

Waterlines



The Newsletter of the Sovereign Harbour Residents Association

Issue 74

www.shra.co.uk

December, 2013

Season's Greetings from the SHRA Committee



Card above provided by Bright Ideas from the range available in the Waterfront store

Season's greetings to all Waterlines readers from the Sovereign Harbour Residents Association Committee.

In the course of a year almost 50,000 copies of Waterlines are delivered to harbour residents and others, by a small group of dedicated volunteers. Our thanks to these people, without whom you would not be reading your copy.

Although we try to ensure everybody gets a copy, there are times when, through illness or holiday, it is necessary for some distributors to take on additional "rounds" and at these times it would be useful to have some backup.

If you have the time to help us, either regularly or occasionally, please e-mail waterlines@shra.co.uk

Harbour Completion Planning Applications Submitted



Sovereign Harbour Limited (SHL) has submitted an outline planning application for six sites around the harbour which will create jobs, new homes and community facilities.

The application is in accordance with the master plan designed to complete the harbour development which has been the subject of extensive consultation.

The plans include provision for a maximum of 150 new homes together with a range of facilities including a community hall, a park and two further significant open spaces which will become important amenities for the local community. The application will also provide the opportunity for further commercial development in North Harbour with offices and other employment generating uses including some new shops and restaurants at the Waterfront. Future investment in Sovereign Harbour is likely to be in excess of £80m and there is potential for the generation of 1,500 jobs.

The proposals have been developed by SHL in close association with a working group of local representatives chaired by the MP Stephen Lloyd, and included the ward councillors, Eastbourne Borough Council and the Sovereign Harbour Residents' Association. The plans were well received during community consultation activity which concluded earlier this year.

This is a complex planning application and work is now underway to validate the content ready to be considered by the EBC Planning Committee in the Spring.

Central to this application will be the provision of a some of the missing social

infrastructure, most important of which is a Community Centre, which is to be delivered as a priority. A sub group of the SPD working group will be working with council members and officers to agree detailed designs and costings.

SHRA Chairman, Jan Weeks said: "This planning application brings the completion of the Sovereign Harbour development significantly closer and the proposals it contains will, when implemented, bring substantial improvements to the sustainability of the neighbourhood. We look forward to working with Sovereign Harbour Ltd and Planning Officers to ensure the overall delivery of the plan; in particular, the provision of the community centre and other social infrastructure"



We have been informed that work is also well advanced on the final design and location of the Sovereign Harbour Innovation Mall, which is to occupy a gateway position on Site Six.

The project is being managed by Seachange Sussex for East Sussex County Council, and up-to-date news should be available on the company's website: www.seachangesussex.co.uk which, unfortunately, has not been updated since August

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Sovereign Harbour Community Association (SHCA) Update

The SHCA has joined with the Rotary Club of Sovereign Harbour to organise the 2014 Harbour Walk, which will take place on 8th June, starting at midday.

The SHCA has also taken on the task of creating the Sovereign Harbour entry for the 2014 Eastbourne Sunshine Carnival, which will be held on 31st May.

Information on both events can be found on www.sh-ca.org. If you would like to get involved in either event, please e-mail info@sh-ca.org, or leave a message on the SHRA help-line, 07770-621368.

On Sunday 27th October, two teams from the SHCA Short Mat Bowls Club travelled to Dunbar School in Hailsham to take part in the annual Five Ashes Triples Bowls Tournament.

Twenty four teams from all over Sussex took part in the event with each team playing five games and scoring 2 for each win. The majority of bowlers taking part were League and/or County players so this was quite a challenge for the Associations' bowlers.



Whilst they did not win the tournament, the two teams held their own against very strong opponents and did manage to win one game each.

All were in agreement that it was a very long, but enjoyable, day for both bowlers and supporters, and it gave those bowlers representing the Association in the tournament valuable experience and confidence for entering similar ventures in the future.

Why Does It All Take So Long?

In the first 2013 issue of *Waterlines*, we shared our optimism that 2013 would be the year in which Sovereign Harbour would at last take the first steps into becoming a truly sustainable neighbourhood.

The cross-party working group had completed its work on the Sovereign Harbour Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and residents had given their approval to the conclusions at consultation events.

Sovereign Harbour Ltd had taken on board the group's recommendations and was ready to put its master plan, including the provision of a community centre, to residents at a Yacht Club consultation event.

