



Photo: Harbour from Kingley Vale / Paul Adams

Chichester Harbour Trust Review 2023

Founded in 2002, Chichester Harbour Trust is a registered charity dedicated to the protection of Chichester Harbour, now designated a 'National Landscape' (previously AONB). We believe that the strongest method of protection is by direct control through ownership or long leases, and we strive to achieve this end.

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 the harbour community.

Dear Supporter,

Welcome to the 2023 Annual Review for the Chichester Harbour Trust.

Certainly, last year was a hard act to follow; with our 20th anniversary, launch of the Fighting Fund campaign and the purchase of 100 acres of land at Tournerbury Farm. But rest assured that we have not been sitting on our laurels and have continued to build on this momentum throughout 2023, which we look forward to sharing with you through this Review.



Visit by Lady Emma Barnard, Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex and Patron of the Chichester Harbour Trust.

Left to Right Lady Emma Barnard, John Nelson (Chairman), Nicky Horter (Administrator)

The Fighting Fund Campaign that we launched last year has continued to attract generous donations from supporters wishing to help achieve our aim of creating a capital reserve dedicated to the purchase of land. To date we have raised over £850,000, despite a challenging fundraising climate. This immediately enabled us to acquire Tournerbury Farm and Marina Farm. We continue to work hard to reach our target of £1.5m. Please support us if you can.

In June this year, we arranged and hosted an Action Summit meeting in Bosham to bring together the key regulators, together with Chichester Harbour Conservancy, Chichester District Council and Southern Water to develop an action plan to address the environmental deterioration of the Harbour. We were encouraged that all parties are firmly committed to making a positive impact in the key areas of water quality, nitrates, development and SSSI condition. We are planning a follow-up meeting in December to measure progress in achieving these goals.

As last year came to a close, we completed the purchase of Marina Farm, Thorney Road, near Emsworth; a 2.5 acre brownfield plot that has been derelict for many years. Find out more about our project to restore it to nature.

We were delighted to host a visit by Lady Emma Barnard, Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex, who has succeeded Dame Susan Pyper as a Patron of the Chichester Harbour Trust following her retirement last year. I want to pay tribute to Dame Susan for all the support she gave us during her long tenure.

From November 2023, all Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) nationally will become known as National Landscapes. The change reflects the national importance of these special landscapes, and creates a greater understanding and awareness of the important contribution they make to the nations wildlife, enjoyment and wellbeing.

We hope that you enjoy finding out more about our work and we are excited to continue achieving our aims over the next year. Thank you for all your support which enables us to keep delivering our work to protect this precious Harbour for the future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Nelson".

John Nelson CBE DL Chairman

Please consider a Gift in your Will and help protect Chichester Harbour for future generations



Dell Quay / Paul Adams

In order to safeguard the Harbour for the future we urge our supporters, and the community around the Harbour, to consider a legacy to the Chichester Harbour Trust in their Will.

A gift to charity can reduce the amount of tax paid on your estate and your solicitor will be able to advise you how to make this most tax efficient.

There are three kinds of charitable gift or legacy that you can make. You can leave:

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.

We cannot make recommendations, so we advise you to take professional advice from a solicitor or legal advisor. However, if you would like to discuss leaving a legacy to Chichester Harbour Trust, or to let us know that you have decided to include the Trust in your Will, this would be treated in the strictest confidence.



Colner Creek / Paul Adams



Photo: Paul Adams

The success of the campaign to date highlights the immediate need for a fighting fund to help us act fast to secure land in a highly competitive and fast-moving land market.

'The Harbour's special environment is fragile, and is under threat now more than at any time in its past' said John Nelson, Chair of The Chichester Harbour Trust. To secure its long-term future, 'we urge everyone who cares about our special environment to join us in becoming part of the success of this critical effort'.

The Fighting Fund

The Chichester Harbour Trust Fighting Fund Campaign launched in June last year to build a capital land trust of at least £1.5m designated for the purchase of land to protect the unique fragile environment of Chichester Harbour.

Thanks must go to our Patrons, The Duke of Richmond, Duchess of Norfolk and the Lord Lieutenants of West Sussex and Hampshire for their support and encouragement, and to all those who have already donated and pledged including all of our Trustees. We have already raised over £850,000, which has already made an immediate impact with the two recent property acquisitions in highly sensitive sites at Marina Farm in Emsworth and Tournerbury Farm on Hayling Island.



The Fighting Fund Pack

To make a donation to the Fighting Fund, visit our website at chichesterharbourtrust.org.uk Or visit our Just Giving Page at justgiving.com/campaign/ChichesterHarbour.



The Duchess of Norfolk



The Duke of Richmond

Colner Creek / Paul Adams





Colner Creek / Paul Adams

Action Summit

The Chichester Harbour Trust hosted a Chichester Harbour Action Summit meeting in June this year to agree an action plan to recover the environmental status of the Chichester Harbour National Landscape, a nationally and internationally important nature site; bringing together the key agencies and existing work areas to ensure efforts are joined up.

The meeting was chaired by John Nelson and was attended by the Chairs of the Environment Agency and Ofwat, the CEO of Southern Water, both the Leader and Chief Executive of Chichester District Council, representatives from Natural England, the CEO and Environment Manager of Chichester Harbour Conservancy.

A comprehensive list of actions, both now and into the medium and longer term, were agreed, covering water quality, nitrates, habitat restoration and coastal management and much more. A follow-up meeting will be held in December to give a progress update on these actions to ensure we keep up the momentum with this important work.

