



SOVEREIGN HARBOUR BERTH HOLDERS' ASSOCIATION

Members' Newsletter No. 156

www.shbha.co.uk

Welcome to the first e-newsletter! You will remember that at the AGM and, after discussion, members voted to move to e-newsletters to save paper, envelopes, postage and to become more eco-friendly generally. The small variation means we can show more photographs and be more flexible in the content as we have variable space rather than be bound by a limit of 16 pages of A5 print.

If you desperately feel the need for a paper version please contact Nigel (Membership@shbha.co.uk)

We hope you will still find the content varied, interesting and relevant. Contributions are always welcome so as the nights draw in start to think of something you could write about for the next edition. Please send your efforts to the editor (committee@shbha.co.uk)



Seals have made their way into the marina and, as pictured, have found their deckchairs. Climate change appears to have supported the move by a number of the creatures to the shores of the south coast.

Seemingly unperturbed by the proximity of people and vessels going in and out of the lock, the model for this photograph – taken with a long lens – spent several hours enjoying the sun and the air show.

NB The strong advice is to keep a good distance from even friendly seeming seals, for the sake of both seal and observer.

“BOAT = Break Out Another Thousand “

Sitting on deck in the sunshine, listening to the knowing words of people passing by, there is little doubt that is uppermost in the minds of those who, perhaps wisely, have not bought a boat, is the cost of ownership.

I heard one man loudly telling his wife:

“Owning a boat is like standing by a toilet and flushing £20 notes away”.

He followed up this pearl with:

“The two best days in boat ownership are the day you buy it and the day you sell it”.

I suppose there is an even greater truth to these saws in present times. I recently had a new sail made and was told that prices of raw materials had risen three times since the start of the year. That was in April!

Increasingly then, boat owners will seek to find the best value in marine products, materials and service. One of the difficulties faced by SHBHA members is that there is little competition amongst service providers in the immediate vicinity and consequently value for money becomes a matter of luck and availability rather than choice.

One of the most useful services the SHBHA might provide is a directory of local services that members have experienced and value. If anyone would like to share good experiences with local service providers or useful tips for saving money on product purchase please send them to us on the SHBA email (membership@shbha.co.uk). As an example, I have found on several occasions that certain items may be found in caravan stores that may also be used on a boat but at a much lower price.

It is also worth considering the purchase of slightly used goods; not just for reasons of economy but also for the very good reasons of reducing environmental impact. A three year old anchor is unlikely to be much inferior to a brand new one and will certainly be much cheaper. The marina on-line boat jumble may be found at: *Sovereign Harbour Nautical Buy Sell & Wanted* on Facebook. Of course, that means joining Facebook... but for the sake of the planet? (You can just view if you don't want to post)

In the spirit of economising, we looked back over the archives of many years of SHBHA Newsletters and found this money saving gem from 2016.

A Sad Tale of a Pair of Joggers ... with a happy ending!

My previous owner didn't take care and within days I was holed!

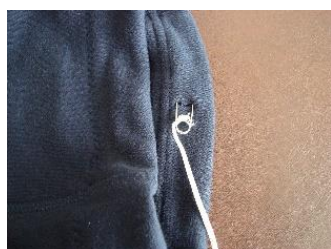


Little did I know I was in for the chop by said owner's miserly wife. She had done a quick measure and had decided I could be recycled into a fender sock!

She took a little out of the shape to make the sides bottom seam was fine so she just turned a seam for the required length (Size F2 I think she was catering for). rattle (or should it have been a jog?) through the the new seam in place. Zig zag was the preferred stitch more 'give' but straight would have been Ok.

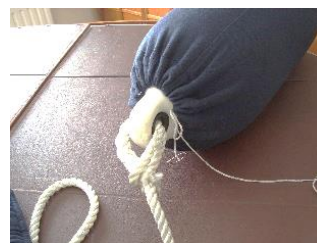


parallel. The top at the Next came a machine to hold as it gave a bit



Then a quick but tiny snip before being prodded with a safety pin attached to some cord. (The op was less painful than I thought!)

Once exited through the same slit the cord was drawn top tight. The same action was performed on the bottom



up to keep the seam.



Not being that hard hearted and to save me being lonely, as well as in the interests of making me some friends, she went out and bought a new pair of joggers to match, made some more and hey presto we were smart and in line like soldiers ready to go off on holiday!!!!

