

# Waterlines



The Newsletter of the Sovereign Harbour Residents Association

Issue 71

[www.shra.co.uk](http://www.shra.co.uk)

June, 2013

## Changes to Retail Park Plans Must Not Delay Bus Link

When consent was granted for the development of Sovereign Harbour, over twenty years ago, it was recognised that a road link between the North and South Harbours would inevitably become a "rat-run" for traffic between the Town Centre and the east. The solution was to provide a dedicated bus route, protected by barriers.

However, instead of making the developers provide the link, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) decided to take responsibility for building it, and obtained the funding for it through a Section 106 agreement. The main reason for this would appear to be that the route would pass over land in three different ownerships. That money has been languishing in the ESCC coffers ever since.

Planning applications for the link were unconditionally approved in 2003 and 2008, but both expired with no progress being made. Had responsibility been left with the developers, the bus link would probably now have been operating for many years.

Even though this project was fully funded and not its responsibility, Eastbourne Borough Council (EBC) decided to seek a further financial contribution from PRUPIM, the Sovereign Harbour Retail Park owners, as part of the Section 106 agreement for the regeneration of the site. Also, by insisting that the bus link be integrated into the regeneration application, areas of responsibility for delivery of the project became blurred.

The planning application that was given consent did include the link and, we believe, had the approval of all land owners affected. However, as a result of objections from the Town Centre developers, conditions were applied to the consent that put severe restrictions on the uses to which the retail units could be put.

We were very disappointed but not surprised to hear that, having re-evaluated current market conditions, PRUPIM concluded that the planned development was no longer viable, and would not be pursued.

*Andrew Dakin, Director of Development at PRUPIM comments: "PRUPIM is committed to its investment in the Sovereign Harbour area. As part of PRUPIM's investment, we submitted a planning application for the redevelopment of our Sovereign Harbour retail park in October 2011. The plans include a new layout for existing retail provision, a new cinema, restaurant and cafes. Full planning permission was granted by Eastbourne Borough Council in January 2013.*

*Unfortunately, between application and permission, wider economic factors and a changing local context have meant the scheme - as consented - is no longer financially viable. However, this does not mean that another scheme cannot be taken forward. PRUPIM are now exploring options to update our proposals including alternative designs and layouts, which would undergo local*

*consultation and allow us to realise a redevelopment of Sovereign Harbour that responds to the needs of local residents and businesses. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who support our continued investment in this area and reassure them that PRUPIM is fully committed to Sovereign Harbour and Eastbourne."*

PRUPIM has made it very clear that, although it will not provide any finance for the link, it will not stand in the way of progress and will do whatever it can to ensure speedy resolution.

The Sovereign Ward Councillors said: *"We have worked with the owners of the Retail Park and local residents since the redevelopment plans were launched and were successful in getting the delivery of the long awaited Harbour Bus Gate linked in with the planning application as a key feature. We are disappointed that PRUPIM has now been forced to reconsider their plans and we will be keen to see what new plans come forward in due course in order to deliver more local*

*jobs and help further enhance Sovereign Harbour as a visitor destination. In the meantime we are pleased that they have pledged not to obstruct the progress of delivering the Harbour Bus Gate and we will continue to do all we can as your local Councillors, working with our colleagues on Eastbourne Borough Council to release the section 106 development monies and with East Sussex County Council's Department of Transport and Environment to deliver the Bus Gate in order to bring forward the much needed improvements to bus services for local residents"*.

However, by linking this project to the retail park application, EBC has effectively put back the link by several months as it will now require a further planning application, which will have to go to further consultation, with all that entails.

It is now essential that everybody involved should work together to ensure harbour residents get a more frequent and viable bus service at the earliest opportunity.

