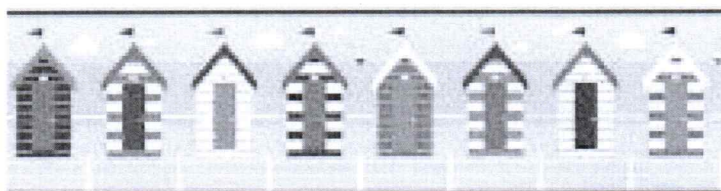


WINTER 2021

The BEACHHUTTER



NEWSLETTER FROM THE SBHOA

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Beach Hutter,

Firstly let me say on behalf of myself and your committee, sincere condolences to anyone who has lost loved ones during this vicious, highly transferable Covid-19 pandemic. 2020 was a horrible year but 2021 has started with a new vision. Yes, we still have Covid-19 so we still have to maintain continued vigilance but, with the vaccine now being dispensed it gives us hope for better times ahead

Our www.sbhoa.org.uk website has been up and running for several years and Alistair, our 'web master' feels it is time to update it. He has asked me to ask you, our members, for any ideas such as layout and content, perhaps a 'members corner'?

Please give it some thought - any sensible ideas will be considered. In the first instance please email me at castlestenson@talktalk.net with your ideas.

Any submissions will be considered by the committee and Alistair for possible web page amendments.

Time now to look forward to better times. Hopefully a more socially active year at our beach huts, with a hot summer to complement some enjoyment.

Please stay safe and obey the rules.

Regards as always, **John Stenson** (Chairman).

TIDE TABLES

Your two free 2021 tide tables are enclosed with this newsletter. You may purchase extras if you wish at 50p each from the Membership Secretary ianrobbo13@talktalk.net

If you would like them posted to you, send a SAE together with a 2nd class stamp for each tidetable wanted to **181 Kensington Rd, Southend, SS1 2SZ.**

SBHOA is a voluntary organisation which aims to safeguard and promote the interests of Beach Hut owners at Thorpe Bay and Shoeburyness foreshores. We provide hut owners with a collective voice in dealings with the Council, Foreshore Department, Police, and similar authorities.

If you would like to join the SBHOA, contact the Membership Secretary at 181, Kensington Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 2SZ

E-mail: ianrobbo13@talktalk.net or visit our website at www.sbhoa.org.uk (password 'beachhut')

BEACHHUTTER

HUT SALES & PURCHASES

Not much of particular interest to report concerning hut sales over the past few months - no surprise given combination of prevailing Covid conditions and Winter season.

Prior to the most recent lockdown, when I visited our Hut during the latter part of 2020, I was surprised, if not mortified, to see a number of cold-water swimmers braving the Estuary. I was tempted myself but unfortunately my Speedos have evidently been thrown during one of the many domestic clear-outs that we've undertaken during recent times!

As a potentially lucrative side-line I may open up our hut to serve reviving hot drinks to the contingent of Leigh Blue Tits boldly frequenting our local shores during seasonal weather extremes.

Regular enquiries continue to be logged for available huts, both from newbies and also established hut seekers including some who have previously been owners. I've not been advised as to any huts going on the market - maybe it's been a busy time for estate agents?

I have had several specific enquiries in relation to Shoebury Huts on the road elevation opposite the Coastguard Station which are being actively sought by water-sport lovers looking for a base and equipment store.

Dave Thomas (davidthomas2808@yahoo.co.uk)

SECURITY

There are many signs along the promenade, and on many huts, encouraging passers by, dog walkers, joggers, cyclists etc., to report anything suspicious in the vicinity of the huts. The SBHOA also encourage hut owners, upon visiting their own huts, to take a few minutes and check on other huts in the vicinity. We do ask owners to consider allowing a warning sign to be fitted to their hut, free of charge, so if you are interested please call Steve Puxley.

Steve Puxley 07780 760877

ENVIRONMENT

Beach Hut Owners Responsibility to Dispose of Building/Renovation Debris

In late 2020, the Council contacted the SBHOA regarding a complaint made by a local resident that there were instances of building/renovation work conducted on beach huts that was not being cleared/disposed of in a timely manner. This posed a health and safety risk to members of the public and also was a potential environmental/navigational hazard if the debris was taken out with the tides. Beach Hut owners are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure all building work/renovation debris is properly disposed of in a timely manner.

Berry Gibson, SBHOA Environmental Officer. SBHOA_EO@hotmail.com or 07508 343261

AGM Members will recall that due to the Covid-19 situation the 2020 Annual General Meeting, due to be held in November, was postponed in the hope that it could be held in April 2021.