Just an idea. They could be any colour, size etc. as long as you measure for approximate fit beforehand. Price and quality is up to you! The holed 'leg' is saved for any patching that may be required.

The writer doesn't say what item of clothing was used for the ball fender...

.. Just a guess.



If funds are stretched dine in! This very simple recipe is easy to do and soooooo tasty. ENJOY!

Chicken in Cider

Ingredients

5-8 chicken thighs

A little butter or oil

A can of cider

2 very large onions (or to suit)

A couple of large garlic cloves, peeled and crushed

1 tablespoon of tomato puree

2 chicken Oxo cubes

Couscous, rice or mash

Method

Slice and fry the onions in butter or oil for 10-15 minutes on a low heat. Add the garlic for the last 2 minutes. Transfer to an ovenproof dish and reserve.

Fry the thighs on both sides until browned then add the cider, the crumbled Oxo cube and the tomato puree and stir for two minutes. Add to the dish of reserved onions and garlic.

Cover with a lid (or tin foil) and bake for 45-60 mins at 200°C then remove the foil and return to the oven for up to 10 mins to brown the thighs (skin side up).

Once browned serve with either couscous or another choice (and sprinkle with coriander, if to hand)

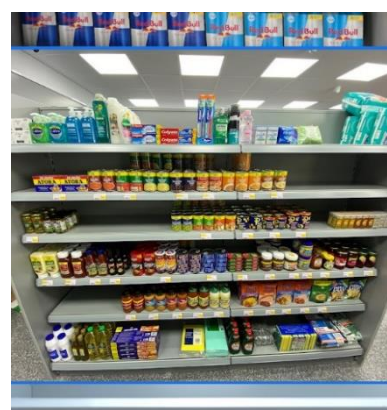
Tip: Use a second can of cider if the portions are larger.....or drink it whilst you wait



Waterfront Store

If you are reading this late on Sunday evening and your taste buds have been whetted, you will be pleased to know that a late opening store has arrived within the marina precincts.

Located next to the North Harbour, and between the barbers and 4Seasons, Waterfront Stores is open until 10.00pm daily and may well save a longer walk or even a car journey when you realize you have forgotten the garlic, or the cider, or the gin or the wine or the milk.





PIRATES A'HOY

On Saturday 13th August, pirates were seen in UK waters for the first time since Tony Blackburn left Radio Caroline. The reason was national *Talk Like A Pirate Day* – which is on September 19th. Just couldn't wait. Ten boats took part, including the aptly named *Eye Eye* and the piratical looking *Carlotta*.

An enormous amount of patience was displayed by spectators and passers-by, very few of whom became (p)irate, when unable to cross the raised bridge for several hours as pirate ships circled the entire harbour.



As may be seen from the photographs, pirate costumes were in abundance and pirates of all ages were seen behaving anti-socially. The day was notable for general good spirits and harmony – perhaps ironically, given the nature of the theme, emphasising the community feel of the marina.

Some pictures speak louder than words



The Commodore was present to receive salutes and several cannonballs fired from an anonymous vessel



What's been going on?

In spite of the cruising season, on-going covid and the hot weather we have kept an eye on the standards and problems found around the harbour. Below please find the latest updates at the time of going to press.

Work moves on with the removal of cladding from the blocks of flats. Most of the west side has been completed and the contractors have started on the apartments that overlook the outer harbour. More rigorous methods of dealing with the detritus such as rockwool, polystyrene, plastic and the like mean that the problem of heavily polluted water has been greatly reduced.

The barrier to the car park area had to be removed as it had virtually stopped working. The new digital has arrived but one crucial device to operate it is still waiting to be made somewhere! Hopefully, when it arrives it will be fitted in a timely fashion to prevent unauthorised parking in berth holder bays by residents. A regulated number of parking permits have been issued and checks are made to look for offenders who have a very sticky yellow sticker attached to their windscreen.





Bollards to allow access to the outer harbour road are also on order.

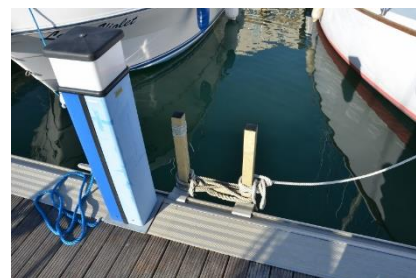
Whilst in the area around lock control you may have noticed that the pigeon problems have reduced. The residents' management board has taken action and will also be replacing some of the netting to reduce this even further. Also on the subject of pigeons....The new lock pontoon was supposed to be fitted with wrapping around the ladders, as were the end caps, to prevent ingress by the blighters. Unfortunately, the company forgot to do this but we have been reassured that it is on the snagging list and will be done. We will monitor to see that this happens.



