

Waterlines

The newsletter of the
Sovereign Harbour Residents Association



Issue 48

www.shra.co.uk

October, 2009

Help Shape the Future of Eastbourne

**Eastbourne Borough Council invites
all Harbour Residents to**

**The Haven School, Atlantic Drive
on Saturday 14th November 2009
from 11:00am until 3:00pm**

**For a Drop-in Consultation Event
to show its Preferred Strategies for
the Delivery of 4,800 New Homes
in the town by 2026**

Eastbourne Borough Council is currently in the process of preparing its preferred strategies for the delivery of the 4,800 homes that have been allocated to the town in the South East Plan up to 2026.

The good news is that the town has already delivered over 1,000 new homes in the first three years of the twenty year plan, and another 935 houses have

planning permission (but have yet to be built), which puts us well ahead of schedule.

Residents are being invited to drop-in to have their say on how the remainder of the target should be met at a series of consultation events being held in each neighbourhood across the town. Alongside the four delivery proposals

海龍 water dragon

Come and enjoy our unlimited evening menu
Available every day from 5.30pm
£14.95 per head - £7.95 for children under 12

Order as much as you like from our extensive menu

Take away menu also available



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The Water Dragon,
Sovereign Harbour
Eastbourne BN23 5UZ

Tel: 01323 479199

that are being presented, an assessment of each neighbourhood has been undertaken to analyse how sustainable the neighbourhood currently is and how it could be improved. Councillors and Council officers will both be on hand at the rolling programme of 15 exhibitions to take place across the town to answer any questions.

The Sovereign area event will be held on Saturday 14 November at the Haven School, between 11:00am and 3:00pm. The event will consist of a series of exhibitions and the local community will be invited to have their input into the future of their neighbourhood and the overall housing strategy for the town.

You can have your say in the way that Eastbourne will be developed in the next ten to fifteen years. If you feel that Sovereign Harbour has already taken more than its share of the burden, go along to see what could be in store for us.

We welcome this golden opportunity for residents to help shape the future of the town; please don't waste it.

New Waterfront Restaurant

The choice of Waterfront dining became even more diverse with the recent opening of the Water Dragon restaurant.

The fully licensed Water Dragon offers a lunchtime choice of traditional English fish and chips, or a selection of Oriental dishes, according to the taste of its customers.

However, in the evening, it becomes a fixed-price, 'eat-as-much-as-you-like' restaurant offering a wide range of Oriental dishes from its extensive menu. Customers dine in a friendly, relaxed environment served by the attentive staff.

The Water Dragon also offers a 'take-away' service. All of the menus can be viewed on the SHRA website.

The very good news for SHRA members is that from Sunday to Thursday, on production of a current membership card you will be given a 10% reduction on the cost of evening meals eaten in the restaurant.

East Sussex Energy Partnership



The East Sussex Energy Partnership (ESEP) is a scheme that offers grants to help people make their homes more energy efficient. The grants are primarily for installing loft and cavity wall insulation as these simple cost effective measures will help residents heat their home for less – for example, 60% of heat is wasted through un-insulated walls and roofs.

Insulation grants are also available for draught proofing and hot water tank insulation.

The scheme also offers 100% grants for the installation of solar thermal systems for people suffering from fuel poverty; that is they are spending more than 10% of their disposable income on energy. Partial grants are also available for anyone who is interested in installing solar panels.

The ESEP is a joint venture between Eastbourne, Hastings, Rother and Wealden Council.

The grants are only open to people living in private housing (home-owners and tenants renting from private landlords and licensed HMOs). If a resident qualifies (as outlined below) then they will not have to pay anything towards the cost of the installation.

A person subletting a room (e.g. lodger) from a homeowner or tenant will not be able to qualify.

Grants to cover all costs of installing loft and cavity wall insulation for this scheme

are available to anyone that meets the following criteria:

- Aged over 60
- Claiming Tax Credits e.g. Child Tax Credit/Working Tax Credit
- Registered disabled or are chronically ill.

For a limited period only anyone can get a discount of £100 off the cost of insulating their property (maximum grant of £100 per property).

