



Rossall Beach Residents Association

## Rossall Beach Residents Association & Neighbourhood Watch

*'Working together to improve the area for  
residents & visitors'*

Newsletter–Winter 2010 **Edition 5**

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### Message from the Chair



#### Another year ends, and another year starts...

I can't believe where this year has gone, and at Cleveleys time seems to pass more quickly than ever before. It's been a hectic year, we've achieved a lot at Rossall Beach and put steps in place to get even more done in the coming months. And of course, we've had fun along the way, with social events and new friends.

As 2010 starts, can I ask everybody to have a think about what they'd like to do, for events and socials, fundraising and campaigns. I'm particularly looking forward to the better weather and being able to have events on the beach again. This is YOUR group and we should be doing what YOU want to do! *Jane Littlewood*

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### A season of awards!



All the time we've spent on the beach cleaning up and looking after our environment hasn't been wasted, and we've won two awards this year alone. The Britain in Bloom campaign runs a Neighbourhood Award where we won an **Award for Improvement** in October. At that point we hadn't got any plants on our prom, so we couldn't achieve anything more, but next year when we have our planter in place we should be able to do better.

The Gazette ran a new competition, the 'Lancashire Green Awards', and we were the **Winner of Green Community Category** in November. This marks out what we've done both as a group and with our partners in the local authorities, to improve Rossall Prom.

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### Grant Money for Funds

We've been applying for money left right and centre this autumn! Our application for **£300 from Lancashire Locals** was successful, with the money coming from our LCC Councillor, Jim Lawrenson. That's to pay for sign boards and some high vis vests for when we have public activities on the beach and prom. We were also successful with an application to **Lancashire Green Partnerships for £500** for more beach cleaning equipment. A programme of cleans has been set up and we'll be having little helpers to subsequent ones from the local primary schools, and we needed to buy equipment for them and others to use.

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### Christmas Raffle



Still on the subject of money, what a fantastic response we had to the Christmas Hamper Raffle! Everyone was extremely generous with their donations of food and goodies, so much so that there was enough to make up three prizes – a main luxury hamper, a bag of store cupboard products, and a couple of bottles – hic! Five books of raffle tickets were in circulation for a month and we raised £202 in ticket sales – all of which goes straight into funds and makes us not far off our target of £5000 turnover which we need to be able to apply for Charitable Status, and that then enables us to do all kinds of things.

The winner was drawn at the evening meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> December, where we had coffee and mince pies, and it was nice to see a number of non-regulars at the meeting! Unfortunately, none of the winners were at the draw. First prize went to Fran and Ted who live next to the snicket at the side of Seaspray, second prize turned out to be Bob and Carmel from Rossall Court (who were away for the meeting so we were puzzled who'd won!), and the third prize ticket was sold by Bea from Lanefield Drive.

## Beach Cleaning Programme

Following the success during 2009 of the beach cleaning events, a list has been drawn up for bi-monthly cleans during 2010.

The dates are:      8 Feb              12 April              14 June              9 August              4 October              29 November



Meet at 9.30 at the hump in the road, finish lunch time, all equipment provided. If you can't bend and work the beach, come along and pass sacks and equipment, and if it's warm enough just come along and watch! Everyone can find something to do!

Next year we'll be joined by little helpers from local primary schools, and any other groups or people who want to get involved are more than welcome. Just turn up on the day! Of course we have also had help each time from the Waterfront Rangers, and from Community Payback who move all the sacks at the end of the clean. We wouldn't be able to do beach cleans without their help, so it's much appreciated.

**A big vote of thanks goes to Terry the ice cream man for providing hot drinks at the last beach clean in December 09. It was very welcome!**

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## Strandline Monitoring

There is lots of wildlife on our beach, and most of us don't know anything about it. We've teamed up with the Waterfront Rangers and the Fylde Coast Marine Project to do strandline monitoring events in 2010. It will involve a leisurely stroll along the beach with a pen, to make a note of and photograph what you find. This is an important task to monitor what is on the beach and in the sea, and how it might change. Further details and dates to follow with the first event being in early Spring.