The new fairway buoy has finally arrived on station having been carefully placed in position by the official deployment company. Larger swivels are being trialled on the buoyage now to try and prevent them from being dragged in heavy weather. Spare buoys are also being kept in stock to reduce waiting time in resolving disappearing buoys and the length of time NTM's are in force.

The dredging campaign was successful with 39 thousand cubic metres being removed during the eight-day period Sospan Dau was here. The resulting post dredge survey shows the channel to be clear.

The harbour has six monthly safety checks but we have been focussing on the state of the rescue ladders for some time. Over half have now been replaced, with more in the pipeline. In the interim they are all to be cleared of weed and growth to make them user friendly if required. We enquired about replacement models which have integral lighting but currently the electric system here is not sufficient to support them - which is a shame.



The bin areas have not been up to standard and there have been problems with collections not happening. This has been hopefully rectified and the bin service should return to normal. Back checking and credit notes are about to be actioned.

A roof for the bike shed in the area near the central bin store is to be constructed shortly following a request by us following a request from a member.

The standard of cleaning in all of the facilities has disappointingly not met the specification set. The issue is trying to be resolved as we want clean showers, floors and toilets.

The unpleasant odours being experienced in the North block has been investigated after we raised the issue. All the drains and traps were clear and the issue was put down to lack of use and the high temperatures. The drains were flushed and



hopefully there will not be a recurrence but we will continue to monitor this closely. (Well, close enough!!)

Unfortunately, the development of the main facilities has been put on hold again. We are continuing to push for this important project to be actioned.

Regrettably the same fate has befallen the completion of the block paving in the boat yard and we will continue to fight to get this onto the projects list at Head Office.



We have been commenting on the quality of exchanges on the radio. Not all of them are as professional as they should be and we ask staff and berth holders to keep conversation short and to the point. Remember others may be waiting to contact the harbour.

The abandonment of cars in the Hamilton Quay underground car park has, in the main, been dealt with. One or two serial offenders are still being tracked down and dealt with through the legal system, which unfortunately takes time.

Unwanted boats have also been put on lien, following notices and the relevant steps in removing them. Six have been sold with some leaving the harbour for project work by their new owners. There are more to follow!!

Rest assured, although the list of discussion points is long we are on the case! We meet regularly with the marina manager and senior staff to discuss how we can be proactive in looking to the future and providing berth holders with the best possible facilities and environment so as to enjoy the Sovereign Harbour experience.



Airbourne Aerial Display– August 2022- The Red Arrows Making Their Mark

The Airbourne display ran from the 19th August for three days and was very well attended by berth-holders and holidaymakers as well as Eastbourne residents. Owing to

Covid restrictions, this was the first display since 2019 and there was plenty of enthusiasm evident amongst spectators and no shortage of skill and showmanship in evidence from the pilots. A large

number of vessels from the marina were able to secure ringside seats anchored just off Langney Point.

For those who spent much of their childhood building Airfix model 'planes it is always a pleasure to see classic models from WW11 – Spitfire, Hurricanes and Lancaster bombers still in condition to fly but there can be no doubt that the startling aerobatics of the Red Arrows will always eclipse anything else in the air. Except, perhaps, that seagull that hangs around the chip shop.



Almost a Full House for the Lancaster's Appearance



Airbourne BBQ



At last, a face-to-face social event for SHBHA members and crew. Our last one was almost 3 years ago. On Saturday, 20th August, approximately 20+ members gathered on the patio in the West Harbour for an Airbourne BBQ. Our last BBQ had been 3 years ago, as displayed by the state of the remaining 'self lighting' charcoal....it wouldn't!!!! Luckily there was a fresh supply and the coals were good and hot when members, old and new, arrived. The weather was so kind that we didn't even need to use the gazebo! A pleasant evening was had by one and all catching up on what we had all been doing since we had all been able to meet.

Thanks to Mel and Symon Cockill for ferrying the BBQs from the store, Symon and Dave for lighting them and to Nigel Dumbell returning them back to the store on Sunday morning.