The solar thermal grants for this scheme are available to anyone that is spending more than 10% of their disposable income on energy. If the property is not fully insulated with loft insulation or cavity wall insulation (where possible) or they have savings over £20,000, then a grant will not be offered.

Where there is high demand, priority will be given to those in the highest levels of fuel poverty and who meet the following criteria:

- Aged over 60
- Have children under the age of 16
- Are registered disabled or are chronically ill

For those who do not qualify for the ESEP scheme other help is available.

If a homeowner or tenant is receiving:

- Income support
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Benefit (not including single occupancy reduction)
- Income-based jobseekers allowance
- Disability living allowance

then they could still qualify for free insulation through the utility companies' CERT fund or the Government's Warm Front programme.

The Warm Front programme may also be able to help homeowners or tenants with replacement heating systems.

In addition, the Government's Low carbon Building Programme can help

towards the cost of installing solar thermal panels and other renewable technologies.

For more information on ESEP, CERT and Warm Front call 0800 980 0901, or contact The EBC Energy Team on 01323 415963, or, visit:

www.eastbourne.gov.uk/energy

The story of the South Harbour Weather Vane (by Kevin Connolly)

We were contacted by one of our members to inform us about a superb weather vane that had been erected in a patio garden beside the Outer Harbour promenade. We contacted the owner and he told us this extraordinary story.



About two months ago I found a very rusty model metal galleon next to the rubbish bins under our apartment block.

The ship had been beautifully handmade from steel sheet and wire, it must have taken weeks to make and I appreciated the work that had gone into it. It has twenty-four sails and had been used as a garden ornament, which it probably was, but now the hull had rusted away all along the bottom and it had become

detached from its stand, hence someone had discarded it with the rubbish.

I decided it was far too good to waste and in need of refurbishing and putting to a new use. I thought it would make a great focal point of an interesting weather vane. I wire brushed it, had the hull repaired (almost replaced) and treated the rust. I then carefully painted it for the first time in its life on our dining room table wedged with bricks to hold it, much to my wife's distress.

I designed the weather vane and its base utilising some spare things that I had around the terrace... some bricks, an old umbrella stand etc.

A friend of mine made the circles and arrow for me as per my design and size, and I had the letters and the cloud motif high-pressure water cut from steel sheet. The inner ring and bearings I had produced to my spec by an engineering company.

Much discussion on colours with neighbours involvement (usually fuelled by alcohol) resulted in Eastbourne blue and gold with black and silver highlighting.

My thanks go to neighbours and friends, Mark the Mig welder for welding on site, Vic the Brick for his patience, and George the Navigator for finding true North on his plastic compass!!!

I hope all that see her "sailing around my little world" enjoy her.

Money down the drain

In response to complaints from our members that Southern Water (SW) is still wrongly charging some harbour residents for surface water drainage, the SHRA made a complaint to the Consumer Council for Water. The complaint also noted that a leaflet issued with water services bills entitled 'All you need to know 2009-2010' gave details of the surface water drainage charge, but failed to explain that some properties were exempt from the charge, and it did not address the rebate procedure.

The complaint was forwarded to SW and

the following reply was received from a member of the 'Directors' Revue Team'. Significantly, it re-confirms that nobody who lives on the harbour should be paying for surface water drainage.

"Thank you for your e-mail received on 22 July 2009 via the Consumer Council for Water, which has been passed to me for attention. I would like to start by apologising for any inconvenience caused.

I would like to confirm that since the above site was re-developed, Southern Water had been raising surface water charges for each individual property. It was established that none of the properties were connected for surface water drainage, and these charges should have never been raised.

Whilst some of the occupants had claimed a rebate, not all residents had applied. A database was however created to identify all properties involved, and letters were issued to each individual customer, as follows:

'As you are aware there are 4000 properties, unfortunately out of all of these properties there may be a few that are yet to be updated, I would therefore request that any customers who have not had their account amended, to notify us so that we can amend these accounts accordingly.'

I can confirm that I have noted your comments regarding the surface water charge not being mentioned in our charges leaflet, and I have notified the relevant department. I apologise for this, however I would like to add that information regarding this is shown on the back of our bills, which are sent individually to each customer.'

