

# ENGLAND-ON-SEA

by Brent Jones

‘England-on-Sea’ by photographer Brent Jones is drawn from a nationwide tour of the English coast – a series of road trips to all points of the English coast, made over several years. Living and working from the back of a Ford van, Brent set out to explore the coastal landscape and how we interact with it and to each other.

*“I was brought up in the late sixties in the coastal village of Fawley and spent my childhood sinking into oily mud, picking my way across shingle and rock pooling. It was with these childhood memories that I returned to the seaside to discover how it is changing economically, socially, and culturally.”*

England-on-Sea is a detailed exploration of the seaside, a place so embedded in our nation’s psyche and national identity that it reflects our changing population and behaviour. Focussing on the collective rather than the individual, England-on-Sea highlights English peculiarities and eccentricities as well as the more mundane scenes of everyday seaside life.

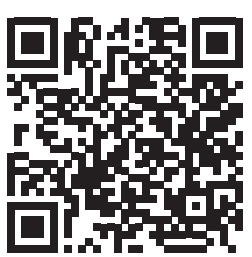
After a pandemic that threatened to break many of the constraints that bind our societies, this was an opportunity to record our re-emerging population.

*“Against the backdrop of Brexit, COVID, the climate emergency, and economic recession, I felt this was a particularly pertinent moment to record our nation at leisure.”*

The ‘road trip’ and the coast, have long been an inspiration for documentary photographers and artists alike, both on these shores and abroad. Many of these have provided inspiration for this project, including Stephen Shore, Simon Roberts and L S Lowry.

*“My approach was to decide the composition, set up the camera with a fixed viewpoint, and settle down for the great British public to populate the scene.”*

The 20 images in this outdoor exhibition represent a small selection from the England-on-Sea collection, which can be seen at **[brentjones.co.uk](http://brentjones.co.uk)**



## Celebrating People, Place and Culture



The Dorset National Landscape team is delighted to support the launch of this England-on-Sea exhibition in West Bay, as a contribution to Bridport 24 - Town of Culture celebrations.

Bridport is the first Town of Culture in Dorset and Bridport 24 celebrates people, place and culture with a 6-month programme showcasing the rich artistic ecology of the town. Look out for more Bridport 24 activities over the coming months, bringing together the community, artists, festivals and venues of Dorset’s ‘Eventful’ town. **#onlyinbridport**

Dorset National Landscape is the new name for the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Covering over 40% of Dorset, it is the 5th largest National Landscape in the UK, with a unique collection of ancient landscapes, outstanding wildlife, rich culture and of course, the awe-inspiring Jurassic Coast.

Many photographers have tried to capture the essence of Dorset’s beautiful land and seascapes but there is always one important thing missing – people! National Landscapes aren’t just places for wildlife, they are places for people to live and work; a ‘natural health service’ for all to enjoy.

We hope England on Sea will get you thinking about what you love about the coast, what makes it special to you and how you might play a part in its future.

If you’re intrigued to explore more of the Dorset National Landscape (and other National Landscapes), you’ll find 50 outstanding places to discover at **[dorset-nl.org.uk](http://dorset-nl.org.uk)**