Gill Clare, Morning Mist, G25

MARITIME VOLUNTEER SERVICE seeks new volunteers

You might have noticed a large black and white boat tied up near the North Bridge, or seen her coming into the marina with tons of plastic rubbish aboard collected from the rocks below Beachy Head, or perhaps going out with a group of young people with special needs who, along with their carers, are enjoying a trip out to sea. The boat is called *East Sussex 1* and she is the national training vessel of the Maritime Volunteer Service (MVS), a UK -wide registered charity with a unit in Sovereign Harbour.

Working with Eastbourne lifeboat during an RNLI training morning



The MVS has been around for nearly 30 years and its mission is to support local communities around the coast and inland waterways of the country. It trains its own member volunteers and other groups in maritime skills which can then be put to good use, such as flood relief, supporting harbour authorities and the emergency services, helping disadvantaged young people, pollution clean-up, assisting at public events and much more.

RIB tuition for Eastbourne young people

MVS volunteers come from all walks of life and find that MVS activities are engaging, enjoyable and worthwhile. Some join with background maritime experience, many have never set foot on a boat before. The age range for joining is 18+, with no upper limit. Indeed, some of the busiest MVS volunteers are retired people who now find they have time to devote to this new activity and hobby.



Heading back from Beachy Head with another tranche of the 5+ tons of plastic rubbish collected by environmental group BHASS Explore from the inaccessible rocks below Beachy Head and taken ashore by MVS on *East Sussex 1* for disposal by Eastbourne Council.



At Sovereign Harbour the MVS meets for training every Tuesday evening at 7.15 pm at First Floor, The Boat Shed at the front of the boatyard. In addition to the large vessel *East Sussex 1*, the unit also has a couple of small harbour boats and will shortly acquire a new RIB type boat.

New members are always welcome so please feel free to turn up on any Tuesday evening. Alternatively, contact the Head of Unit Greg Darby on 01892 853500 or 07767 444143, email mvseastsussex.hou@gmail.com. The MVS volunteers at Sovereign Harbour are a very friendly bunch of people and you will be made very welcome indeed.

***Carlotta* Bristol Pilot Cutter (BPC) 1899**

Carlotta is berthed in the North Harbour. A wooden gaff cutter with beautiful lines and a clear 19th Century heritage, she attracts a great deal of attention both from the sailing community and admiring passers-by.

Bristol Pilot Cutters (BPC) are renowned for their sailing abilities, especially speed and sea kindliness. Some authorities consider them to be amongst the best boats ever built.



In numbers, *Carlotta* is in the mid-range of BPCs. Built in 1899 she is fifty feet (15m) in length, not including bowsprit; has a beam of thirteen feet and draws eight feet. She weighs 28 tonnes.

Originally designed to ferry pilots to and from merchant vessels in the Bristol Channel, with its ferocious tidal bore, Pilot Cutters are fast – capable of making distances of 180 – 200 miles in twenty four hours under sail alone and said to be easily managed by short-handed crew. Although, having watched her being tiller steered by Toby, I would have to say it looked like rather hard work.

Carlotta is owned and sailed by Toby and Samantha (Sam); although, some will say, the skipper is Meredith, the couples' fifteen-month old daughter.



2022-2023

Your committee have been liaising with various others and have started to put together an out of season programme which hopefully will have something of appeal to you. The list is not complete - more events are in the pipe line. Below is a summary of events planned to date. Posters for each event will be posted on the web site and circulated locally nearer the time.

Crew radio- Saturday 22nd October 09.00-12.00

A chance for your crew members to learn how to handle a VHF DSC radio. Aimed at those with no hands-on experience the activities will lead through from turning on, selecting channels, responding to others and making a distress call. A confidence builder for all on board.





Buoys and Toys – Saturday 5th November 09.30-11.30

Mark Sawyer, Lifeboat Coxswain will introduce the set of miniature buoys to those thinking of going further afield where buoys give essential navigational safety information. Activities will include learning the characteristics and meaning, matching buoys to symbols and Sue has some large-scale charts drawn for trial run exercises.