I hope this clarifies the situation. Once again I apologise for any inconvenience caused. If there is anything more we can do to assist regarding this matter, please call me directly."

A resident, whose challenge to the charge was supported by the SHRA, also received a letter from Southern Water's Customer Relations Department which

stated, *"I understand your premises is not connected to surface water drainage, and these charges should never have been raised.*

I regret to note that due to a clerical error from our end the Surface Water Drainage Rebate was not applied from the date of your occupancy. I can confirm that measures have been taken for the properties in this area not to be charged for Surface Water Drainage.

In the circumstances, it has been agreed that all residents will have the surface water drainage charge cancelled from their date of occupation."

So, check your back bills and, if there has ever been a charge for surface water drainage, call 0845-272-0845 to claim your rebate. You will probably be told that you can only claim for the current year but, because SW has been knowingly charging in error, you should insist that all previous payments are refunded.

This is a great example of what can be achieved if residents collectively stand up against big business.

If you are not a member of the SHRA, or you have not renewed your membership this year, please consider using just £10 of your rebate to join us and help us to continue our campaign to create a truly sustainable harbour community.

Community Police Update



PC Ed Faulkner and PCSO Martin Hylands

We have had a very busy time recently, focusing on a number of issues that have been affecting the Sovereign area. We have completed a lot of work on Prince William Parade, and Atlantic Drive targeting those anti-social drivers who use those roads.



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A Trading Standards
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This has been done in conjunction with colleagues from the Roads Policing Department. Elsewhere we have been warning everyone on the danger of phone scams.

Recently people have received calls from people pretending to be BT and asking for payment details for an overdue bill. This is a scam, and BT do not operate in this way. Please be aware who you give your bank details to.

Finally, cycle thefts appear to be on the rise, indeed we have recently increased the amount of "plain clothes" patrols in the area. Be mindful of the place where you keep your bike.

As ever we are here for any issues or problems you have, please get in touch if we can help.

PC CF161 Ed Faulkner
Neighbourhood Policing Constable
Eastbourne East

0845 60 70 999 ext 19768 (Ed)
0845 60 70 999 ext 14462 (Martin)

More Unsung Heroes (by Ian Weeks)

Driving home along Pacific Drive one Sunday morning, I noticed a man with two children picking up litter from the undeveloped land known as 'Site 7'. The three, North Harbour residents, Mark Hamilton, son Jessie and daughter Charlie, had been collecting for about an hour and had already filled a bin liner.

Mark said he felt the rubbish was unsightly and spoilt the wonderful environment in which we live. He said he was fed up with seeing it and decided that he would



do something about it.

He also said he felt it was very important that children should be encouraged to take responsibility for their neighbourhood and their litter picking had become a regular activity.

It was very obvious that the children were enjoying their task and getting some real satisfaction from it

In the last edition of Waterlines we told about concerned residents at Silver Wharf cleaning up along the marina.

Since then we have received a number of

calls telling us about other areas that are being kept tidy and clean by residents on both North and South Harbours.

Let's be proud of the beautiful place we live in. When you are just out strolling around, take an empty carrier bag and a pair of gloves with you, and pick up a bit of litter and take it home. Help keep the harbour litter free and shame the litter louts. The result would soon be seen.

At the full Council Meeting on 16th September, the following motion was proposed by Councillor Heaps and seconded by Councillor Wallis: -

"This motion urges all ward councillors to support The Big Tidy Up initiative promoted by The Keep Britain Tidy campaign, and as a consequence of doing so consult with their respective constituents and community groups formulating an action plan to ensure areas of their wards are cleaned up in the short term.

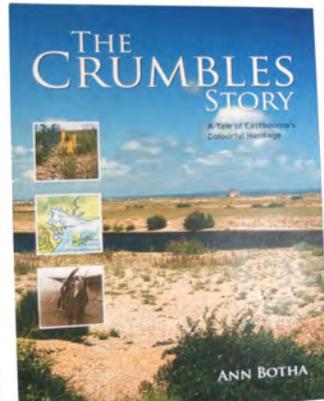
Additionally by working with the area coordinator for The Big Tidy Up ensure a strategy is also in place to keep Eastbourne litter free in the long term."

