SHRA
Sovereign Harbour Residents Association
www.shra.co.uk

ANNUAL REPORT 2025 – 2026

This report covers the SHRA activities since our last AGM held in May 2025.

1. THE SHRA COMMITTEE

Over the past year, our committee has been joined by co-opted member Mandy Cox and, more recently, Alan Coole and Geoff Kates. During the same period, Caroline Lynam, Richard King and Lisbet Stuer-Lauridsen have left the committee. We thank them all for their hard work, particularly Caroline for her time and enthusiasm as our Membership Secretary.

The members nominated for this year are:

Chair	Dave Rogers	Committee Member	Peter Hawley
Deputy Chair	Carol Collier	Committee Member	Geoff Kates*
Treasurer/Secretary	Carol Collier	Committee Member	Rajendra Pisavadia
Membership Secretary	Mandy Cox*	Committee Member	David Preager
Committee Member	Keith Bateman	Committee Member	David Shaw
Committee Member	David Blackburn	Committee Member	Tony Smith
Committee Member	Alan Coole*	* co-opted.	

The Committee thanks Tony Smith for his continued work on the SHRA website and for the work that goes into producing each issue of *Waterlines*.

Our thanks also to Carol for her work as Deputy Chair/Treasurer/Secretary, to Mandy Cox for taking over and carrying out the role of Membership Secretary and Raj Pisavadia for his excellent work on the posters used for our events.

The SHRA constitution specifies a committee of up to 14 persons; please contact any committee member if you would like to serve on the SHRA committee and help with the Association's work.

2. THE COMMITTEE'S WORK 2025-2026

The committee held monthly meetings throughout the period. We are grateful to the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club for the use of their facilities.

Site 1a

We have two representatives on Untold Living's engagement committee, which also includes local resident representatives. Untold hosts regular meetings and updates us with the latest news. Construction is yet to commence.

Site 7a

Development of Site 7a, the land adjacent to the Medical Centre, is nearly complete after causing much stress to local residents. Aldi and Maris View Care Home are both open and the McCarthy Stone development is due to open in the autumn. We've established a good relationship with the management of Maris View, and they have become one of our sponsors.

The Locks
We've had a number of meetings with Premier Marina management concerning step-free access to the locks from the Eastbourne side. Some work has been done, but concerns remain, and conversations are ongoing about the steepness of the path at the Harbour end of the locks.

Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme
We continue to engage with the Environment Agency (EA) and monitor progress on their Coastal Management Scheme. It appears initially they will do no more than maintain the present flood management while they debate future plans. The EA has indicated it would not fund flood defence improvements required to be carried out by a commercial company; SHRA therefore remains concerned that, should the EA demand Premier carry out such work, the costs will be passed on to residents through the annual Rentcharge.

For more information on the EA's scheme, visit their dedicated website at:
https://www.pevenseyandeastbournecoast.co.uk/

Annual Rentcharge
We have had discussions with Premier and the Sovereign Harbour Trust about the ongoing challenges regarding the annual rentcharge. We believe greater transparency is needed on the monies claimed by and paid to Premier Marinas.

CIC Board Vacancy
SHRA have nominated harbour resident and SHRA member Phil Kearney for a vacancy on the board of the Sovereign Harbour Trust and the Sovereign Harbour (Sea Defences) Community Interest Company, which collects and applies money paid to it in accordance with the rentcharge scheme established to fund flood defence at Sovereign Harbour. We initially nominated Keith Bateman, a SHRA committee member and Commodore of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club, but Keith has decided to withdraw due to other commitments. The CIC will make a further announcement following its next board meeting.

The Crumbles Retail Park
The drive-thru Costa Coffee and McDonald's in the centre of the car park are open, and we are in regular contact with them and M&G (the owners of the retail park) discussing various issues raised by residents, including the regular emptying of the waste bins.

Information Boards
We've finished the refurbishment of the four Harbour information boards. The bird information, the SS Barnhill and the wildlife information boards have been renewed, and the new Seal board is in place. Thanks once again to Peter Lawrence and Keith Collier for their efforts on this project, and to Rajendra Pisavadia for his designs. We're sure you will agree that these boards add to the enjoyment of both residents of the harbour and the many visitors.

The McCauley Place Open Space
We continued to pursue Eastbourne Borough Council, requesting that they accept responsibility for the awful condition of the open space. Stratton completed the hand-over to EBC some while ago, but EBC would not accept this. Finally, we managed to convince them, and their gardeners cleared the area in June. We will continue to monitor this and alert EBC if the condition deteriorates.

Fishermans Quay
We continue to monitor and speak to Premier and to the Fisherman's representative about the untidiness of the Quay area. This has improved, but we continue to ask for more.

