

Chichester Harbour Trust Review 2024



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Working to secure the future of Chichester Harbour



Above: Chichester Harbour from the air, by Paul Adams, Harbour Images

Trustees

Nicholas Backhouse (Chairman)
Patrick Green
Trevor James
Amanda Jupp
Fiona MacFarlane
Christopher Newell
Harriet O'Sullivan
Harriet Patterson
Andrew Winch

Administrator

Nicky Horter

Patrons

Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex
Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire
The Duchess of Norfolk
The Duke of Richmond and Gordon CBE
John Nelson CBE DL

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SUPPORTED BY



www.chichesterharbourtrust.org.uk

Chichester Harbour Trust



Founded in 2002, Chichester Harbour Trust is a registered charity dedicated to the protection of Chichester Harbour National Landscape.

We believe that the strongest method of protection is to take direct control of land, of whatever size, through ownership or long lease.

We now safeguard over 375 acres of land across 15 sites throughout the Chichester Harbour National Landscape, working in close partnership with Chichester Harbour Conservancy, the local authorities and Harbour communities.



Photo Peter Arnold

Nicky Horter, John Nelson, Nick Backhouse

Dear Supporter,

I am delighted to introduce the 2024 Annual Review for the Chichester Harbour Trust – my first as Chairman. Please read more inside about my thoughts for the future as I embrace the Chairman’s role - I am excited to take the next steps in the Trust’s journey and am looking forward to the years ahead.

In April, we said goodbye to John Nelson following his retirement – leaving an incredible legacy at the Trust through all that he has achieved over his 11-year tenure in the chair. We are delighted that he has accepted the role of Patron in recognition of his achievements and will remain a strong champion for the charity.

The Harbour was a centre point in campaigning for local candidates in this year’s General Election and we hope that the much-needed policy changes at Government level will follow. To this end, our role in delivering the Chichester Harbour Action Summit continues – this important group of key organisations met again in September to continue work to reverse the Harbour’s environmental decline.

This year we celebrated the completion of the restoration of Marina Farm – we hope you’ll agree it is quite a transformation! We were grateful to our Patron, HM Lord-Lieutenant Lady Emma Barnard, for formally opening the site in April.

The Trust remains in a strong financial position, and we continue to raise funds to reach our £1.5m Fighting Fund target. We are continually grateful for your support, and you can find out about the different ways that you can help us inside. We are delighted to share our work with you and look forward to another exciting year ahead.

Nick Backhouse, Chairman

Reversing the decline

I’m absolutely honoured to have taken over as Chairman of the Chichester Harbour Trust. Having closely witnessed, as a Trustee since 2021, the impact that the Trust can have on the natural environment of this Harbour, I’m excited to drive the charity forward through a period that will be of vital importance for the restoration of its wildlife and natural beauty.

We serve a really special purpose here at the Trust - to protect the Harbour through land acquisition and management, and to speak up loudly for the protection of its environment. This is a crucial time for the Trust to set the direction firmly towards reversing the decline of nature and wildlife in the Harbour.

The Harbour is under very great pressure - from climate change, rising sea levels, housing development, coastal squeeze, under-investment in infrastructure, water pollution, nitrate runoff and other issues. With a track record of hands-on restoration programmes, partnerships with leaseholders and stakeholders, an amplified voice from our small corner of Sussex and Hampshire at a National level and a reputation for fostering good relationships with the key agencies, the Trust is well positioned to face these challenges, but we urgently need your continued support.

With change this year in both National and Local Government, our newly acquired status as a National Landscape and a new Chichester Harbour Conservancy management plan in development, it is vital that the Trust ensures the focus and emphasis is on the natural landscape and wildlife by highlighting the need for careful consideration of the environmental impact of infrastructure and housing, calling for strong governance - and for investment to

address the crisis in water quality.



I would like to thank the steadfast team I have inherited; Nicky for her dedication and passion, and all our Trustees, who continue to give their time, commitment and contribution of their many professional skills

generously for our benefit. As we are now the landowner of over 375 acres and 15 diverse sites around the Harbour, the Chichester Harbour Trust is in a unique position to facilitate the restoration and long-term protection of this beautiful environment.

