

Oceans of appeal in moving

By SHEILA PROPHET

YES, we do like to be beside the seaside! Recent research has found that over the last 10 years, more and more people are moving away from the cities to the coast.

Last year saw property prices drop by 20pc in the South-West in the slump, making a beachside home more affordable for most. But for 2007 to 2008 Halifax's Annual Seaside Town Review found that the South West was the "best performing" area, where prices had risen the most.

The North Cornwall village of Rock, a favourite holiday haunt of Princes William and Harry, had the highest rises. While you can still snap up a flat for under £200,000, family homes with sea views fetch up to £3million.

And in the fabulously-expensive Sandbanks in Dorset, home to the likes of football manager Harry Redknapp, the wealthy could take their pick of properties with price tags of £2million to £8million.

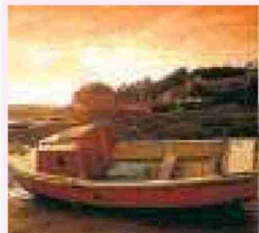
However, the South Coast and South-West do have competition. In the North, the survey shows strong results in both Alnmouth in Northumberland and Maryport in Cumbria. The resorts of Tenby and Pwylheli fly the flag for Wales, while Cleethorpes and Hunstanton are retaining their appeal.

And though prices have risen around 15 per cent in these towns for 2007-08, they are still a fraction of those in the South. The Halifax said: "People will always want to live by the sea." Lee Bramzell of Property-Index.com says people cashing in on the stay-at-home holiday rental market should stick to the more traditional property types.

TOP 10 SEASIDE TOWNS

(average house prices, 2009 figures not yet available)

2007	2008	Change
Rock, Cornwall		
£282,097	£361,838	+ 28%
Sandbanks, Devon		
£512,808	£628,014	+ 22%
Fowey, Cornwall		
£285,068	£342,885	+20%
Alnmouth, Northumberland		
£194,438	£227,120	+17%
Maryport, Cumbria		
£109,765	£128,109	+17%
Tenby, Pembrokeshire		
£200,565	£230,414	+15%
Hunstanton, Norfolk		
£211,601	£242,839	+15%
Shoreham-by-Sea, W.Sussex		
£218,196	£250,363	+15%
Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire		
£113,254	£173,923	+14%
Pwylheli, Gwynedd		
£205,289	£233,437	+14%



Popular... Cornish village of Rock