WATERLINES

Digital Newsletter of Sovereign Harbour Residents Association

Issue OL34
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www.shra.co.uk

Hello, and welcome to the February issue of *Waterlines*. I hope that you find items of interest. Comments and feedback are always welcome.

During the lock-downs the SHRA committee has continued to meet on-line, and we continue to contact and lobby various bodies as required.

For the time being, most of the activities of the local clubs that are listed in *Waterlines* remain severely curtailed and we can only hope they resurface when conditions allow.

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Retail Park

You will have noticed that the walkway canopy has been completely removed, other than in front of Asda, and the fascias of the stores have had a wash and brush-up that has removed the worst of the green mould and dirt. We have contacted the retail park landlords to ask if the rest of their approved upgrade plan that includes new shopfronts with replacement canopies (albeit very small and high up) are still going to be carried out.

Seats

Eastbourne Borough Council (EBC) has transferred £1500 from the devolved budget to the Residents Association to provide seats. SHRA will match this from its funds so that two seats could be provided each year. But before seats can be put on the harbour walkways a license is required from East Sussex County Council (ESCC) who have adopted the walkways. It has been left up to SHRA to do all the work required to get a license. Among other things we are required to provide are:

- full details of the structure
- dimensions
- fixings
- purpose
- suggested wording or design
- materials with detailed drawings etc.

All this seems a big ask from a community group, so we are seeking help from East Sussex Highways to complete the form. We are also approaching the ESCC equalities officer to ask for their support. The name of the person responsible for equalities is so hidden in the County Council website that we are not sure that there is anyone dealing with disability matters in ESCC. We are hoping that officers for ESCC and highways will walk round the harbour with us and identify areas where seats will not inconvenience local residents.

Looking in detail at the form for the license, it became clear to us that ESCC had "gold plated" the regulations – the Highways Act 1980. We are not so sure that putting in extra seats should be as difficult as ESCC has made it.



A typical public bench

Harbour Friends

Harbour Friends meet every Wednesday evening at 7.30 at the Yacht Club.

For the uninitiated, Harbour Friends is a social group of Harbour Residents, of all ages, both singles and couples, with the purpose of building friendships and generally enjoying life on our lovely harbour.

Events are open to members only so why not join. At only £15 per year this is a bargain.

For further information please visit the Harbour Friends website at: www.harbourfriends.co.uk

Rotary Club of Sovereign Harbour

The Rotary Club of Sovereign Harbour meets every Tuesday at 7:00pm for a buffet dinner in Seasons at the Sovereign Harbour Waterfront. Visitors and any prospective new members are very welcome to join us.

For more information please visit the Rotary Club of Sovereign Harbour website.

Please note that **links** from this PDF version of *Waterlines* may not always open in a new window or tab. Hovering over the link and pressing down on your mouse wheel may work. Otherwise, from a followed link press the "back" button of your browser to return to *Waterlines.*

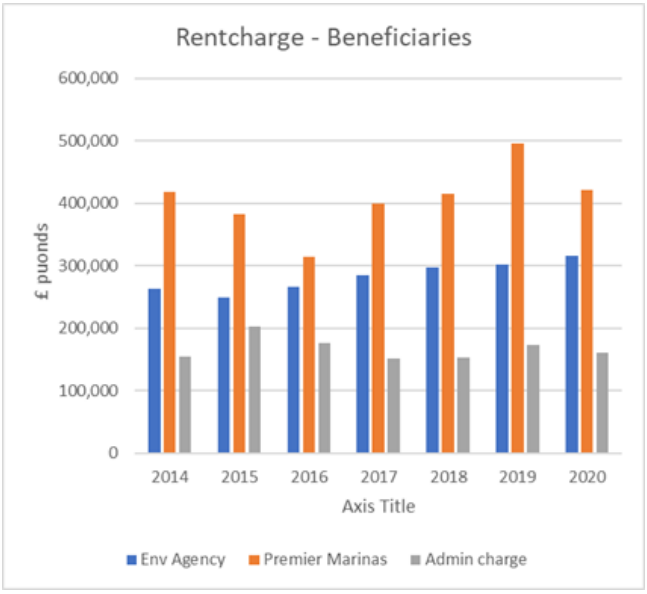
Please consider printing copies of *Waterlines* to hand to neighbours who may not use the Internet.

