

Waterlines

The newsletter of the
Sovereign Harbour Residents Association



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Community Council? - It's your choice

The open meeting at the Haven School on 17th July to discuss the possibility of forming a Community Council for Sovereign Harbour stimulated a lively debate, with some strong opinions expressed.

SHRA chairman, Rick Runalls, started the meeting by explaining why the SHRA committee had decided to seek support for the campaign. Rick expressed the view, shared by many of you, that Sovereign Harbour, since its inception, had been very poorly represented by the established political parties, and its residents had received very little in the way of services for the huge contribution they have made to Eastbourne Borough Council finances through Council Tax.

Rick also explained that the current SHRA committee had been working flat out for over two years and, inevitably, this level of commitment could not last indefinitely. Now, he said, seemed the right time to be thinking of a transition to the next stage, putting the work of the SHRA onto a formal, democratic footing. Rick emphasised that this meeting was just the start of the consultation process and there would be others as the campaign progressed.

South Harbour resident, Stewart Mitchell, voiced the opinion that, had there been a Community Council in place from the beginning, the developers would not have been allowed to ignore the social implications of their greed. We would not now, he said, be desperately trying to recover the elements necessary to create a sustainable community. The

present social outlook, he thought, was grim.

There followed two presentations by Len Fisher, clerk to Seaford Town Council and Tim Ricketts, clerk to Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish Council. Both shared their experiences of setting up and operating Parish/Town Councils and explained the advantages and disadvantages of the system. Both were of the opinion that the advantages outweighed the disadvantages and that the councils had brought positive benefits to the communities they served.

Questions were then invited from the floor, which highlighted two main concerns: the additional level of bureaucracy and the cost of setting up and operating the new council.

The view was expressed that we already have three ward councillors who should be looking after residents' interests. It was pointed out that these are three of twenty seven councillors, all of whom are competing for limited resources on behalf of their constituents. All the members of a community council would be dedicated to serving the harbour community.

It was recognised that there would be additional cost, which would probably be in the region of between 50p and £1 per week for each harbour property.

At the end of the meeting, Rick asked for a show of hands, which indicated that a large majority of those present were in favour of continuing the process.

Watch this space!

Water Feature update (by Barbara Martin)

Persimmon continue to ignore efforts to contact them. Without dialogue with the main contractors, hope of resolving the issues surrounding the Water Feature at Columbus Point is severely diminished. The Columbus Point Water Feature Committee have however had contact with Persimmon's contracted Project Manager, Chris Gosling from G&W Projects. Communication with Mr Gosling has tended to be irregular to date with contact only being made if he has something to say and not to answer any queries. However, Mr Gosling provided an update at our last meeting on 18th July, a précis of which is given below.

The Water Feature needs relining, which is the most expensive part of the work, and, I am told, will reduce re-painting requirements in the future. This work has to be completed before the outstanding work to bring the feature up to the standard in the specification can be carried out. Mr Gosling e-mailed me this week to say that Persimmon have agreed the cost of the work. However, he added that the specialist cannot start straight away so they are trying to see if they can refill two of the canals leaving one empty for them to work on at the end of the month (August). The Director of Euroflo is on holiday and his staff are not able to make decisions in his absence. They are trying to contact him to advise how they can speed this whole process up.

I am informed all lights and fittings that were faulty within the feature have been changed. The rectification of the pathway surrounding the water feature will be undertaken when the replacement lights in the pathway are installed. Mr Gosling said that the pathway replacement lights have been approved by Eastbourne Borough Council subject to a plan showing the position of the replacement lights.

All work needs to be completed before the Water Feature will be at the required standard to enable hand over to the

residents of Columbus Point. A meeting with interested residents from Columbus Point was held on 11th July at which all aspects of Columbus Point were discussed. It has to be said that apathy remains on the part of some of the residents on Columbus Point and a lack of commitment to resolve the issues.

The ongoing costs of the water feature remain a concern for the residents and Persimmon have shown a complete lack of regard in providing details of costs to date and projections going forward. In addition, the question of public liability insurance is outstanding and the cost unknown. Eastbourne Borough Council, having approved the concept of the Water Feature as an amenity for the town and visitors to Eastbourne, insisting on 24 hour access to the public, and payment of the ongoing costs had been assured, have never accepted any ongoing responsibility.

