

THE CHICHESTER SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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The Mayor of Chichester Councillor Julian Joy reads the Accession Proclamation of King Charles III on Sunday 11 September 2022 in front of the Council House. Photo: Brian Henham

A YEAR OF SADNESS AND CELEBRATION

As a civic society we are quietly optimistic about this city's future

As 2022 draws to a close many milestones both good and not so good have been achieved. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations saw some of the best of our country and showed, with the passing of Her Majesty, that we are still a nation that loves its Sovereign. A number of Chichester residents and visitors gathered outside the Council House on 11th September to watch the proclamation ceremony for King Charles III and we now look forward to the coronation on 6th May next year.

Your Society has continued to review planning matters affecting the Chichester area, providing a voice of reason, for our aim is to work for the betterment of this city. We were chosen to be one of 12 historic towns and cities in England to take part in a study examining how growth and heritage can be better balanced. With funding from Historic England this was undertaken by Civic Voice, the national body representing all civic societies, and they set up the *Alliance of Historic Cathedral Cities and Towns* (ACT) to carry out this research. In October 2020 two members of ACT were shown Chichester and they discussed the impact growth has had on our historic buildings. The study later moved to other towns and cities experiencing similar problems and we'll present the main findings in a future edition of this Newsletter. The Society will continue to work locally as well as nationally lobbying government to provide more protection under planning legislation for towns and cities like Chichester.

I look forward to meeting you at one of the Society's social events during the coming year. A very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year to you all.

Peter Evans, Chairman

YOUR EMAIL

**Are you certain that ChiSoc has
your up-to-date ADDRESS?**

**Without it, the Society cannot invite
you to social and other events!**

**To be sure of receiving all
information sent to ChiSoc
members, would you confirm
your email address?**

**Contact the
Membership Secretary at
membership@chichestersociety.org.uk**

MANY THANKS



IN SEARCH OF CHICHESTER

Richard Childs applauds a new book by Andrew Berriman

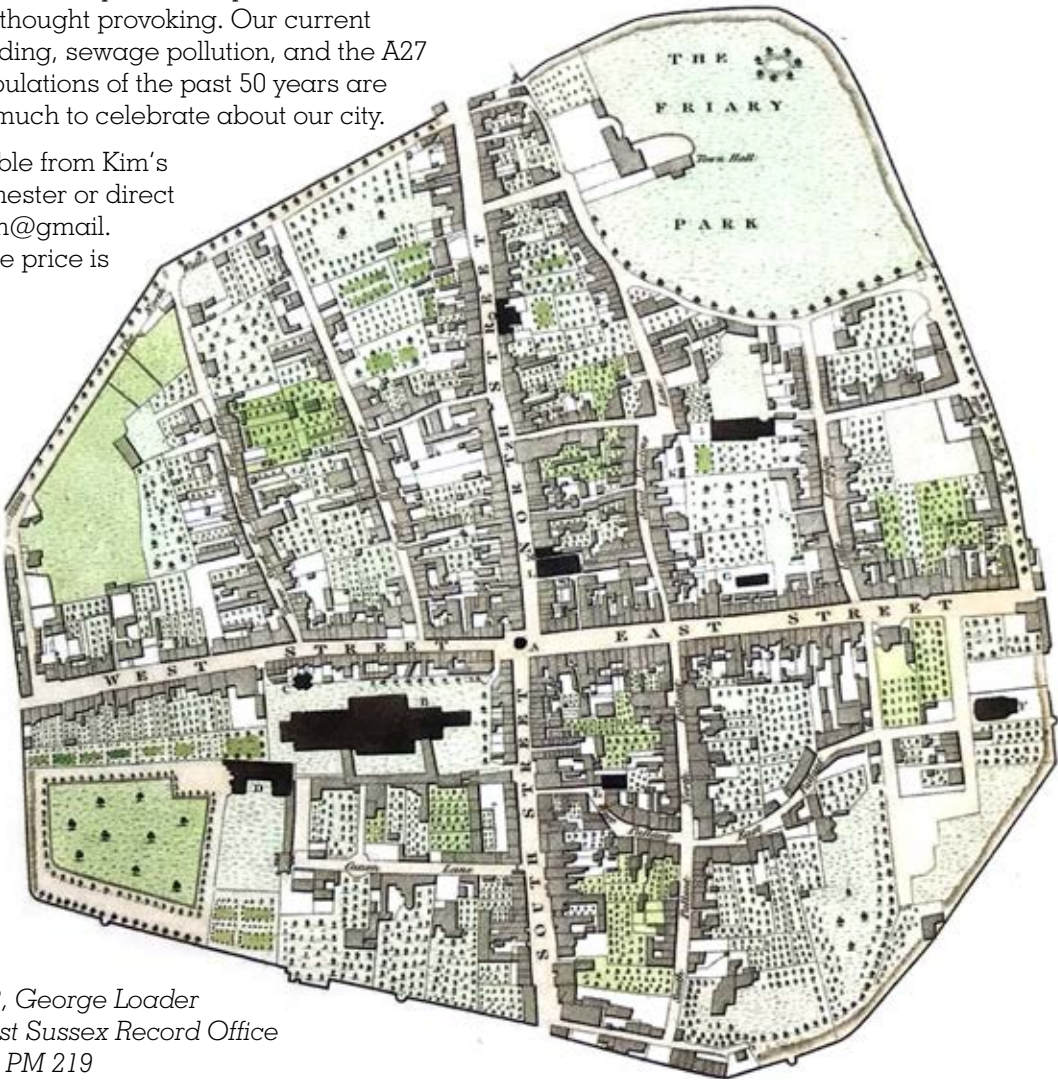
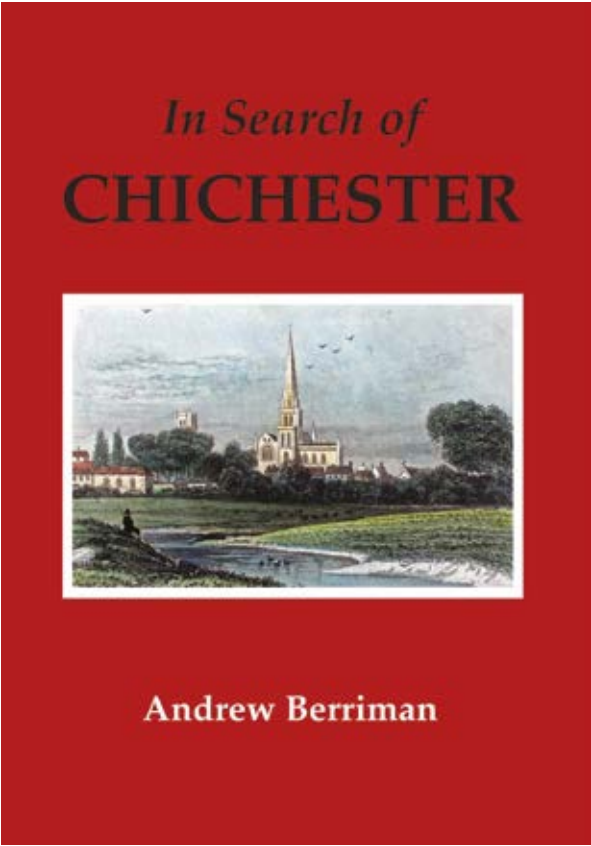
Andrew Berriman's latest publication, his third in as many years, has arrived in time to hit the Christmas market. Following on from *In Search of Lavant*, (2020), and *In Search of Fifty South Downs Villages*, (2021), we now have *In Search of Chichester*.

