

***SOVEREIGN HARBOUR
BERTHOLDERS'
ASSOCIATION***

Newsletter 163

***New Year Edition !!
January 2025***

Contents

- Pages 2 & 3** **What's been going on?**
Page 4 & 5 **Meet the People**
Page 5 **SHYC Boat Update**
Page 6 **Engine Course**
Page 7 **Lifeboat Coffee Morning**
Page 8 **Sovereign Shines**
Page 9 **Sussex Dolphin Project**
Page 10 **Coastal Community**
Page 11 & 12 **Splicing Workshop**
Page 13 **Discount Trimming at SH**
Page 14 **Coming up in 2025**
Page 15 **Members benefits**
Page 16 **SHBHA Committee**



What's been going on?



Life never stops, it seems, so there is always something going on at the Harbour. Below are updates on a variety of items and projects.



The Marina Manager has put the replacement of the central harbour facilities as his main focus in the budget plans for 2025 with the completion of the block paving in the boat yard as his second.

A smaller bid in the budget is being put together to respond to our request for 'what3 words' information on bridgehead gates. What3words is the simplest way to talk about location on this complicated site. Every 3 metre square of the world has been given a unique combination of three words and is now used for e-commerce, delivery, navigation and emergencies. The idea is that following some emergency (health, fire etc) this information can be shared to get help (or even deliveries or lost friends!) to the exact location thus saving crucial time.



The Good

- ◆ More CCTV and spikes have been added to the main carpark. I must say that now the cladding work on the flats has finished it now seems unusual to see spaces when you arrive here! Life is a little bit easier for those who have a boat in the area.
- ◆ After the Association suggested using anti foul on the escape ladders around the marina 6 new ones have been painted and deployed around the marina as a test. Stay safe and try to avoid the need to test them!!!!
- ◆ The Jiffy Clean Company now clean the bins on a rolling programme. Once they have received 'the treatment' they definitely smell sweeter and will have a bin bag placed inside to help the process last a while longer.
- ◆ The fat trap and associated pump causing some of the unpleasant odour in the north facilities has been located and cleaned.
- ◆ A temporary fix has been deployed to try and improve wi-fi coverage on the marina. We regret we have not been given a date for the upgrade to 'Club Wi-fi' which should be coming someday (?soon)!
- ◆ The excessive flooding in front of the boat yard has been traced back to a problem caused by a nearby unit in the Crumbles. The store concerned has tasked its management company with sorting out the issue and everyone is working together to get this sorted at the first opportunity.
- ◆ Welcome to Steve, the new team member for the hoist crew. Steve has experience on canal boats and is looking forward to learning more about sea going vessels.





The Not-so-good



- ◆ There are still some pontoons and silver edgings to be cleaned. Please take care when getting off your boat if the ones nearest you are green!
- ◆ We are still consistently raising the issue of unsatisfactory cleaning of the facilities blocks. New products are being trialled on the grouting and sealant but there are still other areas that need more attention and we will not rest until the standards improve. A senior member of the Premier team has undertaken to look at the specifications, time allowed to complete the jobs and how this can be effectively monitored to see if this will resolve some of the issues.
- ◆ The electric provision automation and upgrade is almost completed with probably only the boat yard to be addressed in the New Year. There have been a few problems with the positioning of the new mini pods, the larger junction boxes and some lighting fittings. When work is ongoing there may still be temporary interruptions. **The marina is now on snagging round three so if you are still experiencing issues please speak to the office staff.**

Meet the People - Tim Kingston

You may have noticed that we have a new "kid" on the block, if you have checked out the units under Premier Marina's boat store.

Tim has opened a new branch of his business, Boatshed Eastbourne boat sales. He has worked in boat sales for over 10 years in Sussex and saw a good opportunity to bring open, transparent and fast sales to Sovereign Harbour.



Initially, he served in the Royal Navy for twenty-five years as a marine engineer, looking after everything except aircraft and weapons and, after retiring, took up facilities management which he also enjoyed - chiefly British Airways property at Gatwick and Heathrow and data centres nationwide.

By now he was enjoying sailing, having bought his boat through Boatshed yacht brokers and really enjoying the process. Once he realised that boating meant he had less time for the day job and with happy thoughts of his Boatshed experience, the thought of making a living around boats appealed. Things progressed at Boatshed and it wasn't long before he became a partner with the whole of Sussex and various locations around the Mediterranean under his belt, plus an involved head office role. He believes that you need to love your job to be great at it - walking the boards, living and breathing boats are all in a broker's day's work! His Strava app tells him he normally walks at least seven miles a day around the marinas!

