



TENDRING
COASTAL
HERITAGE
RESORTING
TO THE COAST

mercury
theatre
colchester

Resorting to the Coast Teachers' Resource Pack



Tendring
District Council



heritage
lottery fund



Essex County Council

Welcome

There are many amazing and surprising stories to tell about holidays on the sunshine coast in Tendring.

From famous stars, world firsts in cinema, circus elephants in the sea, holiday camps and roads named after racing cars, a family holiday in Clacton, Frinton, Harwich and Dovercourt, Jaywick or Walton has been just the thing since Victorian times.

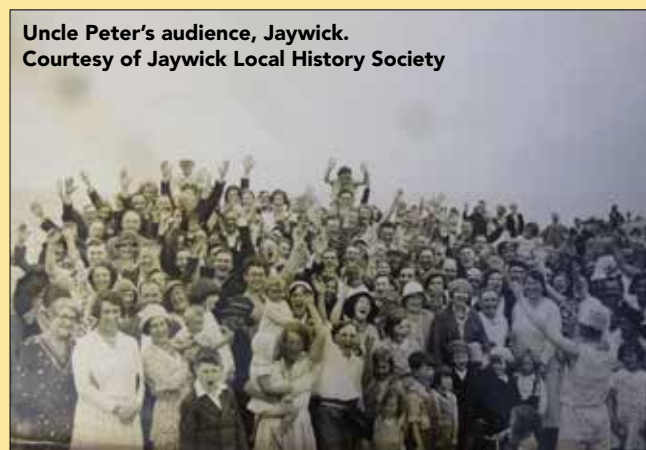
Resorting to the Coast has explored the history of seaside entertainers and entertainments along with the new holiday makers of the time.

Using this resource

The resource is presented in three sections:

1. A brief history of seaside holidays and entertainment, and a selection of stories from each Tendring resort.
2. Ideas for activities that can be delivered on their own or as a series of lessons.
3. An image bank of archive documents.

More details of other Resorting to the Coast resources such as local walks, education resource box, films, compendium and exhibition can be found at www.tendringcoastalheritage.org.uk.



Uncle Peter's audience, Jaywick.
Courtesy of Jaywick Local History Society



Bathers at Jaywick,
1935. Courtesy of
Jaywick Local
History Society

The curriculum

These resources can be used in many areas of the KS1&2 curriculum. These are some areas we think fit best:

English: Understanding associated with the artistic practice of drama. Opportunities to improvise, devise and script drama; using language in a variety of situations for a variety of audiences.

History: A local history study; a study post 1066; understanding historical concepts such as continuity and change.

Geography: Skills and fieldwork, recognising, naming and recording landmarks and local human and physical features.



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Pier Head, 1935. Courtesy of Clacton Local History Society

Members of these local organisations offer talks in schools or can host visits to their site as part of a local study.

Clacton Museum

Clacton Central Library, 96 Station Road, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 1SF
www.clactonhistory.co.uk

Frinton Crossing Cottage, Garden and Railway Museum

Station Approach, Frinton-on-Sea, CO13 9JT
www.fwheritage.co.uk

Harwich Ha'Penny Pier Visitor Centre

The Quay, Harwich, CO12 3HH
www.harwich-society.co.uk

Jaywick Martello Tower

The Promenade, Belsize Avenue, Jaywick Sands, CO15 2LF
www.jaywickmartellotower.org

Walton Maritime Museum

East Terrace, Walton-on-the-Naze, CO14 8PY
www.fwheritage.co.uk

Seaside resorts began to be popular in the 1700s with wealthier families, but holidays were a luxury that working families could not easily afford.

This started to change in 1871 when the Bank Holiday Act was passed giving workers in the UK four days of paid holiday a year, at Easter, Whitsun, August and Boxing Day.

For the first time people could have time off from work without the worry of losing their wages, and Tending developers quickly provided for these new holiday makers at Walton, Clacton and Harwich Dovercourt.

Further legislation in 1938, with the Holidays with Pay Act gave workers one-week paid leave bringing holidays within the reach of many more people.

By the 1970s, many workers had two weeks paid leave, but by then holidaying abroad was becoming popular and challenged the Tending resorts.

Transport

Easy travel to and from the coast was crucial if the Tending coast was going to be successful as a holiday destination, and in the early days this meant bringing people by boat. The first piers were used as landing places for steamers that sailed up and down the coastline.

They could pick up passengers from the end of Tower Pier in London, stop off in Southend and go all the way around the coast to Great Yarmouth.

From the 1880s, new railway lines brought the Tending resorts into easy reach for holiday makers and day trippers.

Hundreds of people would arrive by train on sunny weekends and barrow boys would meet holidaymakers and carry their suitcases to the local hotels and guest houses.

