

Waterlines

The newsletter of the
Sovereign Harbour Residents Association



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www.shra.co.uk

June, 2007

Local Action Team for the Harbour

At the recent AGM, SHRA chairman Rick Runalls outlined proposals for a new way of working that would draw on the talents of harbour residents who were unable to commit to full membership of the SHRA committee. Rick explained that small project teams would be set up to tackle particular initiatives and issues, and in the April and May issues of Waterlines, we asked for volunteers to join these teams. The response has been very encouraging, but there is always room for more people to help.

The first of the projects that has taken off is the setting up of a Local Action Team (LAT) for Sovereign Harbour.

The objectives of a LAT are determined by the unique needs of the community it serves, and LATs aim to give local people and local communities more influence over decision makers, so as to improve the quality-of-life issues that most affect them. They are about creating strong partnerships between local people and the service providers responsible for their area; local people working as equal partners, making their own choices, monitoring progress, and ensuring accountability.

Neighbourhood policing teams, Borough and County councillors, and service providers, are now expected to work in partnership with local people to ensure sustainability for the area in which the people want to live and work.

A LAT is a proven way of fostering and ensuring good working partnerships, and the most effective LATs are driven and chaired by local people. Cash and resources are limited, and competition for them is intense; by pulling together all the agencies involved, the LAT might be able to draw on a pool of funding that would otherwise be unavailable.

LATs are mostly about addressing the root causes of problems, and trying to find long term solutions, whatever the issue. There is a myth that only high-crime areas benefit from the creation of a LAT. Not so, a LAT provides a solid platform from which a strong relationship can be built between local people and the police. An added benefit is that any area with a LAT is a safer one. Prevention is always better than a cure.

LATs are unconstituted and non-political with the emphasis on empowering communities from the grass roots level. They can co-opt expertise from any appropriate source, as and when necessary. They can address crime and antisocial behaviour, environmental issues, community events, youth provision, funding applications, highway issues, in fact all the needs of local people, and are most effective when members of the local community feed in their every-day concerns and issues.

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(LAT continued)

LATs are, above all, about empowering communities, and giving local people the tools they need to help manage their own neighbourhood.

For too long, well meaning decision makers have dismally failed to identify and provide the facilities needed by residents of Sovereign Harbour and have failed to ensure that the developers delivered the 'Marina Village' that was demanded in the planning consent.

The formation of the Sovereign Harbour LAT is a continuation of the work already undertaken by the SHRA and will provide a forum for the community, and platform from which the issues can be addressed. It will be the beginning of another step in the process of providing the sustainable community that we all bought into, for which the SHRA has been campaigning, and for which it will continue to campaign.

If you have any comments, or issues that you would like to bring to the attention of the team, contact:

SHRA (LAT)
PO Box 124
Eastbourne BN24 9AW
E-mail: lat@shra.co.uk
Tel: 07770-621368

New Dog Control Laws

At the 30th May meeting of the EBC cabinet, proposals were put forward for consultation on new Dog Control Orders that would replace and expand on existing dog by-laws.

The proposals detailed areas of the town where it would be compulsory for dogs to be kept on a lead, which includes the entire seafront and the promenades between Holywell and Langney Point. Sadly, it was not seen fit to include the beaches and promenades of Sovereign Harbour in these restrictions.

Sovereign Ward's County Councillor, David Elkin made representations to the cabinet on behalf of Sovereign Harbour residents, and cabinet member, Councillor Margaret Bannister, agreed to consider the harbour in the consultation.

If you agree that greater control of dogs is necessary around the harbour, please write to or e-mail your ward councillors and Councillor Bannister.

Deputy leader of the council, Neil Stanley stated, "We need to educate dog owners. The enforcement team has far more important things to do than walk around behind people with dogs". True, but there is a small hard core of irresponsible dog owners who will only respond to heavy sanctions.

Which leads us to.

Dog Bins for the harbour

We have good news and bad news. Good news - Some dog bins have been allocated for the harbour. Bad news - we will only be getting three, not the six that we had been assured we would be getting. However, we will also be getting additional litter bins, and we have been told that a reasonable amount of dog waste is acceptable in these bins.

The bins will be ordered soon and it is expected that they will arrive in about six weeks, at which stage they will be installed by the council's contractors.

We can only hope that the provision of these bins, and the Dog Control Laws will help to clean up the marina promenades.

Where's the disabled parking?

As we are all aware, the provision of parking space on the harbour is a joke, but it's not funny if you're disabled.

Because of the greed of the developers, space for parking, as space for recreation, was sacrificed in order to cram in extra residential dwellings. One of the most common symptoms of this problem is that the width of the parking spaces that have been provided has been reduced to the absolute minimum. This is a real

problem for many of us, but an absolute disaster for the disabled, many of whom need to be able to open their doors fully in order to get out of their vehicles with some degree of comfort. Because of the difficulty in getting out of their vehicles, some disabled residents are forced to park on the roads within their development, but in cases where local controlled parking schemes have been introduced, this is not an option.

