

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2023 Edition



Chairman's introduction

Dear Beach Hut Owner,

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer! As the autumn/winter season approaches, please remember your responsibilities as a beach hut owner and ensure your hut is securely locked when not in use. Keep your hut in good decorative order throughout, as well as the area around your hut, in terms of litter etc.

Our SBHOA Facebook group has been a huge success with over 300 members. If you can, please keep yourself updated via the SBHOA Facebook page and website with new events, council updates etc.

I look forward to seeing you at the forthcoming AGM in November if you are able to attend.

Regards
John Stenson

Annual General Meeting

Date: Thursday 16th November 2023

★ NEW VENUE! ★

Venue: Thorpe Bay Methodist Church,
The Broadway, SS1 3HQ

Time: 7.30pm



We welcome suggestions for items to be discussed. It would be helpful if you could email these to the Chairman as soon as possible.
Thank you. Email: southendbhoa@gmail.com

Hut Maintenance Autumn/Winter

We're at the end of the traditional hut season and it's time to get ready for the winter season.

General maintenance – Now is an ideal time to touch up your hut. This could include painting or replacing rotten timbers.

Secure your hut – Make sure all doors are locked and that your locks are fit for purpose and of good quality. You may wish to use a security bar for added protection.

Prevent damp – remove fabric items from your hut. Dehumidifiers can be useful to catch moisture. Try to visit and ventilate your hut if you can.

Preserve your padlocks – protect from rusting by spraying with lubricant. Wipe with petroleum jelly, wrap with cling film and tie a plastic bag tight around the padlock.

Sales Update

Hello all,

FOR SALE

WANTED

This year has definitely been a quieter one for hut sale and purchase enquiries.

To date this year, I have received 24 new enquiries from people looking to buy so far. One has successfully completed and another is awaiting completion.

Some hutters prefer to deal directly with an estate agent and therefore there have been, and still are, a few huts for sale on Rightmove.

Happy hutting to you all as we move towards Autumn/Winter.

Angie Sterry

Reporting a problem or concern

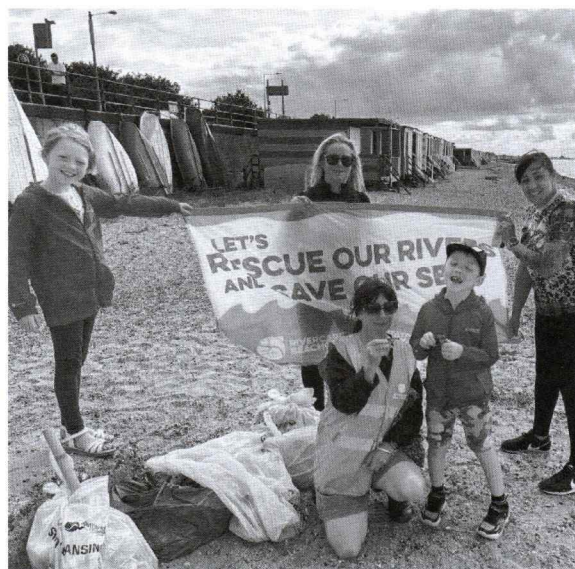
The Pier & Foreshore department should be your first port of call: 01702 212 530. Alternatively, you can make a report via www.southend.gov.uk/report_it

What type of thing can you report?

Damaged groynes, damaged steps, dead birds, BBQs on the beach and more.

SBHOA Beach Cleans

We have had two successful beach cleans so far this year. We teamed up with the Thorpe Bay Residents Association (TBRA) for one and had our own exclusive SBHOA clean. They were supported by Southend Beachcare who provided the equipment (pickers/bags/hoops). We will be doing more in the future, so please check our Facebook page or Website for updates.



As you may already be aware, there is a current Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in place banning the use of BBQs on all Southend Beaches.

If you notice anyone having a BBQ, you can report this to Foreshores on 01702 212 530.

The foreshores team patrol the beaches and challenge those not abiding to the rules.

MEMBER STORIES

Owning a Beach Hut, by I. Robinson

We have always loved living at the seaside but never even thought of owning a beach hut. Then one day in 1980, Pop came home from his office and announced that the Council had decided to sell off their holding of beach huts at Thorpe Bay and Shoebury Common. The sale was to be by tender and each person could submit up to three sealed bids but could only buy one hut.

Mum had long fancied having a beach hut and was highly excited. She galvanised the family into action and we duly put in 3 joint bids between us all as we couldn't afford one separately. Lo and behold one of our bids came up and we got our beach hut for the princely sum of £650, which was actually a small fortune to us at the time.

Over the years we have celebrated Mum & Pop's Golden Wedding, our Ruby Wedding and several of Pop's special birthdays including his 99th! Generations of kids have grown up there. It's been a base from which we used our boat, and went out netting for mullet with 500 yards of gill nets, after which we would dry and clean the nets on the sea wall and mend up any holes.

We've watched airshows and raft races from there as well as power boat races and all sorts of shipping movements.

