# Newquay's dramatic transformation from Britain’s Magaluf to family-friendly seaside town



Newquay, once infamous for its raucous party scene and dubbed the 'British Magaluf', has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years. The picturesque town in Cornwall, popular with surfers and families alike, has implemented significant measures aimed at curbing the notorious behaviour associated with stag and hen parties. Among these changes is a strict ban on mankinis and regulations on fancy dress, particularly during late-night hours. Local residents now describe a quieter, more family-oriented atmosphere, asserting that Newquay is unrecognisable from its chaotic past.

Shopworker Andy, reflecting on the town's evolution, noted that the days of rowdy revelry, marked by drunken mischief and outlandish costumes, have receded. “You're not dodging vomit on the high street as much,” he remarked, pointing to a marked decline in antisocial behaviour. Newquay still attracts its share of stag dos, but as he explained, they are now "reined in" with certain rules that promote a more respectful environment for local families and visitors.

Further enhancing this safer atmosphere, police presence in Newquay has ramped up, especially during peak tourist seasons. In anticipation of an influx of young tourists arriving for their summer holidays, local authorities have focused on increasing patrols. Beach Rangers, alongside the police, aim to foster an environment of respect, as they manage potential antisocial behaviour during busy periods. This initiative comes in the wake of December 2023's efforts by Devon and Cornwall Police, which saw hundreds arrested for driving under the influence, highlighting ongoing concerns surrounding alcohol-related incidents in the area.

The evolving character of Newquay aligns with a broader movement in the UK aiming to enhance safety and family-friendliness at seaside destinations. While some long-time residents recall boisterous stag weekends that once attracted rowdy crowds, they now report fewer altercations and a reduction in the types of behaviours that once defined the town’s nightlife. Maddie Grover, who has worked in the local arcade, echoed this sentiment, attributing the improvement in the town’s atmosphere to the closure of the infamous nightclub, Bertie's, which many described as a hub of chaos.

However, critics argue that while Newquay has become calmer, this has come at the expense of its vibrant nightlife. Climbing instructor Peron Wills observed that the lively scene of previous years has dimmed, affecting the number of festive gatherings among local residents. Yet, the community appears to prioritise a reformed image over unrestrained revelry, suggesting a shift in how Newquay wants to be perceived.

In addition to the nightlife crackdown, other law enforcement operations have been targeting different aspects of criminal behaviour in the region. Recent police raids have addressed issues such as drug-related crime and the illegal supply of fake driver details, showing a comprehensive approach to enhancing community safety.

As Newquay continues to redefine itself, it remains a testament to how communities can evolve in response to changing social dynamics. From its previous reputation as a party destination to its current focus on family-friendly experiences, Newquay stands as a symbol of a seaside renaissance, illustrating that a balance between fun and safety can indeed be achieved.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2060331/uk-seaside-british-magaluf-huge-crackdown), [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cornwall-68468229)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2060331/uk-seaside-british-magaluf-huge-crackdown), [[4]](https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2023-06-18/police-up-patrols-in-newquay-ahead-of-influx-of-summer-visitors)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2060331/uk-seaside-british-magaluf-huge-crackdown), [[4]](https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2023-06-18/police-up-patrols-in-newquay-ahead-of-influx-of-summer-visitors)
* Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cw8x5l3330lo), [[6]](https://www.radionewquay.com/news/newquay-now/28-arrested-in-drug-crackdown-across-devon-and-cornwall/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[3]](https://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/cornwall/8655790.stm), [[5]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cw8x5l3330lo), [[6]](https://www.radionewquay.com/news/newquay-now/28-arrested-in-drug-crackdown-across-devon-and-cornwall/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cornwall-68468229), [[4]](https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2023-06-18/police-up-patrols-in-newquay-ahead-of-influx-of-summer-visitors), [[6]](https://www.radionewquay.com/news/newquay-now/28-arrested-in-drug-crackdown-across-devon-and-cornwall/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2060331/uk-seaside-british-magaluf-huge-crackdown), [[3]](https://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/cornwall/8655790.stm), [[7]](https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/boardmasters-festival-2023-increased-police-8664265)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2060331/uk-seaside-british-magaluf-huge-crackdown> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cornwall-68468229> - In December 2023, Devon and Cornwall Police arrested 355 individuals for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs during a campaign aimed at encouraging partygoers to adhere to driving laws. Police Commissioner Alison Hernandez emphasised the dangers of impaired driving, noting that even small amounts of alcohol can significantly increase the risk of fatal accidents. The operation also encouraged the public to report suspected drink or drug drivers to the police.
3. <https://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/cornwall/8655790.stm> - In May 2010, six men on a stag weekend in Cornwall were rescued after the hotel lift they were in plummeted 100 feet. The incident occurred at the Hotel Victoria in Newquay, where the lift transports guests to a small cove below the cliffs. A 42-year-old man sustained a leg injury, and two others had minor injuries. An investigation was launched into the cause of the accident, which was described as a 'miracle' that no one was seriously hurt.
4. <https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2023-06-18/police-up-patrols-in-newquay-ahead-of-influx-of-summer-visitors> - In June 2023, Newquay authorities increased police patrols in anticipation of an influx of young tourists following the end of GCSE and A-level exams. The town, which has been repositioning itself as a family-friendly destination, has experienced issues with antisocial behaviour during the summer months. Beach Rangers and police aimed to manage the situation by encouraging respectful behaviour and ensuring safety for all visitors.
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cw8x5l3330lo> - In October 2023, eight men were arrested in Cornwall as part of an operation targeting the supply of fake driver details to help motorists avoid speeding fines. The raids, conducted across 12 addresses in Falmouth, Penzance, and Newquay, led to arrests on suspicion of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, modern slavery offences, and immigration offences. The operation also identified unsafe living conditions, prompting a partnership response to safeguard vulnerable individuals.
6. <https://www.radionewquay.com/news/newquay-now/28-arrested-in-drug-crackdown-across-devon-and-cornwall/> - In April 2023, a major crackdown on drug-related crime in Devon and Cornwall resulted in 28 arrests. Operation Scorpion 9 aimed to disrupt drug markets, dismantle organised crime groups, and safeguard communities from the harm associated with drug crime. Over seven kilograms of Class A drugs, including more than 5 kilograms of cocaine, along with 3,000 doses of ecstasy and 3.99 kilograms of cannabis, were seized during the operation.
7. <https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/boardmasters-festival-2023-increased-police-8664265> - In August 2023, Newquay experienced increased police presence during the Boardmasters festival, which attracted 50,000 attendees. Extra patrols were carried out, and the police station remained open throughout the weekend to ensure public safety and manage the large crowds. The heightened security measures aimed to address potential issues arising from the significant influx of visitors during the festival period.