

Inn on the Beach: Hayling island



A potted history:

1086 Domesday Book lists Hayling Island with a population of 300 and mentions salt-making and farming activities. The island was given to a French Abbey until Henry VIII reclaimed it. Today the population is 16,000.

1825 Dukes of Norfolk sold Hayling Island to William Padwick

1865 Beachfront land was acquired to build the first Hayling Island lifeboat station at a cost of £250, where the current Inn on the Beach stands – called "The Lifeboat House"

1932-1980s Trading as a café/tea rooms called "Beachcot"

1940s Hayling Island waters were used by COPPs (Combine Operations Pilotage Parties), a secret group of special forces brought together during World War II, testing specialized military canoes then deployed on clandestine missions around the world

1974-6 Work starts on the breakwater "wave" that sits underneath the terrace of the Inn on the Beach to reduce coastal erosion of the site. New building extensions are put up including a swimming pool on the terrace!

1990s The Inn runs into trouble with local police and became something of a bone of contention with local residents after receiving a late license. During this period the Inn on the Beach was often called "The Red House" and at one time was an Italian restaurant

2005 The bar features live music and has a blue paint job!

2007 The British Kite Surfing Association complete the British Championships with the final round of the tour at Hayling Island in October, hosted by Inn on the Beach

2008 Inn on the Beach closes

2009 The builders stepped in to strip out and refurbish the interiors and exterior, breathing new life into the many rooms, bars, conservatory and terrace areas.



1970's



1990's



2009



1970's



2009 - Launch party