We have received a letter from a disabled resident who is being seriously affected by such a restriction. The scheme that has been imposed on her development allows each resident a limited number of 'visitor passes' each year and, because the only parking bay that allows her to fully open her car door is an end visitor bay, she has been using up her visitor passes to allow her to use this bay. However, she will soon have used up her annual allocation.

Her car is her lifeline and without an appropriate parking bay, and being unable to continue using the visitor bay, she will be unable to use it. Understandably, she is now desperate to find a solution to the situation she now finds herself in.

This situation prompted us to look at the situation around the harbour in general, and, on reflection, apart from the Waterfront car park, we are unable to find any other parking facilities for the disabled.

This in turn prompts the question, how on earth could an area which houses more than 10% of the population of Eastbourne have been developed without such provision being made? Surely there must have been a legal obligation to provide it.

This whole issue will be put into the melting pot when, or perhaps if, the long promised adoption of residential developments finally gets under way. At this point, any locally imposed controlled parking scheme will be reversed and parking will once again become a free-for-all.

Reluctant hero comes forward

Most of you will be aware of an incident that took place last August when a 12 year old girl was struck by lightning on the land by the Martello Tower at Langney point.

The first person on the scene was a harbour resident who, very fortunately, was trained in first aid, and started the resuscitation process. He was joined almost immediately by PCSO Martin Hylands, who was close by, and the pair then worked as a team until the paramedics arrived and took over.

At the time, the harbour resident was adamant that he should not be identified. PCSO Hylands has always emphasised the part played by this man, but has respected his wish that he did not want his identity made public.

We are, therefore, very pleased to be able to tell you that the 'reluctant hero' has agreed that Waterlines will be the first publication to identify him, and are delighted to reveal that the man in question is Martinique Way resident Mick Cox. We hope that his actions will now receive the recognition to which he is so obviously entitled.

We also understand that the young lady at the centre of this dramatic event has now almost fully recovered. We wish her well.

Balletcise (by Jane Gochin)

Those of you who have fond memories of ballet lessons as a child might be interested in a great exercise class at the Natural Fitness Centre.

It's called Balletcise and is a gentle work-out using basic ballet movements leading on to a simple dance routine.

It's great fun, most participants have very little experience of ballet and it's in a wonderful location, with the studio looking out over the sea.

Classes are for one hour every Tuesday at 11:45am and cost just £6.00.

A number of the class regulars are harbour residents, why not come and join us?

There is a natural answer to Menopause

Linda Bostock is a fully qualified Medical Herbalist and has run a busy clinic for over 14 years. She has considerable experience in the natural treatment of many conditions such as Eczema, Arthritis, Stress and many more. However, she considers menopause to be her specialist area. This means helping people through menopause with herbal medicine as well as helping people come off HRT. Linda is offering her first consultation free of charge with this advertisement.

Linda is the resident Medical Herbalist at Natural Fitness Centre and can be contacted on 0771 601 3925.

Herb Walk – Sunday 1st July

You may have noticed whilst driving around that the countryside is looking beautiful with all the hawthorn, commonly known as May blossom, flowering with a host of wild spring flowers. Sovereign harbour resident Linda Bostock, medical herbalist, is conducting a herb walk on Sunday 1st July at 10.00 am, starting and ending at Pevensey Castle, with possibly a little visit to the Royal Oak and Castle at the end! The walk will last about 1½ hours and cover no more than 1½ miles at a leisurely pace.

There are some very interesting plants in the Eastbourne area, many of which are commonly used as medicines. There is no charge but numbers will be restricted to fifteen, so please give Linda a call on 01323 472604 to register.

Sovereign Harbour Racing Club

The 2007 SHRC season will start on Sunday 8th July with a 'Funday' at the ever popular Brighton racecourse. This event is now fully subscribed.

For just £25.00 members will get return transport to the course, entry into the members enclosure and use of a private box with bar facilities and Tote betting. A report of the event will appear in the next issue of Waterlines.

On the week-end of The Celebration Mile (25th/26th August) the club is off again to Glorious Goodwood

This outing was a great success last year and early indications are for another full house.

In September, the club is considering a visit to Fontwell or Plumpton for an experience of National Hunt Racing.

For more details of the SHRC, or to reserve your place at future events, 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,

E-mail me, Bev at :

bev@harbourfriends.co.uk,

or call me on 479797.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Marina Mums and Strollers & Toners

The next meeting for the Marina mums group will be held in Simply Italian on the Waterfront on Thursday 14th June at 10:30am.

At the time of going to print we have not yet received the dates for future meetings

Strollers and Toners Group

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

Sovereign Handymen

The handyman Service for Sovereign Harbour Residents

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

Pevensey Festival and Food Market

The Pevensey Festival and Food Market Association is a voluntary group that promotes and supports local producers and also raises money for charity.

On 24th June they will be holding their 'Charter Market' in the market square in Pevensey.

There will be more than twenty stalls selling local produce and crafts, a BBQ, rides for children, luck dip, tombola and much more.

Two further markets are planned, the 'Summer Market' on 29th July and the 'Festival Market' on 25th August.