Rather than wasting it on a small amount of planting, this seems a much more appropriate use for the £10,000 devolved ward budget. So, when our ward councillors conduct their consultation, remember to mention the 'Big Tidy Up'.

choice.

To order a copy and pay with your credit card send an e-mail to the SHRA webmaster, webmaster@shra.co.uk with your name and address and we'll e-mail you a PayPal payment request (you don't need to have a PayPal account).

Or send your cheque for £7.99, payable to SHRA, with your name and address to:



The Crumbles Story
SHRA
PO Box 124
Eastbourne
East Sussex BN24 9AW

If you live on the harbour, we will deliver to your door; otherwise your book will be sent by post.

Shop early for Christmas

If you are looking for a good stocking filler, or perhaps a little treat for yourself, we have a limited number of signed copies of the very informative book, 'The Crumbles Story' by local author Ann Botha.

If you are interested in the history of the land on which the Sovereign Harbour Marina Village was built, this book is for you, and at just £7.99, it won't break the bank.

An added bonus is that Ann, as always, has generously donated 30% of the money raised to a charity of the SHRA's

Health Centre Update

We have received this report on the status of the Sovereign harbour Health Centre from Dr Adoki's Project Manager, Peter Waugh.

"On 1st September, the Eastbourne Borough Council Planning Committee agreed that the Medical Centre should receive full planning permission. Their formal approval letter is now expected by the end of September.

Some design details and a 'Transport Plan' have to be agreed with officers during the progress of the detailed design and preparations, including landscaping. The

first work, which should happen quite soon, is when a small drilling rig is set up to take deep samples of the ground. This will establish the form of foundations needed to support the building. We expect a lot of shingle, mud and sand.

After that are some months of detailed design and tendering - we will keep patients and residents in touch with progress.

We are continuing to speak to Carillion regarding their sale of the land. It was wonderful that so many residents came to the town hall for the planning meeting and spoke in support of the project."

Let's hope the delays can be kept to a minimum and the long awaited Health Centre will become a reality.

Time to Unlock the Trust

The manifestly unfair contract with the Sovereign Harbour Trust, into which all purchasers of Sovereign Harbour properties are obliged to enter, has long been the cause of major dissatisfaction to harbour residents. Despite its stated charitable objectives, the Trust would seem to have been designed to allow the land-owners and the Environment Agency to avoid their responsibilities to provide sea defences and protect the coastal environment, and to bolster the profits of the developers and the marina operators.

Despite all of the Trust's income being contributed by residents, all of the original trustees were appointed by the Environment Agency and Carillion. On the sale of the marina operation, the privileges assigned to Carillion, and the income derived from the 'Marina Rent Charge', passed seamlessly to Premier Marinas. All attempts to have residents appointed to the Board of Trustees have been fiercely rejected. Indeed, the Trust's solicitor has stated that it would be 'inappropriate' for residents to be appointed.

Although a harbour resident was recently allowed to attend two meetings of the trustees 'as an observer', he was excluded from another meeting

because of 'commercially sensitive' discussions. However, a Premier Marinas representative was allowed to attend, as was a representative from Carillion, which no longer has any interest in the operation of the marina. As the Trust is a charitable organisation, you might wonder who's commercially sensitive business was being discussed, why the trustees were involved in the discussions and why it was inappropriate for a harbour resident to be present.

The annual demand we receive from the Trust is accompanied by the year's accounts. Expenditure is shown as simple line items; mainly, Sea defences and Harbour maintenance, and Marina maintenance. All requests for a full breakdown of these items have been refused. We have been told that the Trust has no obligation to provide this information; therefore it will not provide it. You might well wonder why this 'charitable trust' is so reluctant to give details of how it has disbursed the income that we provided.

As the charges for harbour and marina maintenance are indirectly supporting the commercial operation of the marina, you might also like to know what checks the Trust employs to ensure that none of the expenditure is being inappropriately charged. It might well be that everything is above board, but the reluctance to provide details is bound to arouse suspicion.

We have consistently advised the Trustees that the number of harbour properties from which the Marina Rent Charge has been collected has been too low; they have consistently responded that their numbers are correct. However, having at last conducted a proper investigation, they seem to have found about 400 properties that they didn't know about.