Totalling over 30 years' nautical and Royal Navy marine engineering experience, varying from warships to a tiny dinghy that he taught himself to sail in, he qualified in all areas of marine engineering during that time, including:

- Mechanical and electrical marine engineering*
- GRP survey and manufacture (building his own dinghy!)*
- Advanced diesel engines*
- Vessel construction*
- Outboard motors*
- RNLI lifeboat crew, safety advisor and life jacket servicer*
- RYA Coastal Skipper Sailing and Power Driven*

His main aim is to bring joy to sellers and buyers. To achieve this, he gathers as much information as possible and presents this on his unique digital platform, so that buyers can see every aspect of a seller's boat - including videos and, uniquely, virtual reality. He enjoys the creative aspect of photography and learning more and more about boats, how they work, their design and the quirky innovations that boat builders use to create space for storage, etc. This information is then aimed directly at those amongst the 1.3 million users that he has access to, who are actively searching for a boat that match the details.

Never a day goes past without learning something - a day in the life of a broker was never destined to be quiet! He puts maximum effort into helping customers with constant communication, guiding them through the process with reassurance, advice and educated knowledge, to ensure that customers get the very best from their boats.

The pattern of work doesn't affect his way of life as he has a very good local team working with him. Flexibility being the key, there is always someone who is available to host a boat viewing or look after a survey or sea trial.

If the office isn't "manned" if you pop along, it probably means that the team are on the pontoons taking photos, or conducting viewings. Just call them up any time and someone should be able to help out.

He wants the brokerage premises to become a hub for boats, where any problem on any boat can be solved, through meeting, discussion and sharing knowledge. His free Boatcare Sussex scheme means you can pop in at any time to use his knowledge and experience to help understand how things work and how to go about solving an issue that you don't understand or can't solve - perhaps just check he's there first!

If he had one message to share it would be that the basics are the most important duties to carry out. "Little and often" being one of his mottos! If you do this you should have a happy, safe boat which is ready to use when you want and which will retain its value. Success for Tim are the reports and feedback that he gets from clients and he's very proud to have achieved more 5 star Google and Trustpilot reviews than all other local yacht sellers combined!

Meet the People - Tim Kingston (continued)

Although a busy man, deeply involved in a successful business he is community minded and is part of the crew on Brighton Lifeboat. One of his proudest moments came when he fully qualified as crew - now he's about to undergo his command exams which will put him in charge of the boat during shouts. Naturally he is also the lifeboat mechanic there and is so committed to his RNLI life and his boat, he makes a point of staying on board his own yacht after crew training each week.

He spends a large amount of his free time reading boat manuals and maintenance schedules, so is trying to give himself some quality time reading up on his favourite topic- medieval history. Currently he is enjoying reading about the true meaning of the Bayeux Tapestry. He also collects information, photos, articles and artifacts and the like to put into his genealogy vault as he is fascinated by his family history.

He dreams of sailing his beloved old Moody single handedly to France and also sailing across the Atlantic Ocean - just once will do!

He's really keen that everyone knows that his brokerage and single point of marine engineering expertise is open for you - please do pop along for a cup of tea and a chat about anything boaty, all free of charge, of course!

Tim can be contacted via phone, Messages or Whatsapp any time on 079200 22540 or tim-kingston@boatshed.com - there's always a cup of tea waiting!



SHYC Boat Update In our last newsletter I reported that Sovereign Harbour YC were proposing to purchase Topsy Tart, Nigel Dumbell's Bavaria 34. I'm pleased to report that, with the help of crowd funding , local business and organisations, including SHBHA, the sale took place on 29th November. Topsy Tart is now owned by SHYC.



I am sure that Nigel would be very pleased to know that this has happened.

Gill Clare

We know a lot more about engines!



There was a full house for the engine course that ran for members on Saturday 11th January. Tutors James Wishman and Guy Emery ran us through easy checks on the engines we had and the possible solutions to any problems we might experience either before we left the berth or even worse whilst out at sea.

Time scheduled checks, along with using eyes and ears should spot difficulties before they become a problem and the need to call for help. James was keen to use modern techniques and thoroughly recommended diagnostic tests of for example oils. Simple and cheap the low-cost sample kits once analysed could save money (and stress!).