I know that this can be done through continuation of the hard work already underway using our strong relationships with Chichester Harbour Conservancy, local authorities and the Harbour community, uniting in action with renewed optimism and determination.

Nick Backhouse

John Nelson



Celebrating our retiring Chair's outstanding contribution to the protection of Chichester Harbour

After 14 years as a Trustee, and 11 in the Chairman's seat, John Nelson CBE DL has retired. John was the second chair in the Trust's 22-year history and played that role tirelessly for half that time. The success of the Trust to date has been in no small measure down to his dedication, energy and enthusiasm.

We are grateful to John for his enormous contribution to the Trust - and to the Harbour - through his determination to bring the pressing environmental issues to the fore at both a local and national level by building strong and positive relationships with all the key parties. He has placed the Trust on a firm footing to continue to grow and deliver this vital work in future.

That John has also done this through challenging times, a financial crisis and global pandemic, is a credit to his unwavering dedication to the protection of the Harbour.

We are delighted to announce that with the unanimous support of our Trustees and Patrons, John has been made a Patron of the Trust and continues to champion our work.



Photo: Peter Arnold

Left to right: Nicky Horter, Nigel Atkinson HM Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, Georgina Duchess of Norfolk, Dame Susan Pyper, John Nelson, Harriet Patterson, the Duke of Richmond, Nick Backhouse.

Reversing the decline in action

Marina Farm, Reviving and thriving – a story of what can be achieved in a year



Lady Emma Barnard cuts the tape at Marina Farm



Marina Farm prior to restoration



Clearance work at Marina Farm by J E Green Ltd

As a demonstrable example of Chichester Harbour Trust's ability to turn around the fortunes of a declining area of the Harbour, the Trust's Patron, HM Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex Lady Emma Barnard, officially opened the Trust's new site at Marina Farm to mark the successful completion of a year-long restoration project.

The property, a former derelict brownfield site within the Chichester Harbour National Landscape, was purchased by the Trust in late 2022. Over the past year, together with our project partners, the Trust has carried out an extensive programme of clearance and restoration, to remove the derelict buildings and waste materials and create a community nature space for local people to enjoy. A public footpath running through it and new seating areas and information panels help people learn about the area.

A new native woodland area was planted that will grow over time. An English Oak-framed gazebo was built to provide replacement nesting habitat for the migrating swallows that used the old stables at the property.

Overall, this site provides a mixture of different habitats that will allow nature to thrive, particularly the wide range of birds, insects, (including rare solitary bee species) and reptiles that can be found here. The land will change and thrive over time, in the way that the Trust's site at Maybush Copse, Chidham has done over recent years. We hope that all who visit will enjoy spending time in nature and learning about the wildlife that lives here.

The total project cost was over £100,000, made possible with grant funding from; Chichester Harbour Conservancy's FIPL scheme, Southern Water's Nature Improvement scheme, The Friends of Chichester Harbour, Southbourne Parish Council, the Boltini Trust, Chichester District Council's Trees for farms scheme and QOL Technologies.

Photos: Brian Bracher, Compass Aerial Photography



Aerial image of the Marina Farm site after restoration

Please help us to reverse the decline of the natural environment and wildlife in Chichester Harbour



Colner Creek / CHI

Land in our care

The Chichester Harbour Trust now holds 15 sites and over 375 acres in total, through a combination of direct ownership and long leases.

Some of our land is managed through agreements with Chichester Harbour Conservancy, or leased directly to tenants who look after the land on our behalf, delivering our objectives of permanently protecting the land.

Thank you to those of you who support the Trust as allies and vocal encouragers. We are grateful to all who give financial support enable the Chichester Harbour Trust to further protect the Harbour through owning and managing land. The Trust manages to run on a very tight administrative budget and maximise the impact of every donation.