## **It's Time for the Rip-off to Stop**

The passing of the Eastbourne Harbour Act in 1980 paved the way for the development of Sovereign Harbour. It also set the scene for land owners, developers, government agencies and local authorities to increase their profits and income by passing on their responsibilities for providing the physical and social infrastructure necessary to support the development to those who purchased properties in it through a "Marina Rent Charge"

When the Southern Water Agreement of 1988 was drafted, the planned development was for about 650 homes, all with private berths. It was therefore reasonable to expect property owners to fund the cost of maintaining the berths and the waterways that served them. There were certainly no plans for a development of almost 4,000 homes set around a commercial sheltered marina.

Since the Environment Agency (EA) and

Sovereign Harbour Ltd (SHL) arbitrarily, and without consultation, replaced the 1988 Southern Water Agreement with the 2001 Sovereign Harbour Beaches Sea Defence Deed, residents have been charged a total of almost **eight million pounds** for the privilege of living in Sovereign Harbour.

Of this total, £3.9 million has been paid to the EA and a staggering £3.1 million to the marina operator, originally SHL and since 2007, Premier Marinas (PM), about half of which has been the cost of dredging the channel into the marina. To add insult to injury, the deed agreement allows the marina operator to make a **reasonable** administration charge but during this period, marina operators have charged a flat 10%, just for sending in their annual bill to the trust; a total of £282,000.

Finally, the Sovereign Harbour Trust and the Sovereign Harbour (Sea

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Defences) CIC have charged us a total of £823,000 for their work in collecting and distributing this money. It should be noted that since the formation of the CIC some four years ago, administration charges have rocketed; a total of over £600,000 in four years.

In order to secure the passage of the 1980 act, supporters of the bill made a number of commitments to Parliament, including the provision of a school; a medical centre; a community centre and playing fields. However, as these promises were not written into the act, they were worthless, so the developers, under no obligation to provide them, didn't; so much for "the will of Parliament".

More damning, however, is the conduct of Eastbourne Borough and East Sussex County Councils (EBC and ESCC). Both have been guilty of failing to enforce legally binding planning conditions and other legal agreements. As a direct result, what was intended to be "the jewel in Eastbourne's crown" ended up as the second least sustainable community in the Borough. Having allowed the

developers to ride roughshod over the South Harbour, twenty-one conditions were applied to the consent for the North Harbour; not one of them was enforced. As a result, land intended for leisure was used for further housing and parking space that was inadequate in any case became even more stretched.

The parking areas and the small amount of open space, which elsewhere in the town would have been adopted by the council and maintained through council tax was put in the control of "management companies" so, not only was the cost passed on to residents, so was the cost of running the management companies.

Let's not forget too the mythical cross-harbour bus link. This was funded through a s106 agreement as part of the original harbour planning consent and the money to provide it has been sitting in the ESCC coffers ever since.

We've suffered enough, it's time that those elected to represent us took action to ensure that residents of Sovereign Harbour received the same value and services for our Council Tax as the rest of Eastbourne.

## Town Centre Development The Facts

You might have seen an article in the Eastbourne Herald on 31st May, under the headline "Crisis in Store". The article was badly researched, clearly designed to inflame prejudice against Sovereign Harbour and failed completely to explain the background to the current situation.

The article centred on the designation of the Sovereign Harbour Retail Park and Waterfront as a District Centre and the impact that would have on the Town Centre and implies that retail park operator, PRUPIM, is trying to "poach" stores from the Arndale Centre extension.

The article says that the Planning Inspector is trying to change the status of the retail park. Wrong, the combined retail park and Waterfront were designated as a District Centre by the Borough Council in the Eastbourne plan; this plan received overwhelming approval at the public consultation. However, in response to a single objection from agents of Legal and General (L&G), EBC changed the status to an "out of town" centre. In her "Examination in Public" of the Plan, the Inspector listened to representation from EBC and L&G in support of the change, and Sovereign Harbour Ltd, PRUPIM and SHRA in opposition. Having listened to all the arguments, the Inspector in her report ruled that EBC had been wrong to change the designation. This decision was endorsed by the Secretary of State for Communities. L&G has taken legal action in the High Court against EBC and the Secretary of State in an attempt to overturn that decision.

