

Cleethorpes is a town made up from 3 hamlets, or rather the Viking *thorpes* of *Itterby*, *Oole* and *Thrunscoe* - which were part of the wider parish of Clee (now Old Clee just over 1 mile away inland). Mainly inhabited by shellfish and oyster fishermen, the early 19th century saw wealthy, seasonal visitors arrive to 'take the waters' and indulge in sea bathing as per fashionable medical cures. Later in the century, the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway Company saw a business opportunity and extended the line from Grimsby and thereby starting the resort as we know it today. Having invested heavily, the railway company was then called upon to help stabilise the mud cliffs which were prone to falling into the sea, by building the promenade we have today.

Railway Station

This tower and clock, along with the station buildings, was built 1884-5 by Lockerbie & Wilkinson of Birmingham. In 2018 the timber was replaced and clock mechanism restored – work which Network Rail and Colt Construction Ltd jointly won the *Great Western Railway Craft Skills Award* 'for use of traditional craft skills'. The clock tower was built with 4 faces to enable the hundreds of 19th century day-trippers to keep an eye on the time to catch the return excursion train. Would the current colour scheme help or hinder that? "Answers on a postcard please!"

At Mermaid fish and chip café, National Lottery funded *Townscape Heritage grants* have enabled Victorian splendour to return after a magnificent restoration of the exterior and a full refit of the interior during 2024-25. Work involved conservation and replacement of woodwork, cast ironwork and reinstatement of glass ceiling.

It is perhaps hard to picture now, the huge number of holiday excursion trains coming and going to and from this station during the late 9th and early 20th centuries in fact the signal box at that time was the third largest on the Great Central Railway. An interesting thing to thing to see without looking up, is the unpaved platform nearest the beach for the horses and carriages of the early, wealthy holiday makers.

Empire

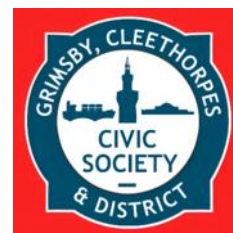
See also: <https://empirecleethorpes.co.uk/our-history/>

Alexandra Road

See also: <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/heritage-works-start-next-week-at-42-45-alexandra-road-cleethorpes/>

Ghost signs

<https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/features/ghost-signs/?id=9d530112-8092-4a3b-9545-5066bc987e3f>



Old Post Office

Weather Vane *wind vane or weathercock* is a type of anemoscope used for showing the direction of the wind. It is typically used as an architectural ornament on the highest point of a building. The word *vane* comes from the Old English word *fana*, meaning "flag".

Other common motifs include ships, arrows, and horses. Not all wind vanes have pointers. In a sufficiently strong wind, the head of the arrow or cockerel (or equivalent) will indicate the direction from which the wind is blowing.

Wind vanes are also found on small wind turbines to keep the wind turbine pointing into the wind. If employed on a boat, they are referred to as apparent wind indicators.

anemoscope a device designed to show the *direction* of the wind, or to indicate a change of wind direction.

anemometer a device to measure the *speed* of the wind

The Knoll

For a virtual tour of the interior: <https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=M6GWAZprzFZ>
or via: <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/the-knoll-like-youve-never-seen-it-before/>
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1346979?section=overview>

High Cliff

Lincolnshire is more often than not, considered to be a 'flat' county, but has the Wolds running along the length of north East Lincolnshire, and Cleethorpes was one place with 'mud cliffs' much like those of the East Yorkshire Coast!

For a glimpse of what our coastline once was like - and what could have been – look at what is happening to East Yorkshire's coastline:

<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/case-studies/landslides-and-coastal-erosion-at-aldbrough->

Seaside Illuminations

Blackpool illuminations are acknowledged as the 'first' – having started in 1879 with eight carbon arc lamps to 'wow' visitors with "artificial sunshine". 'Fairy lights' draped from post to post became a staple of most seaside promenades during the winter to extend their visitor season – perhaps even as a result of clever marketing by Railway Companies to encourage more trippers!

Sea View street

a **baluster** is a 'moulded upright support' (known as a *spindle* in furniture). In buildings, *balusters* are made from wood and stone, and sometimes metal and ceramic. A group of balusters supporting railing, coping, or just for ornament is called a **balustrade**.

Casa Nostra (ex-Queens Hotel)

Faience being the durable, highly decorative exterior cladding of glazed terracotta. The fired clay having been coated in a mixture of silica and minerals in production, 'offering limitless colour options, excellent fire resistance, and a glossy, easily cleanable surface unaffected by urban pollution'.