All money raised from pitch rentals and other fund raising will go to St. Nicolas Church, which needs to raise £100,000 by Christmas.

The St Nicolas Church Flower festival will run from 25th to 27th August and will be opened by Sir Donald Sinden.

More information can be found on the 'Calendar' page of the SHRA website.

Sovereign Harbour Bridge Club

In the May issue of Waterlines, we published information about a new Bridge Club that Sam Sweiry wanted to set up for harbour residents.

Unfortunately, Sam was unaware that there is already an established club, the Sovereign Duplicate Bridge Club, that has been running for four years with a membership of 47.

The club meets every Tuesday afternoon at the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club, from 1:30pm to 4:30pm, playing duplicate bridge only.

Lessons for beginners are also offered on Friday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00pm

New members are welcomed, please contact Mr H. Shirley on 01323 471749, or visit the clubs website, <http://web.onetel.com/~sovbridge1/bridge/>

Sovereign Harbour Investment Club

The May meeting of Sovereign Harbour Investment Club "SHICLUB" took place at Madisons' Bar at the Waterfront on Tuesday 29th May 2007.

The Club now has nineteen of the twenty members allowed under the constitution. As soon as the remaining place is filled, a waiting List, based on first-come first-served basis, will be opened and everyone is welcome to join as people move in out of the Harbour.

Next SHICLUB meeting will be held at Madisons' Bar on Tuesday 26th of June 2007 at 7pm

For more information, or to join the club, e-mail shinvestclub@aol.com or visit their website: www.shiclub.co.uk

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waterlines@shra.co.uk

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Community Councils – Is there a Case? (by Rick Runalls)

The SHRA Committee have been looking ahead and asking ourselves not only about what social infrastructure we need for a sustainable community, but how we are going to maintain a real focus on residents' interests in the long term. The SHRA has fought for residents' interests and we believe we have opened up some opportunities to get what we need, however, the SHRA committee is just a group of committed volunteers with no power whatsoever. It is not an adequate or stable solution to the ongoing representation of community interests, so thinking ahead is essential.

Eastbourne is 'unparished' so the formation of a Community/Parish Council presents an interesting opportunity for Sovereign Harbour. Devolution of powers to local communities is something that the Government has been promoting in parallel with the formation of Unitary (strategic) Councils which would manage areas with a population of 500,000 or more. A Sovereign Harbour Community Council should not be seen as 'an additional level of bureaucracy' since, if the Government's proposals go ahead, then EBC is likely to disappear as it is swallowed up by the Unitary Council that is formed. Interesting times ahead!

We must make it clear that although the SHRA Committee are supportive of the idea we cannot move ahead in isolation – as the electorate of Sovereign Harbour,

the decision will be yours.

However, we are keen on getting a debate going, communicating the facts and hearing your views so we intend to set up an open meeting for harbour residents to start getting the facts. We are currently looking for a venue around the third week in July, so keep an eye on Waterlines and the website.

Support your local team

SHRA committee member Brian Dennis is also the manager of Eastbourne United Football Club. Brian told Waterlines:

"Our season finished on 7th May and we feel we had a good first season, finishing 7th in the league. This was a really good position for us, as a lot of so called pundits predicted we would be relegated at the start of the season. My young guns did very well, and have proved that we are prepared to give youth a chance. For our last few games we had at least five under eighteen players in our match day squads, and all got games. The average age of our team last season was just twenty, and we picked up the team of the month award for September 2006.

We don't get long off as we are back in training on 3rd July. We are always looking for new talent, so anyone out there who fancy their chances in the Sussex County League, then come along and join our training sessions, but be prepared for hard work. We will train Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30pm.

All this work takes time and money so,

Temple Bird

Solicitors

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

Tel: 01323 479888 Fax 479999 E-mail: info@templebirdlaw.co.uk

if there is anyone out there who has plenty of one, or both, then why not come along and get involved in you local football club; you will be made very welcome. Or, if you're interested in just watching good exciting football, why not come along and watch us?

If anybody out there would like to sponsor the team shirts, tracksuits, or training kit, please contact me via Eastbourne United AFC on 01323-726989.

Hope you all have a good summer and hope to see you at the Eastbourne Oval when the new season gets under way"

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 can be obtained 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

Sovereign Harbour Gardening Club

Never one to let the grass grow under his feet, no pun intended, harbour resident Sam Sweiry would like to contact anybody who would be interested in forming a 'Sovereign Harbour Gardening Club.

The club would be open to all harbour residents, whether they have a garden or just use balconies to grow plants in pots.

For more information, or to join the club, **e-mail shgardeningclub@aol.com**

Membership renewal

Thanks to the hundreds of you who have already renewed your SHRA membership and also to the many new members who continue to join us.

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2007/2008, and still intend to do so, it would be most helpful if you could complete the renewal form (see over) and send it in to the address shown with your cheque for £10.

If, for any reason, you do not intend to renew your membership, please let us know so that we can remove your details from our database. It would also be very helpful if you could let us know why you have decided not to continue with your support.

There is still a lot to do if the Marina Village concept that we all bought into is to be salvaged in any way, and your support is vital.

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: