

***SOVEREIGN HARBOUR  
BERTHOLDERS'  
ASSOCIATION***

***Newsletter 166***

***New Year Edition***

***January 2026***

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## What's been going on?

The safety equipment on the pontoons has been standardised. There are better floating lines now and more life-buoys for rescuing anyone who falls in the water. Outstanding are ten red boxes which contain first aid items.



The sluice room has been finally added to the cleaning contract and should be cleaned weekly during the winter and probably more often in the Summer. Management will continue to inspect for cleanliness and hygiene and adjust the frequency appropriately. The area should be now more pleasant to use if your boat has a 'Porta Potty'

The west harbour facilities have had new shower curtains and shower draining soap holders leaving the area looking a bit smarter.



The smell experienced in the North Harbour gents toilets has gone thanks to new traps being fitted in the drains system.

After problems with the signwriting contractors, communication has been re-established by Premier and some movement may happen on the small signs for every bridgehead which give 'What 3 Words' information to relay to the emergency services should help be needed. This idea was first raised about two years ago and was given approval so it is something we chase at every meeting. Fingers crossed this will soon be ticked our list. We live in hope!!

The wifi in the west has been fixed. The break in signal came about due to the configuration after an update. There are still unfortunately problems in the North and you should report any wifi issues to the office as you experience them to help find and resolve the faults.

Club wifi is coming; but when? Dan has not yet been given a date but once it does arrive he believes it will be free to berth holders and for use with up to three devices.



Five new waterpoints are due to be added to the boatyard. This should help reduce the amount of hose pipe required to do basic operations when working on your boat.

We recently requested a better screen for the payment station on the fuel pontoon. Even in dull conditions this sometimes proves impossible to see. Dan was going to look into some sort of binnacle but has widened his research and an option **may** include a unit that will allow payment by phone at this location.

A quote has been received to make the Automatic door in the store work as it should. It needs a new motor and circuitry and will be monitored for anyone trying to force it (thus causing another breakdown).

Six new barriers will be coming to the walkways over the locks and this project will be tied in with the lock lighting column project mentioned in the last newsletter.

In the same area will be a major replacement project. The end of life has come for the present 'Power Pack' shed type building found in-between the two locks. Additionally, it will also have an upgrade to the electronics which will allow for always being able to have one lock that works. (Currently the emergency power set up means one down, both down!) This project is projected to cost £300,000 and will cause a FULL SHUT DOWN of BOTH LOCKS FOR 10 DAYS. This is planned for DECEMBER 2026. Fortunately, the costs of works on the locks is covered by the Harbour Trust.



Unfortunately, in spite of our best efforts to encourage good habits in the bin areas, a few berth holders are still not complying with the signage and leaving items such as microwaves. Dan has decided that he will be installing CCTV cameras very soon to try and identify the culprits.

After years of trying to secure funding for two main projects (complete refurbishment of the central facilities and completion of the block paving in the boat yard) I regret to report that they are both still in limbo. Dan has come to the conclusion that he should make some small improvements to the amenities by way of new worktops and some fittings etc. The boat yard is going to be subject to some exploratory digging and the resulting report will dictate what action needs taking to improve the drainage and finish the ongoing saga of 'Lake Premier'



The pontoon washing carries on but is still a bit random. We have again stated that this is a health and safety issue as green edging is particularly slippery and dangerous. Hopefully the better weather will see improvements in the rate of work in solving this 'Forth Road Bridge' type task. If your pontoon is green contact the office.

You may have picked up in one of the communications from Premier that the Harbour was recently awarded 4 gold anchor awards as a result of a TYHA scheme. The accreditation would have been better if the main facilities had been more up to date, the boat yard had had a better surface and some of the signage met more recent standards. We feel their comments can only add weight to our arguments to make these improvements sooner rather than later.

We have queried our position re the group's recent purchase of 'Boatfolk' who also had 11 marinas in their portfolio. The acquisition was funded through investment provided by Premier Marina's long-term owners, Wellcome, confirming Premier as the UK's leading marina operator. It creates a combined portfolio of 22 UK locations, providing an unrivalled choice of premium destinations across the South Coast and beyond. Having seen large sums of money poured into other recent purchases/takeovers we were worried that our projects would get pushed yet further down the list. Dan feels that the money for capital projects will increase in proportion to the increased number of marinas and that Sovereign Harbour will not suffer as a result. I think this is definitely a case of 'the proof of the pudding is in the eating'. We will be on standby and watching closely!

We also made representation about the management of the 2025 Sovereign Shines/Marina of Magic event. SHBHA were excluded from consultations and there were some, in our view, regressive steps. The dissemination of information and the organisational issues was left far too late to be effective and encourage berth-holders to become enthusiastic about being part of the event.

