



The Beach circa early 19th century

Turn right and pass down the side of Clevedon bowling club in its picturesque and sheltered setting. This is the home club of David Bryant, a Clevedon resident, who is an inter-nationally known world champion bowler.

At the road junction with Linden Road you will pass under a splendid specimen of Monterey Pine, arguably the most distinguished tree in Clevedon, a credit to the judgement of the person who planted it. Linden Road, particularly on its northern side, is fringed with splendid Victorian houses built to meet the times of large families and lots of servants.

Six Ways has a variety of attractions. On the junction of Linden Road and Albert Road is the distinguished building built originally to house the local newspaper offices (The Clevedon Mercury). It is pleasing to note The Mercury is now situated in a tastefully restored building a few yards further down Albert Road. Between Elton Road and Seavale Road is a fine example of the Tree of Heaven. This was planted by the Civic Society to mark the Silver Jubilee of our present Queen. The Golden Jubilee in 2002 was further marked by the installation at its base of a circular seat.



The Beach late 20th century

The eastern side of Elton Road has much interest. The first house was a school in the early years of the last century. Edith Cavell was a pupil there before she became a national heroine when shot by

the Germans for helping Belgian and British soldiers during the 1914 – 1918 war. Also on the same side, No.5 Elton Road was used during the second world war by the Navy as a medical research centre which led to the development and production of penicillin.

At the junction of Elton Road and The Beach you will find a peace memorial and miniature garden at Spray Point – a good place to sit down and enjoy the sea air. Also adjacent, on Seavale Road is the standing area for donkeys which were used for hire in the Victorian era.

Relaxed, and we hope invigorated, you can now complete the walk. The length is approx 2 miles and we think that with stops it should take about 1 1/2 – 2 hours. We do hope that you enjoyed the walk.

Having whetted your appetite for Clevedon may we refer you to the next section of this leaflet which contains details of other notable buildings to investigate and places to visit.

# Clevedon heritage walks

## Walk No. 2

This walk starts from the Salthouse Fields car park. The Salthouse Fields are Clevedon's main amenity area with play facilities for children and toddlers and of course the ever-popular miniature railway. There are also facilities for tennis, pitch and putt and crazy golf.



Miniature Railway

Looking north-east across Elton Road you will see the impressive upper structure of a mansion built in 1853 by Conrad Finzel a German sugar merchant whose wealth came from sugar cane importing and processing in Bristol. This wonderful building has had a wide variety of users including the Bristol Aeroplane Co during the Second World War and for many years until 1987 was a private school for girls.

As you walk along the promenade and head for Poets' Walk you will see to your right the Marine Lake.

These sea water lakes were popular in the last century particularly in areas like Clevedon with very great tidal ranges. It was a cheap way of providing a safe swimming pool, many of the older Clevedon residents will tell you they learnt to swim in the Marine Lake.

The Poets' Walk starts with a flight of steps, a right turn in the path leads to a spectacular viewpoint with central circular seat. There are sweeping views to the Welsh coast across the bay to the pier and the houses on the slopes leading up to Dial Hill. (see map)

The path then leads steeply uphill to another viewpoint on the edge of a precipitous slope above the sea. This structure is the remains of a castellated look-out also built by Conrad Finzel. He certainly had an eye for the dramatic.

Regaining the path you are now approaching Clevedon's oldest church, St Andrew's dedicated to the patron saint of fishermen. This church had its origin in the second part of the 12th century and has existed in its present form for nearly 600 years. The church has many features which demand a closer inspection.



St Andrew's Church and Wain's Hill from Church Hill

Poets' Walk

Two events give a flavour of the church's long heritage in Clevedon. One of the graves is of Frederick Durbin, a local man who, as a result of his strong views against slavery, joined the US Federal Army and was killed at the battle of Gettysburg in 1863. He left instructions that if he was killed his passing should be marked at the parish church of Clevedon.

A particularly tragic but touching event is covered by a commemorative tablet inside the church to two young members of the Elton family who in 1819 were swept away by the tide off Birnbeck Island, Weston-super-Mare. Abraham and Charles were aged 14 and 13 at the time. When their bodies were recovered they were found to be locked in each others arms. Hence the inscription on the tablet: "The flood was stronger than their strength though not their love."

The church is notable in having two sanctuary rings and for its pagan connections with "Sheelana-gig" and "Green Man" images.



Poets' Walk

The walk continues to circumnavigate the peninsula which is the site of an Iron Age hillfort. There are extensive views to Woodspring Priory, Steep Holm, Flat Holm, the North Devon Coast and the outline of Cardiff is visible on a clear day.

The path now descends to the Pill and here the Land Yeo and Blind Yeo rivers discharge into the sea. This was a harbour at the time of Henry VIII.

The path is now urban street pavements skirting the side of the hill and returning to the car park. however, it is not without interest. You will pass two very interesting white painted houses with thatched roofs, these both date from the early seventeenth century.

On completing this walk you will have appreciated that large parts of Clevedon are built on ground which 250 years ago was tidal marshes. At that time "the church on the headland" was sometimes quite difficult to reach. In 1982 high tides and a westerly gale caused considerable flooding from the sea and many houses in the West End of Clevedon were affected. The flood defences were improved as a result but, with new warnings of rising sea levels and more violent storms, 1982 is a warning we would be wise to heed.