The book's eight chapters are broken into distinct historical periods, from pre-history and the Romans to modern Chichester. Within this, Andrew asks 50 key questions about the city's history and challenges some common myths about the place. Questions posed include: Did a Saxon King live at Kingsham? Why was Chichester's Castle demolished? Was Chichester prone to earthquakes? and Was County Cricket ever played in Chichester? I have some favourite conundrums amongst Andrew's questions, for example, 'Why isn't Priory Park called Friary Park?' I won't give the game away, but it has always intrigued me that as the building in the middle of the park is a Friary, why is the park known as Priory?

I am really pleased that Andrew has taken the opportunity to reproduce in his preface one of Chichester's best maps, George Loader's town plan of 1812. It has a unique clarity and rigidly fixes the city in a particular point in time. Do take some time to study it closely. You'll find it rewarding.

With such a relative gallop through the centuries of Chichester's history, it can be difficult to sign off in the present day, but Andrew's piece on 'Whither Chichester' is thought provoking. Our current worries about endless housebuilding, sewage pollution, and the A27 are raised, and the trials and tribulations of the past 50 years are also mentioned, yet there is still much to celebrate about our city.

In Search of Chichester is available from Kim's Bookshop at 28 South St in Chichester or direct from Andrew at andrew.berriman@gmail.com (or phone 01243 528835). The price is £15 plus £3.50 when posted.

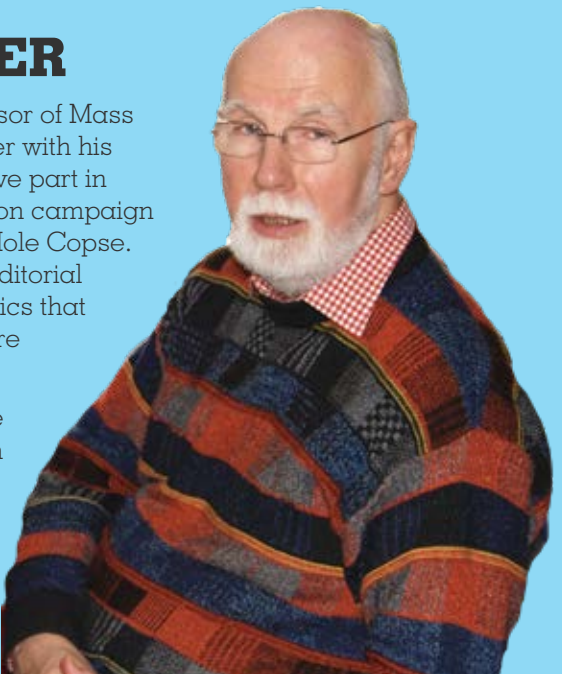


Plan of Chichester 1812, George Loader
Reproduced with thanks to West Sussex Record Office
Map reference PM 219

A TRIBUTE TO VINCENT PORTER

Vincent Porter died in August 2022 after a short illness. He was Professor of Mass Communication at Westminster University before retiring to Chichester with his wife Wendy in 2005. Throughout his retirement Vincent played an active part in Chichester's life. He had contributed to the 20's plenty speed restriction campaign on the city's streets and was vice chairman of the Friends of Brandy Hole Copse. Although not a member of the Society's Executive, he served on the editorial committee writing articles and book reviews for our Newsletter on topics that included air quality, river pollution, solar farms, biodiversity, and nature conservation.

Vincent grew up in Warwickshire with a lifelong love of nature and the environment. Later, he developed an interest in film which became an academic career transforming film studies in Britain. This included work on media regulation and advice to the European Community. He has been described as a socially aware academic, a true gentleman, elegant and witty. We offer our deepest sympathy to Wendy and her family at their loss.



CHICHESTER'S HERITAGE

Christopher Mead-Briggs outlines the Society's contribution

Chichester is one of 12 historic towns and cities in England included in a study to examine how growth and heritage can be better balanced. With ever increasing amounts of new housing being thrust upon our cities by government algorithms, your Society wanted some action taken to protect our heritage.

Civic Voice is the national body representing all Civic Societies in England and we are a member. They established the *Alliance of Historic Cathedral Cities and Towns (ACT)* to carry out research funded by Historic England at Canterbury, Chester, Chichester, Lancaster, Lichfield, Malvern, Oxford, Peterborough, Wakefield, Wells, Winchester and Worcester. Members of the Chichester Society had keenly supported the *Cathedral Cities in Peril* campaign begun by the Goodwood team and which was discussed at four Civic Voice national conventions. Our contribution at those events held in Bristol, London, Chester and Wakefield was acknowledged and when ACT began the study, we were the very first city to be invited to take part.

In October 2020 two members of ACT visited Chichester to meet members of our Society and be shown the city, and its immediate environs. We explained the negative impact new housing has had on the city particularly its historic core. ACT passed their conclusions to Kellogg College, Oxford, and to Allies and Morrison who interviewed the District Council's Conservation Officer. Kellogg condensed the research recommendations into a report running to 192 pages which has only just been published. We'll highlight these conclusions in our next newsletter.



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CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

Lucinda Morrison looks back on six decades of drama

‘When the Theatre is completed (early in 1962) you will see a building of great charm and originality, perfectly related to its parkland setting. But it will also be a building of great importance in the world of drama today’. If you’d seen that fundraising advertisement in 1961, you may well have been slightly sceptical. Even the Theatre’s founder, the local ophthalmic optician and former city mayor Leslie Evershed-Martin, dubbed his scheme *The Impossible Theatre*. But the years since then have amply justified that early confidence, and it’s been a joy to celebrate Chichester Festival Theatre’s 60th anniversary this year.

Canada’s Stratford

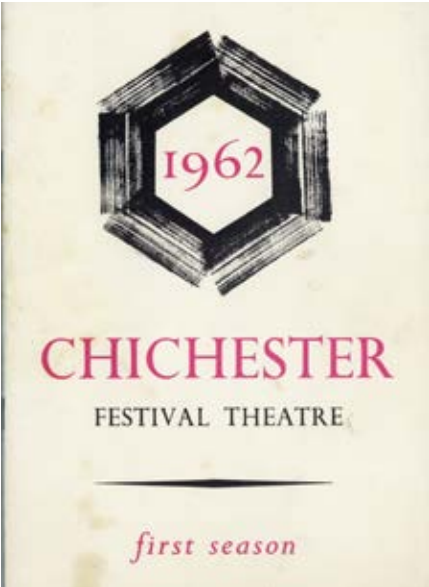
Famously, it was a 1959 television programme about Tyrone Guthrie’s Theatre Festival in Stratford Ontario – a Canadian town with the same sized population as Chichester – that spurred Evershed-Martin to found a theatre for his own community. Working tirelessly with Chichester City Council to elicit its support and to find a suitable site, he motivated local individuals and businesses to raise the £105,000 needed to make his idea a reality. His crowning coup was to secure the services of Laurence Olivier as CFT’s first Artistic Director. Between 1962 and 1965 Olivier established a company of actors and theatre practitioners at Chichester which became the nucleus of the newly established National Theatre.

