

TORBAY MAD HUTTERS

Issue No 1

OFFICIAL TORBAY BEACH HUT USERS NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2006

FORMATION OF TORBAY BEACH HUT USERS GROUP

There was a successful meeting (100 + beach hut users) at Oldway Mansion on Thursday 16 Mar. A follow-up meeting was called for Thursday 30 Mar when 43 attended and a Committee was formed. Outline agenda was discussed and set to include:

- Security
- Cleanliness
- Beach and promenade management (cycling, BBQs, dogs/wardens)
- Facilities
- Insurance
- Finance
- Police liaison
- Communications (meetings, news letters, press and Council web site etc.)

It was decided to progress with the formation of a formal beach hut user's group or association. It was also agreed that a number of co-opted members may be appointed to the Committee to include;

- Torbay Council officers
- Police
- Dog Warden

It was suggested and agreed that there should be two major 'Open' meetings each year for all users, one in February/March and the other at the end of the season September/October.

ALARMS: The local Police are looking into the possibility of installing beach hut alarms and cameras in certain vulnerable areas in a bid to target and catch vandals.

Full time beach staff are employed from 1st May each year

The 1st Committee meeting was held on Wednesday 5th April. The meeting discussed:

Constitution: To draw up a constitution
Representation on Committee: Need for a representative from Torquay beaches – Oddicombe, Meadfoot and Corbyn. (*so if you have a hut at one of these sites please consider joining our committee*).

Insurance: Corporate (i.e. thru an Insurance company) or our own at say £20 - £30 per season. (*see details elsewhere in this newsletter*)

Vandalism: Crackdown. Posters stating "Vandals will be prosecuted" to be placed in schools and on promenades.

Rubbish: Good news – Rubbish collections for Beaches and Parks are now combined. Last collections likely to be 7.30pm – 8pm. Encourage people to take rubbish home if after last collection. A list of do's and don'ts to be put in holiday-maker's huts.

Practical Help: Repair, painting, damage etc? Committee is to endeavour to provide a help-line handyman telephone number for each beach area.

Showers: Now at Corbyn and Meadfoot. Equipment for other beaches is being costed by Council's Engineering department.

Brixham Breakwater: Possibility of 6 new beach huts.

Security: Campaign to have outward opening doors.

Parking: Campaign to get parking concessions for beach hut users.

Boats: Rules for handling of small boats on promenades and launching on beaches are being investigated. Informed that Jet-skis are only allowed in/out of Paignton harbour.

Bye-Laws: Concern regarding cycling, skateboarders, dog fouling to be addressed

Communication: Publicity through Press, Newsletter, e-mail and Torbay Council web site. **Mad Hutter's Newsletter** available at Beach Managers' offices.

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KNOW YOUR BEACH MANAGER

Beach	Manager	Contact
Oddicombe		
Meadfoot		
Corbyn Head		
Marine Parade		
Preston		
Goodrington North & Promenade		
Goodrington South		
Broadsands		
Brixham Breakwater		

BEACH HUT INSURANCE

An idea which is being floated is for beach hut users to run their own scheme. Owners would pay an additional premium of, say, £20 - £30 per annum into a properly managed Beach Hut Users account. If a beach hut is damaged then repairs up to the value of, say, £250 can be allowed. A further advantage would be if the owner is away – the hut could be temporarily repaired and made secure. Only those in the scheme can take advantage. The scheme would need about 150 paid up members.

Are you interested? Have your say and write to:

Torbay Beach Hut Users Group
c/o Cultural Services
Tor Hill House
Union Street
Torquay. TQ2 5QW

BEACH & PROMENADE MANAGEMENT

What facilities do you think would improve our beaches?

What are your concerns?

LET'S HAVE YOUR IDEAS!

Contact: Beach Hut User Group

AVIAN 'FLU' – DEAD BIRDS?

Found a dead bird. Don't touch it. But contact DEFRA helpline 08459 335577

WHAT TO DO IF YOU WITNESS A BEACH HUT CRIME

DIAL 999: only if the crime is in progress

To report a crime or incident that has taken place then call:

Police Enquiry Centre on 08705 700400

THIS NEWSLETTER IS DISTRIBUTED BY VOLUNTEERS BUT IS ALSO AVAILABLE FROM YOUR BEACH MANAGER'S CABIN.

CONTACTS

Torbay Beach Hut Users Group
c/o Cultural Services
Tor Hill Road
Union Street
Torquay TQ2 5QW
(Your mail will be passed to the Committee)

Or by **E-MAIL** ... and also get this newsletter and other notifications.

Send your e-mail address to
Beachman@dsl.pipex.com

Don't forget to visit Torbay Council's web site: www.torbay.gov.uk/madhutters