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## We've 'Adopted the Beach'

Marine Conservation Society (MCS) run a scheme whereby you can 'Adopt your Beach' and take responsibility for its guardianship. We are already doing a lot of what it involves – like regular beach cleans, but this takes our work one step further. Recording waste that is cleared away enables MCS to lobby against organisations like utility companies to reduce the waste that gets into the sea in the first place. There is a nationwide beach clean in September each year, which we'll be taking part in. If anyone is interested in becoming more involved in this work, and maybe becoming the MCS co-ordinator, please get in touch with Jane. If you'd like to find out more about MCS go to [www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org)

On this subject, did you know that the sea at Cleveleys is the cleanest in the North West? And the foam/spray that blows up is an entirely natural process and isn't anything to do with chemicals or pollution, but is caused by certain weather conditions agitating natural materials in the water to create the foam. More details to be publicised soon.

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## Christmas Lights event



Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November was a terrible day – the wind blew like mad and it rained all day. Rev Michael Payne had been praying for weeks for fine weather for the **Light up a Life** event, assisted by all the people who were taking part! Obviously, there is power in prayer, because all bar a light shower the event was mostly dry although cold and windy!



Easily a couple of hundred people met on the Plaza. Michael's wife, Anita, led some of the singing and she has a lovely voice! The children from Manor Beach Primary sang their hearts out, and the band from Millfield School did very well in trying circumstances. After parading up the high street to the tree, the Mayor and Cllr Andrea Kay dedicated the tree and lit up the lights. A glass of mulled wine kindly provided by Martin Hunns at the Carousel Cafe rounded the night off. It was a very good event despite the weather, and it will roll round to the next one in 2010! If anyone has suggestions for other things that can be added onto next year's event to make it bigger and better than ever, just get in touch.

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## Rossall Prom in Bloom



Following the success of this years entry into Britain in Bloom, we'll be having another go this summer. The planter for the top of Thornton Gate is in the planning stage (sketch attached) – it's been drawn up and is being approved prior to construction. Once it is in place it will almost fill the outbuild and will provide a safe obstacle that at the same time is useful in brightening up the community! There have already been pledges of help with donations of plants and offers of gardening, and it would be nice to put a little team together to look after this area, and see what else we can do to brighten the place up with plants. If anyone would like to get more involved with Rossall Prom in Bloom, or if you've got any ideas for other things we could do, please get in touch with Jane.

## The Mystery of the Stones on the Beach!



You can't help but have noticed the pile of stones that have appeared on the beach near the cafe. Contrary to all the rumours that have been going round, it is to be used to replace the groyne at our side of the cafe! Wyre Borough Council have applied for an extension to their existing licence to carry out works north of the approved works area (known as a FEPA licence). They are planning to rebuild the groyne opposite Carr Gate to encourage the beach levels to improve. They are waiting for a response from the Marine Fisheries Agency for approval, and for the result of consultation with Natural England before the licence is approved. Once permission is granted they will look to get the work done as soon as possible.

## Dog awareness event

Regular readers of the Gazette will know that I started a storm when I passed comment on the amount of dog mess that we found on the beach after our last clean in December – I know because Kevin, my husband, cleared a lot of it up! After we had campaigned early last year for people to maintain cleanliness on the beach the situation did improve and it wasn't bad all summer, but clearly the winter weather seems to have encouraged people to think they can leave it on the beach and pebbles. There has been a Dog Orders consultation process taking place all over Wyre which has been widely reported, although nothing yet has been said about the beach at Rossall (much of what happens depends on which bathing flag award the council decide to go for). Clearly, we need to maintain pressure to keep the beach clean, and educate people into cleaning up after their dogs, and it will need to be an ongoing campaign rather than a one-strike solution.

It has been suggested that we have an awareness event in the spring where we can hand out leaflets and dog bags and speak to owners about why they should be keeping the beach clean – for everyone to enjoy. If you think this is a good idea or would like to help please get in touch with Jane.

## Rossall Sea Defences Consultation

The sea defences between Rossall Hospital and Fleetwood Golf Course are being rebuilt. Your views are important, so come along to the touring exhibition and say what you'd like to see!