James demonstrated a variety of processes; For example we were shown how to change filters, shown how to check the drive belt, what to expect from and how to care for batteries and a whole host of other important parts such as impellers crucial to a smooth running engine.

Guy talked us through fuel issues, particularly focussing on water and/or diesel bug contamination. Passing round a jar full of contaminated fuel was a reminder of the problems this can cause and the ultimate cost of rectifying it. James had his favourite pocket multitool to hand for all occasions and also a complete toolkit set in a handy box which would allow any job to be done but which would fit easily into a locker. He also showed us the very small three items that he would have onboard in addition.

Questions were invited at each stage so participants could clarify any points or concerns and experiences were shared in the very relaxed and convivial atmosphere.

Everyone thanked the pair for giving up their time and being so clearly understood with the help of actual demonstrations, aids and the PowerPoint presentation. Invited by the Association to give a small donation to the station as a measure of thanks for their help nearly £90 was put in the collection box and the team were very grateful for the donation from members.

James and Guy agreed to hold the course again later in the year (probably September) as there were several disappointed people on a waiting list and probably more that would join in on a different date. The highly qualified mechanics also had ideas for a more specific course where they envisioned participants using spanners and other simple tools on actual engines. Now, that will fire up some enthusiasm so we will be working on the programme for that during the summer!!



The weather outside was frightful!

Unfortunately, and in line with a couple of earlier events, the weather was not on our side for the Lifeboat Coffee morning and Hamper presentation. A deep area of low pressure, which was named Storm Bert, brought a spell of extremely wet and windy weather. Looking outside on the morning of the event there was not a soul in sight. This did not bode well for a busy morning!

Well done to the stalwarts who braved the conditions and made the atmosphere inside friendly and warm. The crew were there and it was a chance to meet those who had recently joined. Sea safety advice was also available from the Water Safety team.



The RNLI pop-up shop did well and it was a chance for the volunteers to sell their wares as the actual shop on Eastbourne seafront had to be closed due to the wind.

A variety of mince pies and yuletide fancies were on offer to accompany the hot drinks prepared to order. At the allotted hour the massive goody bags that we give to the crew made their appearance.



Sue sang the vote of thanks and handover speech and Carl Pocock, LOM thanked those present for their support during the year. The gifts were very much appreciated and would be used for the crew keep up their energy levels and stave off hunger when on a long shout or to warm up the crew once they come back from the sea.



to

The Wint' Sovereign Shines event that never was!

Storm Darragh was an extratropical cyclone which severely impacted the British Isles in December. It was a pity that its timing couldn't have been worse! It landed to put a massive spanner in the works of the Sovereign Shines weekend event which had to be cancelled, along with many other nationwide events, for safety reasons.

Premier tried to salvage the event but it proved impossible to get a date to put together all of the elements.

Those who had struggled in the preceding weeks to find a suitable window to put lights on their boats were disappointed and some even took them down rather than have them blown down!

The judging did eventually take place after the RNLl's Carols with the Crew occasion on Sunday 15th December. The rescheduled Santa Stroll also took place on the same day. Conditions weren't perfect and the judging as it became dark just managed to beat the increasing wind. There were more boats lit up this year but 'Aga' stood out as the clear winner. The amount of time and effort that the owner had put in was tremendous.



Prizes were allocated and three boats were given additional booster 'highly commended' envelopes by the Association. They had also put in lots of effort but couldn't match the Christmas spirit shown on deck and onboard the winner. (Paul told me of the looks and comments he got as he carried the life-size Grinch from the car park to the boat!)

Thank you to all who entered and made the effort to join in the community spirit of Christmas.



Sussex Dolphin Project

Some of you may have seen the recent Deep Blue Charters Facebook post reporting the sighting of two Minke whales off Beachy Head on December 14th. This sighting followed closely on my having made contact with the Sussex Dolphin Project. They are a Shoreham Port based research project established to study cetaceans (dolphins, porpoises, and whales) in the Sussex stretch of the eastern English Channel. Lloyd Grofton, a director of the project, sent me the following information to share with our members. They are very keen for all sightings to be reported.

Originally formed in 2018 we were set the task of filling in the research gap on cetaceans in Sussex waters. Initially known as the Brighton Dolphin Project and based under Brighton Palace Pier we moved to Shoreham Port in 2021 and were renamed the Sussex Dolphin Project.

