

# Waterlines

The newsletter of the  
Sovereign Harbour Residents Association



**Issue 26**

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

**July, 2007**

**The SHRA will be holding an  
Open Meeting  
to discuss the merits of forming a  
Community Council  
for  
Sovereign Harbour  
at  
The Haven School  
Atlantic Drive  
on  
Tuesday 17th July  
Starting at 7:00 pm**

Further to the report by SHRA Chairman, Rick Runalls, at the recent AGM, and the articles in previous Waterlines, a Public Meeting will be held to debate the issues surrounding the possible formation of a Parish (Community) Council for Sovereign Harbour.

This is your opportunity to learn more about the process, the benefits and the possible pitfalls of this first level of local democracy, and to share your views with other residents.

We are particularly interested in hearing from residents who have had previous experience of serving on Parish Councils, both good and bad.

In the light of the recent government white paper on the reform of local government, it is also an opportunity for Sovereign Harbour to get ahead of the game.

If the outcome of the meeting is that the majority of residents feel that we should proceed, the next step will be to petition the Borough Council.

Only residents who are on the electoral register will be eligible to sign the petition, and the signatures of at least 10% of those registered voters will be required to take the process to the next stage. We would, however, hope to get a much larger mandate.

## Must somebody die?

In the May issue of Waterlines, in the article entitled 'Parking - Must somebody die?', we highlighted the situation of a community midwife who was fined by a private clamping company whilst attending a home birth on the North Harbour. In the item, we stated that the PCT would not pay the fine and that this represented several days' wages the midwife. We received a letter from John Barnes, the chairman of the PCT as follows:

*"I would like to make it clear to your readers that The East Sussex Downs and Weald Primary Care Trust does not employ community midwives and was therefore not involved in this parking incident. Community midwives are employed by the East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust, which I understand has been trying to approach the appropriate people about this situation but so far without success.*

*Readers can however be assured that lives are not at risk because all NHS organisations have a duty of care to respond to emergencies.*

*As regards the PCT, we employ community staff (including health visitors and district nurses) and, where appropriate, will support staff to challenge parking fines incurred while visiting patients."*

We apologise to the PCT for having misrepresented its part in this particular incident, but this response clearly shows that all the staff can expect from their employer is support in challenging fines. In the final analysis, the member of staff might well end up having to bear the cost.

It is our view that these valuable servants of the community deserve much better support from their employers. If you agree, why not write to the Chairman, John Barnes, and the Chief Executive, Nick Yeo at:

East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT  
36-38 Friars Walk  
Lewes  
East Sussex BN7 2PB

## Sovereign Quay

A large number of residents in the Sovereign Quay area of the South Harbour have been receiving invoices from their managing agents for services that have not been provided, and with no explanation of why they are entitled to collect the charges in the first place. Many of the demands are for periods before the current occupants took possession of the property.

The companies concerned respond to residents' requests for more information with further invoices with additional charges for late payment. They also deny having received letters from residents; in one case nine letters seem to have mysteriously disappeared. It would therefore seem prudent to send all correspondence by Recorded Delivery.

Owners of freehold properties are being charged for such items as the maintenance of lifts and access gates, which is obviously in error, but challenges are again met by increased demands and threats of legal action. Not surprisingly, some residents, many of them elderly, are being intimidated into paying.

The law regarding leasehold properties is fairly clear, but there appears to be little case law that addresses the situation on Sovereign Harbour, where owners of freehold properties are obliged to pay management companies for services that would be usually provided by the Borough Council in other areas of the town.

We are not currently in a position to offer advice, but would like to better understand the scope of the problem and build up a fuller picture of the situation, especially the history.

If you are one of those affected or if you are being harassed, and have correspondence that you are willing to share, please send it to: SQ, PO Box 124, Eastbourne, BN24 9AW, or e-mail: [\*\*sq@shra.co.uk\*\*](mailto:sq@shra.co.uk)

All relevant correspondence will be published on the SHRA website, but any personal information will be removed.