November 26th The Christmas Hamper presentation and mince pie coffee morning 10.00 -12.00

Hopefully, Covid will let us reintroduce this pleasing event. At the morning will be a selection of goods on sale from the RNLI shop cards and calendars, stocking fillers etc). Drop in to meet other boat owners and also members of the Crew and Water Safety the end of the morning, we will present the crew of Eastbourne with a hamper of goodies for them to have to hand during and shouts. **Free event** with any donations going to the Eastbourne crew comforts fund.



coffee (including like-minded team. At Lifeboat after lifeboats



December 9th (Fri 4pm-8.00pm) Sovereign Shines (a collaborative event with Premier and Harbour Rotary Club) There will be a Christmas market, Santa will be calling by and other winter themed activities going on. **ALL** boats are encouraged to light up to support the weekend event which is raising monies jointly for Eastbourne Lifeboat and 'Children with Cancer', a local charity from Polegate. **New categories have been introduced (best snow scene and best mast display)** and **more prizes than ever will be on offer**. We would really like to push the boat out this year and make the harbour shine. Thinking caps on for your plan to **support the event and our local lifeboat**.

There will be a 3 day 'Elf Hunt' competition running from Friday 9th

and on **Saturday December 10th a Santa Stroll will take place**. Organised by the Rotary Club of Sovereign Harbour last year the inaugural event went really well and lots of money was raised for charity. Full details of how to register etc will follow if you wish to join in this fun event.

and to look out for in 2023.....



February "Help!" (date to be confirmed)

Man-overboard and rescue routines To meet a regular demand we are organising this must have morning for wives and partners who worry about what they could do should the worst-case scenario happen. Lead by Mark Sawyer, Eastbourne Lifeboat Coxswain there will be opportunities to ask lots of questions (secure in the knowledge that there are no silly ones!) and jointly think up a plan of action. (*If there is*

enough interest, we can organise a 'woman-overboard' option for skippers to deal with the situation should their crew fall overboard! It happens.....as I well know! S)

March: Lock transiting (date to be confirmed)

Following a short theory session, participants use their own boats and we have trained skippers on hand and onboard (one per boat) to discuss tips and tricks to help make life easier when entering and leaving the lock. One lock will be dedicated to the event with timed slots being allocated to allow us to help as many berth holders as possible. Nervous???? Yacht or motor, small or large, join us and improve your boat skills.



There will be a spring boat jumble so start thinking now about those lockers and how you could recycle some of the boating gear you hoard!

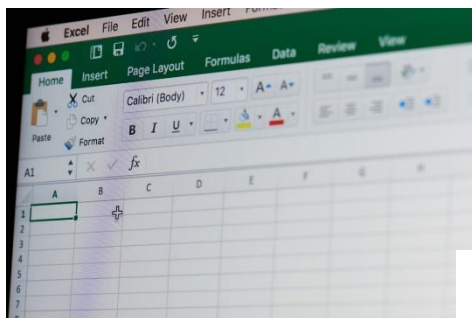
Alternatively.....you could bag a bargain!!

Sue Sydney

Your Officers and Committee work voluntarily to help you enjoy Sovereign Harbour. We are looking for volunteers to help lighten the load. The more the merrier! Think about helping us. Committee meetings are held on the harbour about every 5 weeks (7.30-9pm) or maybe you could give up a couple of hours to help set up an event. If you are interested, please get in touch via the membership email address. At the very least we ask you to encourage others to join and keep the Association strong.

Chairman & West Harbour Rep	Sue Sydney (WS17): Sovereign Star
Vice Chairman & Central Rep	Gill Clare (G25): Morning Mist
Membership Secretary	Nigel Dumbell (F30): Topsy Tart
Secretaries	Andy and Cathy Davy: (Central Harbour) Mr Mac
Treasurer	Sarah Price (F38): Supernova
North East Harbour Rep	David George (NZ06): Solara
North West Harbour Rep	Vacancy
South Harbour	Vacancy
General committee	Vacancy
Newsletter Editor	Steven Pugh (NZ10): Nameless
All members of the committee and officers can be contacted via the website www.shbha.co.uk	





Are you good with spreadsheets?

Do you like communicating?



**You could be our next
membership secretary!**

Nigel has been our Membership Secretary for about 14 years BUT he would like to retire.....*You don't have to commit to that long!!*

Help is available to get you up and running!

The job could be split into the two main areas of responsibility so if you feel you could be responsible for one area there may be someone else out there who will do the other half of the job.

**If you feel you could spare a little time to help out please
get in touch with the Chairman, Sue to discuss the role.
(enquiries@shbha.co.uk)**