

News Release:

Pier Review — a journey to the outcrops of a dying culture

Two writers from Birmingham are attempting to record the changing face of the country's culture and are visiting every surviving seaside pier to do so—and that's 56 of them in two weeks.

Danny Smith and Jon Bounds, the editors of Dirty Bristow magazine, consider themselves perfectly placed to write about an ephemeral British seaside because that's what the seaside is to Brummies: a ghost, a Vaseline-smearing Shangri-La cobbled together from Carry On films, hazy childhood memories and nostalgia for a bygone era.

Danny Smith said; "For years now the British seaside has been seen as in a state of decline, but with the rise of blue flag beaches, 'staycations' and flexible working hours the seaside is fighting back. This battle can be seen by the piers, with some earmarked for demolition, burnt to the ground or just plain forgotten and others planning huge remodelling as 'consumer leisure experiences'. The very soul of the British seaside is up for grabs."

The project and the book has been funded entirely by web-based crowdfunding and drawing from our contacts around the country. Over £600 has been raised by pledgers who get special gifts like first edition copies, or even a postcard from each pier.

Starting at Weston-Super-Mare and going anticlockwise, the team plan to test their nostalgic memories. Jon Bounds says: "We'll take the water, and the air, head for the most basic B+B's and the grandest hotels. They plan to have a mods vs rockers fight in the shadow of Brighton pier, check out the dying of the Hi-de-Hi light by spending a night at a Pontins camp, gamble on the penny-slots and hunt for saucy postcards on Blackpool prom."

You can see more information on pierreview.co.uk

Notes for Editors

Photographs attached are free to use and feature Jon Bounds (L) and Danny Smith (R) — photo credit: Pete Ashton

The Pier Review plan is to visit all 56 surviving piers in England and Wales (as defined by the National Pier Society <http://www.piers.org.uk/pierpages/NPS0regionssurv.html>) in a strict two week period from the 12th September. Starting at Weston-Super-Mare and finishing at Penarth.

The schedule:

12th	CLEVEDON
12th	WESTON-SUPER-MARE Birnbeck
12th	WESTON-SUPER-MARE Grand
12th	BURNHAM-ON-SEA
13th	FALMOUTH Prince of Wales
13th	PAIGNTON
13th	TORQUAY Princess
13th	TEIGNMOUTH
14th	WEYMOUTH Bandstand*
14th	WEYMOUTH Commercial & Pleasure

14th SWANAGE
14th BOURNEMOUTH
14th Boscombe
14th YARMOUTH, Isle of Wight
14th TOTLAND BAY, Isle of Wight (Private) (closed apart from café)
14th SANDOWN Culver, Isle of Wight (Private)
14th RYDE, Isle of Wight Grade II listed (Private)
15th SOUTHAMPTON Royal
15th SOUTHSEA Clarence
15th SOUTHSEA South Parade
15th BOGNOR REGIS
15th WORTHING
15th BRIGHTON PALACE
16th EASTBOURNE
16th HASTINGS
16th DEAL
17th GRAVESEND Town
17th HERNE BAY
17th SOUTHEND-ON-SEA
17th CLACTON-ON-SEA
17th WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE
17th HARWICH Halfpenny
18th FELIXSTOWE
18th SOUTHWOLD
18th LOWESTOFT Claremont
18th LOWESTOFT South
18th GREAT YARMOUTH Britannia
18th GREAT YARMOUTH Wellington
18th CROMER
18th SKEGNESS
18th CLEETHORPES
19th SALTBURN
19th BLACKPOOL Central
19th BLACKPOOL North
19th BLACKPOOL South

19th ST ANNES
20th SOUTHPORT
21st COLWYN BAY Victoria
21st LLANDUDNO
21st BANGOR
21st BEAUMARIS
21st ABERYSTWYTH Royal
22nd MUMBLES
22nd PENARTH

Jon Bounds is a writer, artist, and psychogeographer who's been documenting Birmingham's outsider culture on the website [Birmingham: It's Not Shit](#) for nearly ten years. He's also written on Brum and other things for The Birmingham Post, Fused, Area Magazine and The Guardian. He's one half of the publishers and editors of [Dirty Bristow magazine](#).

Danny Smith is a writer, anti-artist, and ne'er-do-well, his work has appeared in Vice, Fused, and Area magazine. His writing has also appeared on the interwebs for over ten years on various websites including his own [edgetrinkets.com](#), he typically writes about culture, pop and otherwise, and his own experiences travelling through the subcultures. He's the other half of the publishers and editors of Dirty Bristow magazine.

Subject to schedule Danny and Jon are available to meet or speak to reporters as they travel around the route, or before.

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