Until shortly before the retail park application went to the Planning Committee, EBC fully supported it. Senior council officers encouraged SHRA involvement, attended and supported the pre-application consultation and were delighted with the positive responses of the 430 people who turned up on the day. However, this enthusiasm ebbed away over the coming weeks. Although the application was approved, EBC

made excessive demands on PRUPIM when negotiating the s106 agreement, reducing the viability of the plan.

The Herald article sought to brand PRUPIM and the Planning Inspector as the "bad guys"; nothing could be further from the truth. PRUPIM's engagement of the community in every aspect of this application has been impeccable, and the public response to the plan, as expressed by the massive turn-out at the consultation event, was overwhelmingly in favour.

On the other hand, L&G has worked throughout to undermine the retail park regeneration and has used threats of withdrawal from the Town Centre to influence EBC decisions. It has unfortunately been successful, which has forced PRUPIM to rethink its plans. Its challenge to the Eastbourne Plan in the courts could result in a six figure bill for Eastbourne council tax payers. Who are the "bad guys"?

## Special Offer for Members



Lynley's Jewellers, is an independently run family business which has been trading locally since 1961 and in Asda at the Sovereign Harbour Retail park for the past twenty years and is a member of the National Association of Goldsmiths

Lynley's specialises in engagement and wedding rings as well as fine jewellery in gold, platinum and silver, and is pleased to offer discounts to SHRA members, on production of a current membership card. The amount of discount will depend on the purchase.

For more information, visit:  
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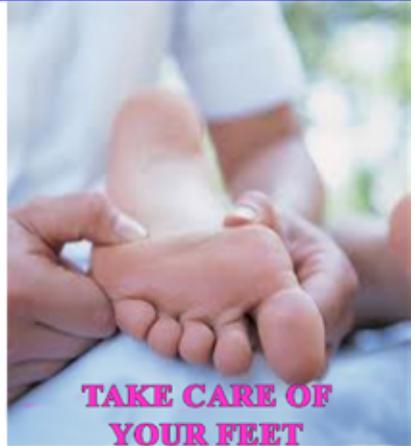


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### Special Offers for Residents

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Roger is available for weddings, Civil Partnership ceremonies, Masonic Festivals, Civil Events or Professional Society events. He will price match any genuine quotation, less 5%, for any Sovereign Harbour resident. For more information, visit:

[www.sussextoastmaster.com](http://www.sussextoastmaster.com)

*Beauty by Charlotte* 

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Biba Hair and Beauty, 32 Beatty Road, Langney Point, Eastbourne, ideally situated in the vibrant parade of shops on Beatty Road with ample free parking and disability access, is offering a 5% discount on treatments over £20, on production of a current SHRA membership card.

Charlotte is a professional, experienced and qualified therapist, offering relaxing beauty and holistic treatments, available five days a week and this summer is setting up a new "Foot Care Service". To get the service started, she will be running a **free** drop-in foot care clinic on Tuesday 25th June, 4-6pm.

Tel: 01323 728978 for more information.

## Community Council - What did the members say? by Rick Runalls

In the February issue of Waterlines I reviewed the results of the 2008 application for a Sovereign Harbour Community Council and the level of interest that still exists. This was discussed at the recent SHRA AGM and drew some interesting contributions from both members and guests.

It is perhaps worth putting the issue of whether a Community Council would be worthwhile in context, both nationally as a principle, and locally as a proven approach to managing communities which gives them a sense of identity, focuses on local issues and eliminates the political priorities that often weaken the effectiveness of Borough and County Councils.

Nationally, there is no doubt that community councils are encouraged by all main political parties; devolution of power is a cornerstone policy of all major political parties, and the Localism Act of 2011 bears witness to this. Given the importance granted to this principle, it is surprising that Borough and County Councils are often reluctant to support it.

Although the devolution of responsibility to community councils may be unsettling for higher councils intent on maintaining the status quo, the fact is that community councils provide a more effective way of addressing and solving local problems. Borough and County Councils are not only short of resources to focus on the problems of local communities, but are also distracted by political infighting and points scoring.

