

## Sid Kennett Retires After 49 Years' Service

*The following article by Maria Court, Shared Services Manager with Chichester Harbour Conservancy, appeared in the Chichester Harbour News and Guide 2017 and is reprinted below with her kind permission.*



*Sid Kennett enjoying his 45 years of service celebration in 2013.*

*Photo: J Tweddell*

Sid Kennet is such a well-known face around Emsworth, constant as the tide, he's known for his ready smile and distinctive radio style. But after nearly half a century of service, Sid has decided that the time has come to retire from full-time work.

Sid has worked in the Harbour all of his adult life. He followed his family into the fishing industry, sailing out with his father from Emsworth to fish for bass, flounder, scallops and oysters in the Solent. His grandfather had previously used his expert boat handling skills to crew the J class racing yacht, *Velsheda*, winner of the King's Cup at Cowes Week in 1936.

However, in the spring of 1968, the prospects in fishing were not good and a 16 year old Sid was looking for some other temporary employment to tide him over. He enquired at the local council offices and was offered some work maintaining moorings around Emsworth. Forty nine years later, he's still there. Why did he stay? "It's the lovely people that I meet every day" he explains.

He started working on the moorings barge that in those days had to be towed with a launch and relied heavily on muscle power to operate. He worked with three other men lifting mooring buoys, replacing chain and installing withy posts. He enjoyed the work and the security of a regular wage whilst still working on the water.

Over the years he has included infrastructure checks and a ferry service in his duties, but other than the introduction of more mechanisation, the work hasn't changed much.

What has changed is the type of craft he encounters. As sailing became more popular and accessible in the 1970s and 1980s, the number of dinghies increased, then larger yachts became more popular. Now he sees more stand-up paddleboards, kayaks and canoes than ever before.

He gets such job satisfaction from passing on his wealth of knowledge and helping solve problems so that sailors can have an enjoyable day out on the water.

This, and living life according to the sunrise and the tides, is what has kept him so positive and cheerful. Surely there must be bad days, what about the weather? "Bad weather is character building!" he exclaims, but he is pleased that better clothing and safety equipment has lessened the adverse effects of going out in the wind and rain.

What advice would he give to whoever takes over? "Be helpful and friendly to people and develop good relationships with all the Harbour users."

What will he miss most? "Most definitely the people." So what next? "I'm not a sit-at-home type" he comments and is sure to keep busy....

So finally, why does everyone call him Sid – his name's Philip? "Well, my grandfather was Sid and my father was Sid, so I guess people thought I should be a Sid too." Well Sid, everyone at Chichester Harbour Conservancy, and surely the whole Harbour wish you well, enjoy your retirement, you've been 'first class'!

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