

Waterlines

The newsletter of the
Sovereign Harbour Residents Association



Issue 42

www.shra.co.uk

December, 2008

***Advance Notice of
Annual General Meeting
for members only
at the
Haven School, Atlantic Drive
Thursday, 12th March, 2009
Starting at 7:30 pm
Doors open 7:00 pm***

Vacancies exist for new committee members

! Nominations should be sent,
in writing, to:

The Secretary,

SHRA,

PO Box 124,

Eastbourne, BN24 9AW.

To arrive no later than 12:00 noon on
Wednesday 11th March

End of an Era?

At the meeting of Eastbourne Borough Council on 19th November, a motion by council leader, David Tutt, to refuse the petition to set up a Parish Council for Sovereign Harbour was accepted by the members.

None of the Sovereign Ward councillors took part in the debate. Cllr. Salsbury sent her apologies and did not attend the meeting, and Councillors Bloom and Morris declared prejudicial interests and withdrew from the chamber. Significantly, Councillor Purchase, the Liberal Democrat party agent also declared a prejudicial interest and withdrew from the debate, confirming that the Liberal Democrat party machine had been used in the campaign against the Parish Council that had been led by the Sovereign Ward councillors.

At the council meeting, SHRA chairman, Rick Runalls and harbour resident, Stewart Mitchell argued that the result of the referendum had been badly skewed by the campaign of misinformation led by the Sovereign Ward councillors and urged the members to accept the petition. Harbour resident, Andrew Halpen, who also spoke at the meeting, demanded that the members should accept the result of the referendum and took the opportunity to launch a vitriolic personal attack on the members of the SHRA committee present in the public gallery. Predictably, the council members accepted councillor Tutt's motion and refused to allow the creation of the parish.

Councillor Tutt conveniently forgot that, after the Haven School open meeting, he refused to be bound by the result of the referendum, saying. "It is just one factor to be considered when making the decision". At that time, of course, he thought the result would be "Yes" but, once the result was "No", it miraculously became "the will of the people" and was gratefully grasped by Cllr. Tutt as a lifeline to rescue his party's democratic credentials and confirm his personal

neutrality.

Then, just a few minutes later, the ultimate hypocrisy. Councillor Tutt presented a notice of motion, unanimously agreed by the members, opting the council into the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. The motion noted that one aspect of sustainable local communities is "participation in civic and political activity" The motion later notes that, "The Power Report shows that the more people think that their involvement matters, the more they are likely to get involved."

How can anybody have any confidence that this is anything other than a cynical "tick in the box" exercise by a discredited administration?

Whatever, the decision has been taken and we must move on, but it is evident that this divisive campaign has damaged the SHRA. Committee members made it very clear that they saw the Parish Council as a way of providing continuity and, most importantly, bringing in new blood; many of them will not be seeking re-election at the AGM. Because of that, the AGM has been brought forward to 12th March 2009.

The meeting will be open only to current members (2008/2009, white card with red text)

In light of the expected committee vacancies, it is imperative that, if the SHRA is to continue its work, new committee members come forward. Applications should be made, in writing, to:

The Secretary
SHRA
PO Box 124
Eastbourne BN24 9AW

Please note that only holders of a current membership card will be admitted to the meeting.

In previous years, proceedings have been delayed by large numbers of members wanting to renew their membership at

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the door. If you want to be there, be sure you have current membership. ***No renewals or membership applications will be accepted at the door.***

Request to the Secretary of State

Some residents have asked why we are 'appealing' the Council's decision on the Parish Council application. Let's be clear, there is no appeal process within current legislation, so an appeal is not an option. However, the SHRA took up the cause of a Parish Council to give residents a fair opportunity to decide, so only one obligation remains' to ensure that in future the process is fair, and meets the intentions of the legislation. We are not able to draw conclusions on the standards of conduct expected in the review process, only the Secretary of State, as the 'owner' can do that.

For that reason, the SHRA has submitted a request for an investigation of the way elected members sought to influence the outcome, and whether the process should be amended as a result. It may be that Harbour residents might want to reconsider the value of a Parish Council in the future. If they do then after two years they will be able to re-apply.

The SHRA's objective is to ensure that any future application is free of the negative political campaigning that we have experienced on this occasion.

Possibly your last Waterlines

When the current SHRA committee took office and discussed the publication of a monthly newsletter, the decision was taken to distribute it free of charge to all harbour residents, members and

non-members alike. Fortunately, the newsletter, Waterlines, became so successful that it attracted sufficient sponsorship to enable production at no cost to the members.