Legacies

Please consider leaving a gift to us in your Will to help protect Chichester Harbour for future generations. There are three kinds of charitable gift or legacy that you can make:

A Residuary Legacy

a share or percentage share of your estate

A Pecuniary Legacy

a fixed amount of money

A Specific Gift or Bequest

such as property, stocks, shares or personal effects.

We advise taking professional advice from a solicitor or legal advisor to arrange making your gift to the Harbour for the future.

Fighting Fund

Our Fighting Fund campaign continues to be crucial to our ability to act quickly and decisively in an expensive and competitive land acquisition market. As the corridor between the National Park and National Landscape has become increasingly sought after for development this has intensified in recent years. We welcome your donations to help secure future land purchases. The more land we manage and own gives the Trust a more significant share in protecting our natural environment and in reversing the decline.

To make a donation visit our website at chichesterharbourtrust.org.uk/support-us

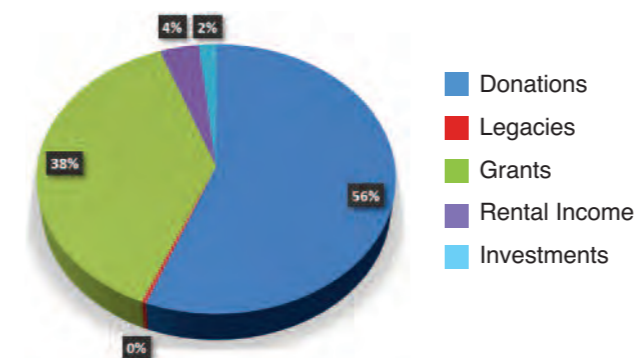
Or visit our Just Giving Page at justgiving.com/campaign/ChichesterHarbour

Regular giving

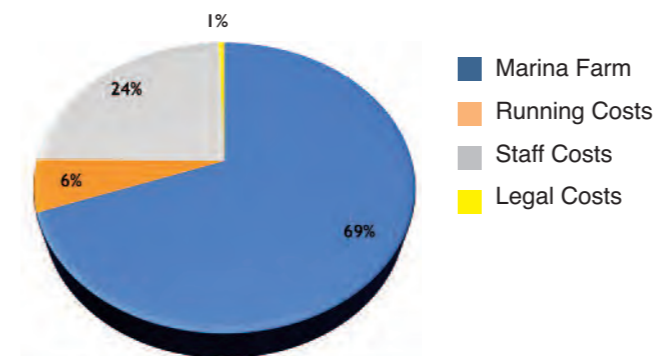
We rely on regular giving through our generous supporters to fund our operating costs, including staff time and running costs. While these are modest, they are rising steadily with inflation and the cost of living. Regular support through standing orders, whether monthly or annually, offers us the financial security to keep on doing valuable work behind the scenes.

Find out how at chichesterharbourtrust.org.uk/support-us

INCOME



OUTGOINGS



Financial Report

At the end of the financial year on 31 March 2024 we held net liquid resources of £460,083.

The Trust's total income during the year was £311,045, made up of donations, grants and rental income. We received in-kind support from West Sussex County Council in office and IT facilities.

Our expenditure during this period was £142,616 made up of charitable activities and support costs, including the restoration of Marina Farm.

Fifteen sites now in the care of Chichester Harbour Trust

Apuldram Meadow

This 15-acre meadow joining the shore of the Fishbourne Channel has been owned by the Trust since 2009. Wild flowers thrive around the network of fresh-water ditches. The meadow is crossed by two public footpaths at the western end, nearest the shore. It is grazed by a local farmer.



Apuldram Meadow

Chidmere Pond

The freehold of this beautiful 4.5-acre lake has been in Trust ownership since 2005. The area is leased to the owners of the nearby Chidmere House and provides a valuable haven for wildfowl.