Thrust stage

Following the Canadian model, architects Powell and Moya developed Britain’s first modern *thrust* stage theatre, combining elements of ancient Greek, Roman and Elizabethan theatres, and seating 1300 people. The spacious foyer was designed to be democratic, with people mingling together no matter where they were sitting. That spirit of inclusivity continues, both on and off stage, today. Further developments have taken place over the years. 1989 marked the opening of the 300-seat Minerva Theatre: a home for more intimate productions, particularly new work, with Sam Mendes, now an Oscar-winning director, as its first Artistic Director. A major project to restore and upgrade the Grade II* listed Festival Theatre was completed in 2014 with a £22 m budget; and during the recent lockdowns the foyer spaces were refreshed, moving the main Café to take full advantage of the Theatre’s position on the edge of lovely Oaklands Park.



The Festival Theatre under construction in Oaklands Park before opening for the first season in 1962
Photo: CFT archive



Programme cover for the theatre’s first season
Photo: CFT archive

Year-round productions

While the original vision was for a seasonal festival of theatre held over the summer months – the inaugural 1962 festival ran for just nine weeks – CFT is now a year-round operation, with only a brief break at the end of the Winter season to allow for essential maintenance. The Festival season now runs from April to November, during which productions reach an audience of over 230,000. Throughout the winter, the Theatre presents touring productions, music, dance and comedy. At Christmas, instead of a pantomime, the main stage is handed over to our renowned Youth Theatre for a festive show mounted to the same high standards.

New & rediscovered

While CFT may be chiefly associated in some people’s minds with its summer musicals (though in fact they only became established in the 2000s), many significant new plays have premiered here. Rarely staged gems have been rediscovered and contemporary

works, which all too often vanish after a London premiere, have been reassessed: for example, our 2017 production of *Caroline, Or Change*, which transferred to the West End and then to Broadway, was the first in the UK since its National Theatre debut in 2006. ‘Great actors in great plays’ has always been a tradition, from Laurence Olivier’s *Uncle Vanya* to Ian McKellen’s *King Lear*, which was broadcast to cinemas internationally by NT Live.

Home and away

In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of the entire Festival season for the first time in the Theatre’s history. Despite this blow, we were determined to keep connected with audiences, produce work for our community and employ freelancers (on whom our industry relies) whenever possible. Much of our work moved online, with streamed archive productions and a host of special digital events and talks. A production of Sarah Kane’s *Crave* broke new ground, being staged to socially-distanced audiences in the Festival Theatre and simultaneously livestreamed to audiences in 50 countries. A particularly joyous night was reopening the Festival Theatre with Rodgers & Hammerstein’s *South Pacific* in July 2021; as soon as the lights dimmed and before a note was played, the audience cheered. Over the past six decades, innumerable productions originated at Chichester have transferred to the West End or toured nationally and internationally: this year, our production of *South Pacific* has played in London and across the UK.

But even though our audiences are national and international, the mantra *built by the community, for the community* has never held truer than it does for us today. We believe the experience of live art has the power to change lives. Our Learning, Education and Participation (LEAP) department works with people of all ages and abilities, offering a pioneering range of initiatives which

excite and inspire all those who take part. Supporting the development and creativity of young people is central to our vision – they are our future audiences, artists and practitioners.

A beacon

We are actively working to reduce our impact on the environment and stay in close touch with Chichester’s District and City Councils to forge closer links with our neighbours. It was happy serendipity that we were able to join our fellow cultural organisations in Chichester marking significant anniversaries this year with the district-wide festival *Culture Spark*. As we look ahead to our seventh decade, we’re excited and energised by the potential CFT has to embody its role as a theatre for our community, a theatre which can lead the industry nationwide and become a beacon for the UK’s creative prowess at home and abroad.

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Lucinda Morrison is Chichester Festival Theatre’s Head of Press. CFT’s current Artistic Director, Daniel Evans – who shares the leadership of the Theatre with Executive Director Kathy Bourne – will leave at the end of April to become Co-Artistic Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company; his successor will be announced in early 2023.



Alistair Sim and Patricia Routledge in *Dandy Dick*, 1973
Photo: John Timbers



Theatre in the Park, July 2013. This was a superb performance space created while the main theatre was renovated
Photo: Freya Scott

RISING SEA LEVELS AND FLOODING ARE A THREAT

Chichester’s partnership with neighbouring councils is a recipe for success. Spencer Dawson explains why

In June this year Chichester District Council began a new chapter in its sea-defences strategy. Until last summer the funding and management of coastal defences was a standalone service overseen by the Council. Now, and after several months of planning, the District Council has joined forces in a shared coastal management partnership called *Coastal Partners*. This is the name for a team of project managers, coastal engineers, surveyors and environmental experts who manage the coastal flood and erosion risk across five local authority areas. Chichester District has joined Fareham, Gosport, Havant and Portsmouth, to become the fifth partner in a consortium that covers 246 kilometres of continuous coastline.

Shared Benefits

Pressures on the coast don’t stop at local authority boundaries. This is why Coastal Partners was set up in 2012 to maximise cost savings, knowledge sharing and effective use of resources in respect of these pressures. After a decade Coastal Partners has become a leading example of a cross-boundary coastal management and protection partnership. As part of a wider network of authorities, Coastal Partners regularly advises on the formation of similar regional alliances across the country. This exposure is good reputationally. But the real proof of success lies in the partnership’s ability to understand coastal processes like storm surges, and identify funding for long term responses.