That situation has changed, it is well known that, when times are hard, business cuts advertising. It has become obvious that, in the current economic climate, it will no longer be possible to attract sufficient sponsorship to continue publishing Waterlines in the same quantities and at the same frequency without subsidising it from members' subscriptions.

Therefore, starting with the next issue, February, 2009, Waterlines in hard copy will only be distributed to current SHRA members. A downloadable version will still be available on the SHRA website.

Over to you councillors

On the front page of the October issue of Waterlines, we said, "Finally, if you really believe that Eastbourne Borough Council is meeting your hopes, needs and aspirations for the Harbour, then vote 'No'" From the result of the referendum, we can only assume that a majority of harbour residents are satisfied with the situation on the harbour.

Throughout the campaign, our ward councillors emphasised time after time that the main reasons for not needing a Parish council was that they were working 'tirelessly' on our behalf. We don't believe there is evidence to support their claim, but we are open to persuasion.

However, they have made commitments and set expectations; only time will tell

if those commitments will be honoured and those expectations fulfilled. We hope that you will all give them every opportunity to demonstrate their new found community involvement.

Please be sure to let them know of any issues that might be concerning you and please do follow up if you don't get a satisfactory response.

So, over to you councillors!!

Sovereign Harbour Health Centre

One of the major issues to be tackled by our ward councillors is the sorely needed and long delayed harbour health centre

As you will be aware, but for the lone opposition of Cllr. Morris, the health centre planned for 'Site Five' would now be well on the way to completion, and would have been ready for occupation next year.

However, Cllr. Morris insisted that the plan for a health centre could only go forward as part of the new 'Master Plan' and managed to persuade her Borough Council colleagues to support her view. Now, the current economic situation has put the Master Plan on hold, probably for several years, with serious implications for the future of harbour health care.

Unless Cllr Morris comes round to the SHRA view that the health centre should be independent of the Master Plan, and her ward colleagues on the Planning Committee drop their opposition to Dr. Adoki's temporary planning consent for his practice in Barrier Reef Way, the health prospects for harbour residents are uncertain at best.

Neighbourhood Police Update (by PC Ed Faulkner)

Boy racers have caused tremendous problems recently using the Harbour roads as a race track. We, with the help of the residents, have identified the main offenders and I am dealing with them currently.

At this time of year you would expect me to give the usual crime prevention advice regarding keeping presents and

valuable safe from potential burglars.

The Neighbourhood Team will be working all over the Christmas period so please contact us with any issues you have.

I hope that you all have a very pleasant Christmas break, and that 2009 is a good year for us all.

Salvation Army Carol Services

The ever popular Salvation Army carol service with the crew of the Eastbourne lifeboat will take place on the Sovereign Harbour Waterfront starting at 2:30pm on Sunday 7th December. If you've been to previous services, you won't want to miss this and if you've never been before, put the date in your diary. This is an opportunity to have a great afternoon whilst supporting this worthwhile cause.

If you can't make it on Sunday, or you want to hear more, there will be another chance to see the Salvation Army in concert at a carol service at the Winter Garden theatre in Eastbourne Centre on Tuesday 9th December, starting at 7:00pm. Proceeds will go to the RNLI.

What can I give?

Sovereign Polyphony will be giving a charity Christmas Carol concert in aid of The Eastbourne Blind Society

The concert, which starts at 7:30pm on Saturday 20th December, will take place at the Eastbourne Blind Society Hall at the junction of Longstone Road and Bourne Street

Doors open at 7:10pm and entry is free.

Your support will be welcome.

Enquiries 01323-470445

Haven School Christmas Fair

The Haven Beacons PTFA will be holding its Christmas Fair at the Haven School, Atlantic Drive, on Friday 12th December from 2:30pm until 4:30pm.

With lots of stalls, raffle and tombola, this is always a lively event and well worth a visit. What better way is there of supporting the harbour's only school.

Social Clubs and Groups

For more information on any of these groups, call the number given, or visit the 'Social Activities' page of the SHRA website (www.shra.co.uk).

Sovereign Harbour Art Group

The Sovereign Harbour Art Group meets in the Christ The King Church Hall, Princes Park on Wednesdays 5:00pm - 8:00pm and Thursdays 9:30am - 12:30pm

Learn to paint with Acrylics, Oils and Pastels with an Experienced Art Tutor in a friendly, relaxed and enjoyable environment.

Phone Angela on 07914-884378 or e-mail acrylicart@hotmail.co.uk

You might also like to visit the Art Group's page in the 'Social Activities' section of the SHRA website.

