


interview with a beachgoer. These interviews are carried out using a small camera phone, and Man On A Beach selects his subjects carefully. "I sometimes get approached by people who want to be filmed, but I tend to avoid that as I don't want attention seekers," he says. "I look for people who are in tune with their environment, and I know I have a good chat when people are showing their humanity." Apparently I am in tune with the rainy stretch of Porthbeor sand, for we swap places and I get interviewed. (Curious? Visit <http://manonabeach.com/?p=616>).

Despite my attempts to get him in front of the camera, the Man On A Beach closely guards his anonymity to a degree where he refuses to pose for any pictures, even from behind. "I don't want to be a celebrity; this project is not about me," he insists. "I am merely a passive everyman who forms the link between the website visitor and the beachgoer; all I do is pass on the message. When you're sitting at home and you're missing the beach fondly, you can look at my website and, because of my anonymity, you can really imagine yourself being there on that beach."

When we met, the film-maker had just returned to Cornwall after spending time on the coasts of Norfolk, Suffolk and Dorset. He is hoping to continue filming on both national and international levels, having planned trips to Denmark and Scotland. "It's an endless project. I want to explore and show the effect of the beach as widely as possible and spread the word around the world, for I believe the beach has a universal appeal. Many visitors tell me they draw comfort from my website, so I believe it touches a nerve."

The man himself is certainly touched by the beach. "I need to be on the beach every day; this project has sensitised me to the coastline." And indeed, during our talk he is constantly aware of the gorgeous surroundings; looking at the stones, spotting unusual rock formations and commenting on the rolling of the waves.

His ultimate goal? "I hope my project inspires people to visit the beach more often. And if they look on the website and see visitors' stories, I hope they think about what the beach actually means to them. Maybe next time they go there, they'll feel more in harmony with this place where the air, land and sea meet." 

[www.manonabeach.com](http://www.manonabeach.com)

#### WHAT DOES THE BEACH MEAN TO YOU?

► The four most popular answers given to the question "What does the beach mean to you?" according to Man On A Beach:

- 1 Childhood
- 2 Beauty
- 3 Dog-walking
- 4 Family