



## PRESS RELEASE

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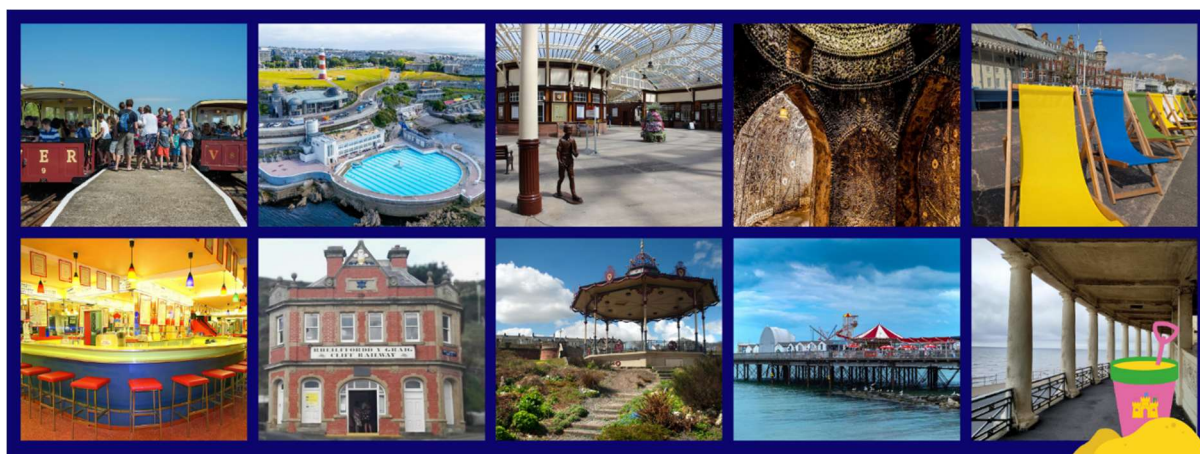


# CONGRATULATIONS TO HERNE BAY PIER!

## Winner of The Bucket and Spade List 2026

The Seaside Heritage Network is delighted to reveal its **Bucket and Spade List of the Top Ten favourite seaside places and experiences** as voted for by members of the public. In first place is Herne Bay Pier followed by North and South Marine Parks, South Shields in second, with third place going to Wemyss Bay Railway Station. Voters decided the Top Ten as follows:

1. **Herne Bay Pier** (Kent)
2. **North & South Marine Parks, South Shields** (Tyne & Wear)
3. **Wemyss Bay Railway Station** (Inverclyde)
4. **Tinside Lido, Plymouth** (Devon)
5. **Weymouth Deckchairs** (Dorset)
6. **Volks Electric Railway, Brighton** (East Sussex)
7. **Shell Grotto, Margate** (Kent)
8. **Harbour Bar, Scarborough** (North Yorkshire)
9. **Aberystwyth Cliff Railway** (Ceredigion)
10. **Blackpool Colonnades** (Lancashire)



Further details about all of finalists at [Vote for 2026 Winners - Seaside Heritage Network](https://www.seasideheritage.org.uk/vote-for-2026-winners)

### Lyn Blake, Chair of Herne Bay Pier Trust said:

'Herne Bay Pier is hugely grateful to the Seaside Heritage Network for organising the Bucket and Spade Award. I can't put into words what it actually means to have won a public vote against such strong competition. We are a small charity run by volunteers and reading the comments from those who voted has been heartwarming, it's why we all do what we do. Thank you to everyone who voted for us and thanks to Canterbury City Council, who own the pier, to all our trustees, our volunteer stewards and our amazing Hutters who run businesses from Beach

Huts on, what is for a lot of the year, a wet and windy place to work. They all together make Herne Bay Pier a thriving community that we are immensely proud of.'

**Cllr Karen Pittuck, Lead Member for Highways, Neighbourhoods and Community Safety at South Tyneside Council** said: 'We are incredibly proud to see North and South Marine Parks recognised in the Bucket and Spade List. These much-loved parks have played an important role in the life of our seaside town for generations, bringing together heritage, nature and recreation in a truly special setting. This recognition reflects not only the beauty and history of the parks, but also the affection residents and visitors have for them.'

