

## Obituary

### Perry Kuhns

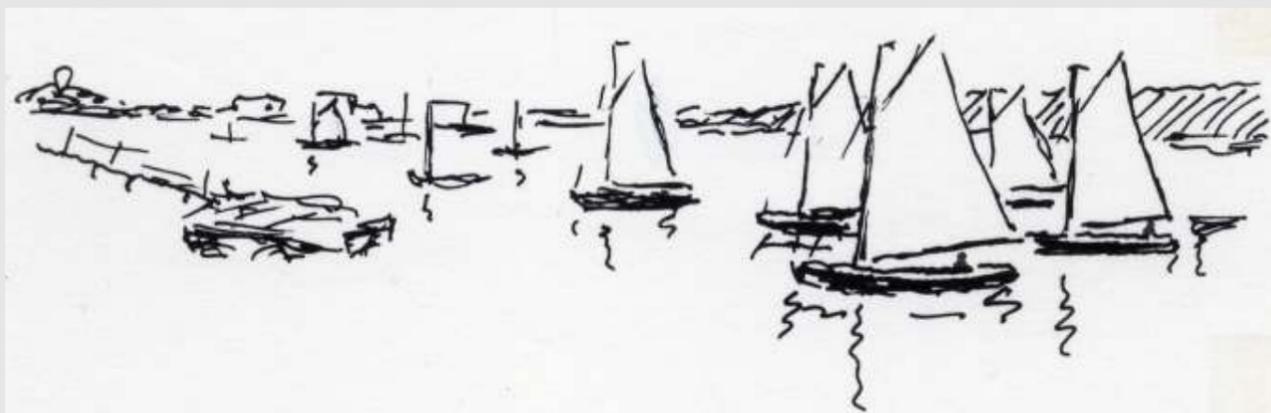
Perry was one of the Founder members of our Association in 1989 and has been a Committee member ever since. He has made a tremendous contribution over the years, using his artistic talents to prepare illuminating maps and information boards. His displays have brightened and enlightened meetings, exhibitions and the annual Street Fair publicity stall.

Perry, an American, originally worked for NASA, but when he retired in 1972 he chose to settle in Bembridge and start a new life here with his wife Marian and son. Until last year he and Marian

owned Unique Crafts in Foreland Road.

Perry drew the maps which featured in our Bembridge Harbour report, and he researched and wrote the chapter on Water Quality.

Through 20 years Perry produced a large quantity of boards containing a wealth of information that he collected and displayed for our interest and education. His family have kindly offered to let BASHHA keep his unique collection for our archives and for future use, for which we are most grateful.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Annual General Meeting  
Saturday 7th March 2.30pm

Venue: Village Hall Speaker: Arthur Robinson - Reminiscences of Bembridge Harbour.

Spring Beach Clean  
Saturday 2nd May 10am

Meet at Bembridge Point or Hovertravel Works, St Helens. Gloves and stout shoes essential. At your own risk please.

Monday 25th May 2pm - 4.30pm

BASHHA Publicity stall at the Bembridge Festival Street Fair. Any offers of help in manning the stall gratefully received.

### THE SENTINEL

Newsletter of the Bembridge and St Helens Harbour Association, Number 39 February 2009

Published by Bembridge & St Helens Harbour Association

Produced by Desktop Studio, Unit 6B Weavers Yard, Lane End Road, Bembridge, Isle of Wight PO35 5US (Tel 01983 874874)

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# THE SENTINEL



Newsletter of the  
Bembridge and  
St Helens Harbour  
Association

No. 39 FEBRUARY 2009

## Chairman's Letter

*Dear Member,*

I am pleased to announce that the Association's website [www.bashha.org.uk](http://www.bashha.org.uk) is in the process of being built and should be accessible shortly. We hope it will prove to be a useful resource for members, interested parties and prospective members. If you know of any one who might be interested, please tell them about BASHHA and encourage them to join.

Annual subscriptions were due on 1<sup>st</sup> January for 2009, so if you have not yet paid, Hon. Treasurer Rod Bowman would be pleased to receive them either by post or at the AGM on 7<sup>th</sup> March. We are delighted to have so many Life Members now but it does mean our annual income is falling. If members were willing to let him have their email addresses, it provides a quick and inexpensive way of communicating should the need arise. Confidentiality is assured and will not be divulged to other parties.

We are always sorry when valued members of the Association pass away, as happens inevitably every year. We were greatly saddened at the sudden death of former Vice Chairman Perry Kuhns on 29<sup>th</sup> January. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family. He will be sorely missed by his many friends and colleagues (see Obituary).

Our sub committee the Bembridge Harbour Users Group (BHUG) has provided a useful update of ongoing activities and concerns.-see overleaf. Many planning applications remain outstanding.

For many years residents have enjoyed reading accounts of events and places in our area written by local historian John Woodford. Recently I came across an article he had contributed to the 1996 Bembridge Festival Guide. We are very grateful to him for allowing us to reproduce his article and the striking photos of Bembridge Pier and Colonels Hard.