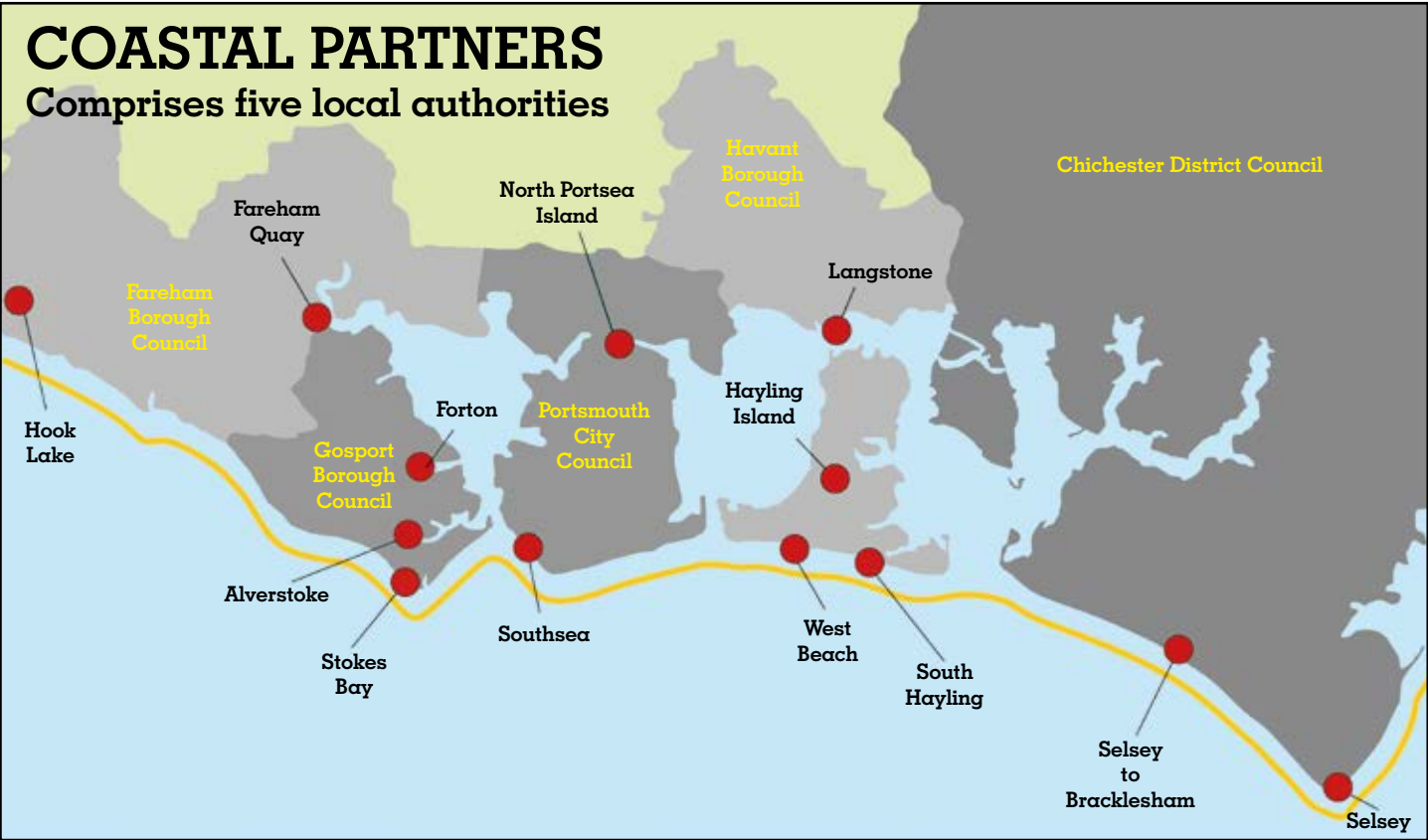
Across the region

Southsea - this scheme got underway in September 2020 and when complete it will help to reduce the risk of flooding to more than 10,000 homes and 700 businesses. It’s 4.5km long, covering the coast from Old Portsmouth to Eastney. Two sections being constructed are at Long Curtain Moat, close to the Harbour entrance, and by Southsea Castle. The construction team has uncovered 17th-century city walls and defences, as well as the



Beach recycling: a Dutch suction dredger sprays sand and gravel along Hayling Island’s south coast

original masons’ marks inscribed on the stones. These finds have been recorded for posterity and part of the original wall has now been restored as a focal point for residents and visitors to Long Curtain Moat. The Southsea scheme is due to complete in 2028.



Hayling Island – one example of sea defences is at Eastoke on the South coast, primarily made up of a shingle layer that absorbs the sea’s power. When the shingle gets built up by the tides and waves, it is then relocated to areas that have been eroded. This process is known as ‘beach recycling’ and it ensures that the shingle prevents flooding to the properties along the Eastoke coast. This form of beach management has ensured that Eastoke hasn’t flooded since 1985. It’s funded through the Environment Agency and runs until 2024.

North Portsea Island – an 8.4 km flood defence scheme covering much of the northern half of Portsea Island’s coastline. It began in 2015 and when complete, it’s estimated that 4,200 homes, 500 businesses and critical infrastructure will all be better protected against the risk of flooding for the next 100 years. The scheme is viewed as a leading example in environmentally focused flood defences and won an award at the 2022 Flood and Coast Excellence Awards. The scheme’s success centres around this country’s first large-scale application of a reusable mould when pouring concrete to create seawalls. A textured finish is created which encourages marine vegetation to take hold. This creates habitats for several types of marine life. It also helps the wall retain a constant moisture level and surface temperature during low tides, which lessens weather-related deterioration and improves the sustainability of the flood defences. In parallel with these new defences are widened footpaths with improved access and elevated views of land and sea. ‘Social spots’ lining the flood defences provide an active travel route that helps to reduce exposure to air pollution, improving health, wellbeing and mental health.

What’s happening on Chichester’s coast?

With 303 square miles of territory, Chichester is the largest Local Authority in West Sussex and has a coastline that includes beaches such as The Witterings and East Head. Several coastal management techniques are in place to suit the landscape of each area. One is the Selsey peninsula, an exposed coastline with a long history of managing coastal erosion and tidal flood risk. Two management plans cover this coast and the adopted policy here is to ‘hold the line’. This is supported by the Pagham to East Head Strategy, which also has an adopted ‘hold the line’ policy that recognises the need to manage erosion. In the 1950s ‘hard-engineered’ defences were created to protect Selsey and before the construction of the existing sea wall it had one of the fastest eroding



Andrew Simpson Water Sports centre overlooking Langstone Harbour shows a sea wall designed with surfaces to suit marine life

coastlines in England. Existing defences consist of a reinforced concrete sea wall and timber groynes that are reaching the end of their design life. Routine repair and maintenance of coastal defences have become more frequent and last September repairs to several timber groynes along East Beach were carried out. This helps to preserve beach material and bolster protection over the winter.

A feasibility assessment is being undertaken to quantify the benefits of a new Selsey defence scheme. The next steps for Selsey are being reviewed alongside funding options. Coastal Partners’ environmental arm is a member of an initiative called Chichester Harbour Protection and Recovery of Nature (CHaPRoN). Alongside officers from Chichester, the group is working towards a vision for Chichester Harbour in 2050. This includes looking at restoring damaged saltmarsh and talking with landowners around Chichester Harbour to identify opportunities for coastal habitat creation.

Chichester joining Coastal Partners will see significant benefits in knowledge sharing, project resourcing and cost savings for the region. In an era of rising sea-levels and climate change, this move is very timely.

Spencer Dawson is communications officer at Coastal Partners. Readers interested in knowing more about Coastal Partners projects can view their website at coastalpartners.org.uk

All photographs courtesy of Coastal Partners



Civil engineering works at Long Curtain Moat close by Portsmouth Harbour entrance, Spinnaker Tower in the distance

GETTING FOOD TO THOSE IN NEED

Andrew Meredith on a new Chichester charity initiative, part of a global network that distributes food to families

This country has over 2,000 foodbanks, about a third being independent but this isn't sufficient to cope with rising demand. Research by The Food Foundation suggests 7.3 million people suffered from food insecurity or food poverty in April 2022, a 57% increase in three months. Soaring food prices, energy bills and fuel costs have seen a lot of people lose their disposable income and force them to choose between basic living essentials.

Here in the Chichester area a new food scheme was created during the Covid pandemic by UKHarvest or UKH for short. The charity's foundation was inspired by similar projects around the world: OzHarvest in Australia, KiwiHarvest in New Zealand - and also in South Africa, Thailand, Peru, and Italy. UKHarvest is in good company! The new project was built in response to those impacted by lockdown restrictions and has recently been adapted to help those affected by the cost-of-living crisis.

Food rescue

We're working to ensure that those hit hardest by the rising cost of living still have access to fresh, nutritious food. UKH has several core activities and food rescue and redistribution is one. This sees the collection of food from over 200 outlets delivered to 300 different charities. Food rescue and redistribution takes place across Southern England: our vans travel from Bristol in the west, into London and over to Kent.

Community food hubs

Several distribution-points – we call them *community food hubs* – have been set up across the Chichester District and anyone on a tight budget is invited to come along and choose the food they need. Our food hubs are open to all – they are not means tested and you do not need a referral. We hope that anyone who is feeling the effects of the current cost of living crisis, or finds themselves in financial difficulty for any reason, feels welcomed. They are an opportunity for people to shop for food at an accessible price, allowing members of the public to save their money for other essentials. For a suggested donation of £3.50, you can bring your own bag and choose from our selection of produce including fresh fruit and vegetables, store cupboard essentials, and frozen food. You'll also find recipes and tips on low-cost cooking and the opportunity to meet local support groups and agencies such as Citizens Advice or housing associations.