If anyone has any information/questions/comments about the Water Feature they can contact the committee by e-mail at cpwaterfeature@googlemail.com

Cleaning Up The Marina Walkways (by Alison Attwood)

Disgusted by dog mess? Resentful of rubbish? Worried about weeds? There could be a light at the end of this messy tunnel. For months and years, SHRA has been badgering the council to help us improve the state of the marina walkways ahead of adoption, and at long last we are seeing some progress.

Three dog bins and four litter bins have just been installed around central and north harbours and along the estuary walkway. This is not nearly as many as we had asked for, but it is at least a start and will hopefully bring about some improvement. We are also assured by Eastbourne's Highway Manager that the weeds around the walkways will be treated and cleared away in the next few weeks.

Please, please make proper use of the new bins. If they are misused they will be removed, and if they are not used we will not get any more. That means:

- picking up after your dog and putting it in the bin. The council tell us it's okay to use the litter bins for reasonable amounts of dog waste if you are not close to one of the dog bins.

- putting cans, wrappers and other litter in the litter bins only

- not using the bins for your domestic rubbish.

The dog bin that used to be on the beach walkway at north harbour has now been reinstalled close to the access gate. This was removed firstly because the cleaners could not access it through a locked gate and secondly because a thoughtful person kept filling it with shingle from the beach.

Finally, there are sure to be some folk who refuse to pick up after their pets. We do not want you to become vigilantes and take direct action, but if you are aware of a dirty dog owner, please phone Eastbourne's enforcement team on 415924 and give them as much detail as possible. If someone is a regular offender, the enforcement officers can arrange their patrols to try to tackle the problem.

Managing Agents - help is at hand

Following the article in last month's edition of Waterlines, we have been contacted by Hazelvine Limited, a managing agent with four large developments on the Harbour. Because of the comments being made about managing agents, Hazelvine are intending to hold an open-morning one Saturday for residents from their developments to come and meet them and to discuss any problems or complaints that they have. In consultation with the SHRA, they have agreed to invite residents from *any* Sovereign Harbour development to drop in to discuss any service charge, lease or management issues and Hazelvine will try and help.

This is to give you some advance notice and to request that you contact Waterlines with details of the problems you would like to discuss so we can advise Hazelvine on the type of issues

you are experiencing. If a number of residents raise the same issues then it may be decided to try and get small groups together for a discussion on particular topics.

The provisional date is Saturday 6th October. Hazelvine intend to have management, accounting and legal staff available so particular problems can be dealt with by the relevant staff. The intended format is an open-morning with visitors popping in when they want.

Nigel Burnand, Managing Director of Hazelvine said: "*Having read of the problems Sovereign Harbour residents are experiencing I feel it is important for us to join the debate and to give our residents the opportunity to meet my team and discuss any complaints they have, face to face. The 'drop-in' morning is deliberately intended to avoid a single large meeting, which in my experience becomes dominated by a few vocal residents, and to give those who are perhaps 'suffering in silence' the chance to discuss their concerns on a one-to-one basis or in small groups. Other residents may just want to drop in for a coffee, meet the staff and put a face to a name.*

I am very happy to extend an invitation to ALL residents on the Harbour who want to come and get some help or advice on problems particular to their site. I am sure that many problems will be common to many developments so it may be beneficial to discuss issues in small groups.

If the event is successful, we may hold others".

The SHRA committee are encouraged by this generous initiative by Hazelvine and are happy to support it. It is only by gaining a mutual understanding of the issues that we can resolve them.

Please send your questions for the Hazelvine team to:

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PO Box 124
Eastbourne BN24 9AW
waterlines@shra.co.uk

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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 '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.

Sovereign Harbour Investors Club

The July meeting of Sovereign Harbour Investment Club, SHICLUB, took place at Madisons Bar at the Waterfront on 31st July, with Sam Sweiry in the chair.

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 based on first come first served basis will be opened and everyone interested is welcome to join as people move in and out of the harbour.