Architect Walter S Willis designed both this building and St Peters Church Hall; the stone scrolls on both buildings are very much alike!

'Queens Hotel' pre-rebuild



looking up Sea View Street



looking along Cambridge Street

Civic Offices

Cupola - dome-like structure on the roof, often to get more light into a building, (or sometimes as a belfry or lookout post). In Victorian times pierced ceiling roses as in the image below, connected to a cupola to get fresh air into a room or for gas lighting fumes to escape.



Dormer a structure which projects from a pitched roof to increase the usable space in a loft, with or without a window. When such a structure is used on the spires of churches and cathedrals, it is usually referred to as a *lucarne*. The word *dormer* is derived from the French for 'sleep'

Town Hall

Wrought And Cast-Iron Railings

Wrought* iron is manufactured by heating and melting high-carbon cast iron in a process known as 'puddling'. The high temperatures cause the excess carbon to oxidise, the iron being stirred or puddled during the process. 'Puddled', or wrought iron, is no longer manufactured, is difficult to repair well and requires sensitive conservation.

* *wrought* because it was hammered, rolled, and worked while hot

Many towns' railings and gateways were removed during World War II, in a morale-boosting drive to help the war effort and make more weaponry. The reality was that the iron could not be reused and is rumoured to have been simply dumped in the sea.

National School

National Schools founded by *The National Society for Promoting Religious Education*, a Church of England body in England and Wales set up to promote church schools and Christian education from 1811. Its aim was for Christianity to be the foundation of National Education, and "the first and chief thing taught to the poor.." and led by the local vicar. In Cleethorpes, this was Rev. W. P. Jones who had come to the predominantly Methodist area, aged 29 in 1850. The Enclosure Act of 1846 enabled him as church Rector to build St Peter's Church, and by 1856 build the National School with a master's house attached on Oole Road / St Peters Avenue for 300 boys, then in 1888 a separate school for girls and later still, another building for infants.

This early schooling was replaced by Board Schools, run by a local school Board and funded for the first by the state from the 1870 Education Act

St Peters Avenue - as a residential street



Technical Institute

Technical Institutes grew out of the Mechanics Institute Movement of the early 19th century to address the need for skilled engineers and mechanics to work the machines of the industrial revolution. Supported by local philanthropists, Mechanics Institutes appeared in many guises and with varied programmes of ‘improvement’ and mostly in the newly industrialised centres. It wasn’t until the *Technical Instruction Act 1889* permitted county and borough councils to fund adult instruction in day and evening classes from the rates, that there was any form of local authority ‘Adult Education’ provision for those who wanted it. Local ‘worthies’ continued with financial support – very often as a means to prevent the working classes from other pastimes such as the public house.

Technical Institutes appeared all over the country in towns and in some cases, rural communities, offering, reading rooms, lectures, classes and adult instruction in a variety of topics (very often depending on the expertise available locally).

In Lord Yarborough’s opening speech at Cleethorpes’ Technical Institute 1902, he said it would be “*little short of moral murder to allow lads to run wild after fourteen years of age*” and “*essential that youths, who would one day be electors, should be instructed in a manner which enable them to compete with workmen in every market of the world*” (sounds like a current news item!). As for him mentioning ‘electors’, he must have been in favour of ‘votes for all’ because before 1918, 2 in 5 men were unable to vote – it wasn’t until *Representation of the People Act, 1918*, that enabled most men to vote by simply being a resident on England (but another 10 years before women got equal rights).

The 1902 Education Act encouraged the expansion of technical education, but it must be remembered that the minimum school leaving age was raised to 12 only in 1899 and secondary schooling was not free (according to analysis of marriage registers, by 1901 97% in England were largely illiterate). The 1918 Education Act raised the leaving age to 14 years, but it wasn’t until the 1944 Act that a major programme of building secondary schools was government funded and the leaving age raised to 15 years.

Ghost signs

<https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/features/ghost-signs/?id=9d530112-8092-4a3b-9545-5066bc987e3f>

Old Vic

Victorian Mock Tudor (or Tudor Revival) architecture emerged in the late 19th century as a romanticized return to medieval English building styles.

Cleethorpes' 1863 Railway Station buildings



These original buildings of 1863 were of a single line station. In 1884 the clock tower and waiting room were constructed on the sea-side and 5 years later the station expanded to 6 platforms. Later still, the entrance was moved to its current site away from the original seen in this image.