The long awaited final Phase of the Eastern Yar Strategy is due to be publicised this Spring. As members know, the outcome will have crucial consequences for the future protection of Bembridge Harbour - its continued viability and prosperity. There will be an opportunity for you to

contribute to the choice of final preferred Option during the period of Public Consultation. Please be sure to do so!

We were pleased to welcome John Medland, author and former Editor of the Island Beacon, to talk on "The Ancient River Yar" at our "Know your Harbour" open meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> October. Members were intrigued to hear of the urgent archaeological dig that unearthed artefacts from a possible Celtic port in the area of Alverstone. John has described fascinating glimpses of Island history in his recently published books, "The Making of the Wight". He was warmly thanked for his stimulating talk.

Spring Beach Cleans will take place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 10 am in Bembridge and St Helens in preparation for the Summer season. Do join us if you can. Families are welcome but at your own risk please. We will also have a Publicity stall at the Bembridge Street Fair on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May. We would be pleased to meet you if you are passing by.

The Association will reach its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 15<sup>th</sup> November this year. A great deal has been achieved and we plan to celebrate with a Retrospective Exhibition and Forum on Saturday afternoon, 14<sup>th</sup> November in Bembridge Village Hall.

Our 20<sup>th</sup> AGM will be held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30 pm in Bembridge Village Hall. Every organisation needs input from new committee members and new ideas from time to time to invigorate it. Please think hard and consider whether you or anyone you know would be willing to join us. We are a friendly group doing a worthwhile job who meet about 6 times a year. Please get in touch with any committee member or ring me on 873213. After the AGM we are delighted that Arthur Robinson, well known local personality, will talk about his Reminiscences of Bembridge Harbour. We look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely,

*Barbara Clough, Chairman*

# Bembridge Harbour Users Group Update

**Harbour Dues:** Decisions on the Section 31 appeals by the Bembridge & St Helens Harbour Association/BHUG to the Secretary of State for Transport against the level of Harbour dues imposed in 2006, 2007 & 2008 are still awaited. The latest information from DfT is that a response on the 2006 appeal has been agreed by their Legal Department so may be issued soon.

**Bembridge Boatyard:** Ownership of the Boatyard has still not been resolved.

**Yar Quay Hotel:** No news.

**Channel Maintenance Dredging:** DERR/DfT went back to BHIC & IWC/NE in early Dec 08 and invited them to review their positions. An agreement has recently been reached which effectively maintains the status quo (albeit without BHIC having to sign up to a 106 Agreement). In the meantime, Nigel Bennett, using his long reach digger, continues to extract sand & gravel from the current channel. During low springs, he is still working out by No 2a Channel buoy for short periods.

**Fore & Aft Moorings:** It is anticipated that the moorings (which were all taken up bar one line used as markers by 1 Dec 08 as required by the Section 106 Agreement) will be re-commissioned in the last week of March. There have been a number of reports of bait diggers working the area which is likely to affect bird counts. The anchors and chain-weights remain a danger to navigation at marginal states of the tide.

**Houseboats:** EA (Environment Agency) eventually put in their submission just before Christmas objecting to the "piles & sewerage scheme for 33 houseboats". The measures required by BHIC to get over the objection are substantial. The application has yet to be taken by the IWC Planning Development Committee.

**Wades & Fisherman's Pontoon:** Provision of water & power to Wades Pontoon (renamed Selwyn Marina) has yet to be completed. No news (other than it

remains in their plans) on when a similar exercise on Fisherman's Pontoon (renamed Bembridge Marina) will start. However, the Harbour Company have recently applied for the necessary FEPA Licence to allow the extension to go ahead - BHUG will be objecting on the grounds of navigational safety.

**Redwing Pool:** At a BHUG Meeting in late Nov 08, the Harbour Master advised that earlier plans for pontoons in front of the Redwing Quay were on hold for the foreseeable future.

**Duver Marina Hospitality Canopy.** BHIC's application last summer for a permanent hospitality canopy over the BBQ area was refused on the basis of an inadequate case; BHIC have now appealed.