We are an independent organisation that aspires to collaborate with organisations and marine stakeholders, including the fishing community and the wider Sussex community, to create a sightings network. The team is predominantly volunteer-based and lives across the Sussex coastline.

The research data is primarily captured via the Sussex Dolphin Project Citizen science programme, with members of the public submitting both opportunistic and effort-based sightings information. We provide affordable training both on land and at sea, with the aim to increase opportunities for residents to get involved with marine conservation and ultimately feed into our research programme, by combining this with our own research we have developed a unique data set on dolphin activity. The objective is to identify individual dolphins/pods in order to better understand their behaviour, movement, prey species, and breeding sites. This data can then be used to protect our marine environment and ultimately safeguard cetaceans in Sussex. Our work has already contributed to establishing Sussex as part of the Western English Channel Important Marine Mammal Area, and there is more to come.

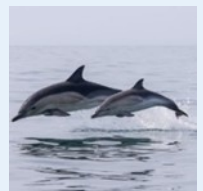
Our mission isn't just about researching cetaceans; it's also about helping the community rediscover its connection with the ocean and contribute to its protection.

We see an abundance of life in our waters. The channel is not just a busy shipping lane; it's also a vital migration route for marine life and a hunting ground for marine mammals such as bottlenose dolphins and harbour porpoises, which we see regularly. Add that to our resident grey and common seals plus the odd sighting of sunfish, bluefin tuna, various sharks and rays and even minke and humpback whales, and we get a better picture of this small but vibrant stretch of ocean. The presence of iconic predators reflects a functioning marine food web.

We are fortunate to have their MD, Thea Taylor, visiting us on 5th March at SHYC when she will tell us more about this fascinating project and how, if we wish, we too can become involved. So, save the date.

To find out more check out their website: <https://sussexdolphinproject.org/>

Gill Clare, Morning Mist, G25





Sovereign Harbour Coastal Community Group

Latest news: Some of you, local to Sovereign Harbour, may have attended the public information meeting at the Sovereign Harbour Community Centre held by the Environment Agency. The aim of this was to share the project designs and get local feedback.

For those of you that were unable to attend here is a brief review.

Preparing for the 2024-25 Winter Season

Pevensey Coastal Defence Limited (PCDL) have been busy preparing the Pevensey frontage for the 2024-25 storm season and have already responded to Storm Ashley. Preparation efforts have included shingle bypassing around Sovereign Harbour, an import of 16,664m³ shingle by barge, and repairs to a damaged section of Herbrand Walk wave screen using good condition recycled timber from the Bournemouth groyne replacement scheme. We were fortunate to be gifted Greenheart (tropical hardwood) timber to repurpose as it still has considerable residual life. It has been used for decades in groynes for its strength and resilience. However, it is not considered a sustainable material, and we avoid sourcing new wood from fragile habitats where possible. The timber was free to the Environment Agency, we only had to cover the costs of collecting and transporting it. Eastbourne Borough Council are also preparing the coastline for the winter season and beach recycling works started on Monday 14 October.

Future plans

The Environment Agency will take over responsibility for the operation of Pevensey Beach from June 2025. We have received full funding approval for this part of the scheme and VolkerStevin are our selected contractor for delivering beach works. Contract development is underway, and we are working with PCDL to ensure a smooth transition. In addition, we are appointing a new Environment Agency Beach Manager to oversee operations alongside our delivery partners. Communities should expect beach activities to be similar for the duration of the project.

For more information and to see the latest newsletter visit: www.pevenseyandeastbournecoast.co.uk

Upskilling!

The splicing workshop arranged for members took place in the yacht club early in November. The well attended course started off with coffee and cake before we were introduced to the team from the chandlery arm of 'Nicky's Canvas' in Brighton. Also present was the local representative from Kingfisher Ropes.

The event got underway with a talk about the different types of rope and their uses. All present were handed a booklet with very detailed text and illustrations to help us remember this information. This was followed by learning how to splice three strand rope. Each group had a tutor and help with the next move was readily to hand so everyone achieved their aim. There was a really good atmosphere of helping and enjoying the activity. Lots of concentrated faces were to be seen as were smiling faces when the eye splice came to be!





With lots of discounts on offer members placed orders for rope, fids, palm pads and the like along with any other chandlery needs.



A tricky job but well worth learning the basics; many went away to do more at home or onboard.

