



'Let's go and have a look in that estate agents at the end of Cleveleys high street...'

... was the famous saying of mine on a spring day 9 years ago, when we came to Cleveleys on one of our many day visits. 'Oh, we've got just the thing' said the woman at Allits, 'it's perfect for a holiday home, it needs a lot of work doing, it hasn't got a bathroom (or toilet) or kitchen, but you can get a bathroom suite at Wickes for £100'. Then, sat about in front of the new beach steps, we bumped into a couple who it turned out were from Rotherham. To this day I swear they were our guardian angels sent to help us. They literally pushed us into buying the house, for which I shall be eternally grateful, because it's just NOT the sort of thing we would normally do. We decide whether to have a cup of tea by committee and rash decisions just

aren't us at all!

In the words of Hot Chocolate (and without it starting with a kiss) 'Never thought it would come to this' - this winter has passed more quickly than any before, and I'm astonished at what we have achieved between us in just a few short months. Last winter we complained in our house that the bad weather here makes you feel isolated - you can't stand at the gate chatting to neighbours when there's a gale and sea spray blowing - but this year with the Residents Association it's not been like that. We've tramped to the Frank Townend Centre in all weathers, to plan, discuss and resolve issues that have long been a problem on Rossall Beach, we've walked the Christmas pudding off pushing leaflets and invites through doors, and we've had lots of contact with people we didn't even know this time last year!

Among other things we are hoping to be able to do something about the boy-racers, we've got the beach access improved with new steps and handrails, cleaning of the beach has started, with some hard work and generosity we've got some money in the kitty, and we've started to tell the world we exist and got ourselves organised in terms of the structure of our group. Not bad work on a

voluntary basis, without any start-up funds and in about five months! You'll also read in this newsletter a contribution from each of the Officers of the Association and articles and musings are welcome from any member who would like to add to future editions.

For me though, the best thing by far has been all the friends we've made and the lovely people we've met and I'm really looking forward to the summer when you can have a chat under the heat of the sun (there's optimism for you!). It's so nice to find that you are surrounded by like minded individuals who all want the best for where they live and are prepared to put the spadework in to achieve it. We've also made some good friends in the authorities, who have helped us by photocopying newsletters (thanks Lancashire Police!), supplying the signage boxes (thanks Birse!) and of course all the things that Wyre Borough Council have been nagged into doing! You all know who you are - and we are grateful!



Jane Littlewood,
Chair

Important Date for your Diary

Time: 6.30pm
Date: Wednesday 11th March
Place: Frank Townend
Community Centre

Committee meetings are held every fourth Wednesday at 6.30pm at the Frank Townend Centre, and as well as Trustees, members are welcome to attend and participate. The next meeting is an open one, to which everybody is welcome, whether or not you have put your name down as a member.

Come along and get to know the residents of Rossall Beach, see what we have been up to and already achieved on your behalf, and learn about our plans for the future. Our aim is to improve the environment and build a strong community while we are doing it.

**Rossall Beach Residents Association and Neighbourhood Watch
'Working together to improve the area for residents and visitors'.**



TX 17/11/77 -

My three minutes of fame by David Hewitt

Jane has been pestering me for the past couple of weeks to write something for this Newsletter. I have tried to ignore her requests and made all sorts of excuses in order to get out of doing what I find quite difficult, writing something about myself, but Jane being Jane has insisted, so here goes!

From as long ago as I can remember I've always been interested in music, musical instruments and in particular percussion instruments. I have been told that from a very early age I used to sit on the kitchen floor at home banging on upturned pans with wooden spoons and using the pan lids as cymbals. At primary school I was given a tambourine to play in the school musical group and when I was about 12 years old my parents bought me a second hand drum kit and paid for lessons with a local dance band drummer. At 13 I joined the local brass band and they put up with me for 15 years when I decided to have a change and joined a band over the border in Yorkshire called Brighthouse and Rastrick. In 1977 it was decided that Brighthouse would release a

'single' record called The Floral Dance and soon afterwards a certain disc jockey called Terry Wogan, for reasons best known to himself, was playing it every morning on his radio show. Well, the record sold and sold and sold, within a few short weeks the record crept into the top 100 and the following Tuesday when the new charts were announced live on the radio at midday the record had got to number 32. Half an hour later the Secretary of the band received a 'phone call from the BBC in London saying they wanted the band to come to the Television Centre in London to record Top of the Pops, the Secretary said 'when' and the voice at the other end, in a tone of 'what a stupid question' said, tomorrow!