We would like to thank everyone who supported the nomination, shared their memories and helped to showcase and celebrate these special spaces. To be recognised as one of the country's top seaside heritage destinations is a fantastic accolade for South Tyneside and further reinforces the significance of these parks to the character and identity of our coastline.'

'**Friends of Wemyss Bay Station** are pleased that the station was among the top favourites. We hope that this brings our magnificent station to wider attention and encourages more people to visit Wemyss Bay.'

**Dr Kathryn Ferry, Chair of the Seaside Heritage Network**, is excited to be presenting this year's award at the Big Day Out at Scarborough's Grand Hotel on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September**:

'Our top three winners prove that seaside heritage is valued by local communities and visitors alike. Voters clearly appreciate the efforts to cherish and maintain locations with a historic resonance that cater to all ages. It's great to see how favourite seaside experiences are shared across the generations because that's key to the continued success of all our Bucket and Spade nominees.'

Our past winners have really benefitted from the show of support that this award represents. Two years after their win in 2024, the New Palace and Adventureland in New Brighton is bidding for National Heritage Lottery Funding to bring out the unique story of this Art Deco amusement arcade which is still owned by the family that built it in 1939. The win by Redcar's famous Lemon Top ice cream last year, inspired Redcar and Cleveland Council to introduce 'Sweet Street', the country's first dessert festival, which proved so successful this summer it is going to become an annual event. We are really excited to see what happens next at Herne Bay Pier and congratulate everyone involved there.'

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WHAT VOTERS SAID:

#### **Herne Bay Pier**

'I love the pier as there are so many places to eat and drink. If you have children with you there are plenty of things for them to do. Always see people crabbing off the side. They have dog shows too and music shows through the summer weekends. It's so versatile and just a really enjoyable place to be.'

'Fantastic variety of activities for all ages. The Pier Volunteers are a credit to the community.'

#### **North & South Marine Parks, South Shields**

'It has everything! Miniature train, lake with boats, play area, cafe, beautiful gardens. The beach is over the road as well as a traditional fairground. Lots of events, music, fun and family friendly.'

‘The parks are beautifully maintained and a stones throw from our lovely beach.’

**Wemyss Bay Railway Station**

‘Thousands of folk every Glasgow and Greenock summer holidays went doon the water. Wemyss Bay was the start of the holidays.’

‘A fascinating and beautifully preserved reminder of the heyday of mass travel to the seaside - now an integral part of its local community.’

**Tinside Lido, Plymouth** ‘The best view with the most caring staff and chatty regulars. This lido is the most welcoming I’ve ever been to with an amazing historical value. Most people I’ve talked to here have grown up coming to this place and come everyday in the summer, it’s just a shame it’s not open all year round !!’

**Weymouth Deckchairs** ‘Sitting on the prom, in a traditional deck chair, looking at the perfect sandy beach, eating an ice cream, is quintessential British seaside.’

**Volks Electric Railway, Brighton** ‘It is living history and enormously enjoyable too. I have been thrilled by the Volk’s Electric Railway for 70 years since my parents took me on it as a 7 year old boy and I still find it exciting!’

**Shell Grotto, Margate** ‘Ideal activity whatever the weather, cool on hot days, dry in the rain. Fascinating and mysterious to people of all ages, and plenty to occupy younger visitors. Absolutely brilliant shop to browse for seaside related things too.’

**Harbour Bar, Scarborough** ‘Absolutely essential part of any trip to Scarborough!’

**Aberystwyth Cliff Railway** ‘Beautiful cliff railway, well kept, lovely volunteers and staff, glorious views.’

**Blackpool Colonnades** ‘It’s a stunning example of 1920s art deco architecture and it is in need of support, love and care. It is long overdue some refurbishment and I’d love to see them be a place where people can sit, enjoy the sunsets and views over the sea.’

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For further information contact [info@seasideheritage.org.uk](mailto:info@seasideheritage.org.uk) or call Kathryn Ferry on 07941 805673 / Allan Brodie on 07810 263337

*The Seaside Heritage Network is an educational charity which acts to raise awareness and understanding of the distinctive heritage of the UK seaside holiday. It is run by volunteers who are specialists from the tourism, academic, history and heritage sectors.*

