chichester Harbour Trust and Friends of Chichester Harbour were not made within this financial year but will be paid before the end of 2015. We did make a special donation to the Chichester Harbour Trust to buy a defibrillator (£450).

Additional costs this year related to the Commemorative Plaque on Itchenor Hard. Funds for this had been donated in previous years. We managed to contain the cost to £1,668 which is satisfactory.

Revenues were boosted by the Summer Party but as mentioned elsewhere this was all used in the cost of running the event.

Specific Activities

Winter Luncheon

Held at the Itchenor Sailing Club, this attracted fewer members than last year but resulted in a surplus of £81 compared to £66 last year.

Summer Party

Approximately 120 attended the party, significantly in excess of expectations. The weather held fine, the hog roast was succulent, the wine very quaffable and the music outstanding. A good time was had by all. However, as expected, costs i.e. marquee hire, food, catering costs, wine and band exceeded income by £226 which was covered by the Society's existing financial resources.

Subscriptions and donations

At £2,439, these are 20% up on last year reflecting the increased membership fee from £5 to £10 and the Committee's efforts in collection and introducing new members to the Society.

Charitable Donations Approved

The committee approved the following 2015 charitable donations (2014 donations in brackets)

Chichester Harbour Trust - £200 (£200). This is in addition to the £450 already given for the defibrillator.

Friends of Chichester Harbour - £200 (£50)

St Nicholas Church - £500 (£500)

British Legion and Bugler - £150 (£150)

UPDATE TO THE VDS



When the 2012 version of the Village Design Statement (VDS)

was printed, we anticipated the need for updating as and when there were changes made to local planning rules. These sections were placed in Appendix 6 and Appendix 7 and are referred to throughout the VDS. Now that the Local Plan has been approved, we have issued the appropriate revisions to Appendix 6 and Appendix 7. We are not going to republish the documents at this stage because of the costs involved, but the updated documents are on the website (www.itchenorsociety.co.uk) and we would encourage you to take a look at them when you have a moment. There are still copies of the VDS available - please let us know if you need a copy.

LCM Flotilla Remembrance Service.

This year's wreath laying and service of remembrance took place on Friday 5th June. The service was supported by many regular attendees together with some new faces including a serving rating who was billeted in Itchenor in 1944. The service commenced with Peter Dean giving the welcoming address followed by Richard Craven reading the history of the memorial seat. Capt. Johnny Talbot RN read the names of those who were lost at sea. The Reverend Jonathan Swindells officiated and the Last Post and Reveille were played by bugler Tony Crisp. A wreath was placed on the memorial seat by Alexandra Webb, the Chairman of the Itchenor Society. We are very grateful to all those who support this event including the British Legion standard bearers who bring such colour to the occasion. After the service many people joined in the



celebration to unveil the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Plaque on the viewing platform.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Plaque

Following the wreath laying and remembrance service for the LCM Flotilla on June 5th, we were delighted to hold a 'sparkling' unveiling of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Plaque. It had taken three years from first conception at the 2012 Jubilee Street Party to bring this project to completion. In that time there had been a fair amount of 'red tape' and planning requirements to deal with even for this modest plaque. A decision was made to make the plaque a 'you are here' interpretation panel based on the style of the Chichester Harbour Conservancy panels. The height, size and shape of the plaque make it wheelchair friendly and the stainless steel is designed to last for many years. Most importantly for those on foot, the plaque shows footpaths, churches and pubs – what more could you ask for?



For further information on any of the above – please don't hesitate to contact anyone on your committee

Itchenor Society Committee

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If you have received this notice and are not yet a member why not join the Society now?

Contact the Membership Secretary, Colin Simpson on 01243 514931 or email cps0942@btinternet.com

Images courtesy Peter Arnold and Alistair Impey.