How would you like to use this public space?  
How important is beach access?  
What type of construction would you prefer?  
Would you like to get more involved?  
Complete the questionnaire online at <http://consult.wyrebc.gov.uk/portal>

Members of the team will be at Chatterworth Library at the following times:  
Monday 14 December 10am-1pm, Tuesday 15 December 10am-1pm, Wednesday 16 December 10am-1pm

**Rossall Sea Defence Project**  
Reclaiming the treasure of Rossall Beach

**Rossall**  
**HAVE YOUR SAY!**

If you have seen the publicity about the sea defence scheme at Rossall you might have got excited and thought it was our Rossall! It's not! The sea defences are to be completely replaced between Rossall Hospital and the golf course at Fleetwood – roughly the area of the ugly concrete wall that ends at the golf course. The defences are being replaced to protect the area against rising sea levels and coastal flooding, because the existing defences are at the end of their useful life. There is an ongoing public consultation at the moment to canvas opinion from everyone who uses the sea wall and promenade, in terms of how they use it and would like to use it if the facilities were better.

As with the Cleveleys Scheme, it is an opportunity to create a fantastic public space for the future, and if you have any views you really should make them heard, because what the public want will be worked into the plans. It won't be a quick project – the scheme should start in early 2012 and take 4 years to complete, at a cost in the region of £60 million.

Have your say at <http://consult.wyrebc.gov.uk/portal> and for more information go to [www.rossall-seawall.co.uk](http://www.rossall-seawall.co.uk). If you'd like a leaflet you can get one from Jane.

## We got the Bins – eventually!



Visitors to Rossall Prom can now use their pick of litter bins, with no excuses for littering! It's taken about 18 months to finally get the bins replaced and re-instated – a number had been destroyed by car accidents, and the rest were damaged by the weather and not fit for purpose. By working with Wyre Borough Council Street Scene section, the Association has managed to get completely new replacement bins for the parking area, along with supplementary ones behind the wall heading towards the cafe where there previously were none. The new bins are deeper and the sacks don't seem to be blowing out as easily when they are empty, so hopefully the prom will remain clean. They have been positioned at the backs of the poles to protect them from overhanging cars, as the pole should take the force of a bump, rather than our lovely new bins!

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## Membership

It's important that you register your name and address to make sure you get up to date information, newsletters and your right to elect Officers at the Annual General Meeting. For the time being membership will be free to all, so put your name down and keep up to date with the goings-on on Rossall Beach! The more people who sign up, the greater weight of support that we can demonstrate for our projects and requests, so everyone counts!

However, Rossall Beach is not just used by residents, and people from outside our catchment are more than welcome to show their support with Associate Membership and attending meetings and events. We would like to enlist as much support as we can from anyone from anywhere – involving the wider community is one of the main Objects of the Association and the help and support of all of you is vital to the success of the group.

To register for your FREE membership send your name and postal address, along with your email address if you have one, to [secretary@rossallbeach.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rossallbeach.org.uk) or ring 854145 and leave your details, or drop them off at 2 Rossall Prom. You can also register your details with any of the other Trustees.

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## Dates for your Diary - Cut out and keep!

Everyone is welcome to come along to these public meetings. You don't have to be a member of Rossall Beach Residents, or sign up to anything to come along and find out what's happening and contribute to your community.

### Monthly Rossall Beach Meetings:

#### 6pm at Frank Townend Centre

13 January  
10 February  
10 March – Open Meeting  
14 April  
12 May  
9 June  
7 July  
4 August  
1 September – AGM  
29 September  
27 October  
24 November  
15 December

### PACT Meetings:

#### 6pm at Frank Townend Centre

26 January  
2 March  
6 April  
11 May  
15 June

### Beach Cleans:

#### 9.30am at the Hump on Rossall Promenade

8 February  
12 April  
14 June  
9 August  
4 October  
29 November

## The committee of the Residents Association:

Jane Littlewood  
Dave Hewitt  
Freda Tomlinson  
Janice Pickup  
Jim Bolton

*Chair, 854145*  
*Secretary, 829390*  
*Treasurer*  
*Fund-raising co-ordinator*  
*Neighbourhood Watch*

Stephen Pickup  
David Yule  
Beryl Hancock  
Val Pounder  
Pam Moulton

Audrey Bolton

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**If you would like to make a suggestion, donation or ask for further information, ring 854145, or visit our website [www.rossallbeach.org.uk](http://www.rossallbeach.org.uk)**