PRUPIM (now M&G) had planning consent to regenerate the Sovereign Harbour Retail Park. It was anticipated that the improved retail and leisure facilities and the stronger physical links that would be established between the refurbished retail park and the enhanced Waterfront, would create a destination for tourism and leisure that would be a huge asset for Eastbourne, and put Sovereign Harbour truly on the map.

This project was also set to enable the early creation of the long overdue cross harbour bus link.

Work was also underway to establish a permanent home for Eastbourne's very productive fishing fleet on the land adjacent to the Harvester.

After years of pressure, adoption of the remaining South Harbour developments seemed imminent.

In a quote, SHRA Chairman, Jan Weeks, said: "I'm cautiously optimistic that 2013 will be an important year for Sovereign Harbour. My thanks to everybody who has invested so much of their time towards reaching this position." Her optimism, it seems was somewhat misplaced; 2013 is almost over and little of the anticipated progress has actually taken place.

Despite residents giving their overwhelming approval to SHL's Master Plan, the planning application had only recently been received and there is still a considerable amount of work to be done on negotiating the legal agreement that will secure the community facilities that underpin the plan. It is now unlikely that any sod will be dug until well into the summer.

The well received retail park regeneration is now said to be "on-hold" but, in reality, is unlikely to happen, although some minor improvement work and new retail offerings seem probable. The delay caused by the challenge to the Planning Inspector's confirmation of the "District Centre" status of the combined retail park and Waterfront by the Town Centre redevelopers seems to have been instrumental in M&G's decision not to go ahead.

We were told that M&G's decision should not prevent progress on the cross harbour bus link, but this has still not been delivered and no date has yet been set for work to begin. The route has been finalised and plans are in place, but agreement has not been reached with the three owners of the land over which it will pass. Their commercial interests, it seems, take precedent over the needs of the community.

The plans for the development of the Fishing Quay received planning consent, but their early implementation was dependent on the fishermen's ability to obtain some grant funding. Early bids have been unsuccessful, but work is in progress.

South Harbour adoption is still not complete. Once again, progress, it seems, is still being prevented by the vested interest of a land owner.

All is not doom and gloom; things have, at last, started moving, so perhaps 2014 will be the year when we finally see the real progress we all want to see.

Despite the Government's "localism" policies, land owners, it appears, still have the whip hand when it comes to planning issues.

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**Christine Susan Runalls
(1951-2013)**



We are very sad to report the death of Christine Runalls.

Christine, wife of former SHRA chairman Rick Runalls, died peacefully in her sleep, surrounded by family and friends, in St Wilfrid's Hospice on 11th October, after a long struggle against cancer.

Christine was an active member of the SHRA committee for several years and held the office of Secretary, which she fulfilled with her usual thorough attention to detail. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her, and we offer our sincere condolences to Rick, and to their twin children, Stephen and Helen.

A celebration of Christine's life was held on Monday, 28th October at Christ the King Church, followed by a committal service at Eastbourne Crematorium.

At Christine's funeral service, Rick told the congregation:

"I started 'walking out' with Christine Martin, forty years ago this month. This surprised a few of our friends and I guess it gives weight to the principle of 'opposites attract' She was 5'2" tall,

very pretty and slightly built; and then there was me! We were engaged in three months and married in eleven.

She amazed me in so many ways.

If you asked Christine what she least liked about herself she would probably have said 'her lack of self-confidence'. In some ways I could see her point, but this was just a shadow of the woman who lay beneath. She had an underlying determination she applied to everything that was important to her.

When I first met her she was the only girl on a physics degree course – an almost entirely male preserve. She beat us all to come out with a 1st, even with me distracting her in the final year. She was offered a research post in astrophysics at Imperial College, but turned it down so we could marry.

- She was amazing.

Later, we were working in the Ministry of Defence doing some interesting stuff, when one day she came home and totally out of the blue said she was going to apply for a job as a trainee teacher. I was so surprised when she told me that it had always been her ambition to teach children, but wasn't at all surprised when she got the job.

Next to her family, teaching became the great passion of her life and she tackled it with her characteristic single minded commitment.

- She was amazing."

Donations in Christine's memory may be made to St. Wilfrid's Hospice. Cheques should be payable to St Wilfrid's Hospice (please write ref. Christine Runalls on the reverse) and sent to.

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SHRA Supports Spacebourne in Memory of Christine Runalls



Eastbourne now has its own space programme; you've heard of Airbourne, now our town has Spacebourne.

The not-for-profit project began at Cohub, Eastbourne's co-working space based in the Old Printworks, and has quickly grown in its scope and ambitions.