Well done though, to the winning vessels! (See below)



**The annual Hamper Presentation and Coffee Morning** took place just before Christmas and was attended by members eager to show their thanks for the support given to us by the crew of Eastbourne Lifeboat. There was time to catch up with other boaters and also seek advice from the Water Safety Team who were also on hand.

Many bought cards and stocking presents from the pop-up RNLI shop before the presentation of the 'Hamper' (now developed into 2 Christmas sacks!) full of high energy snacks took place.



Sue had adapted a well-loved seasonal song as her hand over speech and invited those present to join in with the 999 chorus. It all added to the community feel and further cemented the relationship between the two groups.



## Sovereign Shines!



(despite the weather)

Sadly, the weather was not kind to us this year and several boats that entered were unable to light up, that doesn't mean we were left in the dark though. Here are some of the boats that did manage. Some boats that were decorated were not entered.



Thanks to Bev Wood, of SHYC Camera Club, for the photographs.

## The results:

**Big Bubble** – Won the lift



**Eve rose** – Won the £50 Aegea voucher electric



**Citation** – Won £25 Garden bar voucher and £25

## Coastal Management



## Scheme Update

Work on our coastal defences continues as will have been witnessed recently with more visits from Sospan Dau. There have, however, been some revisions as the planned stakeholder workshops for this winter will not go ahead. Changes in government funding means a slight change in strategy however the Environment Agency assures us this does not mean any extra risk to our communities with short and medium-term projects remaining fully funded.

The Autumn also saw Pevensey Bay being visited by the Chair of E A, Alan Lovell, and the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural affairs, Emma Reynolds MP, when they had the opportunity to see the work being done.

More information about their visit is included in the Autumn/Winter Newsletter, as was the following piece:

### ***Flood Action Week: Pevensey Bay in the spotlight***

*In October, DEFRA announced that out of 151 flood defence schemes completed in the past year, our short-term project ranks at the very top - protecting the largest number of properties in England. This achievement places us in the spotlight at the highest levels of government and emphasises our commitment to safeguarding local communities.*

*This milestone coincided with **Flood Action week**, an annual campaign that raises awareness of flood risks and the steps we can all take to prepare.*

*For advice on preparing for floods, visit the [Prepare for Flooding website](#).*

**The newsletter plus previous editions are available to read online at [https://](https://www.pevenseyandeastbourne.co.uk/news)**

**[www.pevenseyandeastbourne.co.uk/news](https://www.pevenseyandeastbourne.co.uk/news)**

If you are interested to view the options under consideration for the longer-term projects, then the following should provide you with the latest information.

**[https://www.pevenseyandeastbourne.co.uk/  
storymap-our-changing-coast](https://www.pevenseyandeastbourne.co.uk/storymap-our-changing-coast)**

# The Ladies Group

Met once again in December and this time developed their knowledge about navigation by focussing on the buoyage system.

The IALA Buoyage System is essential for safe navigation, helping mariners avoid hazards and navigate correctly through channels. The standardized system reduces confusion and enhances safety by providing clear visual cues for navigation

Meeting in the Fisherman's Classroom course leader, Mark Sawyer introduced them one by one to the replica toys which had been made by a former colleague and explained clearly their significance. The groups of buoys were built up and covered:

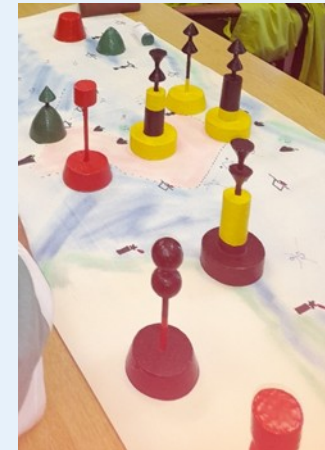
**Lateral Marks** (Indicate the sides of navigable channels)

**Cardinal Marks** (Indicate safe water and the best navigable routes)

**Isolated Danger Marks** (Indicate hazards that are isolated from navigable waters)

**Safe Water Marks** (Indicate safe passage and navigable waters) and

**Special Marks** (Indicate specific areas or information)



There was much discussion about the Barnhill wreck and the possibilities of how it could be marked by Trinity House who are the responsible body!



After the theory the ladies went into small groups to try the practical activities on offer. These included a domino type game, a match the buoy to the chart symbol task and a 'What should we do now?' quiz.



As usual everyone enjoyed the coffee and biscuits and felt more confident in approaching passage planning and responding to buoys.