The band consisted of 28 playing members and a musical director all in full time employment with various organisations mainly throughout Lancashire and Yorkshire. Don't ask me how, but at 10:00am the following morning, Wednesday 16th November 1977 every single member of the band along with the MD was at TV Centre in London ready to start rehearsals for TOTPs with none other than Jimmy Savile OBE. In those days the show was recorded on a Wednesday ready to be shown on TV the following evening at 7:30.

We rehearsed all day until about 6:00pm with other groups appearing on the show including Bob Geldof and the Boomtown Rats, Barron Knights, Noosha Fox, The Dooley's and of course, the unforgettable, Legs & Co! Also in the show on VT were Showaddywaddy, Status Quo, Abba and Queen. It was so surreal spending the day and chatting with all these incredibly famous people; what on earth was I doing there? I'd

pinched myself so many times by the end of the day I was bruised all over. Following an excellent meal in the BBC canteen the teenagers who had been queuing up outside for hours were eventually allowed into the studio and we recorded the show. It was a wrap at about 9:30, time to head back home on the coach up the M1, straight to bed and up early the following morning ready for work. After work I got home, had tea and got my chair ready in front of the telly ready to watch the show we had recorded in London the previous day, this is what the television people call 'transmission' or TX for short. It was good fun watching the show but sadly in 1977 video recorders were only just starting to appear in the shops, they were very expensive and I didn't know anyone who had one so I only ever saw the show just the once.....that is until a few months ago.

I was sitting quietly with a cup of coffee thinking about the good times I had enjoyed with my musical hobby when it struck me like a thunderbolt, why not write to the BBC and ask if they still had the recording of TOTPs which was made some 30 odd years ago and more importantly is there any possibility of getting hold of a copy. The reply soon came back, yes they still had the recording in their archives and if I was prepared to part with a few sovereigns they would make me my own personal copy on a DVD.

My DVD library now has a very treasured disk on the shelf on which is etched -
BBC TOP OF THE POPS TX 17/11/77
- my three minutes of fame, preserved for ever.

David Hewitt, Secretary

The cash in the kitty

We have had an overwhelming response from residents so far this year by way of financial contributions to the pot. (As Jim says) initial thoughts on the Neighbourhood Watch signs were that we'd try and buy 4 however the response was so positive that we managed to afford another 3 for the rear of the houses. Thanks to the great efforts of the fundraising team, proceeds

from coffee mornings and the raffle at the Crime Prevention meeting, together with other kind donations, we now have over £500 in the bank. It really does give us all a sense of support from the residents and I think its evident from the amount we have in the bank so far that although not everyone wants to be on the committee, they certainly do support the cause and want to help in some way. Many of the grants that the committee are looking into require

a degree of match funding so, after only a few months, we have a great start to anything that we may need to support in the future - thanks to all those who have helped with this.

For anyone who would like to see a summary of the accounts there is a copy posted on the website each month.

Emma Norris, Treasurer

What Janice thinks...

'When we moved to Rossall Promenade 13 months ago we knew no one - but since getting involved with the Residents Association last August a whole new world has opened up to us. When both Stephen and myself had the flu before Christmas, neighbours phoned to see if we needed anything getting from the shops or anything doing - this really made a great deal of difference to us both. The coffee mornings have opened the door of friendship for many residents, many like ourselves have only recently moved to this area. At the last one we tried to discuss our future plans for fund raising events - but we ended up laughing so much at the suggestions of a dance afternoon - to feature belly dancing and line dancing - which I am sure would be well attended - cowboy boots and bells on feet optional of course!!

'The sound of laughter and happy chatter always makes everyone so much happier and I feel so proud to be a part of this. To walk on the prom with Tilly to stop and talk with neighbours and friends makes a big difference to our lives here. We are also talking of trying to start a walking group, which would be great for the people on their own. I am not sure when this will start but I am really looking forward to that. I for one would like to hear from anyone who has a bike and would like to go for gentle rides, I really don't like riding on the main roads due to all the traffic and I am fairly new to bike riding - so some patience would be needed. We could go to Fleetwood have a coffee and a walk round - I especially love sitting watching the bowling and the world and his wife walking by.' *Janice Pickup, Fundraising Co-ordinator*

Janice has organised and held two coffee mornings at her house, which have been exceptionally good fun and a great way to get to know people.

We are putting together a programme of events that everybody will be welcome at. If anyone has any suggestions for events, raising money or would like to get involved please get in touch with Janice on 821703.