UKHarvest staff and volunteers preparing the van to take food to community food hubs



Community Engagement Co-ordinator Simon Harvey preparing UKHarvest's van for community hubs

We have started community food hubs in the Chichester District with support from Hyde Housing, Clarion Homes, and Feeding Britain. The first was at Charles Avenue at the beginning of 2021 after the need developed following the impact of Covid. Recently we opened a food hub in Whyke and one in East Wittering, which is in addition to three others across the city and four at Oving, Tangmere, Selsey and Midhurst. We have plans to host our hubs in other towns across West Sussex soon. The model for our food hubs is replicable, and we would love to operate in other places across the region. Demand for the hubs has dramatically grown since the energy cap increased, and the number of people using them has increased five times over the last year. We currently serve over 1000 people every week across nine different food hubs within Chichester District. Shopping at a food hub also helps the environment as the food provided has been 'rescued,' avoiding unnecessary waste. Local suppliers, such as Barfoot's Farms and supermarkets regularly donate surplus food, which may not meet the high and expected visual standards, or where they simply have too much stock. We also

offer education on low-cost cooking and how to fight food waste. Recipes are available, based on the food provided and other savings tips and we invite users to attend online cookery courses and live cooking demonstrations.

Nutritious food

UKH Chief Executive Yvonne Thomson has commented *"The impact of Covid-19 and the Cost-of-Living Crisis has left society in an extremely vulnerable position where more and more people are forced to choose between necessities such as heating their homes and feeding their families. Nobody should ever have to skip a meal because of their budget, and so it is essential that everyone has access to nutritious food. Alongside affordable ingredients and prepared meals, we provide support on social issues and education on low-cost cooking without waste. We hope to not only alleviate pressures in the short term but create positive long-term cultural change that ensures everyone is able to eat well for less."*

UKH and education

Our education department continues to grow and offers a variety of online and in-person courses centred around low-cost cooking. In 2021 over 7,000 people attended our education sessions, helping people to make the most of their weekly shop, through reducing household food waste, making healthy choices, and learning essential cooking skills. We also go out into the community and host education in person.

We have recently re-launched our online education, where anyone can access a range of money-saving, waste-preventing cookery courses and tips for free. This includes

regular, live cook-alongs hosted by a team of professional chefs and qualified nutritionists.

Our future

UKHarvest has grown and is adapting to the needs of society. This means we'd like to replicate community food hubs across West Sussex – and perhaps across the region as well. As mentioned above, food distribution projects are growing around the world, while our food rescue vans already operate from Bristol to Kent. If there is a need our food hubs may appear in many places throughout England!

.....
Andrew Meredith is UKHarvest's Communications and Marketing Coordinator.

For more information about UKH see their website at ukharvest.org.uk

Readers wishing to donate to UKH can do so through their website: go to the home page and select GET INVOLVED/ Donate money



A community food hub in progress

COMMUNITY FOOD HUBS

meet regularly at these places

MONDAY

Midhurst:

Grange Centre

TUESDAY

Oving: Jubilee Hall

Tangmere:

Village Centre

Selsey:

Beacon Church

WEDNESDAY

Chi, Parklands:

Scout Hall

THURSDAY

Chi, Charles Av:

Community Centre

East Wittering:

United Reform Church

FRIDAY

Chi, Graylingwell:

The Pavilion

Chi, Whyke,

Centenary Centre



As the Festival Theatre concludes its 60th anniversary we show a photograph taken (in colour!) on 30 December 1962, following CFT's first season during which the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh had attended a charity performance of Chekov's Uncle Vanya on 31 July. The snow lay for several weeks

Photo: John Templeton

THINKING ABOUT DEVELOPMENT IN CHICHESTER

How might an architecture and design centre help us plan this city?
Catja de Haas, an architect from the Chichester area, shares an idea.

First of all, how should we view ‘architecture’? It’s part of everyone’s life, whether the school you attend, or the church, museums or shops you visit, the street you live in, your apartment building, your home or house and its rooms inside. The materials, layout and shapes that make up all these, fall in the realm of architecture and urban planning. Most people therefore have an opinion on architecture, what they like or don’t like and why. And yet in many places in this country people aren’t involved in decisions about architecture – the design - of their villages, towns or cities. As people aren’t involved in decisions, they are often not aware of the potential their surroundings have if they were designed properly. Good architecture can improve people’s lives. In a pleasant space with good lighting or interesting shapes people tend to feel better and well-designed housing can be accessible for everyone.

One way of involving people in the design of their neighbourhood is through architecture centres – places where the community is consulted when new plans are proposed for their immediate surroundings, informed on why certain buildings are built the way they are, and kept up to date with developments in architecture in their area: for example, new types of playgrounds, hospitals, parks, ways to make bicycle paths and new forms of housing. These ideas are publicised and spread through exhibitions, talks, community events and school projects. An architecture centre is where people can learn as well as participate in discussions about their environment and comment on ideas for their surroundings. The way these centres work relates to the place they are located in. So let’s think of existing architecture and design centres and their implications if applied to Chichester.



Exhibition on architect Ferdinand Schuster (1920-72) at Vienna
Photo: Michael Goldgruber, Laufen Gallery



This dramatic waterside building in Amsterdam is the city’s architecture centre.
Photo courtesy of ARCAM, the Amsterdam Architecture Centre

European cities

London: The *Building Centre*, the *Royal Institute of British Architecture* (RIBA), and the *New London Architecture* (NLA) are three institutions involved with architecture in London, each with a slightly different purpose. The *Building Centre* provides information on building materials and gives manufacturers a platform to show their products. The Centre also works with the Victoria & Albert Museum educational program and displays exhibitions, lectures and talks on architecture. There is a scale model of London into which new projects or proposals are inserted so the public can imagine what the future may look like. The *RIBA* is the professional body for architects and organises lectures, workshops for children and has an education program on architecture. There are also many events for architects and their professional development

which bring architects and clients together. The *NLA* brings architecture to the public through fun activities and site visits. ‘Our purpose is to improve the quality of people’s lives by making London a better place to live, work and visit’.

Amsterdam: this city’s principal architecture centre is known as *Arcam*. It organises discussions, lectures and exhibitions on architecture but also workshops on specific sites in Amsterdam that need further exploration. Artists, architects and members of the public are invited to participate in these brainstorming sessions and outcomes are published afterwards. *Arcam* leads debates on the future of Amsterdam, for example on the redevelopment of former civic buildings and how these could be converted to community uses rather than sold as hotels and clubs.

Vienna: has a large architecture centre which organises lectures, exhibitions and events. Similar centres are found across Austria in smaller towns like Raumbergland, a relatively rural area with little modern architecture or large buildings.

Applying this to Chichester

Chichester is of course small compared to Amsterdam or Vienna, but the benefits of an architecture centre still apply. To understand this better, let’s consider Chichester’s characteristics. We are a compact town with a beautiful cathedral as well as some interesting modern buildings, such as the Chichester Festival Theatre, Pallant House Gallery and the Novium Museum. The City Walls surround much of the centre. North, East, South and West Streets meet near the cathedral and provide a strong identity. What is most remarkable about Chichester is its position between the South Downs and Chichester Harbour: between a National Park and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This means we must include the environment around the Chichester area, integrating and preserving landscape and coast, when planning new buildings. In Chichester the urban, the rural and coastal come together.

