

# Boy burned by beach barbecue



Three-year-old Otis Harper, from St Just, who badly burned his foot after hot barbecue coals were left behind at Priest's Cove.

**By Ellie Evans**

[eevans@c-dm.co.uk](mailto:eevans@c-dm.co.uk)

A THREE-YEAR-OLD boy was injured after treading on burning hot coals on a Penwith beach.

Otis Harper was playing near his family on Priest's Cove near Cape Cornwall when he stumbled on a still-smouldering barbecue.

"As he was coming back up the beach, he just really screamed," said his mum Abigail Reynolds, from West Place, St Just.

"Otis was screaming and shaking with pain all the way to A&E - it was really distressing."

Otis had been picnicking on the beach on Saturday afternoon with mum Abigail and dad Andy Harper, as well as little sister Orla. He had wandered off to collect pebbles when he was burned on the sole of his left foot by the barbecue left behind by another family.

Abigail wants to warn others to make sure they don't do the same. "They had lit the

fire directly onto the stones," she said.

"The tide was quite high so they were literally ten feet from the sea; they could have just splashed some water on it.

"It is just really upsetting that they were so inconsiderate," she added.

"When you are by the sea, you could so easily put some water over it."

Otis is now on the mend, thanks to his quick-thinking parents who filled a bag with seawater to soak his injured foot on the way to hospital.

His mum praised staff at the West Cornwall Hospital in Penzance who tended to Otis's burned foot.

A spokeswoman for the Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust also warned those organising beach barbecues to take care to avoid a similar injury.

"While we're not seeing burns from barbecue coals left on beaches every week, they're certainly not uncommon and have the potential to cause serious injury or permanent scarring," she said.

"It doesn't take a minute to dispose of hot coals sensibly and, at the very least, to make sure they are cooled down with sea water as soon as cooking has finished."