The committee of the Residents Association:

Jane Littlewood	<i>Chair</i>
Dave Hewitt	<i>Secretary</i>
Emma Norris	<i>Treasurer</i>
Janice Pickup	<i>Press Officer & Fundraising Co-ordinator</i>

Stephen Pickup	
Tony Greenwood	
David Yule	
Beryl Hancock	
Val Pounder	
Freda Tomlinson	
Jim Bolton	<i>Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator</i>

Rossall Beach Residents Association and Neighbourhood Watch is a not for profit, and non political organisation.

Telephone 829390 or 854145 for further information.



Just some of the happy moments from Janice's coffee morning!



The Green Shoots of Progress

Being mindful of Jane's request for some input for the newsletter, I sat here on my computer staring into space out of my balcony window. I thought whatever can one write about when everything is so peacefully bordering on boring. Seagulls squawking, people walking, or jogging.

Nothing, I thought, to get excited about. I was stumped. "Audrey" I called, "Let's go for a walk". Now I know if you mention a walk to Audrey, you can be certain you don't need to ask twice.

It was a lovely day, hardly any breeze and the Sun was shining, and I had taken an apple with me to nibble on the way - one for Audrey as well. Walking along Rossall Promenade, looking at the newly painted

benches, the renewed steps, and handrails, also the waste bins, I felt an overwhelming pride to be part of and involved with the work going on. Relatively speaking all this has happened in a short period of time. My mind drifted back over the years, to when Audrey and I would have a day by the sea at Rossall, and it always appeared grotty. Looking back, the reason for the visits was to sit in the car and look out to sea (sad really). Oh! and Audrey would put up some fantastic sandwiches, so that helped.

Back to reality, thinking about future events, I'm looking forward immensely to the big clean up in Spring, that will be a big, big plus. A start has been made in removing all the rubble near the Venue, Audrey did comment that I wouldn't have

anything to complain about now. One can't help but feel pleased, and proud, to see and be a part of this progress.

One big hurdle yet to overcome, and that is the issue of dog Poo! The problem is not going away, to me it's getting worse. There are still a lot of ignorant, irresponsible, dog owners. Today walking on the new part, there are big dollops of poo, certainly not from small dogs, but even that does not diminish the wonderful progress we have made so far.

The question we have to ask ourselves is "What will it be like this time next year?" It's certainly looking good from my window.

*Jim Bolton,
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator*

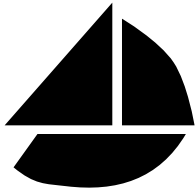


There is nothing better than a cycle ride along the seafront. Not only does it keep you fit and healthy it is good for the environment too. Wyre Borough Council supported by Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Borough Council are shortly to commence work along the Wyre frontage from Fleetwood to

Cleveleys that will improve safety and information to cyclists and provide facilities on route. This will involve signing to and from the highway, information at key points and route markers. The first phase is anticipated to be ready for Easter.

*Carl Green,
Principal Engineer, Wyre BC*

Coastal Cycling



Community Beach Clean 23rd March

Plans for a clean beach

We have been working with the rangers in the Wyre Borough Coast and Countryside Service to come up with a plan to clean the beach. You might have seen a digger which was organised to remove the building waste left by Birse up near the cafe, and the logs which no one would ever move by hand!

Through Keith Urwin, the Waterfront Ranger, the Probation Service Community Payback Team has also been working with Richard, their Project Supervisor, on the beach, and they have started to restore some sense of cleanliness.

A community beach clean is also being organised for 23rd March – time and details to be confirmed – where equipment will be provided and everyone can join in with making a difference and having fun in the fresh air at the same time! (No rain, please!)

CCTV

Our campaign to install CCTV on Rossall Beach still plods on. This was the reason why we were encouraged to form as a group, but once we started looking at funding streams we discovered that CCTV is actually one of the few things that it is difficult to get grant funding for! It seems that we will get a camera at some point, we just aren't sure when! We are continuing to campaign strongly though, because the deterrent effect and actual recording of crime will obviously be a big asset to both us and the Police in keeping Rossall Beach an area where you can enjoy yourself all year round without fear and intimidation.

Please report any incidents of antisocial behaviour to the Police control room on 876611, even if you don't think it's necessary asking for police attendance. It is only by logging problems as they arise that we can substantiate the need for CCTV.



