

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008

The 19th AGM, attended by 39 members, took place on 15th March at St Helens Community Centre. The Chairman welcomed all present and thanked all the Officers and members for their continued support.

Treasurer's Report

Rod Bowman presented the 2007 Accounts. Finances are sound but as many members are Life members, which is excellent, annual income is falling. More members are needed. The Accounts were approved and a vote of thanks proposed.

Chairman's Report

The application to build a large Hotel on Bembridge Marina was strenuously opposed by BASHHA and a detailed Objection and analysis of the flawed Environmental Impact Assessment was submitted. Over 300 objections were sent including EA and NE, but no decision has been made. Another Harbour Dues Appeal was advertised in April 2007. Many other Planning applications remain outstanding.

Our sub-committee BHUG is very active and regular updates are included in the Sentinels. In October we received a large donation of £267.66 from the former Bembridge Harbour Mooring Providers Association. We are most grateful as it helped towards the £500 Founder Members subscription to the Bembridge Harbour Trust. John Askham is representing us on the BHT and the Advisory Board.

Heidi Roberts, Project Manager, was optimistic that the EYS investigation work would be completed by Spring 2008. Our

regular, well supported Beach Cleans took place in May and September, The Street Fair was cancelled owing to bad weather. Newsletters are received from the Solent Protection Society and Solent Forum.

Election of Officers and Committee members

All were willing to stand again and were duly elected as follows: Chairman Barbara Clough, Vice Chairman, John Askham, Hon. Treasurer Rod Bowman, Secretary Mary Chappell, Minuting Secretary Helen Hunt. Committee members: Robert Barnes, Barbara Blackburn, Jim Elliott, Felix Hetherington, Ken Hicks, Robin Humphrey, Perry Kuhns, Paul Traquair and BHUG reps. Robin Powell and Mike Samuelson.

After the break we were delighted to welcome Paul Sanderson, Chairman of the St Helens and Bembridge Coastal and Harbour Working Group (WG) to update us on the progress of the EYS. Paul gave us a detailed, understandable account of the complexities involved and the role of the WG.

Members are knowledgeable and put pertinent questions to the Project team. The WG have emphasised the importance of the Duver Sea Wall in helping to protect Embankment Road, besides the Duver SSSI to maintain Bembridge Harbour as a safe haven for boats. ER is more likely to receive funding as it is essential protection for the RSPB Brading Marshes Nature Reserve.

Paul was warmly thanked for his clear exposition and for his tireless work for the WG and our two communities.

THE SENTINEL



Newsletter of the
Bembridge and
St Helens Harbour
Association

No. 38 SEPTEMBER 2008

Chairman's Letter

Dear Member,

As the Department for Transport (DfT) have still not published a decision on the 2006 and 2007 Appeals regarding Harbour Dues, it was agreed that the Bembridge Harbour Users Group (BHUG) the sub-committee that has been conducting the case since 2007 would submit an Objection to the level of Harbour Dues 2008 being charged by BHIC (details overleaf). The closing date for sending letters/emails of support is Friday 26th September. We are most grateful to all those who have previously supported the Appeal and are willing to respond again. It is vital that people support the 2008 Appeal to convince the DfT of the strength of local concern.

The Bembridge Harbour Trust (BHT) held its AGM on Friday 29th August, and as one of the 153 Founder Members, BASHHA received a copy of the Annual Report and Accounts. The BHT now have a website which can be accessed at www.bembridgeharbourtrust.org. Our Vice Chairman John Askham has been appointed Chairman of the BHT Advisory Board, which consists of 11 members who advise the Trustees and Members, but has no executive function.

A Bembridge Harbour Liaison Group (BHLG) was set up by BHIC at the end of last year, chaired by Simon Mayes, with invited members representing different interests in the Harbour. In July, BASHHA, the Commodores of the two sailing clubs and others, were sent draft copies of a Bembridge Harbour Management Plan 2008 for the next 5 years. It was produced by BHIC with assistance from BHLG. We were invited to comment and also to attend a meeting with the BHLG to discuss the document.

BASHHA has always advocated the need for a long term Management Plan for the Harbour. As requested, detailed comments were submitted, but when we were sent the final BHMP 2008 recently, few changes to the earlier draft are evident. BHIC, who have statutory powers under the Pier and Harbour Order (Bembridge Harbour) Confirmation Act 1963 is referred to as Bembridge Harbour Authority (BHA) as they administer the said powers. While welcoming the production of this document and the invitation to comment, we do have reservations on a number of issues.

The BHMP is available to view at the Duver Marina Offices and will be made available on the Harbour Company website www.bembridgeharbour.co.uk in due course.

As far as planning applications go, little to report (see overleaf).

Members cannot fail to be aware of the Brading Roman Villa "Big Dig" which took place during 6 weeks this summer. David Low, a Trustee, has been involved in the Dig with Prof. Sir Barry Cunliffe and has kindly written a short account of the experience. It is a very ambitious project which it is hoped can continue annually for 6 years, if sufficient funds can be raised.

