

Waterlines

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Happy Birthday Harbour Friends - Many happy Returns



Its hard to believe that it is over three years since Bev Adams contacted Waterlines to tell us of her idea for a harbour social group.

Back then, Bev, new to the harbour and recently divorced, was looking to make new friends and restore her social life. She had managed to attract a small group of like-minded people but, because of the lack of social infrastructure on the harbour, was having great difficulty in spreading the word. Even more frustrating was that a considerable number of potential members saw the group as a 'singles club' and were put off by it. Bev was looking for a platform to spread her message and put the record straight. She saw Waterlines as that platform, and we, of course, were happy to provide the facility.

Bev called her group 'Harbour Friends' and, after the first Waterlines article, a number of residents contacted her and the journey began. From that small start, Bev and her committee worked tirelessly to grow the group and it now, incredibly, has over 250 members. On Sunday 24th February, about sixty people celebrated the third birthday of 'Harbour Friends' at a party held at the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club.

The rapid growth of the group's membership was itself a serious problem. Finding a venue to meet was difficult and/or expensive. Fortunately, Bev was able to come to an agreement with the Yacht Club, and Harbour Friends now meets there every Sunday evening. However, that is just the tip of the iceberg; Harbour Friends has spawned a number of 'special interest' sub groups that meet throughout the month.

Harbour Friends has its own website www.harbourfriends.co.uk which is well worth a visit. There you will find lots of information about past present and future activities. Details of meeting dates and times can be found on the 'Clubs and Groups' page of this issue.

Bev told Waterlines: "Harbour Friends is **the** social group for all residents of the harbour. There is absolutely no reason for anybody on the harbour to be lonely."

Harbour Friends has become a symbol of the community spirit that has developed in the harbour, and is a credit to Bev and all of those who have worked with her. We are very proud that Waterlines has, in some small way, contributed to its success.