Ongoing Matters
We meet regularly with Premier Marinas to discuss various issues around the Harbour and The Waterfront, including events, maintenance, health and safety and flood defence.

We also meet regularly with our Ward Councillors and the local police. Recent matters under discussion include the changes to Harbour lighting, the removal of bus stops around the Harbour,

We deal with a steady stream of emails from members and offer them advice where we can or, where necessary, raise the matter with other bodies.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Please see separate document.

4. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Current Membership Numbers

Date Range: 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026
Total New Joiners **49**
Total Members Renewing Membership **1,340**
Total Memberships Expired **136**
Total Current Memberships at 31 March 2026 1,389
Total Current Memberships at 31 March 2025 **1,476**



Annual Membership
We use the online Membermojo system to manage and renew SHRA membership applications. New members pay an annual subscription fee of £5 per person. All members receive a digital membership card attached to their welcome letter as a PDF file which can be printed or stored as an image. The card is re-issued every year when a member renews. Members can purchase an optional plastic membership card for an annual cost of £5 including postage. All cards carry an expiry date 12 months after a member joins.

Lifetime Members
Before the establishment of the Membermojo annual membership system in 2022, SHRA offered new members a Lifetime membership and a Lifetime membership card. This resulted in a large number of records being retained for Lifetime members who had never been required to renew or update their details, so may no longer be eligible for membership for various reasons.

To confirm the ongoing eligibility of Lifetime members and keep our membership records up to date, we now use the automated Membermojo renewal functionality to require all Lifetime members to renew their membership annually. Lifetime members pay no annual fee to renew every year but can decide to purchase an optional plastic membership card. Lifetime members who do not renew their membership will eventually be removed from the database.

Membermojo Costs
Up to 2,000 members for 1 year = £300. Currently, we have 1,327 members plus 139 members on the expired list, making a total of 1,466 member records in the Membermojo database.

Your Membership Status
Residents can check their membership status or join SHRA by visiting Membermojo: https://membermojo.co.uk/shra and logging on using their email address. Membership enquiries should be made to: membership@shra.co.uk

5. SOCIAL EVENTS

Armistice Day

In November 2025, we organised our first Armistice Day service in conjunction with Sovereign Harbour Community Centre, which was well attended. The event will take place again this year on **Wednesday 11th November 2026 at 11:00am**.

The Santa Stroll

Last December we worked with Defiant Sports to organise the annual walk around the Harbour, raising valuable funds for Defiant Sports. This year's event will take place on Sunday 13 December 2026 at 10:30am starting from 4 Seasons Brasserie (subject to good weather).

Life in Wartime Eastbourne

We will be hosting another talk and presentation at the Yacht Club on Thursday 24th September 3:00-4:00pm. (The bar will open at 2:00-3:00pm for refreshments plus tea and coffee). This will be presented by local historian Alan Wenham, covering life in Eastbourne during WW1 and WW2. Tickets are £5 per person and available as usual through Eventbrite.

Writing Competition

The SHRA launched its first writing competition in conjunction with the Sovereign Harbour Book & Creative Writing Group, which proved popular. There were 12 Poetry and 11 Prose entries on the subject of 'The Harbour', with first, second and third prizes in each section. The winner were announced on 1st September and will be presented with their prize and certificate at the AGM.

6. KEEPING MEMBERS INFORMED

Newsletter

SHRA's newsletter, *Waterlines*, is published online as a PDF file every second month commencing with a February edition (i.e. issues in early February, April, June, August, October and December). There is no printed edition. Something to contribute? Email the editor: waterlines@shra.co.uk

Website and Facebook Page

We announce our news and updates first on the SHRA website, our Facebook page, or in a mass email to all members, sent via the Membermojo membership system. The website and Facebook page are regularly updated, and the website contains a great deal of information useful to residents of Sovereign Harbour, including the harbour's history and the annual rentcharge. It receives around 1,500 visitors a month.

Distribution List and Social Media

For major or urgent Harbour-wide announcements, SHRA uses its *MailChimp* email distribution list to contact member and non-member subscribers. You can subscribe to the list from the SHRA website: www.shra.co.uk/waterlines.html. When appropriate, we have responded to relevant posts on other Sovereign Harbour Facebook Groups.

7. OUR THANKS

We are grateful to our current sponsors – AP-it, Ginger and Sanders Property Management, Leaders Sales & Lettings, Maris View Care Home and Uptons Sales & Lettings for their financial donations that have allowed us to operate the SHRA website and produce *Waterlines* at little cost to members.

We also thank the local businesses who offer a discount to SHRA members. For the full list visit: www.shra.co.uk/join.html

Finally, we thank you, the members, for your continued support of the Association. Please let us know if you wish to bring any Harbour-related issue to our attention.

Dave Rogers
SHRA Chair
September 2026
info@shra.co.uk