The team is currently working on its prototype mission: to send a High-Definition camera (and other assorted electronics) to the edge of near-space by means of a high altitude, helium filled weather balloon, which they're ambitiously aiming to send 40km into the stratosphere and capture images of the Eastbourne area that have never been seen before.

The balloon will carry on-board GPS and a radio transmitter, enabling its progress

to be tracked, and the "vehicle" recovered for re-use.

Following the first launch, the overriding goal behind Spacebourne is to provide a platform for Eastbourne's schools to engage in some exciting science and engineering projects; enabling them to plan, design, and launch their own space missions.

The Spacebourne team is looking to provide teachers with lesson resources, expertise, and free use of the Spacebourne equipment.

The project, which is funded by public donation, caught the imagination of Sovereign Harbour Residents Association (SHRA) committee members and they decided to donate £200 to the project out of surplus sponsorship receipts from their "Waterlines" newsletter.

The donation was made in memory of former SHRA secretary, Christine Runalls, who sadly died early in October.

Christine was a physicist and a teacher, and the committee agreed that this was a project to which she would have given her enthusiastic support.

Spacebourne team member, Ian Pollard, said: "We're incredibly grateful to the SHRA, and intend to use the funds to purchase an HD camera for the programme. We hope that the images we capture from near-space will be a lovely and lasting tribute to the memory of Christine Runalls."

If you would like to become involved with Spacebourne, visit:
www.spacebourne.co.uk

RNLI Update

by Bob Jeffery



Following the departure to pastures new of Dan Guy, our full time station mechanic, the RNLI have decided to follow the operational model which exists throughout most of the country and not employ a replacement. Instead, our full time Coxswain, Mark Sawyer has agreed to take on the dual role of Coxswain/Mechanic. The rest of the crew is made up entirely from volunteers who fit their daily lives around being available 24/7 to answer the call to save lives at sea.

The crew may not be professional in the paid sense but that does not mean they are at all amateur in their approach to the job. It takes up to two years to train a novice crewman to the level of expertise expected of the RNLI, and indeed Coxswain Sawyer, during which time they get the very best professional training possible both on station and at the magnificent RNLI College at Poole in Dorset. Armed too with the very best equipment none of this comes cheaply. Sometimes it's too easy to forget that the RNLI is a charity run entirely from voluntary contributions with no financial assistance from outside sources. A sobering thought is that it costs around £140 million a year to run the service throughout the UK and Ireland.

Fund-raising therefore remains a vital part of the RNLI. Here at Eastbourne we are fortunate to have a solid base of supporters who work tirelessly to keep

the station viable. That does not mean that extra hands are not welcome, quite the contrary. We currently need some help for a few hours a week in our historic shop/museum on the seafront. You would meet lots of interesting people and help raise funds for the RNLI experience is not essential as full training will be given.

Please contact Mr Ray Eldridge on 01323 508853 or call in at the shop.

Don't forget, Carols with the Crew on the Waterfront at Sovereign Harbour Sunday 8th Dec. 2:30pm

Harbour Friends Update

(by Dave Hawkins)

The publicity officer for Harbour Friends (Elaine De Baracli Levy) has unfortunately now had to step down from her role and as such it is I as chairman who will be providing the copy for Waterlines until the role is taken up by someone else.

Having just returned from the Algarve, the first thing that struck me was how much the daytime temperature had dropped in just two weeks. It does seem that the transition from Autumn to Winter this year has been very swift and severe. That said, if you want to find a very warm welcome and some great company, then perhaps you should consider getting along to one of the Harbour Friends social evenings, that take place every Wednesday evening in the main bar on the first floor of the Yacht Club.

In fact, this may be the perfect time to give the group a try, as our memberships are always renewed annually in January. In view of that, why not come along on one of the Wednesdays in the lead up to Christmas on a "casual" basis, with no obligation to join. If you find that you like the company and ambience and wish to become a member, then we can arrange for you to be included with the 2014 memberships. If you are not currently a member and might like to take up the above offer, please contact us via the information in the regular clubs section of Waterlines, or alternatively visit our



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Although the year is coming to an end, there follows below an update as to what we have been doing recently, as well as information on the remaining two special events for 2013.

On Saturday 15th October HF member Bryan Drewett organised a trip by train to the historic town of Rye for sightseeing and lunch. The trip was very well received and enjoyed by all those that participated and so much so that a further trip (to Brighton this time) is planned for December (see below).

On Saturday 26th October 28 HF members enjoyed a superb dinner dance at The Langham Hotel. The event was sold out and has proved so popular that it is hoped to be repeated in the new year.