Community councils are effective organisations, run by the community, that focus on the issues immediately affecting their constituents. Community councillors live within their community, are highly accountable and, in the better councils, have no political affiliations. Opponents frequently portray them as poorly run and a waste of time; the "Vicar of Dibley" caricature. Surveys by the Association of Local Councils show

that two thirds of community councils are effective and well-run. Could the same be said of Borough and County Councils?

National policy and local experience demonstrate the value of community councils; the question for harbour residents would be whether the community has sufficient people with the ability and commitment to run an effective community council. Considering how much has been achieved in recent years even without the formal authority and necessary resources, this should not be in doubt.

The AGM provided a useful forum for discussion, and everyone present was encouraged to participate. Our MP and our ward and county councillors were invited to address the floor.

Essentially, the views fell into two main categories. Existing Borough and County Councillors, and a former town councillor from the floor, were opposed to forming a community council, as was Stephen Lloyd MP. There were, however, indications that they would support the majority view of residents in a referendum. Support for a community council came from those members with personal experience of well-run councils and their positive impact on communities. Our County Councillor recognised, and was sympathetic to, the problems and injustice experienced by residents on key issues such as the "Marina Rent Charge", but at the same time was actually concerned that a community council might seek to raise funds to challenge it, and how it is applied. However, there was no indication that the higher councils would pick up the burden of challenging this themselves.

After a full and interesting discussion, a show of hands indicated that approximately 95% of members present were in favour of moving ahead with a further application. The SHRA committee will start preliminary work to get this underway.

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## A FREE Opportunity to Network

We all know how important it is for business people to network with each other, so three local business owners have formed a FREE networking community, for local business people, kindly hosted by Simply Italian, 10-11 The Waterfront, Eastbourne BN23 5UZ.

The inaugural meeting, which was well attended, was on Tuesday 7th May and future meetings are going to be on the first Tuesday of every month between 09:30 and 11:30.

Local resident, Alan Wingrove, said, "Although I am not a natural networker, I know how important it is and have attended various Business Biscotti events, which I've enjoyed above others. When we came to Eastbourne I looked for a local group, only to find that there wasn't one in Sussex.

I'm a great believer that you either moan about something or do something about it; so, together with Grahame and Mike, have set up this group. There is nothing nicer than sitting by the marina, having a coffee and learning about other local businesses."



The three, Alan Wingrove, Mike Roberts and Grahame Brown (left to right in the picture above) are organising this completely voluntarily, as part of the Business Biscotti community.

This is a national network, with plenty of on-line support and discussions, whose ethos is that it provides an opportunity for local business people to turn up, buy a coffee and meet other business people in an informal and relaxed setting.



Each month Alan is going to highlight a local business, by placing an article on [www.businessnetworkingeastbourne.co.uk](http://www.businessnetworkingeastbourne.co.uk). There is no charge to attend these Business Biscotti events (other than the cost of your coffee!) and they are not followed up with any marketing material; so why not turn up, enjoy a coffee and expand your network.

## Harbour Friends Update

(by Elaine de Biracli Levy)

Poor weather and the gloomy financial climate were not enough to keep the Members of Harbour Friends from enjoying themselves sightseeing in Hastings historic Old Town.



The group boarded a bus in Eastbourne and took advantage of the view from the top deck. On arrival, the West Hill was accessed via a journey on the Cliff Railway. Bryan and Jackie Drewett skilfully guided the group around lesser known areas of the Old town, pointing out a wealth of Medieval and Tudor historic buildings often hidden down narrow twittens which remain unseen by tourists. The homes of Catherine Cookson, Byron, Keats, Edward Lear, Lewis Carroll and Turner were identified. The tour finished with a fascinating visit to the Fisherman's Museum.

After a delicious fish and chip lunch, free time for shopping completed the day.



An enjoyable trip to be re-visited . Only one complaint – that it was not long enough! Many thanks to Bryan and Jackie. (See 5th October for their next foray into the unknown).