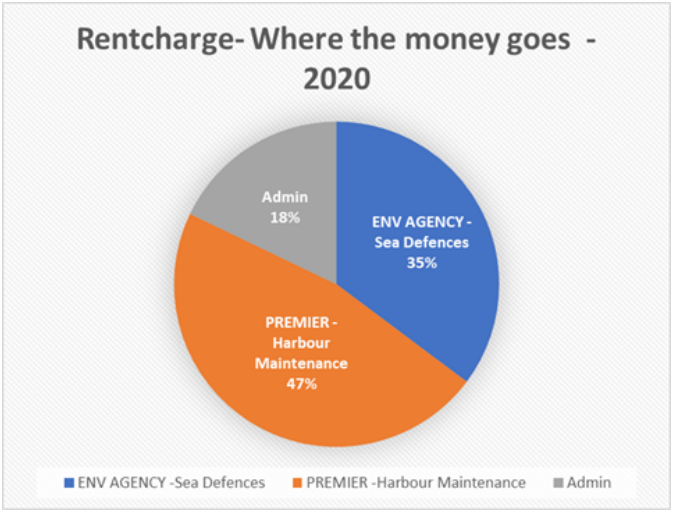
Annual Rentcharge - Where the money goes…

This year's invoice for the Annual Estate Rentcharge has recently dropped through residents' letterboxes, prompting a flurry of posts on Facebook. Understanding who gets the monies collected and what it is for is not helped by the opaque way the invoice is set out.

Who are the beneficiaries? - Put simply, there are two main beneficiaries - Premier Marinas who use the monies for maintenance of the harbour, and the Environment Agency where the money contributes towards sea defences. Sovereign Harbour (Sea Defences) Community Interest Company Ltd (CIC) and its agents Cripps, Greenish and Pemberton have no role other than collecting and distributing the monies. We have been pressing the CIC all year to produce an invoice that sets out more clearly where the money goes but they have not done so, so we have set it out below.

Who gets what? - The charts below show how the monies have been distributed over the past few years. For this year, £316,574 goes to the Environment Agency, £421,425 for Premier Marinas and £160,490 in administration fees. Taking a typical bill of some £261.80, this means roughly that £92 (35%) is for the Environment Agency, £120 (46%) goes to Premier Marinas and £50 (19%) is for admin charges.





Maritime Volunteer Service

The Maritime Volunteer Service (MVS) is a charity organisation which aims to promote seamanship and maritime engineering for the young and old alike through local units around the country.

Training nights are held every Tuesday evening at 19:30 in the new MVS unit within the Boat Shed. New members are always welcome, but give us a call first so we can organise for someone to greet you.

For more information, visit the MVS website or E-mail MVS or Tel: 01892-853500.

The Haven Players

The Amateur drama group based at the Memorial Hall, Dittons Road, Stone Cross. Members include Sovereign Harbour residents.

Visit their Website for details: www.havenplayers.com

Sovereign Harbour Facebook Group

An active group on Facebook with news, photos, information and other posts from Sovereign Harbour residents. www.facebook.com/SovereignHarbourCommunity

Sovereign Harbour flickr Group

The Sovereign Harbour Eastbourne Group on flickr is an on-line public gallery to view and upload photos of Sovereign Harbour. Website: www.flickr.com/groups/sovereignharboureastbourne/

How is it decided who gets how much monies? - The CIC has the legal obligation to collect and distribute the monies according to a complex formula set in legal concrete. Details of this formula can be found on the SHRA website www.shra.co.uk/rentcharge.html (Rentcharge chart).

What is the money for? - Many residents believe that the bulk of the Rentcharge monies are for sea defences, but it is not clear that this is the case. Premier can legally charge for harbour maintenance; that is the cost of dredging including survey costs, waterways cleaning, repairs and maintenance, lock and bridge control systems. Premier's costs are not fixed, capped or related to RPI, so vary from year to year. They usually constitute about half the bill.

