



**Rossall Beach Residents & Community Group**  
'Working together to improve the area for everyone's enjoyment'

**Rossall Beach Residents & Community Group *incl Neighbourhood Watch***

*'Working together to improve the area for everyone's enjoyment'*

Newsletter – Early 2011 **Edition 7**



**Message from the Chair and Editor**

Another year, lots to do! ...

I can't believe where 2010 went, the year just flew by and here we are in 2011. There were lots of changes during the back end of last year and 2011 is set to be hectic as we really get into our stride with this fabulous group that has already achieved so much in a very short time. There's such a lot to tell you that I'm afraid there's no room for photos this time, with lots to do and something for everyone no matter what you like and enjoy getting involved in. So here goes, this is what's coming up..... *Jane Littlewood*

**By including everybody we can achieve more!**

This group was originally started in answer to issues of anti-social behaviour that residents of the area had experienced, and we've achieved a lot to address this by working in partnership, particularly with the police. Many people wanted more from the group and we very quickly realised that we could do lots of other things that would make a difference, so we started looking at the environment, fundraising and holding social events to create a strong community that had a vested interest in the area.

It became clear during last year that we were ready to move on to the next step in our development and push the boundaries of what we can do even further. Talking to people when we have been out and about at events has shown that there are legions of people who come here on a regular basis who would like to either be involved or support and follow the group. We have even had people coming to beach cleans from as far away as Cheshire!

A resolution was almost unanimously agreed at the AGM in August that we should change the name of the group and its remit, so that there is one type of membership where everyone is equal no matter where they live. The issues of residents living alongside what is a public tourism area are still very important, and the new name that was chosen nicely reflects the needs of the general public and the people who live here 'Rossall Beach Residents & Community Group'.

**Membership**

With the change in the terms of the group, we start each year after the AGM effectively with no members. A peppercorn £1 annual membership fee means that we can keep an up to date list of people who will receive information like his newsletter, notices of events, and be invited to come along to the AGM and vote on who should be the Chair, Officers and Trustees. Each member has an active say in what the group does, and the actions of the group are based on a majority opinion.

We'd really appreciate it if you could encourage all your friends, neighbours and family to show their support and join, because the more members we have the more effective we become when trying to get things done – by the Council at Wyre or Lancashire, by the police, or if we apply for grant funding for projects. It also helps if couples/families each apply in their own name rather than one representative from a household – that way we swell our ranks!

You can be as involved as you like – we always need people who want to get stuck in and help with different projects, but if all you want to do is show your support and read the newsletters then that is also fine and we'd be very pleased to have you! We hold an open meeting every month which 6-7pm at the Frank Townend Centre, Beach Road, which everyone is welcome to come along to and contribute their thoughts and ideas and find out what's happening, and then there are events all through the year which are well advertised in the press, the notice boards on the prom, and by letter drops.

You can easily register for membership just by sending your name, postal address and email address with your payment of £1 per person to David Hewitt, Secretary, 9 Durban Court, Cleveleys. An application form is available from [www.rossallbeach.org.uk](http://www.rossallbeach.org.uk) but you don't have to use one, you can just pop your details on a piece of paper and send it in. You will receive notification of your membership and a joining pack with more information when you have been listed.

**Thank you to Lancashire Police at Cleveleys Station for copying this newsletter....  
... and for your continued support to reduce anti-social behaviour in the Rossall Beach area**

---

### **Rossall Promenade 'In Bloom'**

We did really well in the In Bloom Neighbourhood Award competition this year, and received the third level prize out of five, called 'Improving'. We'd made a start the year before with our clean ups in the area and on the beach, but like all things in life, we've learned a lot as we've gone along.

During this year we've had several different schools along to beach cleans as well as lots more members of the general public, and it's made a big difference to how clean the area has stayed. This year we are holding beach cleans every month instead of bi-monthly because people enjoy them and there is certainly room for more cleaning up! You don't have to be fit and agile to participate, there are always jobs that people can help with like distributing empty sacks and relaying messages, so come along!

The planter at the end of Thornton Gate certainly helped our entry and attracted a lot of attention while we have been tending to it. It looks a bit sad now but I'm sure it will come up smelling of roses! We are very limited in terms of what we can grow in the very exposed public areas to green up the prom so we included the residents who live here, and the judges were treated to a trail of houses to visit where residents had made an effort on their own patch. It is possible to grow a wide range of plants and flowers here even in front gardens and to help you along we've put together a planting list based on years of trial and error experience! Just ask for a printed or email copy. It comes with easy to follow instructions about how to look after each plant and how exposed a position they will tolerate, and if you want more detailed advice then also get in touch.