On Wednesday 13th November a fun quiz took place for HF members at the yacht club.

On Saturday 7th December HF member Bryan Drewett will be escorting a group of HF members on a sightseeing and/or shopping trip to Brighton by scheduled bus. Any HF members that wish to come along need to congregate at the main Eastbourne pier bus stop just before 10am.

On Saturday 21st December we will be having our annual Harbour Friends Christmas Party at The Afton Hotel. Members and their guests will be enjoying a festive 3 course meal and a fun disco for a discounted cost of only £20 per person. There will also be an option for coach transport to and from

the venue at £3.50 per person. This is the last call for places at this event, so if there are any HF members that have not yet shown interest, can they please do so asap by emailing me via harbourfriend@googlemail.com.

As you can see from the above, the membership (now numbering around 100), continues to enjoy some great events and new members are always welcome. Finally, I would just like to take this opportunity to wish all Waterlines readers a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Special Offer for Waterlines Readers



Thinking about a trip? If you don't have the time, or can't face the prospect of researching and organizing any type of trip, Harbour based "The Travel Concept" can help! They will save you hours on the internet and get a better deal too.

The Travel Concept is offering readers of Waterlines 5% discount off any package holiday booked with them by 31st January 2014 (terms and conditions apply).

If you would like any prices or perhaps just some advice please call Bianca and Tracy on 01435 866555 or email: ask@thetravelconcept.co.uk

We would urge you, of course to make all your usual checks before travel.

South Harbour Water Feature by Water Feature Action Group

At a residents' meeting held at the Yacht Club on 31 October, the local property owners rejected a proposal from Aria Homes (part of Persimmon group) that sought to resolve the long-standing issue of maintenance charges for the water feature.

The main reason for the rejection of Aria's proposal was that it shifted all the legal and monetary risks from Aria onto the owners. Instead, the owners attending the meeting supported a compromise counter-proposal that is now being studied by Persimmon.

The Water Feature Action Group (W FAG), Columbus Point Residents Association and Dominica Court Residents Association remain committed to negotiating a fair and viable solution to this complex issue as soon as possible, so we are pleased that a further meeting between us, Persimmon and EBC is being arranged for early December under the chairmanship of Stephen Lloyd MP.

More information can be found on the W FAG web site: www.waterfeature.eu

Christmas at the Haven Church (by Revd. John Brook)

Come and join us at our Christmas Services. The Haven Church meets in the Hall at the Haven School on Atlantic Drive, Sovereign Harbour South.

At our Christingle service come and make a Christingle and learn about its meaning, sing carols and stay for refreshments.

At the Nativity Service we follow the true story of the birth of Jesus from the Bible; it will be interactive and is aimed at both adults and children.

The Carol service on Christmas Eve is a quieter service interspersed with Christmas Bible readings. We sing

carols by candle light followed by tea/coffee with mince pies and cake.

Come and celebrate Christmas Day at our 10am Service beginning with tea/coffee and mince pies. We celebrate the birth of Jesus our Saviour over 2,000 years ago.

The Haven Church offers a friendly welcome in a relaxed and informal setting. We hope to see you at one or all of our Christmas Services.

All Age Christingle.

Sunday 15th December at 4pm.

Nativity Service.

Sunday 22nd December at 10am.

Carols by Candlelight.

Saturday 24th December at 8pm.

Family Christmas Day Service.

Sunday 25th December at 10am.

For more details, contact John Brook:

Telephone: 01323-325989

E-mail: john@thehavenchurch.org.uk,

Website: www.thehavenchurch.org.uk

Haven School PTFA Christmas Cake Sale

The Haven School PTFA Christmas Cake Sale will be held at the Haven School, Atlantic Drive on Friday 6th December from 2pm to 4pm.

As usual, there will be a variety of delicious home made cakes to buy, as well as other attractions.

The highlight will, as always, be the giant tombola and raffle with the usual array of fabulous prizes. If you, or your business, would like to donate a prize, the organisers would be pleased to hear from you.

All of the proceeds from this event are used to purchase books and equipment for the school, so why not go along, treat yourself to some cakes and give yourself the chance of winning a great prize whilst supporting our local school.

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Sovereign Polyphony at Christmas

Windows XP - RIP



Sovereign Polyphony have finalised their Christmas concert schedule.

- "Festive Fare" in St Luke's Church, Stone Cross on 7th December. Starts at 7:45pm. Admission £5.
- "Simply Carols in Party Mood" at Simply Italian on the Sovereign Harbour Waterfront on 11th December.
- "Festive Christmas Fanfare" in All Saint's Chapel, Meads on 15th December. Starts at 7:45pm. Admission £5.
- Christmas Music, Afternoon Raffle, Christmas Tea at the Ocean View Cafe, Pevensey Bay. 15:30-17:15. Admission £7.50.

Sovereign Polyphony is an all female harmony choir. All proceeds from their concerts go to support the Eastbourne Blind Society.

Full details:

www.sovereignpolyphony.com

When it was introduced over twelve years ago, PC users hailed Windows XP as a real breakthrough in Operating System performance, and many are still using it today

However, Microsoft has recently announced that from 8th April 2014 they will no longer support, market or provide security for Windows XP Operating Systems, leaving many users without support. Businesses, in particular, could find themselves open to security threats and performance issues. Those taking payments online could find themselves non-compliant with the requirements of credit card companies.

After this date, Windows XP is also unlikely to support any new applications as software companies will no longer consider it relevant. This could mean users will have to rely on running old applications that may be slow or contain out of date functionality.

Now could be the time to consider the upgrade you have been putting off.

Community Police Update

by PC Ed Faulkner



PC Ed Faulkner
07787-685813

PCSO Martin Hylands
07909-873787

As we approach the festive season it is usual for me to remind everyone about the risk of burglaries.

I'm pleased to report that we have caught a burglar who targeted a property on South Harbour, and he is currently in prison awaiting sentence for the offence. He was caught through good information from local residents, and quick thinking by colleagues.

However this is a stark reminder of the need to keep all doors and windows secured, and all valuables out of sight.

We have also heard reports of a lone female trying to scam berth holders of cash, by stating she had run out of petrol and needing £10 to get to the garage. After promising to return with the money, she disappeared with the cash.

Everyone likes to be helpful, decent neighbours, however please be extra wary when handing over money to strangers.

This year has been very positive for the Harbour, and whilst there will always be crime it appears that the Harbour remains one of the safest place in East Sussex to live.

We would like to wish everyone a happy festive season, and peaceful and successful 2014.

"Opinions" by Michael Morland



"Opinions" latest turnout at Gringo's broke all records. Back from my month abroad I approached the first Monday of the month get together and exchange of opinions with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

Despite my author mate Keith being unable to attend, my apprehension over attendance was soon brushed aside as Gringo's welcoming atmosphere appeared to literally absorb Waterside visitors and I found myself invaded by a family of four, OK 30 minutes late, but who never the less kindly accepted my enquiry as to their "Opinions" thus breaking the pervading silence that had existed up to that point. Jake's scream at the approach of the "high chair" and Rubens "I'll have an ice cream please" set the tone.

However Patricia and Maria were on hand to "organise"! The exchanges were short but never the less stimulating ... no that's not quite true as Jake just sat there gnawing at his bib and staring at me with wide eyes while Ruben despite his young age (2.5 years) confidently asked mum, "who's that funny man talking about 'Horlicks'" we all know he meant politics bless him.

Thanks to the family who were great and joined in the fun quite naturally! Obviously the "Opinions" magnet was working as, by 12.30, Gringo's was filling rapidly, however responses were a touch disappointing and appeared detached from my purpose. "Who?", "What?", "What do yer mean?" dominated the all too brief exchanges.

Fortunately thanks also to Lauren the lovely waitress, the Chef, and Steve the owner, bless him, opinions were exchanged ... like, "Where is everybody with all these Opinions Mike?" Once again many thanks to Waterlines for the generous space given to my efforts on behalf of so few.

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The inaugural meeting of the Seasons Wine Club on 15th November was hosted by resident sommelier, David Hemsley.

David, a former director of award winning Secret Cellar, and current owner of Ashdown Wines, drew on his

twenty-one years experience in the wine trade to treat the 44 members present to a very interesting talk on seven superb wines from Argentina and Spain. The objective of the evening was for members to experience wines made from more unusual grape varieties.

Better still, David had brought along the seven wines, accompanied by appropriate meat, fish and cheese hors d'oeuvres, for members to sample and discuss.

David also gave members an insight into buying and laying down wines in general, and of how to identify a wine that has been "corked". By chance, one bottle of the wines that David brought along for the evening was actually corked, so members had the opportunity to experience this for themselves.

At the end of the evening, members had the opportunity to purchase the wines they had sampled at a 10% discount on the list price.

The next meeting of the Seasons Wine Club will be held in January, date to be decided.