The monies collected by the Environment Agency – roughly a third of the Rentcharge - go towards contracting Pevensey Coastal Defence Ltd (PCDL) for sea defences. These monies represent only a proportion of the contract for sea defences for this part of the coast. The amount that the EA can collect is linked to Retail Price Index.

The CIC also has considerable admin costs for legal advice and collecting the monies.

The future - As the fundamentals of these arrangements are set in legal concrete they cannot easily be changed without bringing a legal case. However, there are a number of areas which we are pursuing

Transparency of invoice. Despite endless emails to the CIC over the last year nothing has changed. The invoice still does not clearly state where the money goes. We have offered the CIC help to produce a more transparent invoice but they have not responded. The CIC still presents its invoices as though it were a company manufacturing and selling widgets.

The admin costs are considered excessive and the SHRA has made many representations about this.

The contract for sea defences is up for renewal – we have already contacted the EA and will continue to press them to start discussions. As you can see from below, the University of Southampton is undertaking a project looking at the movement of shingle in Pevensey Bay to inform the new contract.

Finally, as we all know, sea level is rising therefore the costs of sea defences are increasing. The fact that the Environment Agency fees are legally pegged to RPI could be of long term benefit.



Sovereign Harbour Berth Holders Association

The Sovereign Harbour Berth Holders Association was formed in 1999 and is RYA affiliated. The Association benefits the berth holders as well as the harbour management.

Membership offers discounts from local trades people, free RNLI safety courses, workshops and other courses. Visit their website for more information: www.shbha.co.uk

Sovereign Harbour Bowls Club

The Sovereign Harbour Bowls Club meets every Wednesday afternoon at the Sovereign Harbour Community Centre from 2pm - 4.30pm, to play "Short Mat Bowls".

For enquiries please contact:
Anne Newson.
Email: newson17@live.co.uk
Phone: 01323 472259



Fishermens Camera Club

Set up and run by Sovereign Harbour residents, the club meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month, from 7-9 pm, at the Eastbourne Fishermens Club
Royal Parade
Eastbourne
BN22 7AA.

Contact: Steve Lashley on 01323-478651 for more information.

Understanding the movement of shingle in Pevensey Bay

An introduction to the Research being conducted by the Geology & Geophysics Research Group, University of Southampton by *Dr Hachem Kassem* Teaching & Research Fellow in Coastal Morphodynamics, and *Dominque Townsend* PhD student.

The shingle beach between Sovereign Harbour and Bexhill has long acted as a natural barrier, protecting thousands of properties, key infrastructure and transport links from the encroaching sea, as well as the diverse habitats and low-lying wetlands in Pevensey Levels. For nearly 20 years, maintaining the beach has been managed, successfully, through the unique partnership between the Environment Agency and Pevensey Coastal Defence Limited (PCDL) who replenish, re-profile and recycle beach material, where and when needed. This endeavour has been crucial in defending the coastline. However, with warming seas, rising sea levels, and intensifying storms, these interventions will only ever get more demanding if we are to keep the current levels of coastal protection against flooding and erosion. Left to its natural devices, the beach would erode and roll back significantly under the constant assault of the sea.

Understanding how the beach behaves and responds to storms is vital to inform efficient management of the beach in the future. To this end, the EA and PCDL have enlisted our research team from the University of Southampton and the Channel Coastal Observatory, to study the beach behaviour both above and below the water line, and how its mixed sediment (sands and gravels) shift along the seabed and across the beach face. We have so far collated and analysed all existing data we have on the site, including records kept by PCDL and the regional coastal monitoring program. There is clear evidence that the managed movement of shingle is keeping the upper beach at design levels, but the sands below the low water line are gradually being lost, lowering the nearshore region and potentially allowing waves to progress further up the beach face.

With this information at hand, we are implementing one of the most ambitious monitoring campaigns ever attempted. In October, we installed a marine radar, similar to one you would find on a typical leisure craft, on a high tower in the EA depot on Coast Road. Looking into the Bay, the radar uses sophisticated algorithms to map the waves as they approach, measure the currents on the surface of the water and derive the changing seabed levels. Next Spring, we are hoping to implement the next phase, where two arrays of wave sensors placed on the seabed will allow us to track the wave properties as they transform from deeper to shallower waters, and break on the shore, and the resulting sand movement. We will combine this with regular surveys, using small robotic boats, to get detailed information on how the features of the seabed change on a monthly basis.