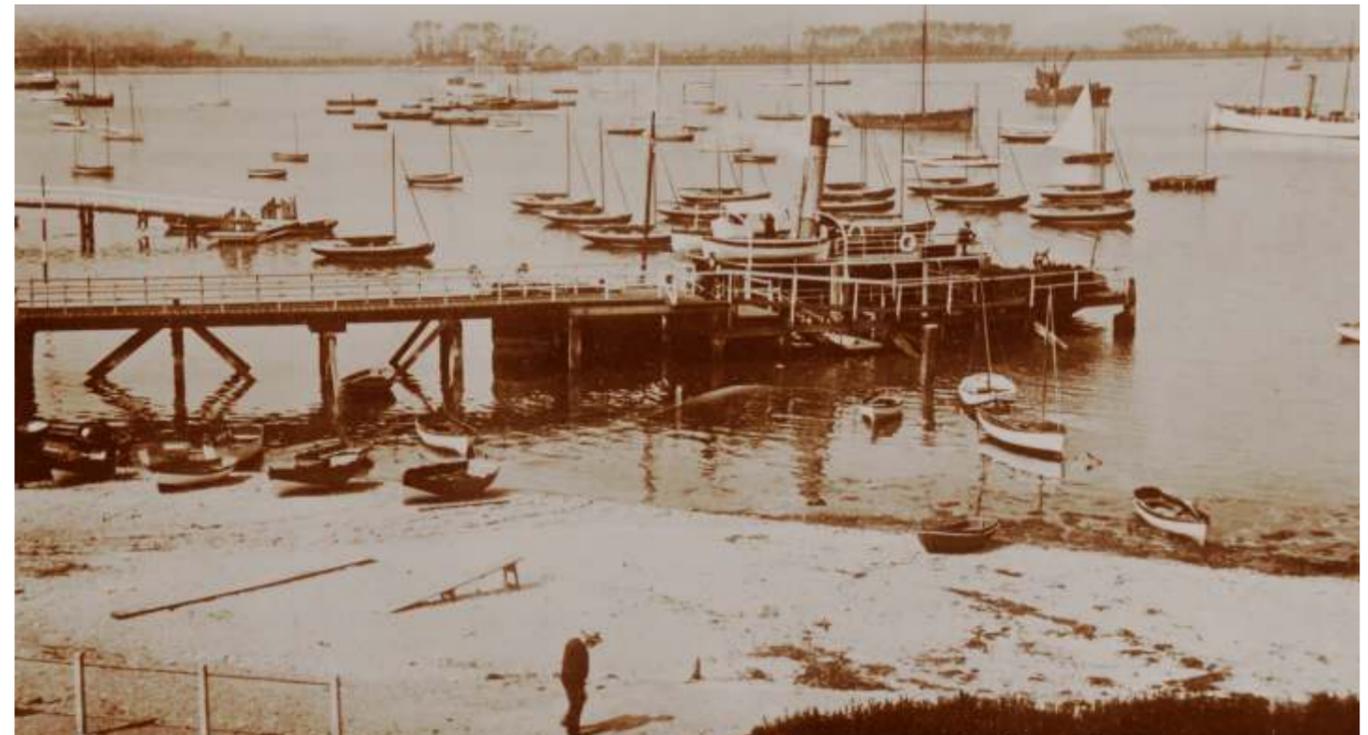
**Bembridge Harbour Trust:** Encouraging progress is apparently being made identifying funding options for if/when the harbour comes onto the market. Liaison with relevant Government Departments and the IWC continues.

**Bembridge Lifeboat Station:** Planning permission for the new Offshore Boathouse to take a Tamar Class Lifeboat was gained in Nov 08. The temporary facility (using the Mersey Class beach-launched All Weather Boat & the D-Class ILB) on Silver Beach became operational on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February. It is understood that the plans for the Inshore Boathouse re-build are about to be re-submitted. The Silver Beach facility is likely to be operational for at least the next 18 months.

**Eastern Yar River & Coastal Strategy.** After numerous delays, a very useful meeting was held at BSC in early Dec 08 with members of the EA Project Team (including the area operational manager) and members of the St Helens and Bembridge Coastal & Harbour Working Group. It provided a good opportunity for the WG to express their concerns - particularly in relation to the Duver Wall, Bembridge Groyne and Communications. A 3-month consultation period on the Project's proposals is expected to begin in early April.

# Bembridge of Yesteryear

by John Woodford



1996 was designated "The Year of the Pier". A look at the pier in Bembridge Harbour may interest readers. The pier was built in the 1880s to accommodate the ferry boats that ran between Bembridge, Seaview and Portsmouth.

This ferry service ran from the 1850s until the 1920s. Many steamers were used over the years, the first was the 'Dart' but this picture is of the 'Lord Kitchener' and dates from about 1906.

The pier had other uses of course, during the Bembridge Regatta days it was used as a vantage point to watch the many swimming and boating races and of course the Greasy Pole. Sadly, the pier was demolished in about 1928. The other pier in the background is the Sailing Club's jetty.



To the casual walker along the beach, the gully at Under Tyne may not convey very much, but it was very important years ago. This gully was built by Colonel Moreton in the 1860s as a landing stage for his yacht 'Elizabeth', but he allowed all who used the sea to use it, as the ferry boats sometimes were unable to get into the harbour at low tides; the ferry boat anchored off and passengers and cargo were brought ashore by pinnace.

The picture shows the ferry coming in and the pinnace going to meet her. Once on terra firma the passengers had to walk from Under Tyne to the village along the path above Ducie beach and up the Avenue; this would have been very nice on a sunny day, but a different story on a wet and windy day!

## Bembridge & St Helens Harbour Association 2009 Membership Application/Renewal

I/We wish to apply/reapply for membership of the Association and enclose a remittance as follows:			<i>Please circle amount enclosed</i>
ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP	Annual	£3	Life £30
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP		£4	£40
REDUCED MEMBERSHIP		£2	£20

Names .....

Address .....

..... Telephone No. ....

E-mail: .....

Signature ..... Date .....

Subscriptions may be paid direct to your Sentinel deliverer or to the Hon Treasurer, Rod Bowman, 1 The Brambles, Foreland Farm Lane, Bembridge. PO35 5QH Personal information supplied by you will be treated in confidence and will not be supplied to any third party.

20Feb2009