Members who have overlooked paying their subs this year may find a reminder slip included with their Sentinel. Subs are due on the 1st January, so if you are an annual member, please can you make a note of it on your 2009 calendar! Thank you.

Progress with the Eastern Yar Strategy (EYS) has been further delayed. The planned September meetings have been postponed by the Environment Agency (EA) as they are not yet ready to go out to public consultation with their preferred options. Although it does not tell us very much, their August newsletter is posted on www.coastalwight.gov.uk/easternyarstrategy.htm. This delay means that Heidi Roberts, Atkins Project Manager for EYS is unable to contribute her article for the Sentinel about the final Phase of the Project nor talk at the Know Your Harbour meeting. However, I am delighted that John Medland, Editor of the Beacon and writer of intriguing historical stories about the Island, will give a talk on Saturday 25th October at 2.30 pm. His topic will be "The Ancient River Yar" highlighting some of the archaeological discoveries that have revealed fascinating glimpses of our Island past. We look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely,
Barbara Clough, Chairman

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Marine Conservation Society's BeachWatch UK 2008 Beach Clean and Litter Survey

Saturday 20 September at 10am

Meet at Tollgate Café, Bembridge Point. Gloves and shoes essential.

At your own risk please.

Know Your Harbour Meeting No. 17

Saturday 25 October at 2.30pm in Bembridge Village Hall

"The Ancient River Yar" Speaker. John Medland Author and Editor of the Beacon.

Bembridge & St Helens Harbour Association 2008 Membership Application/Renewal

I/We wish to apply/reapply for membership of the Association and enclose a remittance as follows:

ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP	Annual	£3	Life	£30
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP		£4		£40
REDUCED MEMBERSHIP (unwaged, retired)		£2		£20
DONATIONS		£		

Names

Address

Telephone No.

Signature Date

Subs may be paid direct to your Sentinel deliverer or to the Hon Treasurer, Rod Bowman, 1 The Brambles, Bembridge. PO35 5QH
Please ensure that subscriptions are in an envelope clearly marked with your name and address. Thank you.

THE SENTINEL

Newsletter of the Bembridge and St Helens Harbour Association, Number 38 September 2008

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)

Opinions expressed in The Sentinel are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Association

Bembridge Harbour Users Group Update

Channel Dredging & Channel Buoys

Channel Dredging: The outcome of the planning appeal put in by BHIC last November against a number of the conditions laid down in the planning consent of 13th April 2007 for "maintaining" the outer channel is still awaited. Many will have seen Nigel Bennett's new diggers in operation. The long reach machine is able to reach into the middle of the channel in most places and Nigel has recently purchased a new shorter reach digger which he is now using to load the dumper truck thereby speeding up the operation considerably and allowing him more time further out between No 4a & No 2a buoys during spring tide periods. The concerns that were passed to Natural England regarding some dredging carried out in early May well to the south east of No 6 Channel buoy, resulted in a strongly worded letter to BHIC reminding them of the need to remain within their extant planning permission.

Buoys: BHIC intend to move Nos 6 & 7 buoys fairly soon so as to bring No 7 away from the rocks. Beware, No 8 appears to have moved eastwards a bit recently which has resulted in a shallow area if you follow a straight line between Nos 8 & 6a buoys.

Fore & Aft Moorings

The 106 Agreement was signed off a few months ago and the orange mooring buoys will be removed from 1 Dec 08 - 31 Mar 09. Considerably less than half of the moorings were in use during the peak summer period.

Fisherman's Pontoon (Embankment Marina), Visitor's Pontoon Extension & Angling Club Marina - Refurbishment & Extension: No news on the planned extension and refurbishment of Embankment Marina, nor on the planned extension of the Visitor's pontoon. The Angling Club Marina planning application remains dormant.

Harbour Dues: Notwithstanding a further Appeal (see Chairman's letter) boat owners are legally obliged to pay this year's harbour dues and should do so as soon as possible.

Harbour Liaison Group & Harbour Management Plan: See the Chairman's letter.

Harbour Website & LNTMs: Regular requests have been made to BHIC to provide a more responsive (particularly in relation to local LNTMs) website. This point was also highlighted in our inputs to the draft Management Plan. Hopefully the importance of communicating with Stakeholders and users is something that the Harbour Liaison Group will help improve.

Speed Limits: At a meeting at BSC in early March, QHM (Cdr Steve Hopper RN) highlighted the importance of COLREG 6 (Safe Speed) and urged that incidents of dangerous driving or excessive speed within 1000m of the shore (MHWS) should be reported to QHM Control on 023 9272 3124 or via the website www.qhmpportsmouth.com

Litter/Garbage/Pollution: The litter situation on Bembridge Point Beach remains an on-going problem; there is only one bin which is all too often overflowing requiring regular phone calls to the Harbour Office to get it emptied. The Bembridge Harbour Trust have commissioned EMU Limited to assess the water quality in the harbour to determine whether there is a potential health risk to recreational users. The results we understand will be compared to the EU Bathing Water Directive Guidelines which are designed for the protection of recreational users.