Continued on page 6

Harbour Women's Institute (WI)

The Harbour branch of the W.I. meets on the second Monday of the month at 2:00pm in Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club. It also has a Craft Club with separate meetings.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Frances Harrap on: 01323-472649.
Website: www.shra.co.uk/wi/

Sovereign Harbour Social Club

The Sovereign Harbour Social Club meets every Wednesday from 10:00am to 11:30am in the Simply Italian annex at The Waterfront for coffee. There are occasional outings for lunch, theatre, places of interest. All are welcome. For further details contact please contact Betty Saunders 01323-479514. Website: www.shra.co.uk/shsc

Harbour Exercise Classes

We are having to use Conqueror hall, just across from the harbour on the Kingsmere estate - a few of the class members are car pooling and some are still able to walk to class.

The classes are as follows: all at Conqueror Hall, Kingsmere.

Mondays: 9.15-10.10am Pilates.
10.15-11.10am 50+ pilates & fitness.

Fridays: 9.15-10.10am Pilates.

Mari-Anne is fully insured with a MSc in exercise physiology, specialising in clinical exercise and exercising with cancer.

Contact: Mari-Anne Elder (fully qualified and insured).
Tel: 07748 678030.
Email:mariandy@btinternet.com

Collectively, this unique dataset will allow us to describe how changing waves and surface currents shift sediment below the tides, and provide clues on what drives the lowering sandy foreshore. Ultimately, this will inform efficient future management of the shingle barrier beach to ensure the local community continues to thrive. Indeed, similar mixed beaches are common across the South and East coast of England, and they, too, remain poorly understood. Our work in Pevensey Bay is leading the way and will undoubtedly benefit other coastal communities engaged in the never ending battle with the sea.