The “Who doesn’t want to be a millionaire” night held on 12th May proved to be another success. The first time this game had been organised and even accounting for the atrocious weather that night, 27 took part in the fun. Little doubt that the evening will be repeated in the future. Many thanks to the winning team who kindly donated their ill-gotten gains of £22 to the Chestnut Tree Children’s Hospice.

Future events:

Trip to Brighton Greyhounds for lunch and a flutter - 9th June, SOLD OUT.

Skittles evening at Barcome Saturday 13th July SOLD OUT.

Fun Quiz at the Yacht Club 26th June.

Meal at the Moorings Pevensey Bay 10th August.

Late summer BBQ – details to be advised

Race night at the Yacht Club – 15th September.

Even more events in the planning stages; watch this space.

For further details and how to join Harbour Friends contact:

Jilly Smith on 01323 470366 or Brenda Newland on 01323 470114.

## Harbour WI Update

by Judy Latter

The Harbour W.I. met in the Sovereign Suite of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club on the second Monday of the month at 2pm. The meeting on the 13th May was the Resolution Meeting with a discussion and vote, followed by a discussion and vote on the changes to the National Federation’s Constitution. The main changes were due to modern technology. A light-hearted quiz devised by Carole Kilby rounded the afternoon

off with the winning table taking home a bottle of wine each!

Chris French showed the Ladies at the Craft Club how to do stamping and embossing (combined with scrap booking) on the 20th May at Pevensey Bay Baptist Church Hall. Chris also organised a 'Beetle Drive' for the 4th Monday Club which was held at Simply Italian.

Two very enjoyable lunches were arranged for the Lunch Club. The first was to Pasha's on the 30th April, for a taste of Turkey! The second was to The Fish Restaurant in North Street on the 15th May.

Social Secretary, Beryl Lloyd-Jones, informed the Ladies of future events. The 4th Monday Club will meet on the 24th June for a Scrabble Tournament and Jan Field will host her annual Afternoon Tea Party in her garden on the 24th July. The proceeds will go to St. Wilfred's Hospice.

The next meeting will be on the 10th June at 2pm when the speakers will be from the Kent, Sussex and Surrey Air Ambulance. The sales table will be a 'Produce Table', with the proceeds going to the Air Ambulance.

The Harbour W.I. has reached a maximum for the premises where it is held, but visitors are welcome by prior arrangement with Frances Harrap on 01323 472649.

Information is also available on:

[www.shra.co.uk/wi](http://www.shra.co.uk/wi)

### **"Opinions" by Michael Morland**

In February Waterlines, we published an appeal by Mike Morland for like minded people to join him in Gringo's to discuss issues of interest. The response was not what Mike hoped for, but undeterred, he asked us to explain his motivation.

Mike said: "As originally explained I experienced voluntary opinions, expressions and outright statements from who ever engaged in conversation while originating my first two books.



Opinions seeks to tap into the vast experience of so many in contributing toward a 'way forward' for Great Britain.

Learning and enlightenment is only achieved by 'individuals' contributing to the collective exchange. OK, confidence and humility are required in seeking a balanced and sustainable text that is both flexible, innovative and inclusive.

I feel our decades of experience acquired from our attendance of the 'University of Life' is the ideal base from which to express positive and constructive "Opinions". So where are YOU all?"

After due consideration it's felt the next meeting, 11.30 at Gringo's Friday 31 May, would enable Opinions to be exchanged and hopefully the welding together of a 'way forward' structure that could then be continually addressed and updated. Obviously, this is too early for this edition of Waterlines, but a follow-up has been scheduled for Friday 5th July.

It's interesting to note the only attendees and two other hopefuls are either authors and or budding authors ... so come on step outside that square of yours ..... you never know you may also have pent up 'Opinions' that could set you off on an authors route!!

Don't forget the social challenge is "buying" somebody else a coffee. Wow!"

## Haven Beacon PTFA Update

by Wendy Smith



The Haven VA CE Methodist Primary School PTFA continues to raise funds for the school.