Next phase of coast protection at Cleveleys

The existing sea defences between Victoria Road West and Kingsway, Cleveleys are to be replaced. This project is called Cleveleys Coast Protection Phase 4B and is a continuation of the recently completed Phase 2&3 scheme. The works will again be undertaken by Birse Coastal, working in partnership with Wyre Borough Council and Cleveleys New Wave.

This project will involve the partial demolition of the existing defences and the construction of a new stepped front revetment and two tier promenade decking. Construction will involve the installation of a large number of pre-cast concrete unit and an in-situ concrete promenade. The project will also involve lighting, landscaping and installation of new groynes. The works are scheduled to start in early February for a construction period of approximately 52 weeks.

The project will again have an information centre (to be located adjacent to the north side of the site) to allow people to safely observe the construction works and for displaying current and historical information on the sea defences in Cleveleys. Please feel free to visit the centre and leave your comments in the visitors book.

Birse Coastal are associate members of the Considerate Constructors Scheme and fully support their code of considerate conduct towards our neighbours, so if you have any queries about the scheme, pop along to the site and our site manager Dave Fazakerley will be happy to discuss them with you.
Caroline Mottram, Business Development Director, Birse

Roads and Pavements

This is set to be another high priority for the Residents Association – following a series of nasty falls in January. The walkers among you will know that the roads are a disgrace, but the pavements are appalling – the paving flags are mostly broken and as 'cock-eyed as a dogs hind leg' as you might say. Last summer a lady fell right across from the Rossall Promenade sign and bashed all her face and nose in, broke her glasses and knocked her front teeth out. She was in front of Jane's house and she took her in and calmed her down and drove her back home to Fleetwood. (She later went to hospital).

In January, Beryl and Audrey have both fallen – Audrey made quite a mess of her leg – and then Audrey's husband, Jim, fell and broke his finger and had to have his 50 year old wedding ring cut off. It really is a problem and one which we would like to get resolved. On 10th February I made a presentation to Cleveleys Forum asking for their support in getting something done with them – the presentation was well received, and most of the 50 odd strong audience didn't know anything about the problems we have down our end. Watch this space!

Get out there!

We've had quite a lot of exposure recently – we've had a few articles in the Gazette, Fleetwood Weekly News and Citizen (before it demised), all publicising our Association and what we stand for. There are two reasons why it's important that we get a high profile. Firstly, and most importantly, it explains what we stand for and that Rossall Beach is a public place for everyone to enjoy and we won't accept a minority of people spoiling it for everyone else, and secondly, if we build a high profile we can use that recognition to make money through advertising.

We've got posters up in the boxes on the new prom which advertise the Residents Association, along with posters which request that people clean up their dog poo!

We have also got some lovely new postcard leaflets with information all about the Association and the web address on – if you haven't had one just get in touch with Jane and ask for some – they are FREE and are nice to send to friends and relatives to show how nice it is here!

Summer events

We are working on a programme of events and if anyone would like to be involved or has any ideas at all please get in touch.

Birse are the main contractors on the new sea defences, and they have very kindly offered to purchase and install some sign boxes for us on Rossall Beach. This is a really big help, and we'd like to say a really big thank you. It is very important that we can put notices up and advertise events and this will be a big boost to the Residents Association. Hopefully they will be up any time soon.



Dog poo

The dog poo saga rumbles on and readers of the Gazette will know that it's a problem we share with the whole of the coast (and probably the UK in truth!), and the Gazette published quite prominently a long letter that we sent in response. It is a minority of owners who refuse to clean up after their dogs but they are causing bad feeling for everyone with a dog. To put it in perspective, one Labrador who visits the beach twice a day would leave a staggering 730 heaps a year (I don't know how much each heap would weigh but I guess that makes quite a weight of poo!). Multiply that by the vast number of dogs that come to our beach every day and you can see the scale of the problem.

It's simply not acceptable, and apart from being revolting it is also a serious health hazard. There are posters on the new section of promenade, and will soon be posters on our Rossall Beach end. There is a dog warden at Wyre Borough Council who can be contacted on 891000. Take the car registration number and pass it on and the owner will be contacted. This has been done a number of times recently and it does make people clean up after their dog.

'Eve-nin All'

Police in the Wyre are warning residents against using tradesman who cold-call at their homes and then charge inflated prices for minor work. The warning follows reported incidents in Fleetwood and Garstang where workmen have been reported to be touting for business on the doorstep for cavity wall insulation. In a separate incident on Percy Street in Fleetwood workmen claiming to be from the council changed an intercom system and on wanted more than £400 for the minor work.