The next SHICLUB meeting will be held at Madisons Bar on Tuesday 28th August, 2007 at 7pm

To join the club, e-mail membership.inquiries@shiclub.co.uk

or visit their website:

www.shiclub.co.uk

Sovereign Harbour Gardening Club

Sam Sweiry has reluctantly postponed the start-up of the Gardening Club due to lack of response from anybody prepared to join the steering committee.

Marina Kennel Club

Sam has also postponed the start-up of the Kennel Club due to lack of interest.

Wednesday Luncheon Club

Following calls from residents, Sam has renamed his 'Pensioners' Luncheon Club as the Wednesday Luncheon Club.

The first meeting of the club will take place on Wednesday 5th September, from 12:30 to 2:00pm at Frankie and Benny's in the Crumbles Retail Park.

Sam is expecting up to 80 residents to take part in the inaugural meeting and advanced booking is essential. Guests will include Nigel Waterson MP, Chief Inspector Richard Coates, Eastbourne District Police Commander and representatives of the East Sussex WI and the Eastbourne RNLI.

Sam expects that up to 35 residents will attend the regular Wednesday meetings.

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

Open Day At The Under Ground Theatre (by Geoff Morley)

More and more harbour residents are getting involved in the hidden jewel in the Eastbourne theatre scene: the

Under Ground Theatre, which is right in the town centre, under the main library. And now there's an ideal opportunity for the rest of you to find out what it's all about.

The UGT is to launch its new season with an Open Day, on Saturday September 1st - offering live music and an art exhibition, as well as a refreshments and a raffle.

Broadly, the UGT stages professional productions in four distinct areas: drama, jazz, chamber music and children's entertainment. In addition, there are regular Saturday coffee mornings - with either free live music or a free art exhibition. What's different about the Under Ground is that it is run exclusively by volunteers. This means, of course, that UGT theatre tickets are the cheapest in town!

On September 1st, however, entry will cost you nothing! The doors will be open from 10am until 3pm, with live music throughout - and then again from 7.30pm until 10pm, for more live music that will begin at 8pm. Names of the musicians involved have not yet finalised. But you can probably expect at least one of the top local folk-bands and some leading pianists during the day - and some high-quality jazz in the evening.

The daytime session will also include an art exhibition by local artist Mary Stubberfield - who paints a range of subjects in both oils and watercolours, and who will be showing some miniatures. Refreshments including filter coffee, tea, soft drinks, home-made cakes and biscuits will be available at all times. There will also be a drinks bar in the evening. And a Grand Raffle will be running throughout.

So: come and have a look - and see if you would like to get involved. The volunteers' duties include box-office, front-of-house, publicity, serving coffee or drinks, and lots more. And everyone's very friendly! Just turn up at the main

library, at the corner of Grove Road - and the theatre entrance is down the steps on the right of the library foyer.

For more information, contact:

Geoff Morley, Eastbourne Under Ground Theatre Press and Publicity,

Tel: 01323-470026

geoff.morley@btinternet.com

Beach Danger!!

Those of you who use the North Harbour beach will probably have seen the small heaps of large stones that have been placed at regular intervals along the length of the beach.

These heaps of stones, which have absolutely no significance, are a magnet to dogs. Being territorial animals, dogs see them as an opportunity to 'mark their territory' by urinating on them. Each subsequent canine visitor then feels obliged to add his scent in an attempt to cover up that of previous visitors; that is what dogs do.

However, it has been noticed that visitors to the beach, and children in particular, are also attracted to these stones, and frequently handle them, not knowing what has gone before.

It is best to avoid contact with these stones but, if you or your children do touch them, be sure to wash your hands, especially before eating.

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,

E-mail me, Bev at : bev@harbourfriends.co.uk,

or call me on 479797.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Community Police update (by PCSO Roy Collins)

Let me start by thanking the SHRA for allowing us the opportunity to make contact with you all through this monthly newsletter. What better way is there to make contact with you all? I can't think of one.

For those of you who I have not had the privilege to meet, I am one of your PCSOs out and about on the Sovereign Harbour. You can contact me, or my colleagues, much easier now thanks to the internet. Email our team box and if I am on rest days, (yes, they do let us off occasionally) one of the team will respond.