Sovereign Harbour Investors Club

The Sovereign Harbour Investors Club meets on the last Tuesday of each month at the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club, starting at 7:00pm. Membership is limited to twenty members.

Dates of meetings will be posted on the SHRA website.

To join the club, e-mail: chairman@shiclub.co.uk or visit: www.shiclub.co.uk

Strollers and Toners

Get fit, correct post natal posture patterns, tone up.

Mondays at 2.30-3.30pm. Cost £2.50

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9.15 - 10:15am

Everyone is welcome and the sessions often run on with drinks on the harbour.

Please call Mari-Anne (fully qualified & insured) on 01323 479280 as classes may alter for January and February.

Harbour Friends

Whether you are new to the Harbour or have lived here for sometime, joining Harbour Friends is a great way to meet new people. Harbour Friends is a social group for Harbour residents of all ages, whether single or a couple. The group meets every Sunday at 7:15pm in the first floor bar at the Yacht Club.

If you are interested in joining, as long as you are a Harbour Resident, come along to our New Members evening which is held on the last Sunday of every month.

For more information visit our website at www.harbourfriends.co.uk, ring Bev on 479797 or e-mail Bev at bev@harbourfriends.co.uk

The Harbour Womens' Institute

The Harbour branch of the W.I. meets on the second Monday of the month at 2:00pm in the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Heather on: 01323 416263.

Vet's Football

The Vets Football Team has now being running successfully for almost three years, but more players are welcome to join from the ages of 32 to 60 years of age, to play Sunday mornings on a casual basis. All abilities and fitness levels welcome. For more information, contact Frank:

vetsfooty@hotmail.com

Sovereign Harbour Racing Club

The Sovereign Harbour Racing Club meets on a number of occasions through the year for excursions to local racecourses.

For more information, or to join the club, contact Linus Gunning on 01323-470757.

Sovereign Harbour Social Club

SHSC meets every Wednesday from 10:00am to 11:30am in Seamoor's at the Waterfront for coffee.

Each month, there will be one outing, lunch, theatre, places of interest.

All are welcome, for further details.

Contact Sam Sweiry on 01323 479111

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* 6.00pm Sundays



Harbour W.I. (by Pauline Hale)

Our AGM was held on Tuesday 10th November. Our Treasurer, Beryl Lloyd-Jones, advised us that we were in a good financial position. Our Secretary, Sue Howcroft, gave The Committee Report covering the past year and thanked the president, Heather Hyrapiet and the committee for all their work and effort. Heather, then gave the Presidents Address and thanked the committee for all their work, and requested W.I. members to volunteer themselves onto the committee as extra help is needed.

If you have secretarial skills, or would like to help 'meeting and greeting' new members, helping with the teas, putting out the tables and chairs, selling raffle tickets, or manning the 'bring and buy' stall, we need your help.

Heather also thanked Sam Sweiry for inviting the W.I. to attend the first meeting of the Senior's Luncheon Club held at Frankie and Benny's. The first meeting of the Harbour W.I. was held at the Harvester Pub, on the Waterfront,

September 2007. From just a few ladies it has increased to what is today, 69 members.

The election of the new president was by written nominations, and a secret ballot took place (not quite Vatican style). Seven names were put forward, four names nominated. Only one, Freda Stalker, accepted and she became President of the Harbour W.I. for the coming year. We wish her every success.

We would all like to give a BIG thank you to Heather for all the time, effort, and work she has put in, steering us well, in our first year and wish her good luck, health and every happiness.

The Craft Club will meet at the Baptist Church hall, Pevensey Bay on Monday 17th November at 2:00pm, making 'Jester Bags'.

The Harbour W.I. New Year Lunch is at PABLO'S on Wednesday 21st January, 12.30pm for 1.00pm (personal choice of food).

Our next meeting is on December

8th. The competition is a Handmade Christmas Cracker and we will have Carol Singing with the Haven School Choir. So ladies, if you are free on Tuesday December 8th. Please come and join us at the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club. 2nd. Floor at 2:00pm. You will be most welcome.

The Harbour W.I. would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Sovereign Harbour Social Club (by Pauline Hale)

We have accomplished quite a lot this year. The Social Club emerged from the original Luncheon Club in February 2008. We have about 28 members and now meet every Wednesday at 10.00am at Seamoors Bar on the Waterfront, where we have been made very welcome by the manager and staff.

Our outings have been: - lunches at the New Star Inn, Norman's Bay. Coopers Pub, and Seamoors. Cream teas at Isfield Station and the Langham Hotel. Coach trips to Worthing and Holmbush (M&S) and Michelham Priory.