Macauley Place public open space

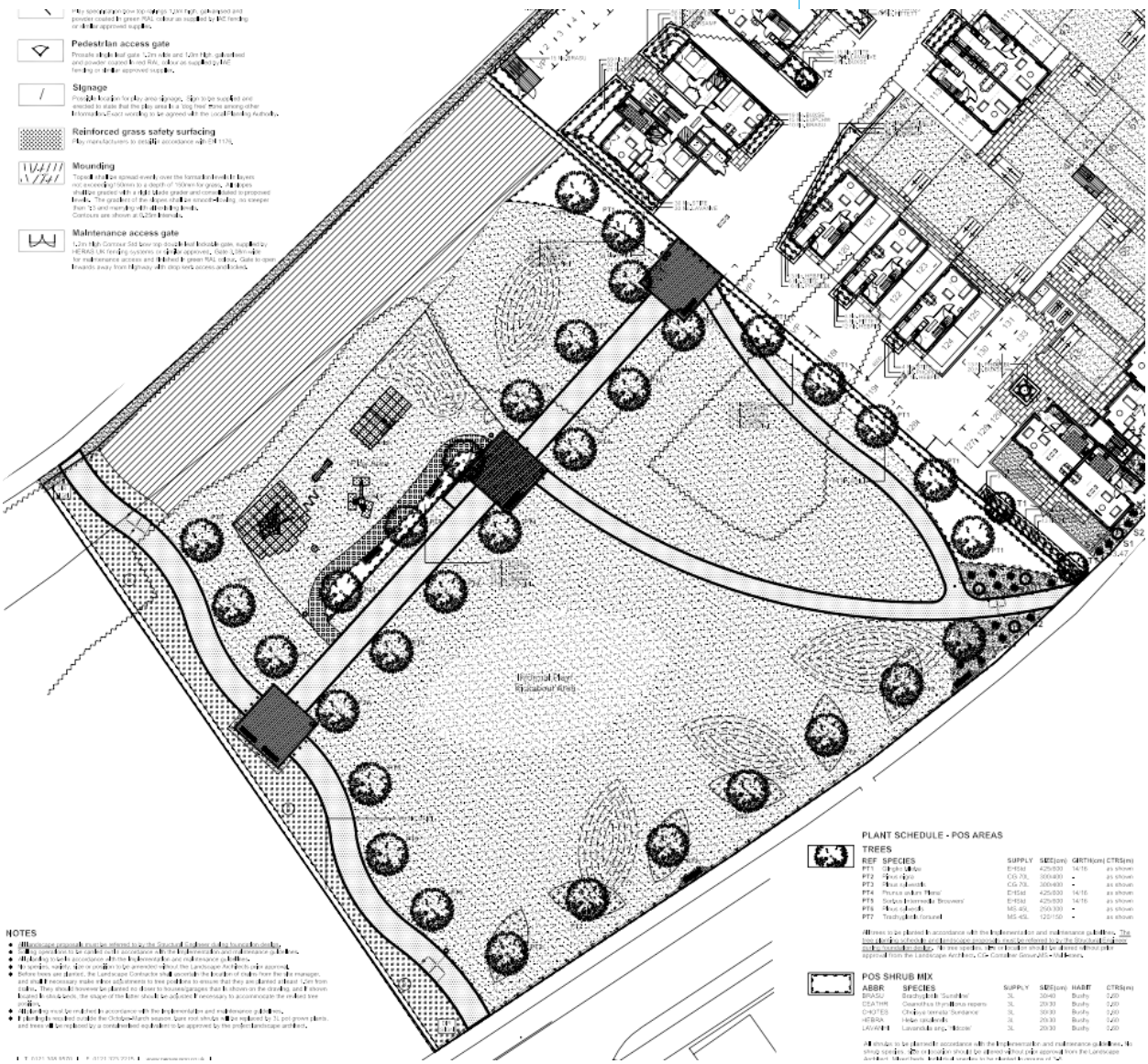
The development of Macauley Place on Site 7a is proceeding and as part of that development, the developers are required to make a public open space consisting of play area, benches and trees on Site 7b. Last year after reviewing the plans, SHRA argued that the site needed more trees and more seats. The plans were amended to include these. Residents will notice that fencing has now gone up around the site and the developer has begun work on the planting. As part of the S106 notice for the development, the developers have handed monies over to the local authority for a bus shelter on Pevensey Bay Road and for a pedestrian crossing on Pacific Drive. We are now chasing the local authority to ensure these are put in place.

Sovereign Harbour Art Group

The Sovereign Harbour Art Group meets in the Christ The King Church Hall, Princes Road on Thursdays 10:00am - 12:30pm.

Learn to paint with acrylics, oils, watercolours and pastels with an experienced art tutor in a friendly, relaxed and enjoyable environment. Fees are £10 per person for each 2.5 hour session, which covers hall hire and tuition. Annual membership fee is £6.

For more information please phone Phone Angela on 07914-884378 or visit the Art Group's web page at: www.shra.co.uk/artgroup/artgroup



Census 2021

Households across the Sovereign Harbour area will be asked to take part in Census 2021 this spring. The census, run by the Office for National Statistics, is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every ten years since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

Understanding the needs of the nation helps everyone from central government to organisations, such as councils and health authorities, plan and fund public services across England and Wales.

Census outputs inform where billions of pounds of public funding is spent on services like transport, education and health – on cycle routes, schools and dental surgeries.

Information from the census is also important in helping lots of other people and organisations do their work.

Charities and voluntary organisations often use it as evidence to get funding. It helps businesses to understand their customers and, for example, decide where to open new shops. Plus, those doing research, like university students and people looking into their family history, use census data. It provides important information on population diversity, allowing organisations to know whether they are meeting their responsibilities and triggering action where necessary.

Census 2021 will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

"The census provides a unique snapshot of our communities," Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at ONS, said. "It benefits everyone. Based on the information you give, it ensures millions of pounds are invested in emergency services, mental health care, school places, hospital beds, houses, roads, GP's and dentist's services. "No-one should miss out. Everyone can complete on online with a new search-as-you-type ability and paper forms for those who need them."

Census day will be on March 21, but households will soon receive letters with online codes explaining how they can take part. The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity. Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations when the information becomes incredibly useful for family history research.