We have made great progress with the issues raised by residents, for example we have been working with the residents of Vancouver Road over nuisance youths hanging around at all hours of the day, and also targeting anti-social parking of commercial vehicles on Pacific and Atlantic Drive.

Updates are there on the website so we can keep you up to date with any breaking news, street briefings etc: Just log on to www.sussex.police.uk, and follow links to your local officer.

I look forward to meeting more of you.

Herbal Walk (by Linda Bostock)

Would you believe that the day dawned a bit cloudy but with no rain! I had been seriously contemplating phoning everyone on Saturday when it was absolutely pouring, to say let's leave it until another week-end.

Anyway, we started at the car park at Pevensy Castle and walked through the playing fields where there was a complete herbal pharmacy growing within a few yards: Burdock, the root of which is liver cleansing, Nettles, an excellent blood tonic, Goosegrass which is a lymphatic system cleanser and Willow whose bark aspirin was originally extracted from.

Next, walking through the field by the railway line, we found Wood Sage, Tormentil, Pineapple Mayweed, Yellow Dock and most exciting for me, Red Clover. The latter is becoming increasingly rare due to modern farming methods. It is an herb I would never be without in my herbal pharmacopoeia as it is such a wonderful cleansing herb for skin, blood and lymphatic systems. It is extremely useful for all kinds of skin conditions especially childhood eczema.

Walking on through the cemetery of Westham Church we found what I considered to be the star of the show – the most beautiful large and very old Lime Tree which was still in flower. This is not the Lime that we eat but *Tilia Europea*. It is the dried flowers that are used and these are calming and relaxing. They are useful for any stress related conditions.

We walked back to the car park through the castle grounds keeping close to the walls which had a profusion of stone loving plants growing on them including Pellitory-of-the-Wall which I use in my clinic regularly as an excellent urinary system cleanser and diuretic. The variety of wild plants many of which have medicinal properties growing in our close environment is astounding, considering the amount of weed killer currently used and I still can't help getting excited when I see herbs in the wild that I commonly use everyday.

Next year I will do a walk on the Downs as I spotted Marjoram, Wild Thyme, Eyebright and many more plants that are worth a visit.

Vet's Football

The Vet's football team are still meeting on Sunday mornings for a 'kick about' throughout the summer. The team has been very popular and players do not want to stop (in case they seize up!!). Players can come as often or as little as

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On the move?

If you are moving in the near future, please contact either Leon Mumford or Charlie Guthrie for a competitive quote with their extensive knowledge of the peculiarities of Marina properties.

**E mail: leonmumford@templebirdlaw.co.uk or
c.guthrie@templebirdlaw.co.uk**

Tel: 01323 479888.

they want to- there is no big commitment needed.

Players can be 32- 102!!! - the purpose of the team is to meet people who live on the harbour and get together on a Sunday morning with a group of like minded lads for exercise and a bit of fun (nothing too serious!!) All abilities and fitness levels welcome. We also have social events for players and partners and plan more in the future.

Foe more information, contact Frank Milmo on 07771-610158
frankmilmo@btinternet.com

Haven School Fete

The Haven School Fete on 7th July was a great success for the organisers, The Haven Beacon PTA, with over £1,000 raised to boost their funds.

SHRA committee members were there to promote the Association and the SHRA donated a compact digital camera as the first prize in the raffle. Dominique Edge, who said she had never before won a prize in a raffle, was the delighted winner.

The 'familiar objects from an unfamiliar angle' competition on the SHRA stand

was won by 8 years old Oscar Williams.

Sovereign Harbour Racing Club

Club members are eagerly looking forward to going to Goodwood on the week-end of The Celebration Mile (25th/26th August), and arrangements are well advanced.

Only a few places are still to be filled to ensure a full house. Not surprising, when you realise that the price, just £25 per person, includes return coach travel to the course, and admission to the Gordon Enclosure and grandstand.

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

Help the Friends of Beachy Head Countryside Centre

The Friends of Beachy Head Countryside Centre (at Beachy Head) urgently need volunteers to help at the Centre during the summer period.

Ideal for anyone who enjoys meeting new people and likes working in a very friendly environment.

**For further details, please call
Hazel Levene on 479796.**

