



Chichester Harbour Conservancy
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

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FREEDOM OF THE HARBOUR AWARDED TO LIFEBOAT MAN

A committed Lifeboat man, Nigel Roper, was awarded the Freedom of Chichester Harbour in recognition of his work.

Nigel has been an active member of the RNLI since 1977, and became Honorary Secretary of the Hayling Lifeboat Station in 1996. Out of 235 Stations within the RNLI Family, Hayling Island is normally within the busiest 5% of coastal Lifeboat Stations. The present Station is one of the largest and best equipped Inshore Lifeboat Stations on the coast.

Nigel started sailing out of Bosham at the age of five. During his sixty years of sailing he has been an active member of the harbour community in many guises, including being a past Commodore of Hayling Island Sailing Club, a past Vice-Commodore of Mengeham Rythe Sailing Club, and currently the Vice-Chairman of the Friends of Chichester Harbour. He has also served on the Federation Week Regatta Committee since 1979, for 23 years as a Race Officer, latterly as the Safety Officer, and is also part of the CHIMET and Cambermet Support Group.

Nigel retired as Lifeboats Operation Manager of the Hayling station in April 2011 and since then has gone on to work with the charity 'Friends of Chichester Harbour'. Siún Cranny, Director of Chichester Harbour Conservancy, said, 'Nigel is well respected throughout the harbour by his crew, the clubs, yachtsmen, and Friends, for his support of both the boating and local communities. The Conservancy wanted to recognize his longstanding contribution by awarding him the Freedom of the Harbour.'

Freedom of the Harbour is awarded by Chichester Harbour Conservancy to either individuals or organisations that have made an outstanding contribution to the Harbour and its community.

ENDS



Nigel Roper with his Freedom of the Harbour certificate

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- For an interview with either Siún Cranny or Nigel Roper please contact Ali Beckett allie@conservancy.co.uk in the first instance.

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 see www.conservancy.co.uk or contact the Ali Beckett, Publicity & Information Officer on 01243 512301.