This coming year we want to extend the programme and do even more. How we'll achieve that is still being planned in conversation with the people from 'In Bloom', so we'll tell you more soon. We REALLY need people to help though!

---

### **Environmental Work**

You may remember that some time ago Dave wrote a report to Wyre Borough Council highlighting the poor condition of the promenade and beach areas and some of the problems were resolved straight away but others still remain to be addressed. We have had another meeting at the council to talk about what still needs doing and the works should start any time soon.

As already mentioned, we'll be holding beach cleans every month to keep the area clean and tidy, supplementary to what the council are already doing. At the beach cleans we have also been tidying up around the benches and the alleyways to keep the sand and litter down. In the style of 'broken window syndrome' where damage tends to attract more damage, if we can keep the place clean and well looked after it's likely to reduce urination and littering which residents have suffered with, particularly around the Five Bar Gate area. So if you think it's a problem and you've got an hour to spare please come along and help!

The perennial problem we share with the rest of the country is dog poo. A date is on the list for an event to be held in conjunction with the police and waterfront rangers to talk to people about why it is important to clean poo up no matter where it falls, hand out bags, and generally educate people about clearing up. It might be repeated depending on its success!

---

### **Fundraising**

We had a cracking year last year and raised a good amount of money which is all sat waiting in the bank account. We have tried a few different locations and church halls but by far and away the best result came from the table top sales which we held on the promenade. The public enjoyed them and we had a good time, the only challenge is picking the weather! To help get the best days we have negotiated with the council that our license will be based on so many events held during the summer period and it's up to us, and the weather, when those days actually are. So we'll only need a glance into the crystal ball a week in advance and we can pick a day and set up shop!

If you are having a clear out and you've got anything worthwhile that you think we could sell, just hang on to it. The first of the sales is likely to be May time but we are planning for it now!

The cost of incidentals is always met by the Trustees, so when we have coffee mornings someone buys the coffee, when we have a raffle someone buys the prizes, the Chair and Secretary provide all the stationery, paper and postage, we have a draw at each meeting to meet the cost of the room hire, so our running costs are just about zero. The money which we have raised is all being reserved for when we need it. Discussion with the council will reveal what they think we could realistically do to improve this area, and we are encouraging them to use us as a way of applying for grant funding monies that they wouldn't be able to access. We need to have a reserve on hand to be able to meet the future cost of projects, and that's what we have been working towards. You can't do anything without some money – and it's not easy acquiring it!

---

**Have a look at our website [www.rossallbeach.org.uk](http://www.rossallbeach.org.uk) to see everything that we are up to, lots of pics, lots of fun, lots of projects, and lots of achievements!**

---

## **Put YOUR name down for membership, come along and join in, make new friends & put something back into YOUR community!**

---

### **You look after the pennies ... and Rossall Beach will look after the pounds!**

My purse always seems to be overloaded with loose change and coppers. I can't close my purse and they make my bag heavy and generally are irritating. It's surprising how quickly this loose change mounts up though, so we are having a campaign to collect it from you and save you the weight! Included with your newsletter is a coin bag for you to drop all your small change into. When it's full just pass it back to any of the Trustees and we'll let you know how much was in it and eventually how much we raised with this campaign. If you want more bags just let us know.

---

### **Anti-social behaviour**

The problems on the promenade were why this group formed in the first place, and we have worked hard and in partnership with the police, Wyre Borough Council and Lancashire County Council to address the problems. Last summer was particularly trying with a spate of problems in quick succession early in the year. The problem is made worse by the late night car parking – as the cars tend to carry the people who perpetrate the anti-social behaviour. Unfortunately, the time of night when this happens meant that none of the authorities were prepared to address the problem, which led to a few months of nightly patrols by a number of residents, who merely pointed out to drivers that an overnight restriction was in place.

The effect it had was quite impressive. Within a couple of weeks the word had clearly got around and the number of late night cars had dwindled considerably, and over the winter period it has been very quiet on the promenade (although the winter weather always suppresses the problem anyway). The majority of residents were found to be in favour of addressing the problem, although some people were uncomfortable about it and whether the people out at night were taking risks.

In times of increasing cut backs it remains to be seen how much resource the police will be able to put into the problems that we annually see happening on Rossall Promenade, and it will be interesting to see whether the warmer weather will bring with it increasing problems during the summer of 2011, but the group will continue to work with the authorities to keep the area safe for the people who live here and for the people who visit.

