



Chichester Harbour Conservancy
Harbour Office, Itchenor, Chichester PO20 7AW
Tel: 01243 512301 harbourmaster@conservancy.co.uk

P R E S S R E L E A S E

5 June 2006

Busy Weekend for Chichester Harbour Patrol

At 4am on Saturday morning, four members of the Chichester Harbour Patrol team were called out to assist in the search for a missing sailor. The 34 year old male had last been seen on Friday evening when he had set out alone in his dinghy from Langstone Sailing Club. When he failed to return, relatives alerted the police and a full scale search was started. Coastguard rescue teams from Hayling, Selsey and Portsmouth, along with Hampshire Police, Sussex Police, Hayling RNLi Lifeboats and the two Harbour Patrol RIBs searched for nearly two hours.

Adrian Karn, Deputy Patrol Officer found the man in his boat at Mill Rythe at 6am. He had got lost in poor visibility and decided to sleep on the boat. The sailor risked hypothermia as he was just wearing a t-shirt and buoyancy aid. David Lee, Duty Watch Manager for Solent Coastguard said, 'Any dinghy sailor thinking about going out alone should make someone on shore aware of their intentions and what time they are going to return.' Roger Young, the Harbour Patrol Officer added, 'we advise all sailors to carry a VHF radio and flares. If their plans change they should keep the Coastguard informed.'

In another incident at the weekend, a sailor found a nest with five young chicks in it onboard his boat. The nest wasn't discovered until the sailor unfurled his main sail and the nest fell out, by this stage he was underway and near the harbour entrance. He made sure the nest was passed safely to the Harbour Patrol who took the chicks to Brent Lodge Bird Sanctuary. Unfortunately as the chicks were so young none of them survived. Anne de Potier, Conservation Officer, said 'the sailor and the Patrol did the right thing in the circumstances as the boat was already underway.'

MORE OVER

If anyone finds a nest on board the best thing for the birds is to leave them

undisturbed until they leave the nest, usually two weeks after birth, however this isn't always practical if you need to use your boat.'

ENDS



Harbour Patrol tow back the found sailor and his dinghy in the early hours of Saturday morning

A jpg of this image can be emailed to you, contact allie@conservancy.co.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The Chichester Harbour Conservancy is the statutory harbour authority for Chichester Harbour with a legal duty to manage the harbour and the surrounding land for the purposes of recreation and leisure, conservation and landscape protection. It has a wide range of powers to control navigation, moorings, works and dredging, as well as to maintain and improve the wildlife value and the landscape.

The Conservancy also manages the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to ensure that it is conserved and enhanced for the enjoyment of all. AONB officers and their staff work with national and local government, environment organisations, landowners and managers and their local businesses and communities to ensure that these unique landscapes and the rare and wonderful wildlife living in them are protected and enhanced.

For more information please contact the Harbour Master - Lt Col John Davis OBE on 01243 512301.