We've enjoyed the sea in all its varied moods, and explored the mudflats when the tide is out. We've walked out to the Mulberry Harbour countless times and learned the true story of how it came to be there from a hut neighbour who was serving on a Naval Corvette which happened to be in the vicinity at the time and he watched it all happen. Not surprisingly "Bill's" eyewitness account of what actually happened is at complete variance with the official version!

We've also witnessed quite a few rescues which have taken place off our shore, including one which we conducted ourselves. We were busy mending up our nets over the seawall with our skiff on the beach nearby still rigged from when we came ashore. We heard cries for help from a hundred yards out amongst the boat moorings and straight away saw three lads in the water, two of whom were desperately trying to hold the third one up but were having great difficulty in doing so. There were three of us too, and there was no time to lose. We took hold of the skiff, dragged it down the beach on the run, and launched it "Hawaii Five-O" style towards the lads. We were alongside them in a moment and between us hauled them choking & spluttering into the skiff. Once back ashore they soon recovered, dressed and went off back to their school from which they had escaped for a lunch break. It was all over in a trice but the memory lives on. Had we not chanced to be there with a boat to hand who knows what would have happened!



Pop enjoying a day at the family hut
Photo credit: Ian Robinson

Sweet Caroline, by S. Blake

During the pandemic, I found myself walking along the beach huts wondering what it would be like to own one. I lost my dear Dad during the pandemic. I spent even more time wandering along the seafront. It was my place of tranquillity and time to reflect. So, when the opportunity came up to have my own hut, I went for it!

I already knew her name 'Sweet Caroline'.

My Grandad was a sugar boiler in the 50s and owned his own confectionary stall in Wood Green, North London. He made all of his own sweets - my dad said he was popular at school - I wonder why! My Nan's name is Caroline. So, there we are. Sweet Caroline.



Do you have a story or beach hut memories you would like to share?

*If so, please email:
newsletter-sbhoa@outlook.com*



Did you know five of Southend's beaches proudly fly a Blue Flag. All beaches have been presented with a seaside award by Keep Britain Tidy

Southend Beach Management Committee help keep our beaches clean.

Did you know?

Rare plants at Thorpe Bay are helping to support our sea defences. Whilst to some this area looks unkempt, the planting is helping retain shingle that was brought in to reduce coastal erosion at this location. Following an ecological study, it transpires that some of the varieties that have taken hold are protected and rare species.

www.visitsouthend.co.uk/southend-beach-management-committee/

WINTER AT THE BEACH

B T H O T C H O C O L A T E V U R H Y X B R N
N B O B Q F I R E W O R K S D I S P L A Y E P
I E H V I F M U L L E D W I N E T G K V E B G
I C R T E M H P Z T P V V A K M T H O Y Z R Q
O R Y E K T D D B W H R T U H H C A E B F K L
N O H W S U N R I S E U T E K N A L B B T V M
F I S H A N D C H I P S N R R S N O W R S T G
F B Y F E V J R S E Q M W D O O A Z L P U A N
E S L E D G E U Q M A I N T E N A N C E N H I
G S W Q D O B S W L C J J C S R E C F Z S E K
U S Z L P R R X C G W I N T E R S U N R E L L
Q F U R W E L L I N G T O N B O O T S D T B A
V Q T R U D B N G I T O R C H K B X O B N B W
F I Y O S C O L D W A T E R S W I M V R W O K
Q M F E N T B A N Q L S N E T T I M W K M B I
H R M W F M I R Z Q J Y C H Y T I R U C E S K

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden ↑ ↓ → ← and ↘

~~FIREWORKS~~
~~DISPLAY~~
~~WELLINGTON~~
~~BOOTS~~
~~COLDWATER~~
~~SWIM~~
~~THUNDER~~
~~STORM~~
~~HOTCHOCOLATE~~
~~FISHANDCHIPS~~
~~MAINTENANCE~~
~~MULLEDWINE~~

~~WINTERSUN~~
~~BOBBLEHAT~~
~~ICYWAVES~~
~~BEACHHUT~~
~~SECURITY~~
~~MITTENS~~
~~WALKING~~
~~BLANKET~~

~~SUNRISE~~
~~SUNSET~~
~~SLEDGE~~
~~TORCH~~
~~SNOW~~

Forthcoming local events

Seafront Fireworks

Every Saturday from 30th September to
18th November at 8pm (7.30pm on 18th
Nov)

Classic Cars on the Beach

Sunday 15th October 2023
9am to 4pm

Southend Halloween Parade

Saturday 28th October 2023
6pm-7.30pm

RNLI New Year's Day Dip 2024

Details not yet confirmed

Southend Lifeboat Celebrates 200 Years of RNLI

Saturday 9th March 2024
Cliffs Pavilion 18:30 'til 00:30

Safety on the Beach



HM Coastguard is your 4th emergency service.
Should you see anyone in trouble on or near the
coast, don't hesitate, dial 999



General email enquiries:
southendbhoa@gmail.com



www.sbhoa.org.uk



**SBHOA Southend Beach Hut
Owners Association**

If there is anything you would like to see
in future newsletters, please contact the editor:
newsletter-sbhoa@outlook.com