An architecture centre in Chichester can be a place where people are made aware of the importance of Chichester’s surroundings, but also with exhibitions on the South Downs and its biodiversity. It could also be a gathering place for local practices where they can exchange and obtain information as well as a place where architects and clients can meet and where new materials such as for example advanced insulation materials and



An exhibition at New London Architecture. Look carefully and you may see models of the Gherkin (590') and the Shard (1,016')
Photo: courtesy of NLA

HOW AN ARCHITECTURE CENTRE CAN DO THIS

Explore specific areas in Chichester through artists or architect’s approaches, (historical) photography, community events, and lectures to generate informative discussions beyond immediate constraints.

Exhibitions in collaboration with

- Coastal towns and villages as well as towns and villages in the Downs.
- Planners and architects from abroad or other parts of the country.
- Universities, local and abroad.
- Think tanks
- Interesting architectural practices or artists.

Education programs involving

- Schools
- Universities and colleges
- Community groups.

Location

Chichester city centre, in a vacant shop on a short lease

techniques are exhibited. It is also a place where members of the local community meet for events. It could also involve schools and Chichester University, together with other coastal universities such as Portsmouth, Bournemouth and Brighton. This would enable exchanges to take place with other nearby communities dealing with similar issues.

A centre such as this can inform residents and councils alike on what’s possible for our city through lectures and activities. It must be a non-partisan platform for debate and exchange of creative ideas to equip Chichester and the coast for the future. Something that’s needed more than ever to meet the conflicting challenges we are experiencing.

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With thanks to (among others) Jay Morton, Ruth Butler, Walter Menteth and Indira van Het Klooster from ARCAM in Amsterdam.

CHICHESTER’S LOCAL VINEYARD

Richard Childs finds out how excellent sparkling wine is made just outside the city

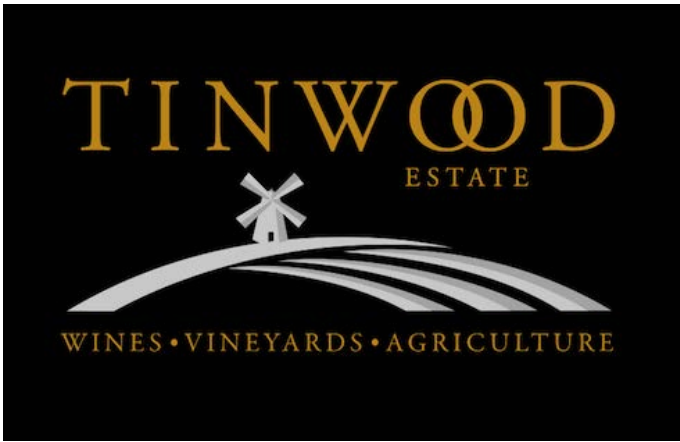
The Tinwood Estate is a vineyard based at the foot of the South Downs – at Halnaker, a ten-minute drive east from Chichester. Three classic grape varieties are used for sparkling wines: Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier are grown on chalk. After the grapes are picked the wine is made by traditional methods, by award winning winemakers at Ridgeview along the coast near Brighton. So how does this begin?

From lettuce to wine

Tinwood is run by Art and Jodie Tukker. Art was born on the farm in 1985, Jodie is from the Netherlands. Three generations of the Tukkers have run Tinwood which was originally part of the Goodwood Estate, specialising in salad crops. Art’s father farmed lettuces on a huge scale because Tinwood was one of the first to grow iceberg lettuces for Asda and Sainsburys, with 4,000 acres devoted to lettuce in the 1990s. Not surprisingly Art always thought he was destined to become a lettuce farmer. However, everything changed when a supermarket price war saw the bottom fall out of the market: it just wasn’t worth continuing. Art inherited the farm when he was 21 and decided he didn’t want to grow lettuces and persuaded his father they should diversify and create a vineyard. This was in 2006 and, having secured a bank loan, 84,000 vines were planted in perfectly aligned rows. It took 7 years from planting these vines to getting the first crop for wine in 2013.

Ideal growing conditions

Farms in the Southeast are converting to vineyards as it’s the sunniest place in the country due to climate change.



Unlike lettuce, the vines aren’t irrigated. If anything, there’s normally too much rain for the vines. The soil on which Tinwood’s vines have been planted is the perfect mix of flint and chalk. The South Downs protects the vineyard from the north and east, while the sea, six miles to the south, keeps much of the frost away early in the year. In short, these are ideal growing conditions for these varieties of grape.



Art & Jodi Tucker own Tinwood estate, pictured during the grape harvest

Old vines are sprayed with pesticide every two weeks. The biggest threat is mildew and grey mould (botrytis) due to wet weather. A wildflower mixture of buckwheat, ox eye daisies and chicory is planted between the vines with roses at the end of each row. This is common practice around the wine-producing world because roses are more susceptible to powdery mildew and act as the *canary in the mine*. If there is mildew on the roses, it’s in the air and growers need to start putting sulphur on their vines.

Picking is by hand

Harvesting usually takes place 100 days from when the vines have flowered, normally expected around 8 October, but due to a warmer climate this is getting earlier. Vine growers like Tinwood monitor their grapes by measuring the sugar content but it’s agreed the best test is taste! Every single bunch of grapes is harvested by hand and put into baskets which are stacked onto pallets and taken to the cold store. Within three hours they are sent to Ridgeview’s winery at Ditchling Common, north of Brighton. Here the grapes are pressed and at this stage the juice is about 9.5% alcohol. It’s then bottled with yeast and sugar added.

Making fizz

Because the aim is to make sparkling wine, bottles come back to Tinwood for a second fermentation. This increases the alcohol up to 12 percent and naturally produces carbon dioxide which dissolves into the wine. A temperature-controlled warehouse is kept at a constant 16 degrees centigrade, with about 500 bottles in each crate, stacked three high. Tinwood uses the *Veuve Cliquot* method to produce their sparkling wine which means every bottle is twisted by hand over a three-month period. This gets technical! As yeast has collected in the neck of each bottle, the contents are frozen, pressure is increased, and the frozen yeast shoots out. The bottle is then corked. It’s a process called *disgorgement*.

Building a reputation

Since being founded in 2006, Tinwood’s winery has established a reputation for three varieties of high quality sparkling wine - Estate Brut, Blanc de Blancs and Rosé. Goodwood is their biggest customer. The Tinwood team run daily wine tasting events and tours at 3 pm, with more at weekends. This takes place in a purpose-built tasting room, which features a glass-covered veranda and outdoor patio, created from a former tractor shed. In something over 15 years, Tinwood has grown into two distinct businesses, viticulture and hospitality, with the tourism side accounting for 75 percent. This was of course hit by the Covid pandemic, but online wine sales rose by 90 percent! Chichester has another success on its doorstep.

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Richard Childs is a member of the Society’s Executive Committee and this magazine’s editorial group.
Illustrations are courtesy of Tinwood unless otherwise stated
The Tinwood Estate is well-worth a visit. Find out more at <https://www.tinwoodestate.com/>



The Tinwood estate produces three types of sparkling wine. Seen here from the left are Blanc de Blanc, Brut and Rosé



The second fermentation stage for making sparkling wine, technically known as disgorgement
Source: Google

NOW AND THEN...

RICHARD CHILDS ON CHANGES TO EASTGATE SQUARE OVER THE YEARS

We begin with the **Gaumont Cinema** which opened at Eastgate Square on Monday 20 September 1937 with Paul Robeson in *King Solomons Mines*. It was built in the art deco style by architect Harry Weston, the only Gaumont in West Sussex. Of red brick and stone with a circular frontage and a neon **GAUMONT** sign on top of a curved facade. The auditorium had seating for nearly 1,300 - 874 in the front and 404 at the rear. Walls were decorated to an underwater theme in shades of blue with painted bubbles, seaweed, and ripples. A restaurant was on the first floor with its own separate entrance to the left of the main doors. Gaumont closed the Chichester cinema on 15 December 1951 but then Rank took over though this was short lived because on 15 October 1960 the Gaumont was finally shut, when the last films were a Walt Disney double bill with *Toby Tyler* and *Zorro*, *The Avenger*.