On 12th July, we have Phil the Bag again on. This is where any clothes, belts, bags or shoes can be dropped off at school to either be reused or recycled. They would need to be at the school by 9 am on the morning of 12th July. The school receives more money if any shoes are in a separate bag.

Saturday 20th July, from 11.00 am – 2.00 pm is the date for this year's Summer Fair

Please come and join us to celebrate the grand opening of our newly refurbished school.

As always, there are many super prizes in the Summer Raffle, including a 1st Prize of £100.00

Other attractions:

- Brighton & Hove FC
- Eastbourne Fire Brigade
- Punch & Judy
- BBQ
- Dance Display
- Tombola
- Cake Stall
- Tea & Coffee
- Bouncy Castle

Do come along and join us for a fun day.

## Community Police Update

by PC Ed Faulkner



**PC Ed Faulkner**  
**07787-685813**

**PCSO Martin Hylands**  
**07909-873787**

Happily the weather appears to be improving, which is always a positive thing. In fact we have had incidents where people have been "camping" in various locations on the harbour. They have been moved on fairly speedily and we will continue to be vigilant. Please give us a call if you see anything odd around.

We continue to hold our street meetings for residents and next month we will be at the Waterfront at 3pm on 24th June, and then La Serena Place at 3:45pm. You are more than welcome to come along.

Finally, although it is rare to have burglaries in our area, open windows are an invitation for the opportunist thief to strike. We would remind everyone to keep windows and doors closed or on the latch to stop any passing crook from taking their chances. We all want to enjoy the sunny weather without it being spoilt by the loss of our possessions.

As always, please feel free to contact us with any issues or concerns you have and we will do our best to help.

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**@SovHarRA**

## Customer First - One stop shop for all you local problems



**Claire Banks**

**Paul Boyce**

**Simon Crouch**

In April 2013 Eastbourne Borough Council launched Customer First, making it easier for residents to contact it than ever before. New highly-skilled contact teams of neighbourhood advisors are based in the council's offices and out-and-about in three zones across the town. Sovereign Harbour is in Zone 3, and our advisors are Claire Banks, Paul Boyce and Simon Crouch.

To help members of the public, there will be a new smartphone app for quick reporting on the move and, from mid

June, a new user-friendly website with many more ways to report problems, book services, make applications and track them online.

This service will provide one point of contact for a faster and more efficient response; quick and easy problem reporting; online area maps; online updates on your requests and applications; and much more. For more information, Visit: [www.eastbourne.gov.uk/CustomerFirst](http://www.eastbourne.gov.uk/CustomerFirst).

Tel 01323 410000 , or email: [customerfirst@eastbourne.gov.uk](mailto:customerfirst@eastbourne.gov.uk)

### South Harbour Water Feature by Water Feature Action Group

The long-awaited report on the Council's technical survey of the South Harbour's huge water feature was circulated to local property owners at the end of March. The report fully substantiates what we have been saying all along; that the water feature, and in particular its fittings and equipment, are in poor condition and that it is not in a fit state to be handed over to residents. It also confirmed that there are numerous problems with the feature that will cost a lot of money to put right.

The report suggested a number of options including repairing it, filling it in or redesigning it. The Water Feature Action Group (WFAG) and Columbus

Point Residents Association (CPRA) put these options to the affected property owners to gauge the level of support for each one, and the majority opinion was that the feature should be decommissioned. However, many property owners made the point to us that the level of information provided in the report was inadequate to come to any firm conclusion at this stage. We reported these findings to EBC and pointed out that we agreed that the costing of the options in the report were unsatisfactory.

At a subsequent meeting with them, EBC agreed to try to cost more accurately for us the two most favoured options:

- (i) decommissioning
- (ii) redesigning to reduce the amount of water.

