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# THE SENTINEL

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**Newsletter of the Bembridge  
and St Helens Harbour  
Association**

No. 42 September 2010

## **FOR YOUR URGENT ATTENTION!!!**

*We are sending The Sentinel out early and as only two pages this time, because there are two important things for you to do this week:*

**MONDAY 13th to Friday 17th – try to get to one of the venues to see the Isle of Wight Shoreline Management Plan 2 exhibition. Your comments are needed!**

**Saturday 18th – THIS SATURDAY – Tollgate Cafe 10 a.m. Beach Clean preceded by presentation to us of £100 cheque from CPRE.**

## **Isle of Wight Shoreline Management Plan 2: mobile roadshow**

The SMP outlines draft proposals to manage coastal flooding and erosion risks over the next 100 years. Visit one of these exhibitions to view the Draft Plan yourself, ask questions and respond with your views and concerns. All venues are open from 2p.m. to 7p.m.

Northwood House, Cowes

Monday 13 September

Ryde Castle Hotel

Tuesday 14 September

Wootton Bridge Community Centre

Wednesday 15 September

Yarmouth Institute

Thursday 16 September

Sandown Library

Friday 17 September

Copies of the draft SMP are also available to view at Newport Library (in the reference section) and Ventnor Coastal Visitors Centre, Dudley Road (by appointment, tel. 857220) until 23 October, or view and comment online at [www.coastalwight.gov.uk/smp](http://www.coastalwight.gov.uk/smp) **Response forms must be returned by 23 October**

## **Chairman's Letter**

Dear Member,

Once again several awaited decisions have not been determined! Although the final stage of the **Harbour Dues Enquiry** process has been reached, there is no decision yet

The final **Eastern Yar Strategy** report from Environment Agency (EA) and Isle of Wight Council (IWC) summarising their recommendations will be published later this year. Thank you to all who responded. The final outcome will prove significant, as the **Shoreline Management Plan 2** is currently out for consultation (see above). The draft maps look encouraging re. the protection

of Bembridge Harbour, Embankment Rd. and the Duver Wall. However, as we know, swingeing financial cuts are being made by central and local Government, so we need to maintain vigilance and record our concerns.

**St Helens and Bembridge Coastal and Harbour working Group** has been active on behalf of our local communities since 2001 when the last SMP was produced. The group's determination and hard work succeeded in making EA and IWC more aware of the importance of Bembridge Harbour and the vital issues associated with its protection. EA have stated they will be influenced by the

final recommendations of the EYS Report.

**Balanced Seas** is a project tasked with identifying offshore and inshore protection areas of south-east England suitable to be classified as Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ). The **Balanced Seas region** is divided into 3 areas, and we are in the Solent, Isle of Wight & Hants group. An initial meeting in Cowes last November resulted in setting up a Regional Stakeholders Group (RSG) with representatives from key sector interests such as commercial fishing, angling, recreation, conservation, commerce, statutory bodies etc. Good progress is being made. The Project team at Kent University has to take account of all aspects affecting the location of potential sites, including economic impact. The team is keen to hear from people who use the region for particular pursuits. To join in, visit the interactive map [www.mczmapping.org](http://www.mczmapping.org) Further information is available at [www.balancedseas.org](http://www.balancedseas.org)

On 8th May our **Spring Beach Cleans** were held in Bembridge and St Helens and our loyal supporters cleared a great deal of rubbish. BASHHA has been leading Beach Cleans for 20 years and has significantly improved the environment, including a massive project involving 5 skips around Embankment Road in 1995. We have received a **Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) £100**

**Award** for litter clearance, for which we thank them most sincerely. The cheque will be presented to us on **Saturday 18 September, 10.00 outside the Tollgate Cafe** when our next Beach Clean & Litter Survey will take place in association with the annual Big Weekend organised by the Marine Conservation Society.

I am delighted to say **Martin Woodward** will give a presentation at our **Know Your Harbour** open meeting on **Tuesday 5th October**. Martin has been a Life Member for many years but, although willing, this is the first time he has been available as he often works abroad.

We were all amazed and full of admiration for Martin's recent epic climb of Kilimanjaro and 2120 mile marathon cycle ride from north to south of New Zealand raising money for the new RNLI Bembridge Lifeboat and the IW Historic Lifeboat Trust. His successful efforts topped £14,000, and were well supported locally, for which he is very grateful. It will be a "not to be missed" opportunity to hear his own account of the museum move and the two challenges. We look forward to seeing you there!

*yours sincerely,*

*Barbara Clough, Chairman*

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## Harbour News by Mike Samuelson, Hon. Sec. BHUG

The numerous sagas surrounding Bembridge Harbour continue. DfT have still not announced a decision on the 2006-2009 **Harbour Dues Appeal** following previously reported Public Inquiry in mid-January. The basis of the Bembridge appeals was very different to the Langstone appeal (the failure of which was announced in early July) so the User's Group is still hopeful of a favourable outcome. If it fails it will add considerable weight to the growing case for a review and re-write of Section 31 to the Harbours Act 1964.

**The harbour remains on the market.** Bembridge Harbour Trust's substantial offer for the freeholds was rejected; however there is no evidence of any other seriously interested party so at the moment there is a stale mate. In the meantime, there is little or no money to do anything, so **all projects remain on hold** (completion of Wades Pontoon, re-furbishment of Fisherman's Pontoon, re-furbishment of Bembridge Marine and dredging). It is unlikely that the 36m extension to Fisherman's Pontoon will be progressed. Only half the trot moorings were commissioned, and only about 30 boats have made use of the ones that have been available. The **Harbour Management Plan** has been reviewed and some updating has been agreed, but the amendments have yet to be issued.

The **Planning Application** submitted in June 2009 covering 6 additional houseboats, a sewage system and supporting engineering works has still to be taken by the IWC Planning & Development sub-Committee – unless progress is made within the next month, it is likely to be rejected.

NE & IWC are now actively pursuing the Harbour Company over their failure to produce the required

**Management Protocol** to cover the outer channel maintenance undertaken by Nigel Bennett. Although the final report has yet to be formally signed off, the conclusions & recommendations of the long overdue **Eastern Yar Strategy Study** are now firm. The two key ones being that Embankment Road will be defended for the next 100 years so that Brading Marshes remains a key European wildlife habitat, and St Helens Duver Wall will be maintained by IWC for the next 50 years under an old but extant conveyancing requirement. Subject to availability of funds, this should mean that the weak areas of the wall will be strengthened over the next couple of years.

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### Know Your Harbour 18

**Tuesday 5th October 7.30 pm  
Bembridge Village Hall**

**Martin Woodward MBE  
"Bembridge to Arreton,  
Kilimanjaro to New Zealand"  
all welcome**

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