Half day walks from the harbour to Princes Park, from the Pier to Holywell where we sat and had coffee in the sunshine, and a walk around Rottingdean Village. Walking will resume next year when the weather is better. We went to a Saturday afternoon bandstand concert and an evening Variety Show at the Royal Hippodrome. Ten pin Bowling is on our list and we have had a good response to our suggestion to do Keep Fit. We have a Christmas Shopping trip to Croydon booked, Christmas lunch at The Wheat Sheaf, Little Common and Christmas Tea at the Seamoors Bar. And we mustn't forget our Book Club which meets every 3rd Wednesday morning of the month, after coffee to discuss the month's chosen book.

Five of the present committee including myself are 'standing down' in January and we would like to arrange a 'hand over' lunch at the end of our time and

wish the new team every success for 2009.

Sovereign Harbour Social Club would like to Wish Everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year 2009.

Sovereign Harbour Digital Camera Club

The first meeting of the new Camera Club was held on 14th October at Seamoors Wine bar at the Waterfront, and was attended by 14 people. Membership included attendees from the Harbour and beyond, with a wide range of experience and interests.

The first order of business was to review people's expectations and hopes for the club, so we could decide the best way forward. The outcome was that the club will meet regularly once per month for practice, discussion, and sharing of photos and experience. There will be photo competitions on set themes, with the first subject to be set at the next meeting, and to be judged in December. We also plan to hold extra sessions and outings to cover special events such as Airbourne, and workshops to cover hints and tips and to give opportunities for improvement through practice and advice.

A website is being developed for the club to allow us to share photos, publicise our activities, and attract new members.

We are actively seeking members and would be pleased to speak to anyone interested in joining the club. If you have any questions or are interested in joining, please call Steve Lashley on 478651 or Sandie Dixon on 471702.

Sovereign Harbour Art Group

The Sovereign harbour Art Group's 2009 Calendar, featuring paintings of the Harbour by art group members, is now available - Price £4.00 each. 20 pence will be donated to the RNLI for each calendar sold.

To order: 07914-884378 or Acrylicart@hotmail.co.uk

Temple Bird

Solicitors

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

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

Pevensey Bay Country Market

The Pevensey Bay Country Market will be held in St. Wilfrids Hall from 10.15 -11.30 every Friday until Christmas.

Good quality home bakes at affordable prices. Further details Fiona 460178.

Colin the Coastguard

The Colin the Coastguard book series springs from an original idea by Catherine Shaw. Steve Goodwin has brought these charming characters to life with an inspired set of illustrations.

Colin the Coastguard is a trustworthy character who children can believe in and regard as a dependable professional, full of integrity and good humour, with a colourful array of friends to assist him in times of trouble.

The aim of the 'Colin the Coastguard' series is to delight, enchant and engage young children by presenting them with a range of wholesome adventures. The stories also provide an introduction to the natural world, and an early awareness of the environment. Against this background, the actions of the main characters can be seen as being positive and complementary.

To meet Colin the Coastguard and Friends where children can read and interact with the first book in the series (Colin Rescues Slipper) provided as a viewable e-book visit www.colinthe coastguard.com

The book was published on 1st October 2008 and costs £3.99. It can be bought directly from the website and is available from other internet book sites. The book is also available from bookshops.

Goodbye SHRA (by Ian Weeks)

When I became a member of the SHRA committee some four years ago, I had no idea of just how much of my time and energy would be consumed by it. I am immensely proud to have been part of a team that has successfully fought off the demands of multi-national corporations, not once, but twice, and would not have missed it for anything. However, there is only so much that can be given and, perhaps selfishly, I saw the proposal for a Parish Council as an opportunity to withdraw from the campaign whilst leaving behind a system that would provide continuity and, more importantly, new blood.

I had already made the decision that, should the referendum result be 'No', I would resign from the SHRA committee, and my instinct was to do so immediately. I was persuaded to delay my departure until the next AGM, but eventually came to the conclusion that I should stand by my original intent.

I always accepted that there would be opposition to the proposal, and made every effort to provide harbour residents with the facts needed to make an informed decision. I won't comment on the campaign waged by opponents, except to say that it was very disappointing to be the target of so much vicious personal abuse.

Whatever, life must go on, and I am already finding plenty to occupy my 'spare time'. Harbour residents have expressed their satisfaction that the future of the harbour is safe in the hands of the Sovereign Ward Councillors. Only time will tell if their faith is justified.