Because of this neglect of duty, some properties have never been invoiced but, having identified its failures, the Trust's response was to send invoices for up to seven years back payment, about £1,600, accompanied by the threat of County Court action if payment was not



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Our Amazing Patient Lounge is also an Art Gallery for the Sovereign Harbour Arts Group as well as serving Fresh Coffee All Day!

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made within 14 days. The accounts also show a large number of defaulters who have never been seriously pursued, leaving the Trust with considerable debts, possibly hundreds of thousands of pounds. Failure to collect these debts mean we all pay more.

The insensitive manner in which the Trust went about collecting arrears of Rent Charges shows a basic lack of understanding of the situation on the harbour. These serious administrative failings could have been avoided, or at least identified much earlier, had there been resident trustees.

Appointment of replacement or additional trustees is the responsibility of the existing trustees, and **only them**. They have the power, and we believe the obligation, to do what is morally right; it only takes courage.

The time has surely come for the Trust to open itself to resident participation and scrutiny, and to eliminate the influence of the commercial interests that benefit from it. Until that happens, there will never be trust in the Trust.

Bon Voyage Andy

Sovereign Harbour Marina General Manager, Andy Osman, has been invited by Premier Marinas to take on a new challenge within the Company based at their Head Office in Southampton. Andy has accepted and as a consequence he left the harbour on 2nd October and took up his new position on 5th.

In an e-mail to the Sovereign Harbour Neighbourhood Panel Chairman, Jan Weeks, he said, "I have enjoyed my time here at Sovereign Harbour enormously and hope that I will leave behind much closer links between Premier Marinas and the various organizations that exist here? Janet Taylor will continue to be the Marina Manager and I sincerely hope that she will continue to encourage and build good relationships with your Group."

Jan Weeks said, "Andy was a very valuable member of the Neighbourhood Panel and his contribution will be missed. We wish him every success for the future in his new venture"

Harbour Clubs and Groups

For more information on any of these groups, call the number given, or visit the 'Harbour Clubs' 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 Road on 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 of the SHRA website.

www.shra.co.uk/artgroup.htm

Sovereign Harbour Investors Club

The Sovereign Harbour Investors Club meets on the third 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

Vet's Football

The Vets Football Team has now been running successfully for over three years, but more players are welcome to join, from the ages of 32 to 60, to play Sunday mornings on a casual basis

All abilities and fitness levels welcome. For more information, contact Frank:

vetsfooty@hotmail.com
www.shra.co.uk/vetsfootball.htm

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.

Or, ring Bev on 479797 or e-mail her at bev@harbourfriends.co.uk

The Harbour Women's 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 Freda Stalker on: 01323-471798.
www.shra.co.uk/wi

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

The Sovereign Harbour Social Club meets every Wednesday from 10:00am to 11:30am in Seamoors 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

www.harbourseniors.co.uk

Sovereign Harbour Residents Association Membership Application/Renewal 2009 - 2010

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 **per household**, payable to 'SHRA', should be sent to:

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

For SHRA use only.

Date processed:

Membership number:

Alternatively, go to www.shra.co.uk/join to join or renew using your credit card through 

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Sponsor Waterlines in 2010

We would like to thank all of you who have generously sponsored the production of Waterlines in 2009. Thanks to you, we have been able to communicate with all harbour residents at virtually no cost to our members.

All space in the December issue has already been taken and a number of slots have already been booked for the coming year.

In 2010, we will again be publishing Waterlines every two months, starting in February, and if 2009 is anything to go by, advertising space will be taken up very quickly.

Our policy remains to only take as much advertising as is necessary to cover the cost of producing Waterlines.

So, if you think you will need space in Waterlines at some time in the year, and are able to plan ahead, please book your space as early as possible, it has a habit of disappearing.

Sovereign Harbour Rotary Club

We are forming
A New Rotary Club
at
Sovereign Harbour

It would be great to have some fellow Harbour residents join us.

We meet at 'Simply Italian' every Tuesday at 7:00pm

So why not come along and see what we do?

Or, for more information, ring me on 01323-479713

Don Perman - President