## Evolution of the Sussex Coastline

Ian Thomas is the Project Manager for Pevensy Coastal Defences, the company employed by the Environment Agency to maintain the sea defences for Sovereign Harbour. Ian has considerable knowledge of the ways in which the elements affect the shoreline and has offered to share this knowledge with the readers of Waterlines.

This is the first of a series of articles that we will publish over the coming months as space permits. We hope you enjoy them.

---

The evolution of the Sussex coastline, and in particular shingle barrier beaches such as Pevensy, is an interesting story. Over the next few issues of Waterlines we will look at stages and processes involved in the formation of Pevensy's beach and perhaps see what the future holds for the Sussex coast as a whole.

In geological terms the beach with which we are familiar is very young, its origins being linked to the end of the last Ice Age about 11,000 years ago. Barrier beach development is dependent on sufficient quantities of sediment (in this case sand and gravel) being supplied to what is termed the 'swash' zone, the area where the sea interacts with the land.

Looking along the coast we see areas where in the past there must have been far more shingle available to the coastal process system than there is today. For instance the Crumbles, on the eastern edge of Eastbourne, and Dungeness were formed of parallel ridges of shingle that gradually built up and allowed the coastline to steadily extend further southward. In order for this to happen there must have been significantly increased volumes of shingle in the coastal zone than there are today.

Sand and gravel are just eroded rock. Two obvious sources for this material are rivers, bringing material from inland to the coast, and cliff retreat. By examining each in turn we can see where

the majority of the sediment necessary to form East Sussex beach structures must have originated.

In fact rivers can quickly be discounted as a source of material since in Sussex they have low run-off rates and are therefore incapable of carrying the quantity and size of sediment needed to form our beaches.

For cliffs to be the main source there would need to have been continuously high rates of cliff erosion depositing regular amounts of chalk and flint into the sea.

Work done by the University of Sussex suggests that Sussex chalk cliffs have been eroding with a long-term average of about 0.4m per annum. Flint content between Saltdean and Beachy Head varies in currently exposed cliff faces but seems to average about 2%.

Assuming that this amount has remained constant we can calculate that from the 22km of cliffs, with an approximate height of 40m, 7,000<sup>3</sup> of flint has on average been added to the swash zone every year. Coincidentally this estimate corresponds closely with the volume of shingle believed to arrive on the western arm of Sovereign Harbour today. It is nowhere near enough to supply the 25,000<sup>3</sup> of shingle that leaves the eastern end of Pevensy Bay annually.

The area where Sovereign Harbour now stands was known as The Crumbles, and 500 years ago the shingle beach existed some 2km further seaward than it does today and was a mini Dungeness in its day. To have deposited such vast quantities of shingle, cliff recession would need to have been vastly greater than 0.4m per year.

Other evidence, such as the position of petrified remains of ancient forests, shows that this cannot have been the case. So although the chalk cliffs contribute to the sediment supply they cannot have been the major source.

Where it came from, and the mechanisms involved will be the subject of the next article.

# DESIGNERS AT BRIGHT IDEAS

## NOW OPEN ON THE WATERFRONT

DESIGNER WATCHES, SUNGLASSES AND JEWELLERY

Calvin Klein

GUESS

eckö unlt.

DOLCE & GABBANA

BREIL

ESPRIT

KENZO

YVES SAINT LAURENT



### Sovereign Harbour Racing Club

The 2007 SHRC season started on Sunday 8th July with a 'Funday' at the ever popular Brighton racecourse. We had hoped to report on this event in this issue of Waterlines but it has been held over until the August issue.

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 the 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.

### 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.

The association's Summer Market will be held on July 29th in the car park of 'The Smugglers'. There will be more than twenty stalls selling local produce and crafts, a BBQ, rides for children, luck dip, tombola and much more.