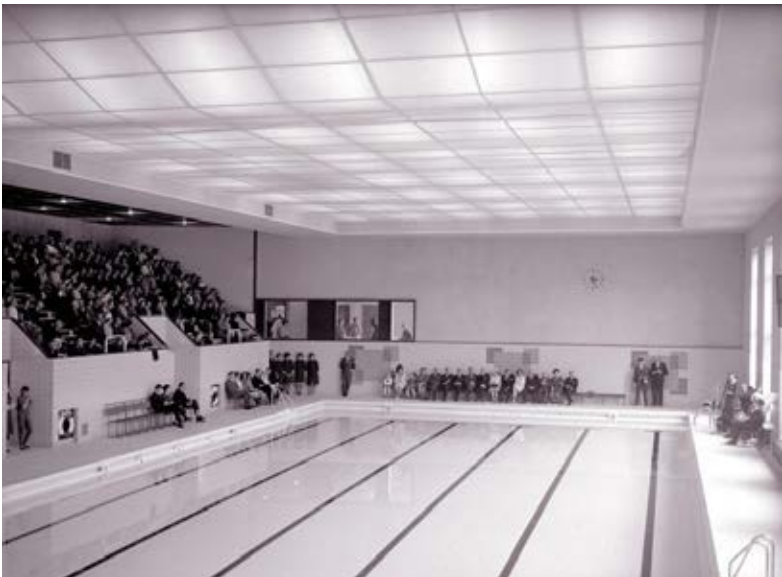
Here things take a peculiar turn. For years, many in Chichester had wanted a swimming pool, an idea mooted as long ago as the 1920s. A new proposal arose in 1958 that an Olympic-sized swimming pool in Oaklands Park could be funded by a subscription scheme given a £30,000 target. Amazingly, by December 1960 there were 10,000 subscribers each paying one shilling a week. Come Spring 1961 £7,000 had been raised and the City Council started to examine buying the Gaumont with a view to conversion to a pool. By the end of the year the Gaumont had been bought for £35,000. Meanwhile, the Swimming Pool Appeal Fund grew rapidly and reached its £30,000 target by August



Eastgate Square today



The Gaumont Cinema in 1960, shortly before its closure



Opening of the swimming pool in 1967

1963. An £89,000 conversion scheme was agreed but by early 1965 the estimated costs had risen to £208,000. Understandably, public concern mounted which led to a ratepayers’ referendum, although the result was inconclusive, those in favour of continuing almost the same as those against. The City Council decided on a cheaper scheme costed at £195,000 and work started at the Gaumont site in June 1965, which the Duke of Richmond opened as a swimming pool on Saturday 29 April 1967. The new pool lasted for 20 years until closure when the Westgate Leisure Centre opened in January 1987.

Demolition of the old swimming pool started in 2007. As the photo shows this new development retains the original curve of the Gaumont Cinema with a variety of shops and restaurants including Carluccio’s and flats on the upper floors.

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All photos from the author’s collection

WHY IS NEW HOUSING BUILT ON FARMLAND APPROVED BY PLANNING APPEALS?

Christopher Mead Briggs explains the background to this complicated situation

Twelve months ago in our newsletter I drew readers’ attention to 18 planning applications for new housing mainly on greenfield sites – that is, sites often on farmland - that haven’t been allocated for development in the Chichester Local Plan. These lie right across the Chichester District area and all were refused by our District Council. Nevertheless, they are being pursued for planning permission by developers who use the appeals system because our Local Plan is out of date. This year, five of these appeals have now been allowed thereby permitting an extra 485 new dwellings; only three of these planning applications were refused on appeal. The adjoining list summarises the situation: permitted applications are coloured red and those refused are green. There are two additional applications to add to the 18 which have yet to be decided by Chichester District Council (CDC), one at Stubcroft Farm in East Wittering for 280 homes and the second on the same farm for a 45 bed sheltered living scheme.

Meeting government housing numbers

These decisions were made by Planning Inspectors because the Local Plan Review is not yet complete. It was due for updating by July 2020. Since that date Inspectors have accepted arguments from developers that Chichester District Council cannot any longer prove a 5-year housing land supply. The National Planning Policy Framework, (first published 2012 and since revised), requires decision makers (aka Inspectors) to allow house building on any land considered ‘sustainable’ to meet housing targets for as long as a council cannot prove a 5-year housing land supply. With all the geographical constraints in our area, an A27 which needs upgrading, a Harbour that’s an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and a National Park nearby, Chichester cannot meet the housing targets set by Government. Consequently, the District Council must show why proposed numbers of new dwellings must be less than the number given us by central Government. Because every aspect of these physical constraints must be tested against Local Plan guidelines, CDC must consult with National Highways, Natural England and many other Government agencies. They must then talk to our neighbouring councils to see if some of our allocation can be met by them. These bodies ask CDC to consider, for example, adaptations to road junctions. The difficulty in completing the Local Plan Review is that CDC has to consult with so many bodies outside its control. CDC Officers and Councillors and our MP are doing what they can to speed up the process, but nevertheless Chichester’s Local Plan Review is not yet ready for public consultation.

Regulation 19

It is only once the consultation is complete that the day arrives when we move to what’s called ‘Regulation 19 status’ (defined in the Town and Country Planning Local Planning England Regulations 2012). Public consultation on the Local Plan lasts for approximately eight weeks. At the end of this period, the Local Plan together with consultation responses will be submitted to an Examiner for a public review. Once a Plan is submitted for public consultation paragraph 48 of the National Planning Policy Framework applies. This states that the nearer the Plan is to completion, the greater the weight that may be given to it by decision takers. We may hope that appeals on unallocated farmland will no longer succeed at appeal once we have reached the Regulation 19 stage hopefully by spring next year.

Readers may also be interested to know that in the 12 months since my last article on this subject the national picture on progress with Local Plan adoptions has not changed. Across the whole country less than half (45 percent) of planning authorities have an ‘adopted’ Plan, while 55 percent are still in progress. Chichester District Council is not alone in its endeavours.

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Christopher Mead-Briggs is a member of the Society’s Executive Committee and the Newsletter Editorial Committee

THE 20 APPLICATIONS

KEY			
GREEN appeals = good outcome Housing won't be built			
RED appeals = bad outcome Housing can be built			
	Ref No	Location	Dwigs
1	20/03319	Nutbourne	94
2	20/03320	Nutbourne	132
3	20/03321	Chidham	68
4	20/00412	Hambrook	35
5	20/03378	Hambrook	30
6	20/01826	Hambrook	118
7	21/00571	Bosham	301
8	20/02303	Fishbourne	35
9	20/02675	North Chichester	140
10	20/02824	Westhampnett	165
11	20/03034	Birdham	25
12	21/01830	Birdham	150
13	20/02066	Birdham	77
14	20/02491	East Wittering	70
15	21/01376	Bracklesham	65
16	20/03125	Earnley	100
17	19/02493	Earnley	32
18	20/02236	Earnley	57
19	22/02214	East Wittering	280
20	22/02235	East Wittering	45 beds
		TOTAL	2,019

THE SOCIETY’S 49TH AGM WAS HELD WITH DEPUTY MAYOR CLLR. RICHARD PLOWMAN PRESIDING

We met in the Assembly Room where AGM business was followed by a stimulating talk

Dr Tony Whitbread, President of the Sussex Wildlife Trust told us of many projects in the county that are rejuvenating nature in all its diversity. Tony’s talk is summarised on the facing page and below we publish reports by the Chairman and Treasurer.