---

### **Events**

We've put together a draft diary for 2011 of events that we can pencil in with some conviction. This includes the monthly meetings which are open to everyone each month, environmental things like beach cleans and the dog awareness afternoon, fundraising events, and things just for fun like strolls on the beach at tea time. The RNLI offered to show us round the lifeboat station at Fleetwood, and we still need to arrange a date to go to the Planetarium at Rossall School. So there's lots to look forward to and join in with, and hopefully something for everyone, and probably lots more to add. Of course members are welcome, but non-members can also come along to any event or meeting and have a go and see if they want to join up.

---

### **What do you think?**

If I had a pound for every time I said 'It's not *my* group it's *your* group' we'd never need to fundraise again! But it's very true and we always want to hear opinions, thoughts and ideas from everyone. You can bring your suggestions to meetings, send us a note or mention your ideas to Trustees and members – what matters is that we have a full and rounded view of what it is that people want, which will make us a strong and effective group for the future. You'll have to bear in mind that it is a democratic group and decisions are made on decisions reached by a majority of opinion, but there is no such thing as a silly idea on Rossall Beach and you are always welcome to make your thoughts known, and that's often where the best ideas come from!

---

### **Christmas events to mark the end of last year**

We had two Christmas events in December that were enjoyed by everyone who came along. On 10 December about 25 of us went to The Venue for our first Christmas meal and that was really good fun. A couple at a nearby table asked who we were and I told him, and he said the atmosphere we created was fabulous and we'd kept the noise levels at 10 all the time we'd been there! It's certainly true that we are a noisy bunch who make a racket everywhere we go, and the Christmas evening meeting was no exception. In December we have the quickest agenda you have ever seen so that we can have an hour for fun – mince pies and coffee and to draw the Hamper Raffle. We did this again last year and the contents of 3 prizes were generously donated by members and then tickets sold which raised just short of £100 for funds. New members Brenda and Keith Swallow won first prize and then when they were drawn for second prize they generously put that back in the bag. David and Ann Yule won second prize, with Val and Bill Pounder taking third. Congratulations to all of you – I never win anything!

---

## 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 Group or sign up to anything to come along and find out what's happening and contribute to your community.

<b>January</b> 12 – Monthly Meeting 24 – Beach clean
<b>February</b> 9 – Monthly Meeting 21 – Beach clean
<b>March</b> 2 – Strandline event 9 – Monthly Meeting 21 – Beach clean
<b>April</b> 6 – Monthly Meeting 10 – Enjoy your Dog, enjoy the beach 18 – Beach clean 29 – ROYAL WEDDING
<b>May</b> 4 – Monthly Meeting 10 – Visit to Fleetwood RNLi 16 – Beach clean
<b>June</b> 1 – Monthly Meeting 12 – Table top sale 13 – Beach clean 22 – Teatime stroll on the beach 26 – Tea on the beach 29 – Monthly Meeting
<b>Beach cleans</b> – 9.30 Rossall Prom <b>Monthly meetings</b> – 6-7pm, Frank Townend Centre, Beach Road <b>Teatime strolls</b> – 6pm Rossall Prom <b>Other events tbc</b>

<b>July</b> 3 – Table top sale 11 – Beach clean 17 – TRAM SUNDAY 20 – Teatime stroll on the beach 24 – Tea on the beach 27 – Monthly Meeting
<b>August</b> 7 – Table top sale 8 – Beach clean 14 – Tea on the beach 17 – Teatime stroll on the beach 24 – AGM 28 – Table top sale
<b>September</b> 5 – Beach clean 18 – Sponsored walk 21 – Monthly Meeting
<b>October</b> 3 – Beach clean 12 – Strandline survey 19 – Monthly Meeting 31- Beach clean
<b>November</b> 16 – Monthly Meeting 24 – Light up a Life 28 – Beach clean
<b>December</b> 14 – Xmas social meeting
<b>Plus:</b> Visit to Rossall School Planetarium, Xmas dinner, gardening, and anything else we can think of!

### The committee of the Residents Association:

Jane Littlewood      *Chair, 854145*  
Dave Hewitt          *Secretary, 829390*  
Janice Pickup        *Treasurer*  
Jim Bolton            *Neighbourhood Watch*

Stephen Pickup        Audrey Bolton  
David Yule  
Beryl Hancock        Val Pounder  
Pam Moulton

### Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, tel 864908      Lancashire Police, tel 876611

*All the information contained in this newsletter is copyrighted to Rossall Beach Residents & Community Group incorporating Neighbourhood Watch. A not for profit and non-political organisation working to Charitable Objectives.*



To For further information, ring 854145 or 829390  
visit our website [www.rossallbeach.org.uk](http://www.rossallbeach.org.uk), or email [secretary@rossallbeach.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rossallbeach.org.uk)