The 'Festival Market' will be held on 25th August at the start of the St Nicholas Church Flower festival, which will run from 25th to 27th August and will be opened by Sir Donald Sinden.

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

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

### Race for Life (by Jan Weeks)

On Sunday 10th June, Christine Runalls, the wife of SHRA chairman Rick Runalls, and I joined about 2,500 Eastbourne ladies, many of them from Sovereign Harbour, to take part in 'Race for Life'.

This event, sponsored by Tesco, is the UK's largest women only fund raising event. It is designed to raise awareness of cancer, as well as to raise funds for Cancer Research UK to assist its search for a cure.

Thanks to the generous support of harbour residents, Chris and I raised well over £400 in sponsorship. However, if you would like to add your support to this worthwhile cause and swell this total, there is still time. Please send your cheque, for whatever you can



## *Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club*

### **ROYAL SOVEREIGN SUITE**

Beautiful new function suite for hire, Overlooking the Marina,  
Perfect for Weddings, Birthday Parties and Conferencing.

Full in house catering for up to 120 people.

Call 01323 470888, or drop in and have a look around.

afford, payable to 'Cancer Research UK' to me:

Jan Weeks,  
c/o SHRA  
PO Box 124  
Eastbourne, BN24 9AW

Thank you for caring.

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

The Marina mums group meets in Simply Italian on the Waterfront on Thursday mornings.

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 Harbour Investors Club**

The June meeting of Sovereign Harbour Investment Club - SHICLUB, took place at Madisons Bar at the Waterfront on Tuesday 26th of June 2007.

The Club still has nineteen of the twenty members allowed under the constitution; however, one person attended as guest of the Club to consider the possibility of taking up the last vacancy for membership. As soon as this is confirmed, a waiting list, on a first come first served basis, will be started.

Next SHICLUB meeting will be held at Madisons Bar on Tuesday 31st of July 2007 at 7pm.

To join the club, e-mail [membership.inquiries@shiclub.co.uk](mailto:membership.inquiries@shiclub.co.uk)

or visit their website:  
[www.shiclub.co.uk](http://www.shiclub.co.uk)

### **Sovereign Harbour Gardening Club**

In the last issue of Waterlines, we told you about Sam Sweiry's plan to start a gardening club for harbour residents.

Sam has since expanded this plan to incorporate a

'**Marina Kennel Club**' for harbour dog owners, with an annual dog show.

Sam also has ambitions to stage a '**Harbour in Bloom Festival**' for 2008.

In addition to all that has gone before, Sam also plans to set up a '**Marina Pensioners Luncheon Club**' that will meet once a week on a social basis.

The SHRA committee applauds Sam's energy and enthusiasm, and is happy to promote these initiatives but, with all of the other projects that are currently in progress, is unable to become involved in the day-to-day activities. So, for more information, or to join one of the clubs e-mail:

[shgardeningclub@aol.com](mailto:shgardeningclub@aol.com)

[marinakennelclub@aol.com](mailto:marinakennelclub@aol.com)

If you are interested in joining the Luncheon Club, **call Sam on 01323-479111.**

### **Part time staff wanted**

**for weekend work (Saturday and Sunday) at Bright Ideas on The Waterfront, Sovereign Harbour. Hours to suit, including evenings.**

**For further details please:  
e-mail: [info@scsmarketing.co.uk](mailto:info@scsmarketing.co.uk)  
or telephone: 01323 471080.**

## Antenatal Classes - Birth Preparation - Cradle care - Doula Help

**Tum 2 Mum**



**Catherine Oatridge**

Tel: 01323 410341 Mob: 07876 234070

E-mail: [tum2mum@gmail.co.uk](mailto:tum2mum@gmail.co.uk)

[www.tum2mum.co.uk](http://www.tum2mum.co.uk)

### **Community Police update** (by PC Ed Faulkner)

Your local policing team, working with the Sovereign Harbour residents association, are here for any issues that you have. Recently we have had numerous reports of "mini motorbikes" being used in the harbour at very early hours in the morning. PCSO Roy Collins has had some success managing to seize one recently, however we are now working with local businesses and residents to try and stop these menaces. We will be patrolling the area trying to catch these youths and crack down on this type of anti-social behaviour.