Census day is March 21. Click here for a Frequently Asked Questions leaflet from the SHRA website... For more information and advice on how to answer the questions, visit census.gov.uk

Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club

We welcome new members at any time. You don't need to own a boat. Lots of social functions and many other varied activities throughout the year.

We have great food and discounted drinks to our members and are the only club in the harbour selling Harveys beer!

Our opening hours are:

Tues–Thurs	17.00-23.00
Friday-Saturday	12.00-23.00
Sunday	12.00-18.00

Call in and speak to Sarah to view the club, or contact the membership secretary, Linda Hayler.

Tel: 01323 470888
membership@shyc.co.uk
Website: www.shyc.co.uk

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FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT FOR BEREAVED PARENTS OF ADULT CHILDREN

Talking, or just listening, to others who have lost an adult child can help enormously in coping with your loss.

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For more information:-

Web: www.just-talking.co.uk
Email: just.talk@btinternet.com
Tel: Jenny on 07867 751790

The Harbour W.I.

January' meeting. *'The History of the Home Interior'* was the title of speaker Peter Batty's talk to the members of the Harbour WI. 28 members logged on to see Peter via Zoom with a little bit of help from his wife! He is a tour guide and historian at several stately homes in the area.



Bradbourne House near Maidstone (right) a 17th century Tudor building, is one of the places he works. He showed slides of different rooms in houses and how they had progressed and evolved throughout the years. Starting from way back in 1066 when there would have been castles where everyone lived in the Great Hall, including the animals, or in hovels, again with the animals!

It wasn't until the 17th century that the chimney was invented and changed the way houses were built. They started to have rooms and went on to paint and decorate them. By Victorian times people were wallpapering their houses. That was until a Doctor Orton investigating why a family were all sick and dying found that the arsenic they were using to colour their wallpaper was killing them!

Kitchens were mostly kept away from the main dwellings and hovels didn't even have them. If they were rich enough to buy meat, they would get the local baker to cook it. Even by the 18th century kitchens were hidden away in the darkest most miserable parts of the house.

Toilets and bathrooms were also very late to evolve. After World War One 4 out of 10 houses didn't have a bath. They used a tin bath. They lived in 'Mill Cottages' – back-to-back houses built for the industrial revolution - and the toilet was at the end of the garden. Three million people were then re-housed.



It wasn't until Georgian times that the bedroom started to become a separate room either. Before that beds were made to sleep as many as 12 people. The Edwardians went on to make very elaborate beds and bedrooms with many layers of bedding. Thank goodness we started using duvets or continental quilts in this country in the 1970s!

Peter also set little quizzes for the members with pictures of interiors for them to guess which decade they were from. It was quite amazing to realise how much things had changed even in the last 60/70 years.
END

Sovereign Harbour Bridge Club



Sovereign Harbour Bridge Club is still thriving, unfortunately we are having to play online at the moment but hopefully will be meeting again in the lovely yacht club before too long and are aiming to start a new course of beginners lessons in January 2021.

You can find all the latest information on the Bridge Club website: www.bridgewebs.com/sovereignharbour/

Save The DGH

Working since 2006 to fight the down-grading of core services at Eastbourne District General Hospital. Core services include:

- Consultant delivered obstetrics;
- Acute medical admissions 24/7;
- Urgent surgical admission 24/7;
- Accident and emergency 24/7;
- Acute psychiatric service 24/7;
- Paediatric ambulatory service

And, all in-house services essential for the function of the core services.
Web site: ww.savethedgh.org.uk

Discounts for SHRA Members

The local companies listed below have kindly agreed to offer a discount to SHRA members on production of a SHRA life membership card. We hope this encourages you to support these local businesses.



The usual discount is a 10% reduction. Terms and conditions may apply (e.g. may apply only to food or eating in and/or only on certain days). Please let us know of any difficulties.