Chidmere Pond

The Dell, Chidham

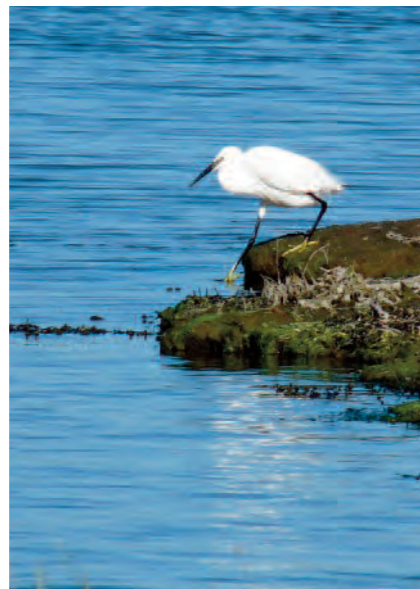
We have held a 125-year lease on this small woodland from Chichester District Council since 2005. The mixture of grassland, woodland and scrub provides a wonderful habitat for birds and insects. Chichester Harbour Conservancy created an outdoor classroom area in 2018 which is now enjoyed by children from Chidham School



The Dell, Chidham

Eames Farm

This 170-acre farm is our biggest and most important site. A large area of coastal grazing marsh, wetland and reedbed, it provides vital habitat for a wide range of migrating waders and wildfowl, and many rare plant and insect species. The converted stables building provides a wonderful space for meetings and events and is available to hire through the Conservancy. The farm is managed through a tenancy with an organic farmer and is in an environmental stewardship scheme.



Little Egret at Eames Farm



Ellanore Spit



Duck race at Fishbourne Meadows



Itchenor Field, Wittering Rd



Itchenor Meadow



Marina Farm

Ellanore Spit

We hold a 999-year lease on this unique acre of saltmarsh and shingle at Ellanore. Each winter, up to 6,000 waders use the spit as a high tide roost. During the summer, the northern area of the spit is fenced to protect nesting seabirds.

Fishbourne Meadow

This wet grassland is held in a 10-year lease from West Sussex County Council and supports a wide range of wild flowers, including the Southern Marsh Orchid. The stream banks provide a home for a thriving Water Vole population. The Meadow is managed by Chichester Harbour Conservancy, and is grazed by cattle in the summer months.

Itchenor Field, Wittering Rd

In 2017 we completed the purchase of 3.5 acres of grazing land at Itchenor on behalf of the local community, to protect it permanently from inappropriate use. The land is now grazed by horses.

Ichenor Meadow

This small meadow lies adjacent to the Salterns Way cycle route, behind the Itchenor Memorial Hall. Fruit trees have been planted to attract a wide range of insects.

Marina Farm

This 2.5-acre brownfield site near Emsworth was purchased by the Trust in December 2022. A restoration project is now complete, returning the land to nature for the benefit of wildlife and local people.



Fritillary butterfly at Maybush Copse



Oyster Quay, Warblington



Prinsted Field, Southbourne



Sandy Point Lagoon



Seaview Road, Hayling



Tournerbury Farm

Maybush Copse Chidham

This flagship community project has created an 8-acre woodland for local people from a once-derelict site. The Trust bought the land in 2009, and it is now managed by the Conservancy and Maybush Copse Friends for the enjoyment of the local community.

Oyster Quay, Warblington

This historic quay at Pook Lane, Warblington, was purchased in 2018

Prinsted Field, Southbourne

The Trust purchased this 25-acre field at Prinsted in 2018, with support from the local community, parish council, Garfield Weston Foundation and Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust. The field will remain in arable use under a tenancy with a local farmer.

Sandy Point Lagoon

This beautiful 18-acre tidal lagoon lies behind Hayling Island Sailing Club and is a fantastic feeding ground for migrating and overwintering birds.

Seaview Road, Hayling

We have held this small plot at south Hayling since 2009 and it is leased to a neighbouring property. We also own the mudland that joins it.

Land at Tournerbury Farm

The Trust secured the freehold of 100 acres of unique coastal grazing marsh on Hayling Island in 2022. We will continue to work with the tenant farmer to keep the land in good environmental stewardship for the benefit of migrating birds and other wildlife.