



Introduction by the Chairman

Dear Hutterers

Welcome to the autumn/winter edition of our newsletter. The committee and I hope that you, your family and friends have enjoyed the summer down at your hut. I seem to recall we had a few nice warm days! As the weather starts to get less predictable, we are fortunate to still be able to enjoy the beach, secure in the knowledge that we have a sanctuary from the vagaries of the English weather, so let's continue to enjoy it.

Thankfully, it's been relatively quiet on the antisocial front, although we have noticed that huts secured with hasps and padlocks seem to have been targeted this year. It's always worth investing in a good quality security lock on your doors as well as a bar/padlocks as they are more effective than hasps alone.

We've also noticed an increase in rough sleepers lately, so please make sure you secure your huts before leaving for the day. So far, those we've encountered seem pleasant enough' however, if the area gets known as a refuge for rough sleepers that may change so if you so see any evidence that hut balconies or underneath huts are being used, please do report them to the council and let us know. More details on how to report are on the website - and always look after yourselves. Don't confront people if you don't need to.

Our Annual General Meeting is fast approaching, and we still have some vacancies, so if you have a couple of hours a month you can spare, we'd love to welcome you onto the committee. We have need for people to help us with environmental, treasurer and security matters, as well as a social secretary and the association is only as good as the people who are active in it. I am fortunate that my fellow committee members are so good that my job is very easy - so if you have some time, please volunteer.

I look forward to seeing and speaking to as many of you at the meeting as possible. In the meantime, enjoy the autumn weather at your special place by the beach.

Simon Sterry

A Waterman's Notebook

So, we've reached that time of year when Summer is behind us and we've got the joys of Winter ahead. The look of our foreshore will be changing as the green weed of the Summer gives way to the greeny-black, stringy, "popper" weed, (Bladderwrack), which the kids love to burst with a resounding "pop".

The mudflats will resume their true brownish colour and will become firmer to the tread as the Autumn gales skim off the fine, loose sand.

If we're lucky we may get a few of those lovely, still, sunny days where the sea is glassy calm and it's a joy to walk on the beach or even out on the mud. But do keep a weather eye on the conditions if you venture out on the mud. Late Autumn can often be the time for mists out on the mudflats which can quickly become more dense and can turn into foggy 'pea soupers'. Interestingly, some of our domestic animals still seem to have an inbuilt sense of direction which can be useful

at such times. I went bait-digging once in very poor visibility some three quarters of a mile from shore. Naturally, I had a compass with me, but I also had my trusty hound 'Chip' who always came digging with me. I dug for a couple of hours before the flood tide arrived at my bait hole. As I washed off my fork & bucket and fork was about to get out my compass & head for shore, I noticed that Chip had realized we were about to go and set off before me in the right direction without any prompting. Visibility was down to just a few yards so I decided to test Chip's sense of direction.

Not a moment's hesitation on her part. She led me as straight as an arrow all the way back to shore. Whether she'd picked up on sounds from the seafront perhaps, I don't know, but I learned to trust her instincts and there were many times after that when she guided me faultlessly through the dark or when visibility was poor. Mind you, I always kept my compass hand just in case!

Ian Robinson

AGM 2025 – REMINDER

The Annual General Meeting of Members will be held on
Thursday 27th November at 7.30 pm
Venue: Methodist Church,
The Broadway,
Thorpe Bay, SS1 3HQ



CONTACT US

Email: southendbhoa@gmail.com

Tel: **07399 333296**

Website: www.sbhoa.org.uk