• **Active Days Mobility Services**. Repairs and maintenance of mobility devices. 07591 178399 www.admobilityservices.co.uk/

• **AP-it**. Computer health-checks, upgrades, data backup. Tel: 01323 887894 www.ap-it.co.uk

• **Boatshed Brighton** - 10% off brokerage through Boatshed, Sussex' most highly rated yacht brokers. 079200 22540 timkingston@boatshed.com https://brighton.boatshed.com

• **CoCo Hair** - Hair and beauty salon. The Waterfront, Sovereign Harbour: 01323 471147 www.cocohair.co.uk

• **Curry Leaf Restaurant.** On eating-in food costs. 8 Susans Road. Tel: 01323 727900 www.just-eat.co.uk/restaurants-curryleaf-bn21/

• **Ganges Indian Restaurant.** On food costs only. 01323 479988 www.gangesrestauranteastbourne.com

• **Harbour Grill.** Discount on food costs only. 01323 478151. www.gringos-eastbourne.co.uk/

• **Listening to You.** Discount on Counselling services. Strictest confidence. 07976 399 998 www.listening-to-you.co.uk

• **Pablo's Restaurant.** The Waterfront. On food costs only. Telephone: 01323 470400. www.pablos-eastbourne.co.uk

• **Pavilion Cinema & Theatre.** Hailsham Tel: 01323 841414 www.hailshampavilion.co.uk

• **Simply Italian Restaurant.** The Waterfront. Discount on food costs only. 01323 470911 www.simplyitalian.co.uk

• **Sea Training Sussex (STS)**. On-line, shore-based and on-water powerboat and sailing courses. Discount on some training courses. Telephone: 07713 639066 www.seatrainingsussex.co.uk

www.shra.co.uk/join

The Eastbourne Historic Vehicle Club

The Eastbourne Historic Vehicle Club Ltd. dates from 1975 and resulted from the activities of a small group of transport enthusiasts.

It is a member-involved club, run for their enjoyment and benefit. Its aims are simple and straight-forward and its activities diverse within the preservation field.

The Club meets on the fourth Thursday of each Month at Langney Sports Centre. Details on our website: www.ehvc.biz

Columbus Point (Management Company) Limited

The South Harbour water feature is owned, managed and maintained by Columbus Point (Management Company) Limited (CPMCL), a company set up for the purpose by the developer.

In 2015 the company was transferred from the developer to the collective control of the local covenanted property owners; at the same time the freehold of the feature was transferred to CPMCL. Further info at: www.cpmcl.co.uk

The Garden Bar Golf Society

We meet once a month for a day's golf at high quality courses. Current members cover a wide range of abilities, with handicaps ranging from 6 to 28 and, although the golf is important, the social aspects of the day are equally significant.

For more information, call in to the Garden Bar at The Waterfront, Sovereign Harbour, or send us an e-mail gardenbar@hotmail.co.uk

Royal Sovereign Bowling Club

Situated at the bowling greens in Princes Park, there is seating for non-bowlers and spectators around both of the greens.

Open daily from the end of April until end of September each year.

New members, whether new to the game or who have played previously, are welcome. Please visit our website for more details royalsovereignbowls.wordpress.com

The Garden Bar Sunday Football Team

The team plays its home games at Hampden Park, and have been champions of the Lewes and District Premiership. They have been runners-up in several knock-out cup tournaments.

For more information, call in to the Garden Bar at The Waterfront, Sovereign Harbour, or send an email to: gardenbar@hotmail.co.uk

Sovereign Harbour Photoclub UK

The Sovereign Harbour Photoclub UK meets on Tuesday evenings from 7pm over coffee, in the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club. Prospective members of all abilities, from beginners to professionals are welcome.

The objective of the club is help our members take better photographs with camera or smart-phone and to increase members knowledge and ability through projects, exhibitions and competitions, supported by talks and demonstrations. Young photographers especially welcome.

If interested in taking part, please e-mail: secretary@sovereignharbourphotoclub.uk with your name and a daytime telephone number.

Pevensey Bay Sailing Club

Friendly, family orientated dinghy sailing and windsurf club, 10 minutes walk along the beach from the harbour. General sailing, training at all levels and regular club racing and social events.

We welcome beginners and experienced sailors alike and we sail at the weekends and on Tuesday & Thursday evenings in the summer. Our clubhouse offers hot food and a bar at the weekends, and a sun terrace with stunning views over the bay to Bexhill and Hastings. Do come and have a look round the club at any time or contact the membership secretary by email: membership@pbsc.eu
Website: www.pbsc.org.uk

