



FLASH, BANG, WALLOP!

What a picture: this month's reader snap

— 1938 —

coast reader **Karen Brown** sent us this seaside snap of her mother Betty (far right), twin sister Jean and their cousins in **Broadstairs, Kent**. All four were evacuated the following year until after the war, but they still enjoy coastal living today: 'Mum has a beach hut at **Whitstable** and Jean lives in **Christchurch**,' Karen says.



PILLOW TALK

Dunlins, oystercatchers and puffins are just three of the coastal creatures that you can expect to find on textile artist Emma Iles' beautiful handmade cushions. Based in the small Pembrokeshire fishing village of Solva, Emma finds inspiration in the local wildlife and the surrounding rugged landscape. Her cushions and warm woollen throws are both sleek and stylish – try her heritage or coastal ranges for a crafty addition to any seaside pad (seaforthdesigns.com).



CLEAN SEAS PLEASE

WHAT'S THE CAMPAIGN?

Bexhill, Hastings and Littlestone are just three of 55 areas that are at risk of failing the newly heightened European Sea Bathing Water Quality Directive, which will be enforced this October. The main culprits include incorrect disposal of fats, oils and grease, and ragging; the unhygienic clumping of wipes and sanitary products. A community-led group, Clean Seas Please, is managed by Hastings Voluntary Action and Rother Voluntary Action in partnership with the Environment Agency to help raise awareness of this unclean issue. Their aim is for these areas to meet the new higher standard so that there is no need for warning signs against swimming in the sea, which would have a dramatic impact on seaside culture and local tourism.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

By making small changes such as thinking twice about what you're putting down your toilets and sinks, scraping fat and waste foods from plates and pans before washing up, or checking your waste water pipes on a regular basis, you can help make our seas that little bit cleaner. To find out more information on what you can do to help your area meet the new directive, visit the Clean Seas Please team at events throughout the summer. You will find them at the Bexhill Festival of the Sea, St Leonards Festival and the Hastings Seafood and Wine Festival, among many other seaside events.

Visit cleanseasplease.net to keep up to date with the latest information and events, or get in touch on Twitter @cleanseasplease or at [facebook.com/cleanseasplease](https://www.facebook.com/cleanseasplease).