The following candidates were elected:

Chairman Peter Evans

Vice chairman Bill Sharp

Secretary Anthony Quail

Treasurer Mark Hoult

Executive Committee members: Andrew Bain, Rodney Chambers, Richard Childs, Margaret Evans, John Halliday, Christopher Mead-Briggs, Cedric Mitchell, Grace Taylor, John Templeton

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT BY PETER EVANS

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 49th Annual General Meeting of the Chichester Society which since its formation in 1973 has been the clarion call promoting what is good about Chichester and defending the fabric of the city for future generations. As we are now nearly a quarter of the way through the 21st century voices from the past still echo and ring true. Back in 1949 Town Planner Thomas Sharp said of Chichester, *‘It is physical size more than the number of people which matters. A small ancient centre surrounded by a sea of suburbs is but a pale and pitiful travesty of an English cathedral city’*. Slowly but surely the pressure of a growing population heading to our area rings this statement true, but there is light on the horizon. If we aim at improving the quality of the built environment with good schools, shops, and transport links we can make the best of our city and its heritage.

Planning and development: the Society continues to champion the protection of our historic heritage. We also monitor local planning applications to ensure proposed changes fit the neighbouring area and champion quality, design and construction with dwellings that meet community expectations. During the past year we have contributed to research along with other cities on balancing heritage and growth with the Alliance of Historic Cathedral Cities and Towns. As reported last year, the misery caused by Southern Water continuing to discharge raw or partially treated sewage into Chichester Harbour and along the Sussex coast is a national disgrace. Our government needs to take firm action and ensure investment in plant and machinery is prioritised above shareholder dividends.

Administration: the Society has an energetic Executive that undertakes most of our day-to-day work, all volunteers who give their time and share their experience freely to the betterment of Chichester. I thank them for their hard work over the past year and of course you, our members who engage with us in making the society as successful as it is. We continue to work with national organisations such as Civic Voice ensuring that we have a say in national issues. You will have seen the quarterly Newsletter written and designed by our Editorial Group. I know that this magazine punches above its weight against many other local publications, excelling in its range of topics and quality of articles.

Social events: a tour of Chichester Harbour was planned on the *Solar Heritage* but unfortunately this coincided with the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We immediately cancelled the event and all monies have been returned. We now intend to undertake the trip early next year and will be advising the new date soon. We are looking to build a programme of events for 2023 so keep an eye on our newsletter and emails for dates and booking information.

I thank you all for supporting the Society over the past year.

TREASURER’S REPORT BY MARK HOULT

The Society had a net surplus for the year of £185 (compared with a deficit of £1,100 in 2020), even though COVID related restrictions were in place for much of this period. Although we were unable to run events safely during the year, we were able to achieve a small surplus by increasing our newsletter advertising income and restricting certain expenses relating to public meetings and events.

Income: subscriptions and donations totalled £3,478 (compared to £3,436 in 2020). Gift Aid tax refunds on qualifying subscriptions amounted to £629 compared with £740 in 2020. Income from Newsletter advertising increased from almost nothing in 2020 to £920 this year. The Society is very grateful for the support we have received from local businesses who wish to advertise in our Newsletter and we are keen to sign up more advertisers.

Expenditure: the Society’s main expenditure related to the production and postage of its quarterly newsletter, which totalled £3,346 (2020: £3,108). Expenditure on events and public meetings was £nil (2020: £1,840) as no such events took place during the year. Last financial year the Society joined Civic Voice, a national charity for the civic movement in England, and our membership was continued this year at a cost of £500.

Balance sheet: the Society continues to have a strong balance sheet, with over £17,000 of net assets, primarily held as cash at bank. Although the future is uncertain, these reserves should allow the Society to continue with its work for the foreseeable future.

CHISOC AGM OCTOBER 2022 A DECADE OF NATURE RESTORATION

Tony Whitbread spoke at the Society’s AGM and outlined his vision for the 2020s

Our environment is in a worrying state. If we consider nature here and everywhere we see a sad and ongoing story of degradation. Looking at the size of 32,000 populations of vertebrate animals around the world, *The World Wide Fund for Nature* has found a general decline of about 69 percent – we’ve lost more than two thirds of our animals in just 50 years! Furthermore, some scientists estimate that we are losing species between 100 and 1000 times faster than any expected background rate.

Does this matter?

Maybe it is just the price we must pay for progress? This, however, would be a catastrophic error. Nature is a global-scale self-regulating system that provides everything we need. The makeup of the atmosphere, the chemistry of the sea, the formation of soil, the temperature of the earth, even the geology of our rocks is all determined by nature. The scale of our problem and the recognition of the value of nature has now led to the United Nations declaring the 2020s the ‘Decade of Ecosystem Restoration’, an initiative promoted by the UN’s Director General himself. The UN challenges everyone to massively scale-up efforts that breathe new life into our degraded ecosystems.

Sussex good practice

Against this picture of general decline there are a huge number of examples that are bucking the trend. Nature reserves retain much of our wildlife on a fairly small area. We also have landowners – large and small – who are delivering wildlife gain through their management. There is growing interest in regenerative agriculture and forestry systems which now enhance nature. We have a marine restoration project covering 300 sq km extending between Worthing and Brighton. This aims to restore the magnificent kelp forests that once covered the area. The Knepp estate is delivering huge wildlife gains through a 20-year rewilding project. As a result, species like nightingale, turtle dove and purple emperor butterfly are restoring their populations to impressive levels. Furthermore, these initiatives are starting to join up. Local authorities are now working in partnership with the Wildlife Trust to produce nature recovery network maps. Landowners are joining together to drive nature recovery across whole landscapes. The *Weald to the Waves* project, for instance, envisages a network starting at Ashdown Forest extending through the Sussex Weald and down the Adur and Arun valleys to the sea at Shoreham and Climping!

Four important words


The situation may be worrying but we know the solutions and can turn this crisis around. To finish with four words which I feel encapsulate what we are aiming for – better, bigger, more and joined. We need to make existing wildlife-rich areas **better**, we need to expand them and make them **bigger**, we need **more** of them, and they need to be **joined** in a network. Let’s make the 2020s the decade of nature restoration.

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Dr Tony Whitbread is President of the Sussex Wildlife Trust and the views expressed here are his own.



Dr Tony Whitbread, President of the Sussex Wildlife Trust, spoke to the Society’s AGM this year. Photo: © Miles Davies, Sussex Wildlife Trust

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Treasurer: Mark Hoult

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Andrew Bain, Rodney Chambers,
Richard Childs*, Margaret Evans,
John Halliday, Christopher Mead-Briggs*,
Cedric Mitchell, Grace Taylor
and John Templeton*

*Member, Newsletter Editorial Committee
which also includes Brian Henham.

MEMBERSHIP

Single membership:

£8 by standing order or £11 by cheque
payable to the Chichester Society.

Joint membership:

£12 by standing order or £15 by cheque.

Life membership

(60 years and over):
£120 single and £160 joint.

Under 18 years: £4.

Corporate membership: £100 (one-off).

Applications and/or queries about membership and annual subscriptions
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