Bather at Dovercourt.
Courtesy of the
Harwich Society



Easy transport on the trains and then increasingly by car meant that day trippers could spend the day enjoying the seaside but then return home at night. This changed what was on offer at the resorts as there was less need for overnight accommodation and evening entertainments.

Since 1960s, easy flights and package holidays have challenged the traditional seaside holiday, changing again what is on offer in the resorts.

All the fun of the seaside

A sense of fun, freedom and innovation grew up on the Tending coast. Sandy beaches provide plenty of opportunities for relaxing and playing.

There were donkey rides on the beach at Dovercourt, Jaywick and Clacton, and amusements such as trampolines, swinging boats and fairground rides.

At Dovercourt and Frinton there were organised weekly sand castle making competitions with prizes of tins of toffee for the winners.

Bathing

Bathing in the sea, or taking a dip, was popular from the 18th century when it was thought to be healthy. This was very different from today, with an etiquette about what you could wear and who you could swim with. Local laws in Tendring required men to wear bathing suits at all times when swimming, and for men and women to swim separately.

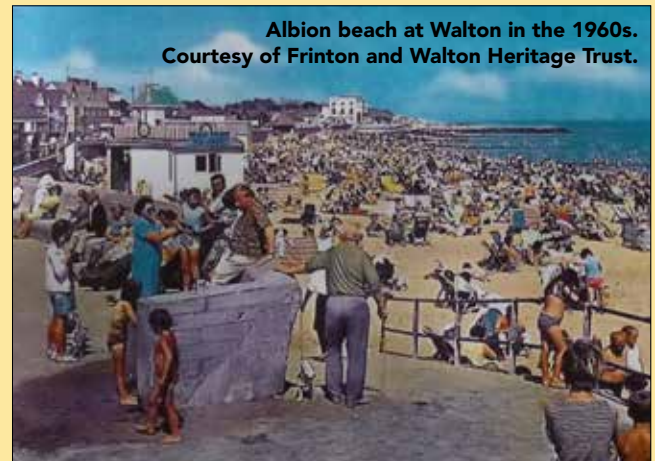
To make this new activity easy for people, bathing machines were provided. The first ones in Tendring were at Clacton and Walton from the 1820s. Swimmers bought a ticket to hire a bathing machine and used it for changing and leaving their clothes in. The machines were pulled up and down the beach to the shore by horses.

As swimming was a new pastime many people didn't own their own costumes so you could hire one on the beach. Early swimwear was very modest covering most of the body but, by the 1930s, it had become shorter as getting a tan was becoming fashionable.

The first swim suits were made of wool or cotton, not the light and quick-drying synthetic fabrics of today.

Excursions

Day trips to local places of interest, to neighbouring resorts and even over the sea to France added to the excitement of Tendring holidays.



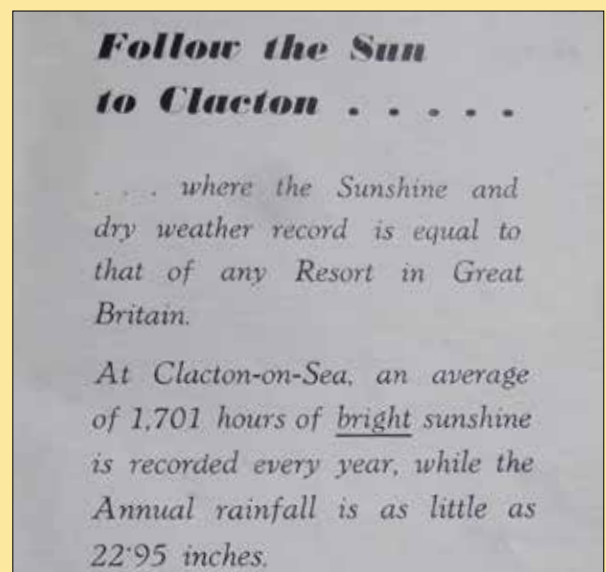
Albion beach at Walton in the 1960s.
Courtesy of Frinton and Walton Heritage Trust.

Promenading

Part of the pleasure of being at the seaside was the chance to walk up and down, see the sights and to enjoy the sideshow entertainments.

Photographers, artists, souvenir stalls, refreshment stalls and performers all positioned themselves to catch the eye of the holiday makers.

At first people wanted to be seen in their best clothes. In the early days a suntan was undesirable, so adults wore full length clothing and most people wore hats. In the mid-20th century the fashions changed with seaside clothing becoming more relaxed.



Above: Official Guide to Clacton-on-Sea, 1955.
Courtesy of Clacton Local History Society.

Children digging in the sand and paddling at Walton.
Image courtesy of Frinton and Walton Heritage Trust.



Seaside entertainment

Touring performers were attracted to the seaside to entertain the new holiday makers and a new style of entertainment grew up to appeal to everyone of all tastes and ages.

There were spaces on the beaches for temporary stages and performance areas, larger spaces on and off the piers and room on the promenade or greenswards above the beach.