John Nelson, Chair of the Chichester Harbour Trust, said: "We arranged this meeting with a sense of urgency given the ongoing environmental deterioration that we are all seeing in the Harbour. We were very encouraged that all parties who attended approached the issues in a collaborative spirit and with a sense of renewed energy."

We are grateful to all who took part for their commitment and enthusiasm in recognising the need to work together now to make the Harbour a healthier environment for wildlife and people to enjoy for the future.

Financial Report

The full accounts and audit report for the Chichester Harbour Trust for the year 1st April 2022 to 31 March 2023 are available on our website for review.

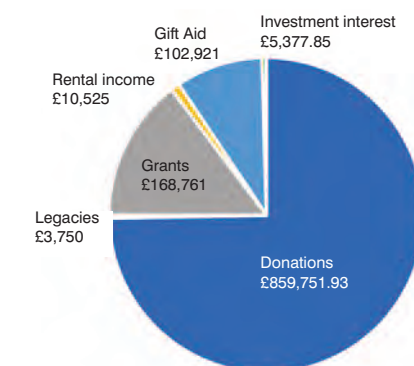
At the end of the financial year on 31 March 2023 we held net liquid resources of £298,824.

The Trust's total income during the year was £1,153,761, made up of donations, grants and rental income.

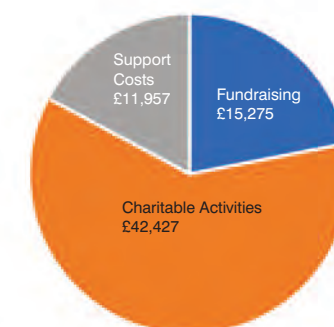
We received in-kind support from West Sussex County Council in office and IT facilities.

Our expenditure during this period was £69,659, made up of charitable activities, support costs and fundraising activities. The total joint cost of the acquisition of land at Tournerbury Farm and Marina Farm was £1,339,889.

INCOME



OUTGOINGS



Marina Farm

Marina Farm is a brownfield site near Emsworth, purchased by the Chichester Harbour Trust in December 2022. The derelict 2.5-acre site is divided into three small paddocks with a large area of hard-standing, stables, storage sheds and a barn. There are two public rights of way through the property. The land adjoins the Chichester Harbour SSSI and SPA designated site.

The Trust holds the 999-year lease of the neighbouring property to the south, Eames Farm, which is a local nature reserve and part of the Chichester Harbour SSSI/SPA. Marina Farm has a chequered history, with a succession of unsuccessful planning applications for development and has been in a dilapidated condition for many years. It has been a priority for the Trust to purchase this site as soon as the opportunity arose, to break the cycle of inappropriate use and realise the opportunity to remediate the land and return it to community use through a habitat restoration scheme.

The Trust's project to carry out a fully funded and designed restoration project for Marina Farm is already underway, to restore the land to countryside for the benefit of wildlife and the enjoyment of local people.

We have removed the existing buildings and hardstanding areas to create new areas of habitat with landscaping improvements. There will be new information panels and seating to enhance the public engagement and learning opportunities about the nature found at the site. The property currently offers some rare types of habitat for wildlife, particularly several species of solitary bees, and there are opportunities to create enhancements for the benefit of other insects, reptiles, mammals and bird species.

The total projected cost of the works is £105,000 which has been fully funded through grant contributions from the Friends of Chichester Harbour, Chichester Harbour Conservancy's FIPL scheme, Southbourne Parish Council, Southern Water's Environment Improvement Fund and the Boltini Trust.



Aerial image by Brian Bracher, Compass Aerial Photography



Clearance work at Marina Farm by J E Green Ltd

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.



New gates and fencing at 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

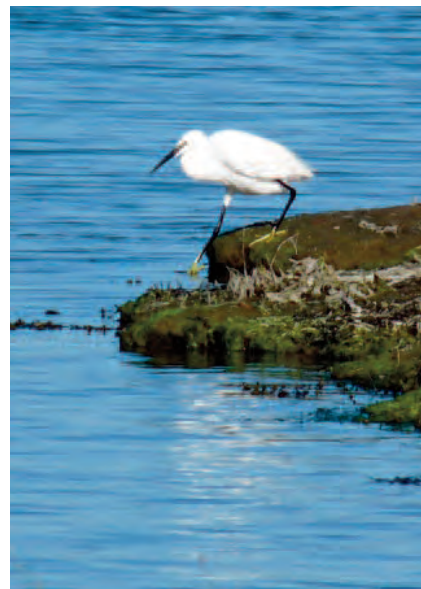
We have held a 125-year lease on this small woodland from Chichester District Council since 2005. The mixture of grassland, woodland and scrub provides a wonderful habitat for birds and insects. Chichester Harbour Conservancy created an outdoor classroom area in 2018 which is now enjoyed by children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



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We need your help

To protect the natural beauty and wildlife of the land around the harbour the Trust needs resources. It is important that the charity has a reserve of funds that will allow it to act swiftly to fulfil its role when the need arises.

We need your support now to ensure that we are ready when the time comes to act decisively to safeguard the unique landscape of Chichester Harbour and to look after the important sites already within our care.

Today we need your regular donations, and in the longer term we would urge you to consider supporting the Trust through a legacy, ensuring that the natural beauty and environmental value of Chichester Harbour is conserved for future generations to enjoy.

Follow us on:



Complete a Standing Order form today, and if you would like more information about leaving the charity a legacy, including the generous tax advantages, please contact the Trust administrator at the address below:

Chichester Harbour Trust

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admin@chichesterharbourtrust.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1096308

SUPPORTED BY



www.chichesterharbourtrust.org.uk

Chichester Harbour Trust

 Working to secure the future of Chichester Harbour