The walk measures about 1 1/2 miles and will take about one hour. Do not rush it, there are lots of views to enjoy and things to investigate particularly concerning the history of St Andrew's Church.



Finzel's Lookout circa 19th century

### Other places of interest

**Clevedon Court**  
The Manor of Clevedon for over 700 years



Clevedon Court

**The Old Inn**  
Walton Road East Clevedon

**The Curzon Cinema**  
Old Church Road  
the oldest continuously operating cinema in Europe and still going strong



The Clock Tower

**The Clock Tower**  
in the Triangle

**Walton Castle**  
Privately owned. A 300 year old hunting lodge, reconstructed in 1980.



Walton Castle

**Clevedon Craft Centre**  
Various craft studios in a 17th century farm outbuilding.

**Coleridge Cottage**  
Old Church Road

**Tyntesfield**  
National Trust property near Nailsea, previously owned by Lord Wraxall



Tyntesfield

"... a beautiful haven of quiet"

Sir John Betjeman

# Clevedon heritage walks

## Two heritage walks

1. Beach, pier and conservation area
2. St. Andrew's Church and Poets' Walk

For more information on the Clevedon area visit  
[www.visitsomerset.co.uk](http://www.visitsomerset.co.uk)  
 or call Visitor Information Centre  
 at Clevedon Library on 01934 426 020  
[clevedon.library@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:clevedon.library@n-somerset.gov.uk)



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## Walk No.1

This walk starts from the public car park on Elton Road opposite the seafont bandstand. It encompasses some splendid channel views, much of Clevedon's main conservation area including many sites of historic and architectural interest.



Clevedon seafont

Continuing along Elton Road with the Bristol Channel and hills of the Welsh coast on your left you can on a clear day see Barry Island and the "Sugar Loaf" mountain behind Newport, especially if you use the nearby telescope. Immediately adjacent to the road you will see a splendidly crafted drinking fountain restored to full Victorian glory in 1981.

From the car park you will see to your left the Bandstand which was built to mark the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887. Bands play each Sunday during the summer starting at 3pm. A little further along The Beach is the "windswept tree" which has become as much a symbol of Clevedon as the pier, a recently restored Victorian shelter dating from 1895 and Clevedon's millennium monument.



Bandstand

The next area of interest is The Beach with its Regency and Victorian houses interspersed with a good selection of eating places, the Heritage Centre and shops dealing in antiques and pottery. Two footpaths lead into Copse Road with its superb Regency and Victorian houses and shops. The major focus on The Beach is the pier, first opened to the public in 1869 and restored to its former glory in 1997. The pier has recently been listed as Grade I, one of only two piers in England to have this award.

# Clevedon heritage walks

A stroll to the end of the pier is rewarded with excellent views back to Clevedon seafont and the area of Wains Hill and Poets' Walk (see Walk No.2). During the summer months boat trips are available including short excursions to the Severn bridges and Penarth and longer journeys to Ilfracombe and Lundy Island.

At the end of The Beach turn right up Alexandra Road and you will pass on your left the Doulton drinking fountain, a gem of its type. You will also see the floral displays in Pier Copse. After 150 yards you will see on your left the entrance to Alexandra Gardens, but before entering the garden a while to admire the Old Market building on the other side of the street.



Doulton fountain in Alexandra Road

This was built in the same year as the pier and was intended to avoid hawking by providing local tradesmen with a place to display their wares.

Retracing your steps enter Alexandra Gardens with its splendid mature trees, floral displays and beautiful gazebo. The gazebo was given to the town by the Civic Society in 1999 in memory of Lady Elton of Clevedon Court and the long-standing family of Clevedon benefactors. This is a splendid place for a short break and a moment of quiet contemplation.

Continuing up the hill through the Clevedon's premier shopping area which is lined with a good selection of family owned businesses and specialist shops and eating places.



Clevedon Pier

Continuing up the hill through the Clevedon's premier shopping area which is lined with a good selection of family owned businesses and specialist shops and eating places.



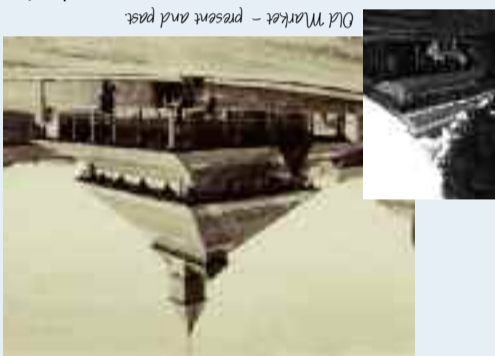
Hill Road shops

continued overleaf

Ahead of you, standing proudly on the side of the hill, is Christ Church built in 1839 to accommodate the growing population of Clevedon - then reaching 1700 persons! The population is now more than 20,000.

the time when horse drawn carriages ruled the road. In returning to Hill Road you can now enjoy the full range of shops and eating places. Continuing along Hill Road after the shops you have a choice, to go through Herbert Gardens with splendid mature trees and well-maintained lawns or to walk along the road and enjoy viewing the succession of period houses tucked into the hillside.

Before you browse among the shops and eating places you would be well rewarded by turning left and visiting one of Clevedon's restored drinking troughs on the sharp corner at Marine Hill. One can imagine how invaluable this was at



Old Market - present and past

"...westward I watched the low blue hills of Wales..."  
 Alfred Lord Tennyson (in Memoriam)