Splice the Mainbrace!

This common saying is a term used to mean free drinks for all.

Did you know????

The main brace on a sailing ship was a heavy piece of rigging attached to the main yard or sailing support. In the event of it parting, making the repair was a pretty onerous task, usually involving most of the ship's company. It was the custom that when the brace had been *spliced*, or rejoined, the crew were rewarded with a free tot of rum. The expression was later used to signal free drinks for all after any particularly difficult task had been satisfactorily completed, or more especially before or after battle.

The practice of issuing free rum in the Navy was dropped in 1970.....much to the dismay of all hands on board.

New discount available!

In the winter weather-window I expect you are making plans for the summer in the hope of sun and sea. Should these plans include repairs, an upgrade or even a new canvas or upholstery creation you need to visit the discounts page as 'Marine Trimming Ltd' have just come 'onboard' and are offering 10% discount to our members on any work completed.

Mark Davey is somewhat like the 'Invisible Man' as he comes onboard to meet you and discuss your individual requirements then once all has been agreed he works away in his off site, Hailsham workshop and reappears with the final fit of the item/s.

Members new to the harbour may not have heard of him but he has been trading on the marina since 2007 making bespoke canopies, cockpit covers and upholstery. Mark prides himself in delivering high-quality, custom-manufactured products tailored to meet the unique needs of each client. He uses only marine-grade materials and fittings, ensuring his products withstand the challenging marine environment.

Believing in the importance of craftsmanship and attention to detail, he and his skilled team work closely with clients to design, fabricate, and install products that not only enhance comfort and durability but also match with the specific style and functional needs of each boat or yacht.



Whilst negotiating the discount with him, and discussing his commitment to excellence and customer satisfaction, he told me ***“Every single stitch I sew is visible and on show!”***

Now that's some mantra!

Coming up in :

Junior Splash!- February 22nd, a morning course held in Eastbourne College Pool. Plans are going forward for this new opportunity. The poster and booking form will be out in the New Year. *Bound to be a favourite if you have children or grandchildren in your crew.*

Sussex Dolphin Project- Wednesday 5th March This is to be a combined evening talk with SHYC, given by the MD of the project Thea Taylor. Full details will be published soon.



Ladies Day- Bearings — *now planned for a date in **March** date tba.* The Ladies group move on in their quest to understand more and improve their competencies. New members are very welcome to join us. Explanations and practical activities, plus lots of support, fun and laughter! Lead by Mark Sawyer, tutor at Sea Training Sussex.

Practical Anchoring – *now planned for **April**, date tbc.* A course with an introduction to the theory and then small group practical hands on experience on the workboat in the North Harbour. Lead by Mark Sawyer, tutor at Sea Training Sussex

Spring Boat Jumble - date to be confirmed at next meeting. Once we have organised the date, we'll 'eek' the details out so that you can start the clear out of your garage or lockers!



Safety Day – awaiting confirmation of the date from Premier. After last year's successful fire safety day we intend to focus this time on 'Man Over Board!' Practical demonstrations, special discounts etc all in the planning.

Don't get yourself 'in a pickle'! Come and join us on one of the courses organised for members. See you there!!

SHBHA - Members' Benefits

Have you checked out the benefits you can gain through your membership to SHBHA? £££



A number of companies, sailing schools and marine organisations offer either discounts or special deals just waiting for you to snap up.

Chandlery, canvas work, lessons, insurance, brokerage, diesel tank testing. Have a look for yourself:

<https://shbha.co.uk/member-benefits/>



And:

Don't forget that the RNLI Water Safety Team attends many of our events to give free advice and information, for example, on how to check and maintain your lifejacket.



<https://shbha.co.uk/events/>

The SHBHA Committee Members 2025

Chairman & West Harbour Rep: Sue Sydney (WS17) *Sovereign Star*

Vice Chairman: Gill Clare (G25) *Morning Mist*

Membership Secretary & NW Harbour Rep: Jeremy Hinton (NG11) *Anyra*

Minute Secretary: Vacancy

Treasurer: Sarah Price (F38) *Supernova*

Newsletter Editor: Jeremy Woolley (N) *Queen of Santana*

NE Harbour Rep: David George (NZ06) *Solara*

Main Harbour Rep: Damien Roper (F25) *Myrtle*

Committee members are welcome from the membership - please contact us via
<http://shbha.co.uk>)