

# Waterlines

The newsletter of the  
Sovereign Harbour Residents Association



**Issue 24**

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

**May, 2007**

## **All Change in Sovereign Ward**

You cannot fail to have noticed the spectacular success of the Liberal Democrats in the Borough elections.

Nowhere was the success more spectacular than in Sovereign Ward, where all three seats turned over and where two of the defeated incumbents, Patrick Warner and Chris Williams, were members of the cabinet.

Having worked closely with Chris and Patrick over the past two years, we would like to offer them our best wishes, and thank them for all the help they have given us in making huge strides forward in the battle for justice for harbour residents. We have invested two years establishing mutual trust, and building relationships; they will be missed.

We would like to offer our congratulations to their successors, our new councillors, Mike Bloom, Susan Morris and Margaret Salsbury. We sincerely hope that we will be able to quickly establish as good a relationship with them as that which we had with their predecessors, and look forward to working with them.

Our new councillors have taken office at a crucial point in the final stages of the harbour development and will need to 'hit the ground running'. The first draft of Carillion's master plan for the completion of the Marina Village Project is expected imminently, and the adoption of harbour developments is expected to start very soon.

At the Eastbourne Herald election forum, new council leader, David Tutt, was adamant that the motion put to the full council by previous leader, Ian Lucas, and seconded by him, required no clarification. Council policy, he said, was clear, there should be no further residential development on Sovereign Harbour. It is very likely that this position will be challenged by the land-owners and we look forward to the support of our new ward councillors in maintaining this position.

We hope and expect that the commitment given by the outgoing administration for the provision of six dog bins and associated signage on the harbour will be honoured. We hope also that the commitment to deploy enforcement officers and issue hefty on-the-spot fines to offenders will go ahead. For too long the harbour walkways have been fouled because of the anti-social behaviour of a few irresponsible dog owners.

Not least, we look forward to working with them to honour their election commitment to unravel the finances of the Sovereign Harbour Trust and get residents represented on the board.

Welcome to our new ward councillors. I'm sure nobody told them it would be easy, but expectations have been set, and we will expect promises to be honoured.

Then, there is the ongoing problem of commercial vehicle parking. . . . .

# Must somebody die?



The blanket outline planning consents for residential development on Sovereign Harbour that were granted back in 1986 and 1997 have caused a myriad of problems. The majority of the problems have been caused by the abuse of the consent, and the failure of Eastbourne Borough Council to exercise any meaningful control over the developers.

This failure to exercise control has led, as everybody now acknowledges, to the serious overdevelopment of the whole harbour area. In order to increase housing density, the developers sacrificed open space for recreation and failed to provide sufficient parking, especially for apartments. Even where underground parking was provided, this was 'squeezed' by the addition of extra floors at the reserved matters stage.

Rather than leave their vehicles in narrow and restricted parking bays and risk damage, residents leave them outside in areas reserved for visitors, leaving visitors in turn to park wherever they can find a vacant piece of kerb, or in somebody else's space

This has caused serious disagreements between neighbours, and has resulted in individual developments introducing parking restrictions, vigorously enforced by commercial companies. Introduction of restrictions solves the problem for the development, but moves it elsewhere.

The most noticeable manifestation of the problem has been the proliferation of commercial vehicles, mainly 'white vans' parked in the residential streets of the South Harbour and on Pacific Drive on the North Harbour. In the North

Harbour, as in the South Harbour, the 'white vans' are beginning to encroach on the residential areas, and more of these areas are considering the imposition of parking restrictions.

Most of us will remember sales staff encouraging us to purchase our homes by pointing out the covenant in the sales contract that prohibited the overnight parking of commercial vehicles.

Members of the SHRA committee will also remember the Carillion Development Director, Mark Orriss, when asked to enforce the covenants, telling us that they were there for the protection of Carillion, and not for residents. As always, commercial imperative is put before the welfare of residents.

Pacific Drive is now 'on maintenance' and, as such, is a public highway subject to all current traffic laws. Owners of inappropriately parked vehicles are committing an offence, as are those who fail to observe the speed limit and pass on the wrong side of traffic islands. The question must be asked, where are the police and why don't they take action?

The situation recently became even more serious when a community midwife attending a home birth, received a parking ticket, despite a clearly displayed notice in the windscreen. The PCT would not pay the fine and for the midwife this represented several day's wages.

Not surprisingly, these hard pressed public servants are considering the withdrawal of community nursing services on the harbour until the problem is resolved. This could potentially lead

to loss of life. Sad to say, when the long promised adoption of residential developments finally takes place, and the residential street come under the control of the County Council, the problem will become even worse.