***The opportunity to cover the subject matter will be revisited later in the year but next time 'Buoys Allowed' will give the men a chance to compound or refresh their skill .***



# Would You Like a Taste of Sailing?

Are you a motor boater, jet skier, diver or small boat sailor?

Would you like to find out what it's like to sail in a 34ft yacht?

If you would, then the association may be able to help.

As I reported in the summer of 2024 Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club have purchased our past Membership Secretary, Nigel Dumbell's, boat. They were able to do this with the assistance of a Sports England grant and crowd funding to which SHBHA donated.

We have 10, 5-hour sessions available onboard Jebbs for our members to claim during the coming month. We plan to have a draw at our AGM to announce who the lucky winners are. The winners can then book their sessions through the yacht club.

You will need to be a member of the yacht club for insurance purposes, but they have arranged temporary membership. This would cost you just £5 per person for 15 days. This would cover your sail period.

If you would like to enter the draw, then please email me by 2<sup>nd</sup> April

[enquiries@shbha.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@shbha.co.uk)



Gill Clare, Morning Mist

## *An Invitation*

The yacht club has several talks and social events planned for the next four months to which members of SHBHA are invited.

They are having a series of **Skipper and Crew social evenings** on the last Friday in the month, 30<sup>th</sup> Jan, 27<sup>th</sup> Feb, 27<sup>th</sup> March and 24<sup>th</sup> April, this will give us all a chance to talk boats and meet like minded people, even possibly meet skippers needing crews.

The series of **Wednesday evening talks** -

Jan 28<sup>th</sup> Steady at the Helm- Why do sailors need chiropractic care?

Feb 18<sup>th</sup> is Yacht Surveyor, Rupert Smith with some anecdotes,

March 12<sup>th</sup> is a talk on Mediterranean and Middle East Conflict

April 15<sup>th</sup> it will be Keith Gabriel 2500nm Around Britain

In connection with the club yacht Jebbs there are a series of **skills evenings** on the last Tuesday of the month

Jan 27<sup>th</sup> Basic Meteorology

Feb 24<sup>th</sup> Tides

Mar 31<sup>st</sup> Rules of the Road

There is also a **fund-raising supper** in aid of Jebbs on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

For more details about any of these, check [shyc.co.uk](http://shyc.co.uk) or email me on [enquiries@shbha.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@shbha.co.uk)

Gill Clare - Morning Mist

# AGM

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will give us a chance to look back and ahead..... SHBHA's next Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup> 2026 in the Sovereign Suite, Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club. Complimentary coffee/tea and cake will be available from 10.00 and the meeting will start at 10.30

If you have any item/s that you would like to be considered for being placed on the agenda for the meeting then written notice must be given to the SHBHA's Membership Secretary, Jeremy Hinton NO LATER THAN 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

The meeting agenda, other papers and information on the accounts will be sent to all members in late March 2021.

*There are vacancies on the committee and we NEED your help. The current Committee work really hard to keep the Association active, friendly and worthwhile. However, they can't keep going forever! We need additional input to bring forward new ideas, add a little bit of energy to support the activities organised and to share the workload. Time commitment is not overly onerous as the Committee meet about every five or six weeks in the Board Room in the Lock Control Building. Meeting dates are decided to suit those present and currently start at 19.15h with an aim to be finished by 21.00h.*

*Please give the idea some thought and volunteer. If you would like to discuss the roles in more detail email [secretary@shbha.com](mailto:secretary@shbha.com).*

# Coming Up

There are a variety of activities planned for the Spring - we hope there is something that will suit you.



Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February

## Splosh!

The bi-annual activity in the warmth of a great swimming pool. Wearing your normal boating gear and following RNLI demonstrations, check out what it's like to be in the water in a life-jacket, how to help yourself and others in the water, try out the process involved in launching your life raft and have a go at getting into one. Simple! It will be in the pool, and this will stand you in good stead if you end up doing these things for real. Posters are displayed around the marina.

Book via [enquiries@shbha](mailto:enquiries@shbha)



Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February

## Ladies Day – Ropes and Cleats

Another practical course which will see participants cover a circuit of activities including coiling ropes, throwing safety ropes, being onboard a boat lassoing a cleat whilst others catch ropes and tie off onto a cleat or bollard. A chance to learn the skills and become more confident.

Limited numbers so book now via [membership@shbha](mailto:membership@shbha)

A Saturday in March (date to be confirmed)

## A Boat jumble

When you're sorting out those lockers and the garage in down time keep on one side the bits you no longer need. It will be just the thing that someone else is looking for!

Make some money or bag a bargain!



Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April

## Mayday!

An open meeting organised by us and to be held in the Sovereign Suite SHYC. Everyone welcome. Find out what to expect if you need to make that call and request help. Lead by RNLI personnel Tim Kingston (Helm and Mechanic) and Dave Needham (Helm and Coastal Lifeboat Trainer) Find out how the emergency services will support and if necessary, rescue you. A pay bar will be available.



Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April

## AGM

Join us to hear a summary of the year and also the plans for 2026/27. Complimentary tea/coffee and cakes before the meeting which starts at 10.30 in the Sovereign Suite of the SHYC. (Full details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter)



Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April

## Making a Emergency DSC call

Aimed at crew who might need to help out in an emergency. Real closed- circuit radios will be in use to give a real hands-on try at making such a call. Other fun activities will also involve participants in learning the vocabulary to use and sound really professional and confident at this stressful time.



# Crispy potato and bacon rosti

A very versatile recipe ..... add a fried egg and make a brunch

Or make a sour cream and chive dip and serve as party food

## Ingredients (Serves 2 as a brunch)

sunflower oil, for frying  
2 rashers smoked back bacon cut into small pieces (or use lardons)  
1 small onion, thinly sliced  
500g/1lb 2oz floury potatoes ( whole)  
salt and freshly ground black pepper

## Method

1. Pre heat the oven to gas mark 8 (or you can use a frying pan)
2. Parboil the potatoes whole until slightly cooked but firm. Leave to cool.
3. Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a lidded frying pan, add the bacon and fry over a high heat until crisp. Remove the bacon and set aside. Add the onion to the pan and fry for 1 minute. Cover, lower the heat and cook for 10-15 minutes, until soft and tender.
4. Peel and grate the potato into a bowl, add the onion and bacon. Season with salt and pepper and mix thoroughly.
5. Grease an oven tray (or add a little oil to the frying pan).

Place a small handful of the mix between the palms of your hands and press together until well compacted. Repeat until the mix is used up. Place rosti on the tray and cook for about 30 minutes or until golden brown. If you are using the frying pan cook small batches until one side is golden brown and then flip them over to complete the cooking.

\*Tip - If you're making a brunch and the frying pan is small you could just make one large rosti and cut in half before placing your fried egg on top.

Feel free to break out the bottle of ketchup or hot sauce.



## Membership Corner

Well, it's been a quiet few months since my last update. Presumably everyone has hibernated for winter. We currently have 149 memberships. Two new members and no leavers since October. The AGM and membership renewals are coming up in the next few weeks so it won't stay quiet for much longer!

Now for the moan...

Running courses demands a lot of effort. They are often oversubscribed and managing bookings can be a headache when, inevitably, the odd person drops out at short notice. This is understandable, stuff happens, but please give as much notice as possible so we can contact those on the reserve list.

Now for the BIG moan - we have had a number of no-shows. This is unfair on both the organisers and those who were turned down due to the course being oversubscribed. Again, stuff happens, but please plan to turn up if you make a booking and if events take over, maybe an apology would be appreciated?

As we creep towards spring, we have plenty of events planned for the first quarter of this year: Splosh, Ropes and Cleats, DSC radio, Premier Safety Day and the AGM. And don't forget the famous SHBHA boat jumble! I'm planning to sail around the UK next year so I will be scouring stalls for useful items!

### **Are your membership details up to date?**

We use email for all correspondence with members so it is essential that email addresses are kept up to date. If you are no longer using an email account, it isn't always obvious as I don't necessarily get a bounce-back email. If you haven't received any emails from SHBHA recently, please send an email to:

[membership@shbha.co.uk](mailto:membership@shbha.co.uk)

containing your name, membership number and your latest email address so I can make sure we have your latest details.

## Remember the Members' forum

The Facebook forum has been quietly running in the background. You will find details of upcoming events and various other bits and pieces. Feel free to post items for sale and wanted (boat related only please!).

The SHBHA Facebook group gives a forum where members and the committee can interact. It is a private forum, only for members of the Sovereign Harbour Berth Holders Association.

It is intended to be used for the following (which should have a link to sailing!):

- For Sale / Wanted
- Help wanted / offered
- Lost / found
- Polls to gauge support for proposed SHBHA events
- Sharing of useful information
- Upcoming events
- Feedback to the committee

Everyone is welcome.

How do you join the group?

You will need a Facebook account. Search Facebook for *Sovereign Harbour Berth Holders' Forum* or browse directly to

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/shbha>

When you request to join the group, you will be asked for your membership number and to confirm that you agree with the group rules. I approve your request and you're in!

Jeremy Hinton  
SHBHA Membership Secretary

## 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) *Anyia*

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>)