To enable us to report back to residents with a greater degree of certainty, we asked EBC to include as much detail of the two proposals as they can, including the scope and time frame of the works, and plans or drawings. We also asked them to indicate whether each costed option has the backing of the council and Persimmon Homes since this exercise will have little relevance unless each option has the full support of both council and developer. Additionally we asked EBC or Persimmon to confirm the legal aspects with regard to homeowners covenants, and to confirm that the costs of decommissioning or altering the water feature will not be borne by the property owners.

EBC plan to meet with Persimmon soon, and WFAG and CPRA are due to meet with the council on 19th June.

Further information is on our web site [www.waterfeature.eu](http://www.waterfeature.eu)

## RNLI Update

by Bob Jeffery

There has been a steady stream of requests for our help throughout the spring. We have now responded to a total of 57 emergency calls this year, 31 for the all-weather lifeboat and 26 for the inshore lifeboat. These calls have been to an assortment of incidents ranging from medical evacuations from passing commercial vessels in the shipping lanes, vessels becoming entangled in fishing gear, searches for missing persons and the assistance of coastguard officers with the recovery of people from the beach at Beachy Head. To date we have not had many calls to holiday makers in difficulties off the beach, the fact that the sea temperature is still very low for the time of year and we have had little beach type weather makes it no great surprise.

We were given the opportunity recently to set up a week long display using our previous inshore lifeboat, now in the RNLI relief fleet, at the Arndale Centre. Our fundraisers were helped in their endeavours when the Mayor of



Eastbourne, Councillor Mike Thompson, joined in with the bucket collection. In total over £1600 was donated by passing shoppers. Our thanks go out to all those who contributed and to the management of the centre for giving us the space.

Two of our most senior long serving volunteers announced their retirements recently. Our lifeboat medical advisor Dr. Colin McKee has decided to step down after 37 years and our Chaplain, Canon Bob Butler after an incredible 42 years. Colin remains on station as Chairman of the Lifeboat Management Group and we are sure Bob will remain in close contact with crew both past and present. We all wish them well in their retirements.



Tragically over the last week we have been asked to recover two dogs from the beach at Beachy Head after they had fallen whilst chasing sea birds on the cliff top. Both sets of owners were from out of town and not surprisingly were distraught at losing their pets. We ask that owners be responsible with their animals and keep them on a lead to avoid any repeats of these upsetting incidents.

# SANDERS

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## Let a professional look after your property.

Based in Eastbourne, Sanders is an award-winning local company that specialises in providing the highest standards of residential block management for landlords, residents associations and property developers. We work extensively with a number of properties at Sovereign Harbour and we understand the needs and requirements of the local residents.

Please call 01323 736442 or visit [www.sanderspm.com](http://www.sanderspm.com)

### Resident Representation on Sovereign Harbour Trust Board

For many years, requests by the SHRA for a seat on the board of the Sovereign Harbour Trust and the Sovereign Harbour (Sea Defences) CIC have been rejected.

Originally, the board was intended to have six members, three nominated by Carillion and three by the Environment Agency (EA), but for several years the EA made no appointments, leaving the trust to be managed solely by the three Carillion representatives.

The SHRA pressed the EA to make its appointments and asked that it should consider giving one of the places to a resident. When the EA finally made its appointments, it came as no surprise that the request was rejected. When later Carillion sold the marina to Premier Marinas, the three Carillion board members resigned.

In response to further pressure, the trust advertised for an additional board member but, because the SHRA considered the terms to be too

restrictive, the SHRA declined to offer a candidate. In the event, Cllr Patrick Warner applied for the post, and was accepted. Over the past year, two employees of Premier Marinas have been appointed to the board and one of the EA members resigned, bringing the total to five.

The SHRA recently received notification that the trustees would be keen for that place to be filled by an SHRA representative and, after due consideration, the committee decided that Rick Runalls should apply. This nomination was put to the members at the AGM in May, and was unanimously approved.

Rick duly applied for the position and, on 3rd June was invited to attend the Sovereign Harbour Trust board meeting for interview. Unfortunately, one board member was unable to attend the meeting and no decision was made.

We await the decision of the board with interest.