I have recently joined the local Policing Team for the Harbour and surrounding areas. PC Gareth Stamp, PCSO Roy Collins, PNSO Martin Hylands, Sgt. Steve Tullett and myself will be holding regular "Street briefings" at various locations in the harbour and also are available for any policing issues that you have.

Your local Police are here for any issues that you have and we can be contacted at any time. All of our details can be found on the Sussex Police website, [www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk).

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

On Friday 22nd June, a large number of harbour residents, many of them members of the SHRA, took a trip on the MV Balmoral, starting from the locks at the marina entrance.

Despite the weather on land, the ship

was bathed in sunshine for the majority of the time, and the next day saw many a peeling nose, and quite a few 'panda eyes'. The ship sailed from Eastbourne, around the South East coast, through the Thames estuary and up the River Thames, through the flood barrier.

Those on board were treated to spectacular views of the revitalised Thames side areas, the Millennium Dome and the new commercial areas of the Isle of Dogs.

As the journey came to an end, the passengers saw Tower Bridge open to let the ship through before docking at Tower Pier for the return journey by coach to the harbour.

### **Isle of Wight and Needles cruise**

A further excursion is planned, again on the Balmoral, on Tuesday July 17. Leaving the harbour at 09:30 and picking up more passengers from Worthing at 12:30 the ship will arrive at Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight at 4:00 pm.

Passengers then have the option of staying on board for a cruise to the Needles and Lighthouse or disembarking at Yarmouth at 4:00pm. Those who disembark will rejoin the ship for a 6:00pm departure from Yarmouth, arriving at Portsmouth at 8:00pm for the return journey to the harbour by coach,

For more information, visit:

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

or call the booking hotline on:

**0845 130 4647**

# 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](mailto:info@templebirdlaw.co.uk)

## Time is running out

The new Mental Capacity Act 2005 affecting Enduring Powers of Attorney will be implemented from the 1st October 2007. From this date it will no longer be possible to make an Enduring Power of Attorney, although existing powers will remain valid. From 1st October the new Lasting Powers of Attorney will be considerably more complicated and expensive to prepare, and will give your Attorneys not only power over your financial matters but also to make health and welfare decisions on your behalf. If you do not have a power of attorney and become mentally or physically incapable the Court will appoint a Deputy to deal with your affairs.

To discuss any areas of concern please contact Pat Sands on 01323 472933

E mail: [p.sands@templebirdlaw.co.uk](mailto:p.sands@templebirdlaw.co.uk) or call into our Waterfront office.

## Swimmers' plea

Jane Thomas contacted Waterlines with this plea:

"I am one of group of sea swimmers who swim in the sea from April through to November. I'm not talking a paddle between a few groins but long stretches from The Redoubt to Holywell.

Some of us are training to swim the English Channel as a relay team. We always stay shore side of the end of the pier and closer to shore than the end of the pier; unfortunately many motor boats and jet skis don't remain seaward of the pier and often come in at speed perilously close to us as we are swimming.

On behalf of my fellow swimmers would these boats please drop their speed and look out for swimmers if they must come in so close to shore. Sailors may not expect swimmers to be doing such swims and in water as cold as April and November but we are there.

Lets keep the sea safe and enjoyable for all who use her."

**Charity Football Match  
at the  
Priory Lane Stadium  
Eastbourne Borough FC  
v  
Horsham**

**Saturday 28th July  
Kick-off 3:00pm**

**Community Fun Day  
and  
Car Boot Sale**

**11:30am to 2:30pm**

**All proceeds to the  
Save the DGH campaign**

**Adults £5, Concessions  
£3, under 16's £1**

**Telephone: 01323-743561**