This is no time for heads to be buried in the sand, these issues must be tackled before somebody dies.

### **Management Companies**

In the April issue of Waterlines, we stated that even the better management companies operating on the harbour were not well regarded.

We were, of course, referring to the commercial managing agents, who were foisted on residents by the developers. There was no intention to include resident management companies.

We have considerable admiration for those dedicated individuals who give their time freely for the benefit of their neighbours, and apologise for any distress that might have been caused,

### **Sovereign Harbour Bridge Club**

Harbour resident Sam Sweiry would like to launch a Bridge Club (SHBRIDGECLUB), exclusively for harbour residents.

Sam is aware that there are other Bridge Clubs in the town, but feels there is room for another that has an exclusive harbour identity, and which will help build a sense of community.

His plan is to hold the club sessions in Madison's Bar & Restaurant at the Waterfront.

Four Tables of Four will be available for "Duplicate Pairs" sessions, and "Rubber Sessions" will be introduced later.

It is also planned that "Learning Sessions" will be held, and Sam is looking for volunteers with enough knowledge to help with beginners classes.

Sam is at an early stage of setting up the Club and is looking for help. The new Club need a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Captain, Director and a

Steering Committee.

Anyone interested to join and be involved at this early stage, please e-mail: [\*\*shbridgeclub@aol.com\*\*](mailto:shbridgeclub@aol.com)

### **Sovereign Harbour Investment Club**

The April meeting of Sovereign Harbour Investment Club "SHICLUB" took place at Madison's Bar at the Waterfront on Tuesday 24th of April 2007. All future meeting of SHICLUB will now be held at Madison's.

The Club now has fifteen of the maximum of twenty members allowed by the constitution.

The meeting was chaired by Jon Curtis in the absence of Sam Sweiry, who's father had recently died at the age of 106. We offer Sam our condolences

Next SHICLUB meeting will be held at Madison's Bar on Tuesday 29th of May at 7pm.

For more information, or to join the club, e-mail [\*\*shinvestclub@aol.com\*\*](mailto:shinvestclub@aol.com) or visit their website:

[\*\*www.shiclub.co.uk\*\*](http://www.shiclub.co.uk)

### **Around the coast to Tower Bridge**

There's still time to join the large number of harbour residents who will be taking a trip on the MV Balmoral on Friday 22nd June. The ship will sail from Eastbourne, around the South East coast and up the river Thames, through the barrier and Tower Bridge, to London. Passengers will be returned to Eastbourne by coach.

Shuttle buses will run from the harbour to the ship, the last bus leaving at 8:45am. The ship sails at 9:30am and passengers will get back to the harbour at 9:45pm.

Tickets from the bookings hotline, 0845 130 4647, £39.95 (£37.95 for Senior Citizens). 10% reduction for groups of ten or more.

For more information, visit:

[\*\*www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk\*\*](http://www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk)



## *Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club*

**OPEN DAY, Saturday 9th June, 12:00 - 16:00**

Come and have a look around the Clubhouse and talk to the committee  
Social Members and Boat Owners all welcome

### **Eastbourne Centre Pensions Debate**

On Friday 18th May, there will be a public meeting at the Eastbourne Centre on Grand Parade (TGWU building), to debate the subject of pensions.

The meeting, which starts at 7:30pm, will be chaired by Dot Gibson, Vice President of the National Pensions Convention. The speakers will include Nigel Waterson, MP (Shadow Pensions Minister), Michael Foster MP, Vince Cable MP (Chief spokesman on Financial Affairs for the Liberal Democrats) and Joe Harris, General Secretary of the National Pensions Convention.

Much of the seating has already been allocated, but a limited number, on a first-come first-served basis, are available by calling Linus Gunning on 01323-470757.

### **Sovereign Harbour Racing Club**

In 2007, the Sovereign Harbour Racing Club will be established as a constituted club with a board of directors who will put themselves up for election annually.

Membership will be offered on a social basis, or on a racehorse ownership (syndicate) basis.

Calendar of events for 2007.

The 2007 SHRC season will start on Sunday 8th July with a 'Funday' at the ever popular Brighton racecourse.

For just £25.00 you will get return transport to the course, entry into the members enclosure and use of a private box with bar facilities and Tote betting.

The second Family Raceday will be to Glorious Goodwood in August, during the 'Celebration Mile' weekend. Look out for full details on this page and in Waterlines.

For more details of the SHRC, or to reserve your place at Brighton, contact Linus Gunning on 01323 470757.

### **Harbour Friends** (by Bev Adams)

Harbour Friends is a social group for residents of Sovereign Harbour **ONLY**. We meet on Sunday evenings from 7:15pm in first floor bar in the Yacht Club. New members are welcome on the LAST Sunday of the month.

More details can be found on our website:  
[www.harbourfriends.co.uk](http://www.harbourfriends.co.uk),

E-mail me, Bev at :

[bev@harbourfriends.co.uk](mailto:bev@harbourfriends.co.uk),

or call me on 479797.

We look forward to welcoming you.

### **Marina Mums and Strollers & Toners**

The next meetings for the Marina mums, to be held in Simply Italian on the Waterfront, are:

Thursday 24th May at 10:30am

Thursday 14th June at 10:30am

#### Strollers and Toners Group

All proceeds from the class for Thursday the 17th May will go towards a collection for the charity event called "moonwalk" a local charity event for breast cancer research.

For more information, please call Mari-Anne on 01323 479280.

# Sovereign Handymen

The handyman Service for Sovereign Harbour Residents

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

Contact either Peter or Paul

Tel: 01323-471789 or 01323-472207

Mob: 07971-969473 or 07970-279374

E-mail: [info@sovereignhandymen.co.uk](mailto:info@sovereignhandymen.co.uk)

## SHRA anti-boat, certainly not!

Following the SHRA's objection to the planning application by Sovereign Harbour Marina Ltd. to 'plumb-in' the temporary ablutions block that had been dumped on the land at the end of the north harbour, the rumours that the SHRA was anti-boat again reared their ugly head. In fact, the allegation even appeared in the boating press.

Let us be absolutely clear, the SHRA is **NOT** anti-boat. The reason that the application for the ablutions block was opposed was that we believe that boat owners deserve proper facilities, not a second-hand, unsightly Potacabin that was previously used at the Yacht Club. It was our belief, and time has shown us to be correct, that this application was just a device to allow the dumped Portacabin to be left where it is, spoiling the view of the North Harbour. Consider also that Carillion has made no secret of its ambitions to use this land for residential development, and you will see why the application was opposed.

We do, however, take issue with a few irresponsible boat owners who continue to park in residential developments, despite the more than adequate parking that has been provided for their exclusive use. Considering the serious parking problems highlighted in this issue, we would urge all boat owners to consider the needs of residents and park only in spaces reserved for them.

For the marina to function to the benefit of all of its users, it is essential that there is dialogue between their representatives. We are very pleased,

therefore, that, following an approach by the Bertholders Association, discussions between members of the two committees will be taking place very soon.

As always, we welcome any opportunity to establish meaningful working relationships with other marina users.

## Natural Fitness Centre Spring Offer

The spring offer from the Natural Fitness Centre is still open to harbour residents.

Just take this issue of Waterlines into the Natural Fitness Centre, on the seafront by the Redoubt, before 30th June and you will get 15% off your first treatment or 50% off your first class.

For information call 01323 732024 or visit

[info@naturalfitnesscentre.co.uk](mailto:info@naturalfitnesscentre.co.uk)

## Want to join a project team?

In the April issue, we outlined a number of projects that will be undertaken in the coming year and invited members to take part in them. Thanks to all of you who responded. Please be patient, somebody will respond to you in the near future.

We are in the process of establishing the processes by which the projects will be undertaken and will be in contact with those interested as soon as possible.

If you did not respond, but would like to be a member of one of the teams, please write to Waterlines, or e-mail [waterlines@shra.co.uk](mailto:waterlines@shra.co.uk)



# BUDGET PLUMBERS

2 Pacific Heights North, Eastbourne, BN23 5PT



General Plumbing and Property Maintenance  
Private and Commercial  
Martyn Davis A.I.P.H.E. R.P

E-mail: [martinj.davis@btinternet.com](mailto:martinj.davis@btinternet.com) Tel: 01323-479197 Mob: 07956-980279

## Calling all anglers.

In the April issue of Waterlines, we told you about the Anglers Club, which is looking for new members. Unfortunately, the telephone number we were given was incorrect.

If you are interested, give them a ring on **01323 723442** for more details, or just call in and somebody will be pleased to show you around.

## SHRA Annual General Meeting

The SHRA Annual General Meeting took place on 21st May at the Haven School. This year, for the first time, the meeting was held on a Saturday.

Only about 150 members attended, which is well below the usual turn-out. Please let us have your view as to the best time to hold such meetings.

The meeting started with a welcome from the chairman, Rick Runalls. The chairman and treasurer then delivered their reports.

Rick announced that committee members John O'Hara, Carol Golder and Molly Burton had decided not to stand for re-election to the committee and thanked them for their contribution to the successes of the past two years.

He then explained that, as only twelve nomination for election to the committee had been received, there was no requirement for an election and the twelve candidates would form the committee for the coming year.

In addition to the nine existing members,

Brian Dennis rejoined the committee, having returned to the harbour and John and Carol Teasdale joined the committee for the first time.

Paul Stratford then presented his vision for the Resolution Project, following which, there was an open discussion.

Full details can be found in the minutes, which have been published on the website.

## Dangerous dogs

We were contacted by a harbour mum who was out for a stroll on the beach, with her two year old daughter in her buggy and her 'soppy cocker spaniel' on a lead.

Imagine her horror when a bull terrier suddenly appeared from nowhere and attacked her dog. Not only was she in fear for her dog, but also for her child. The dog was eventually brought under control by its owner and carried away without even the hint of an apology.

Fortunately, the child was in her buggy, but the possibility of what could have happened if she was on foot are too disturbing to contemplate. Other people in the vicinity said that they had seen similar incidents involving the same dog.

Failing to control a dangerous dog is a criminal offence. If you see, or are involved in, a similar incident, please contact the Dog Welfare Officer. Sue Criddle, on 01323 415380 or, if you feel it is warranted, call the police.



# Temple Bird

Solicitors

27/28, The Waterfront, Sovereign Harbour, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN23 5UZ

## **NEW** Private Client Department

If you don't organise your life somebody else will

Who will make decisions regarding your finances and healthcare if you become physically or mentally incapable?

**ACT NOW** - the rules relating to Enduring Powers of Attorney are changing in October 2007

Does your will need updating? - Do you worry about Inheritance Tax? - Have your financial or personal circumstances changed?

For details of our Cancer Research UK Free Will Service, or Inheritance Tax planning, or capacity issues and related matters

CONTACT Pat Sands FILEX Tel: 01323 472933  
E-mail: [p.sands@templebirdlaw.co.uk](mailto:p.sands@templebirdlaw.co.uk)

Tel: 01323 479888 Fax: 01323 479999 E-mail: [p.sands@templebirdlaw.co.uk](mailto:p.sands@templebirdlaw.co.uk)

## **Membership Renewal**

The 2006/2007 membership year ended on 30th March. If you have not yet renewed, and intend to do so, please complete the form overleaf and send it to the address shown.

If, for any reason, you don't intend to continue your SHRA membership, please let us know and, more importantly, please let us know why, and how we have failed to meet your expectations.

With your help, 2006/2007 was a great year for harbour residents and has provided us with a platform from which to launch our campaign to create a sustainable community from the vast housing development that has evolved over the past twenty years.

Although we have had some notable successes in the past two years, the battle is by no means won; there is still a huge

amount of work to be done and, in order to be recognised as being representative of harbour residents, it is essential that our membership maintains the current high levels. In fact, our target is that we should break through the 1,000 member barrier in the current year. With your help this is very achievable

Handling membership renewals is a time consuming process, so thanks to all of you who have already helped us to stagger the workload, and thanks too for your continued support, it is very much appreciated.

If you have not yet joined, perhaps now it the time for you to act. The growth in the influence of the SHRA has increased in proportion to the growth in our membership. Please help us to further increase the strength of our voice by completing and returning the form overleaf.

# Sovereign Harbour Residents Association Membership Application/Renewal 2007/2008

Title:

First name:

Last name:

Address:

Sovereign Harbour North / South \*delete as applicable

Postcode: BN23

Telephone:  -

E-mail:

*I apply for membership of the Sovereign Harbour Residents Association and understand that the information supplied above will be stored on a computer system. I also understand that this information will not be disclosed to, or shared with, any other person or organisation.*

Signature:

This form, with a cheque for £10.00, payable to 'SHRA', should be sent to:

The Secretary,  
Sovereign Harbour Residents Association  
PO Box 124,  
Eastbourne,  
East Sussex BN24 9AW

## For SHRA use only.

Date processed:

Membership number:

### **STOP PRESS: Bus shelters for the North Harbour**

As we go to print, two bus shelters are being installed in Pacific Drive; one near the entrance to Duke's Quay and the other near Tasmania Way. Good news in the current inclement weather conditions. It is expected that two more will be installed in the Summer. Our thanks to the Borough Highways Engineer, Graham Kemp.