

## St Anne's Easy Walk (2.96miles) – St Anne's Promenade and Ashton Gardens

Starting from Salters Wharf Pub, head along the promenade towards the pier. When you get to the Zebra Crossing near the Swimming Baths, duck into the gardens on your right and continue towards the pier, passing the lifeboat monument, It commemorates the death of 13 lifeboatmen from St Annes who were lost in the attempt to rescue the crew of the German barque *Mexico* that had been driven into a sandbank in a gale in December 1886. The lifeboat from Southport also lost 14 of its 16 man crew in the disaster. The monument depicts a lifeboatman looking out to sea and standing on a rock-like plinth. It is recorded in the National Heritage List for England as a designated Grade II listed building.. Walk past the pier, wave or make a face at Les Dawson in the garden on your left, then cross over North Promenade and continue until you see a gunnel on your right. Walk down the Gunnel to Clifton Drive, cross over and walk straight ahead and down the path with Ashton Gardens on your right. Ashton Gardens were originally named St George's Gardens when they were first created in the late 19th century. The garden was rectangular in design and contained lawns, flower beds, ponds and avenues of trees. They were designed by the landscape gardener E. Thomas. Follow this path as it bends to the left around a cottage and enter Ashton Gardens on your right. Walk around Ashton Gardens, keeping to your left as much as possible, circling the pond, then circuiting the bowling greens and the café, then past the monument to your right to finally emerge onto Clifton Drive North through the main gates, retrace your route through the gunnel to North promenade, cross over and continue straight ahead to the beach. Walk along the beach keeping the sea to your right, walk between the 2 half's of the pier and keep going until you reach the car park by the Beach Terrace cafe. **St Anne's Pier** is a Victorian era pleasure pier, designed by Alfred Dowson, it was completed in 1885 and was one of the earliest public buildings in St Anne's, a 19th-century planned town. The pier was originally intended to be a sedate promenading venue for the resort's visitors, but attractions were later added. A Tudor-style entrance was built in 1899. Early 20th-century additions included a Moorish-style pavilion in 1904 and the Floral Hall in 1910. The Moorish Pavilion was destroyed by fire in 1974, shortly after the town's centenary; the Floral Hall burned down in 1982. Originally 914 feet (279 m) long, the pier was reduced to 600 feet (180 m) by the demolition of the seaward end. English Heritage has designated the pier a Grade II listed building. At the café re-join the promenade, turn left at the mini-golf then continue around and past the beach huts on your right then past the Lifeboat Station on your right around the boating lake, then past the swimming pool and back to Salters Wharf, where a warm welcome awaits.

If you prefer café to pub, this walk can start at Beach Terrace Café or Ashton Gardens Café.