Given the continuing uncertainties and the lead time necessary to hold a meeting it would now seem unlikely that such a meeting could be held in April. The Committee have therefore decided to forego the 2020 AGM and proceed to the 2021 meeting which it is hoped can be held on Thursday 11 November. In the meantime the Committee will try to deal with any issues Members wish to raise by email to the Chairman - castlestenson@talktalk.net

Don't forget to visit the SBHOA website...

www.sbhoa.org.uk (Password: beachhut)

BEACHHUTTER

RNLI AT SOUTHEND

The Royal National Lifeboat Institute has a long and proud history in Southend-on-Sea. Southend Lifeboat station is just one of 238 around the coasts of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. The RNLI operates a 24 hour a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year all-weather rescue service around the coast and some major rivers. Additionally the RNLI has lifeguards on major tourist beaches during the summer months and maintains a Flood Rescue service for inland areas.

The station in Southend-on-Sea was first established in 1879 to assist ships going aground on the Nore and Leigh Middle Sands and other many outlying sandbanks of the Thames Estuary. The lifeboat station was situated on the seaward end of Southend Pier 1.34 miles out to sea. The lifeboat, a yawl, was launched from davits on the pier in a similar manner to today.

The first motor lifeboat, the 'Greater London', arrived in 1928 and was originally moored off the Pier Head until a lifeboat house and slipway was completed adjacent to the railway station in 1935. Southend Pier was taken over by the Navy even before the declaration of war and became the headquarters of the Thames and Medway Control. The 'Greater London' was one of the 19 lifeboats which went to Dunkirk in 1940. She was not manned by her own crew but was taken over by the Navy and manned by naval ratings.

In 1953, on the night of 31 January, the sea invaded large areas of land in many parts of the East Coast. The Southend on Sea lifeboat was called out several times and was at sea for a total of 26 hours and 35 minutes.

Inflatable inshore lifeboats were sent to Southend in 1965 and 1969 to assist in the increasing number of pleasure craft replacing the 'Greater London II' which had served the station since 1955.



Lifeboats

A new Atlantic 21 semi rigid inflatable was placed on station in 1986 and was named 'Percy Garon II' by HRH Prince Anne. Less than two months later disaster struck the lifeboat station when a coaster sliced through the Pier and lifeboat slipway. A temporary station was quickly re-established at the Pier Head which was officially opened in January 1991. This temporary station was used until 2002 when today's modern boathouse was opened.

Because of the large tidal range and extensive drying foreshore at Southend the lifeboat station uses two boathouses. One of these is situated at the head of the Pier and houses an Atlantic 85 class lifeboat and a smaller D Class life boat, both of which are launched by davit into the deep water adjoining the pier. The pier-head lifeboat house is a modern structure which incorporates crew accommodation and office, an RNLI shop and a viewing gallery from which visitors can view the lifeboats. Lifeboat crews use an electric buggy, complete with sirens and blue flashing lights to access this boathouse along the Pier from the shore.

The other boathouse is situated adjacent to the inshore end of the pier and houses a second D Class lifeboat together with an H Class hovercraft, both of which can be launched down an adjacent slipway. Both the life boat station, as well as the shop, are amongst the busiest in the United Kingdom and as are manned by local volunteers. Despite all the problems of the last year they have still been extremely busy on call outs. News on the work of the RNLI can be found on the **RNLI.org** website.

Don't forget to visit the SBHOA website... www.sbhoa.org.uk (password: beachhut)

BEACHHUTTER

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CONTACT DETAILS:

For General Enquiries contact John Stenson 07973 282169

**For Matters Relating to Security (including vandalism, arson, accidental damage etc.)
contact Steve Puxley 07780 760877**

**Alternatively, please write to John Stenson, Chairman, SBHOA,
Flat 11, 16 Priory Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 6LB**

**SOUTHEND BOROUGH COUNCIL PIER & FORESHORE 01702 447033 or 01702 215620
SOUTHEND POLICE (via Essex Police) 01702 431212 (999 in Emergency)**

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES - www.starlightproductions.co.uk

PARKING

Members may be aware that radical proposals are being put before the Council to change the way parking is charged for in Southend. The main thrust of this is a facility for Southend residents to be able to pay a monthly fee on direct debit and, in return, be able to park in any Council car park in Southend's four parking zones for up to three hours per day in each.

It's understood that the proposed monthly fee is £8.50.

Since this wouldn't be very practical for hut owners, who are likely to want to park on the seafront for more than three hours, the Council were approached to ask what arrangements would be made for beach hut owners and other foreshore users.

We were subsequently advised that 'As for beach hut owners, there will be permits which can be purchased' and 'there is the budget to enable all beach users the opportunity to purchase a permit or a pass'.

This is all subject to approval in full but, at least, it would seem that the needs of beach hut owners and other beach users are being considered.

CONTACT DETAILS

Dear members, it's very important that we keep up-to-date (and full) contact details for all member huts, for security reasons, and to keep everyone informed of significant matters relating to huts.

Email addresses in particular seem to change without our being advised and, to be honest, it's a bit of a thankless task poring over numerous rejected emails when a newflash goes out.

Of course, we need to be advised of all changes of contact details, so if yours have changed recently please advise us via ianrobbo13@talktalk.net

Thank you in anticipation for your co-operation.

***To submit items for publication (at the Editor's discretion) email The Editor at:
beachhutter@outlook.com***