Yar Quay Hotel & Old Engine Shed Re-build: No news or progress as far as can be ascertained.

Houseboats & Car Parking Update: Other than the fact that the EA submission has still yet to be submitted, there is no known progress on the planning application (TCP/27560/B, P/00856/08) for a sewage system, boardwalk and piles for 33 houseboats. Natural England raised a number of issues which are likely to delay things. The Car Park has been tidied up recently.

Bembridge Boatyard: Work on tidying up parts of Bembridge Boatyard (acquired by the Harbour owner (Barry Blatch) last December) has continued over the last few months. The legality of "bricking up" the Pilot House which we gather was retained by the previous owner of the boatyard has apparently been raised with the IWC planning department.

Eastern Yar Strategy Study: See Chairman's letter.

BHUG Blog:

<http://bembridgeharbourusergroup.blogspot.com> for updated information.

Brading Roman Villa hits the National News

August saw a very significant development at Brading Villa. The elaborate Roman building which we know as the Villa, was discovered to be an offshoot from the earlier Villa which we have always called the North Range. At the excavations this last August, it was discovered to be the largest Aisled Hall in Britain, containing the living quarters of a very well to do family. It had been excavated by the Victorians, but Sir Barry Cunliffe was determined to get a lot more knowledge from this re-opening. He specialises in Aisled Halls and this was found to be one of the most complete that he has ever dug. It dates from around AD 200, whereas the mosaic floored remains, that we already have under cover, are from much nearer to AD 300. It may have been developed by a grandson or descendant of the first family. Both buildings were of the very best that money could buy, and no doubt, were placed near the safe anchorage of Brading Haven to impress travellers, traders and visiting dignitaries.

Modern visitors to archaeological sites frequently ask about the finds that have been made. One has to remember that the Victorians opened up the building first and most of what was found is already in the Villa collection. Significant finds on this occasion were a coin of Faustina (the wife of Marcus Aurelius) AD 161 to AD 175. The coin was quite worn and found under one of the Roman floors, indicating, together with several other datable pieces, that the building was being put up around the beginning of the 3rd century. The other finds included many pieces of pottery, a child's



Mike Samuelson writes . . .

Although the basic submission by BHUG (as a body representative of persons who have a substantial interest) is all that is technically necessary, there is little doubt that letters of support from individual users provide considerable added weight to our cause. Therefore, all those affected by Harbour Dues (and don't forget you also pay them if you are a pontoon berth holder or are renting a fore & aft mooring) are urged to consider sending a supporting email to ruth.bootland@dft.gsi.gov.uk quoting reference PCP 6/22/4.

Please don't fall into the trap of assuming that your representation is not worth the effort - it certainly is. Don't leave it to a "few", after all if the appeals succeed everyone who has paid a harbour due since they were introduced in 2006 will benefit from a refund. Notwithstanding that most of it has been said before in the previous appeals, it is important that we are



bracelet, a brooch in the shape of a cross and a number of bronze and iron objects. When analysed these will be relatively easily dated and the whole collection will add considerably to our knowledge of how life was lived at that time.

Erecting a cover building over the new excavation would be prohibitively expensive and so in the long run the site will have to be filled in again, but in the short-term it is able to be visited for the next few months and just may have some temporary structure over it this winter.

Sir Barry Cunliffe will be coming again next August and indeed for several years to come. He brings with him a team of more than 30 archaeologists and so the progress is dramatic. Next year he is due to be opening up the South Range, which we believed to be barns and granaries with workshops and a bathhouse.

In order to get this work done, which is of great significance nationally and for our Island, a good deal of money has to be raised. Excavations do not come cheap, even though Sir Barry gives his time free. We have wonderful Island businesses which gave generously and with practical assistance. We thank so many of you who supported the venture, both materially and with your time as Guides, Stewards, Caterers and Archaeologists etc. Recruitment will be starting again soon!

David M. Low

Photographs courtesy of Noel Stimson

HARBOURS ACT 1964

SECTION 31

Notice is hereby given that Bembridge Harbour Users Group has lodged an objection with the Secretary of State for Transport to the harbour dues imposed by Bembridge Harbour Improvements Company Ltd at Bembridge Harbour with effect from 1st April 2008.

The grounds of objection are that:-

(1) the charges ought to be imposed at a lower rate than that at which it is imposed.

Any person having a substantial interest or any body representative of persons who have such an interest wishing to make representations in this matter to the Secretary of State should, within 42 days of this notice write to the Secretary of State for Transport c/o Ruth Bootland, Zone 2/29 Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR or by fax to 020 7944 2186 or e-mail to ruth.bootland@dft.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference PCP 6/22/4.

The Secretary of State will pass to the Objectors and the Harbour Authority a copy of any representation he receives.

Dated 15th August 2008