Crime prevention officer PC Ian Hill said: "These cold-calling workmen are very persuasive at getting people to agree to pay way over-the-odds for very minor work. In the past we have seen victims pay for work which has not been completed and cases where workmen carried out work which wasn't even necessary.

The victims are often the elderly members of our community and we need to work together to ensure those who take advantage of their trusting nature are brought to justice. Our advice to the public is always say no to cold-callers."

Police are working with partners at Trading Standards to gather intelligence against the people operating in the area and anyone with information is urged to contact Police on 01253 876611 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111. They can also ring Lancashire County Council Trading Standards [Dept on 01772 532145](#).

PACT meetings are held every five weeks at the Frank Townend Centre and they are open to all members of the public. It was with the support of the Police and the PCSOs that

Rossall Beach Residents Association was formed, and we are lucky to have their ongoing support in dealing with problems that arise through this being a very public place which suffers from summertime problems. If anyone sees an incident which should be reported – whether it's anti-social behaviour or crime – then they should ring the control centre on 876611 and log the incident – even if it doesn't need the police to attend. We are campaigning for a CCTV camera and logging incidents provides proof that we do experience anti-social behaviour and supports the need for a camera.

The PACT meetings are held at 6pm at the Frank Townend Centre and the dates are: 17th March, 28th April and the 2nd June

*Ian Hill, Crime Prevention Officer,
Lancashire Police.*



We all need FRIENDS!

Constitutionally, you can only be a member of the Residents Association if you live in the patch, but as this is a promenade area and a public space used and enjoyed by many, we have introduced 'Friends of Rossall Beach' - a sort of honorary membership for anyone from anywhere who is in support of, and interested in what we are doing.

Membership includes a certificate, regular copies of the newsletter which has a limited circulation, and as a thank you for your support, a pack of Rossall Beach notecards.

For an introductory period, associate membership is £3.99 for a year (plus £1 p&p for anyone outside walking distance) – fill in the form on the back and tick 'Associate Member' - please make cheques payable to Rossall Beach Residents Association and send to Jane Littlewood, 2 Rossall Prom, Cleveleys, FY5 1LP



Roll Up- Join Up!

Application for Free Membership

Rossall Beach Residents Association is for everybody who lives between the Five Bar Gate and Durban Court at the end of Thornton Gate. Constitutionally, only people who live in the area can be full members, and they also have the right to elect the officers (that is the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee) at the Annual General Meeting.

We can't just automatically put everyone down for membership – you have to add your name to the list yourself. It is important that everyone is in support of what we are doing – when we are campaigning it adds weight to what we say if a majority of people are in favour – so please join up!

Membership is FREE and you don't have to do anything – you don't ever have to come to a meeting, or any of the events, it just shows that in principle you are in favour. We would like people to join in though – it's your Association and you should get the benefit of it and reap the rewards of a strong community and new friends and good neighbours.

Just fill in the form on the back page - tick 'Full Member' and drop through the letterbox of Jane at number 2 Rossall Prom, or Dave at 9 Durban Court.

All monies raised by Rossall Beach Residents Association and Neighbourhood Watch will be used solely for the furtherance of our Aims and Objectives. Full accounts will be available for public scrutiny at our AGM or from the Treasurer on request.



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At a meeting of Lancashire Locals on 12th February we had a plan agreed to divert the main promenade round Thornton Gate and create an outbuild on the sea side of the road to slow the traffic down, and reduce the problem of speeding and boy racers. More details to follow at a later date, but it is with great thanks to Dave Hewitt our Secretary that we have had this important project passed through his work with our Wyre Borough Councillor, the Lancashire County Councillors and with the help of Wyre Borough Council themselves. Well done all of you and thank you!

Have a look at www.rossallbeach.org.uk to see what we are doing.



YES please, I'd like to be a Rossall Beach Voice

Address

Names

Email address (if available)

I live on Rossall Beach and would like to be a

Full Member

I live outside the patch and would like to be an

Associate Member

I have enclosed my cheque for £3.99 made payable to Rossall Beach Residents Association (plus £1 p&p for those not in walking distance)

An email address would keep our costs down as all correspondence, minutes of meetings etc can be sent to you electronically and would avoid printing costs.

Any information you supply will only be used by Rossall Beach Residents Association and/or other statutory bodies and won't be published or passed into the public domain.

Members must be at least 18 years of age.