

BEST B&B

THE REDSTONE, BLACKPOOL



WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

Think you know Blackpool? Think again. It's not all stag and hen parties these days. In amongst the array of cheap hotels and B&Bs there are now a few high-end establishments offering a more sophisticated stay.

Ursula Beswick, the owner of The Redstone, has created a sanctuary for those who want to enjoy the pleasures of Blackpool in a more luxurious setting. Her welcoming nature, attention to detail and cake-making skills are what makes this place special.

WHAT ARE THE ROOMS LIKE? All the rooms are en suite, with king-size beds, flat-screen TVs, WiFi, complimentary tea and coffee-making facilities and toiletries. Bath robes and slippers are also provided, and visitors are offered free use of the local gym.

WHERE'S THE NEAREST BEACH? The B&B is just yards from the promenade, and a 10-minute walk to the rides at Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

HOW ABOUT THE FOOD? Guests can help themselves to Ursula's homemade cakes on arrival. I was offered a delicious gluten-free chocolate torte and an amazingly sumptuous Victorian sponge. Breakfast is a feast, and begins with fruit salad and pastries, followed by a wide range of cooked options, including grilled Manx kippers or French toast with maple syrup and crispy bacon.

WHAT WILL IT COST? Rooms start at £90 for a double, including breakfast. To book visit theredstoneblackpool.co.uk, or call 01253 283387.

Alex Fisher



FLASH, BANG, WALLOP!

What a picture: this month's reader snap

~1950s~

coast reader **Timandra Dyer** sent us this shot of her mother Janet having a 'ride' on the beach at Great Yarmouth. Janet recently enjoyed a birthday, so Timandra has a special message for her: 'happy birthday to my darling Ma... As lovely now as she was gorgeous then'.



SILVER SHELLS

'The moment of discovery for each shell remains fresh in my mind,' says craftsman Phil Atkin of his Cornish beachcombed shells. Using the elegant shape of a shell and silver pewter, he hand casts smart homewares. We love his mussel and scallop shell salt and pepper set moulded from items found at Constantine Bay. He says: 'As a lover of the British coast, living in landlocked Bath, I can now enjoy a bit of Cornwall on the table at every meal' (pewtersky.com).