

The idea of building a lake in this part of the bay served several purposes: to provide a permanent salt water bathing facility in Clevedon where the poor children of Bristol could partake of healthy exercise; to keep back the tidal water which swept dirt and dead animals etc. into the corner, where it was trapped and rotted, earning the location the nick name "Stinking Corner"; and to provide jobs for the out of work men post WWI.

Throughout the mid-1900s the lake remained fiercely popular and was equipped lavishly with changing facilities, a diving platform and deckchairs for hire. You can still see the eye-bolts set in the wall near the steps which were used for tethering changing cubicles.

Following a period of decline and concerted local campaigning the Marine Lake was comprehensively restored in 2015 with money from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and with the support of North Somerset Council, Clevedon Town Council and other local groups and individuals.

Features which exist today include: the model boat pond, which sees all sorts of craft sailing on it, hosts an annual illuminated night sail and acts as a reservoir for hosing mud out of the lake when it is drained: the "core seat" – a bench made from the core drilled through the old outer seawall; and the pump house which used to house an electric pump for topping up the lake.



Photography © Jennie Haine

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From this promenade is a path above the lake leading to "Poets' Walk", a path laid out by unemployed men in the 1920's during the economic slump between the wars. The name commemorates the brief visits of S. T. Coleridge, including his honeymoon and visits by Alfred Lord Tennyson.



Tennyson's great friend, Arthur Hallam, died in his twenties and was buried at **St. Andrew's Church** which you will see to your left if you continue along this path. Hallam's death prompted Tennyson to write the great poem "In Memoriam". The church is a lovely example of a Twelfth century building, nestled against the land protecting it from the gales. (It also features in Broadchurch!)

There is a **small stone gazebo** built by Mr Beeston to enjoy views across the channel and town.



Continue along this path to enjoy lovely views down the channel over the inlet called "The Pill" and back round to The Marine Lake, past two seventeenth century thatched cottages.

Thanks to Jane Lilly (Historian) and John Coe (Designer) for their kind work in developing this trail leaflet



Clevedon
Town Council

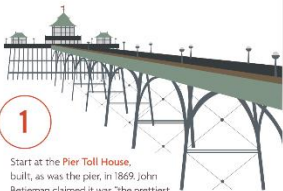


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CLEVEDON SEAFRONT HERITAGE TRAIL





1

Start at the **Pier Toll House**, built, as was the pier, in 1869. John Betjeman claimed it was "the prettiest pier in the country." Keep the sea to your right.

Before you set off look to your left at the bottom of Alexandra Road where you will see a **drinking fountain** made at the Doulton factory. It is the only surviving specimen of this pattern known in the country.

2

The pretty **Regency houses** to your left were built between 1828 and 1853 on waste ground belonging to the Elton family of Clevedon Court. Much of Clevedon belonged to the Elton family who generously gave land for many fine buildings and parks in Clevedon.

3



Before continuing past the sailing club it is worth taking a detour to the left to look at the **Peace Memorial** at Spray point. The column, surmounted with a dove, was dedicated in 1903 to the memory of Clevedon's Boer war casualties. The planisphere there points out the excellent

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and there was dancing around it and coloured gas lights on the columns. It also had canvas blinds to protect the players from the elements.

8

The **bandstand** was designed by a local councillor in 1887 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Like the Toll House it was built by William Green. Bands played,

Look over the wall at the outline of the **old padding pool**, built in 1880 by Charles Lilly whose family ran the bathing machines on the beach, to be seen in old photos.

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On your left is the **drinking fountain**, created in 1883 by Rev. J.S. Neumann in memory of his wife.

The bowls and troughs were to provide water for people, dogs and horses. The inscription, very worn reads, "A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast, but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel."



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The Lower promenade continues past the **Sailing Club**, where there are caves, now blocked off. Hence the address of "The Alcoves".

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Opposite the bandstand is a **walled garden**. The sea side of the wall was known locally as the Monkey Rack, a name for the rowdy front seats at the cinema.

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The **leaning Yew tree** is iconic to Clevedon, caused by the constantly prevailing westerly wind.

Walking along the promenade one is reminded that the Rev. John Ashley was walking here with his son in 1835 when the boy asked him how people on the islands of **Steepholm** and **Flatholm** went to church. From that the Bristol Channel Mission was formed, becoming in due course The Bristol Mission to Seamen, then the world famous Mission to Seamen. Rev. Ashley often stayed in Clevedon over a course of twenty years. The two islands can be seen to the south.

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The **Green Beach** was given to the town by the Elton family. The shelter was built in 1892. There was great controversy caused by the building of a urinal which, it was predicted, would cause scenes of immorality. "Already we see young men tearing along the beach without their hats" thundered one local gentleman!



The stainless steel creation is the **Millenium monument**, locally nick-named "The Cheese Grater"!

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The "**Little Harp**" pub was originally thatched. The name does not come from a ship-wreck, despite local legends. The saltponds in the area used a sieve called a harp. There were many saltponds along the whole sea front, not just at Salthouse Field.

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To your left, behind the trees, you might glimpse **Clevedon Hall**, built by Finzel, a local businessman, then at one time a girls' boarding school called St. Brandon's. Now a very smart conference centre and wedding venue.

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In the middle 1920's the field to your left became public open space, renamed **Salthouse Field** in fact salt was panned from the beach, not here.

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The newly restored **Clevedon Marine Lake** owes its heritage to local Cllr Fred Nutting. In the 1920s he bought the foreshore, adjacent land and the accompanying house, now the Salthouse Inn, and gifted the open space to the community, and it was his foresight that saw the construction of the lake.

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