Audiences could be passing by and drawn in, arrive for a show they'd seen advertised on a poster or by one of the performers promoting the show before.

Performers might work on their own, such as Clown Bertram at Clacton or the Punch and Judy man at Walton, or as part of a troupe such as the Ramblas at Clacton or Fred Toft's Motley Men at Dovercourt.

Soon a new style of troupe emerged, the Pierrots. The Pierrots were very noticeable with their white baggy outfits, black pom poms and cone shaped hats. They would perform in the open air 3 times a day, drumming up business with a poster or greeting holiday makers at the station.

Most troupes had 5 members and each person had their own part to play, from playing music or singing, compèring, performing comedy sketches or dancing.

Money for the early open air shows was collected in a bottle by a bottler. As a souvenir people could purchase their favourite troupe's sheet music and a postcard photograph.

Another popular troupe of performers was the Concert Party. These shows were still suitable for a general audience, but this was a mixed group of performers, more formally dressed than Pierrots and offering smart, refined and original entertainment.

One of these troupes was the London Concert Company who arrived in Clacton in 1896, performing in evening dress. As their show developed, they moved from a patch of ground to perform at the Town Hall, and refined their show to include highlights such as ventriloquist, dramatic monologue or comedian.

In 1900, projections were introduced to some shows which was very new, showing that the seaside was a place to experiment and develop new techniques and styles of entertainment.

DOVERCOURT has a picturesque PAVILION

standing prominently on the sea front. The Pavilion is laid out on the lines of a Central European Casino Winter Garden and to complete the "picture" the Council have been fortunate in securing the services of

EUGENE with his « MAGYAR OCTET

FOR SEASON 1937

This engagement was successfully negotiated despite many other very attractive offers made to M. Eugene by other health resorts, and the issue was still open until Mr. ED. W. JONES, the well known Band Impresario visited the Pavilion and remarked "THIS is the setting for Eugene."

This superb string orchestra translates into pulsating melody, the restless defiant spirit of the roving Hungarian Gipsy, the fierce compelling urge of the Russian for unfettered self-expression, and the rich sensuous atmosphere of the pleasure loving Viennese. The Orchestra renders these romantic and picturesque airs with a vigour and sincerity that is impossible to resist. All tastes are however catered for in the unique and attractive programmes.

**Above: Official Guide to Harwich and Dovercourt, 1937.
Courtesy of The Harwich Society**

**First Concert Party at Walton on Albion Beach, 1904. Notice the bathing machines in the background.
Courtesy of Frinton and Walton Heritage Trust.**



Clacton-on-Sea: Everything imaginable under the sun

From the start, Clacton-on-Sea was a vibrant resort with entertainments of all kinds.

Developer Peter Bruff bought land in Clacton in 1865 seeing the potential of a resort in this location. By the end of the 1880s, 25,000 people were arriving in Clacton by steamer each year.

Some were day trippers, others brought their suitcases for a week's holiday, and a few to stay at Clacton for the season.

Once the railway arrived in 1882 the growth of Clacton speeded up and the town became one of the most popular resorts in the country.

Stars such as Laurence Olivier and John Gielgud appeared there during the 1920s and Clacton had eight theatres with seating for thousands.

No 1 North Sea: The pier

At the end of the First World War the Kingsman family took over the pier with the idea of creating a new visitor attraction and they continued to redevelop it with new attractions each season.

In the 1930s, you could see circus elephants bathing in the sea, Professor Webb cycling off the side of the pier or visit the country's first swimming pool on a pier. Spaces were built for entertainers such as Clown Bertram and the Rambla Concert Party.

There was the Blue Lagoon Dance Hall, Jolly Roger theatre which could hold an audience of 1000, as well as restaurants, amusements and various fairground rides such as the dodgems and Steel Stella, the roller coaster. Clacton Pier became one of Britain's leading tourist attractions, with an estimated 100,000 visitors each week in the summer.

Clown Bertram and Filbert, courtesy of Clacton Local History Society



Clown Bertram

In 1922 Albert Harvey arrived in Clacton from London. He approached Earnest Kingsman for a job on the pier and was given a one-week trial of his children's show.

The next afternoon Kingsman watched the first show and was pleased to see "a thousand people were standing, and scores of children sitting on the carpet, and they were shrieking with laughter...it was a riot."

Clown Bertram was such a success he stayed for the next 18 seasons. At first, he did his show from a carpeted area in the open with deckchairs for adults, but it was so popular that Kingsman built a 500-seat theatre just for him at the end of the pier.

Soon this wasn't enough as audiences were queueing for hours to get in so he moved again, this time to the Jollity Theatre (The Jolly Roger) which seated 1000 people, which he regularly filled. Clown Bertram's show was a mix of music and songs, talent contests, children's competitions such as

balloon bursting, skipping while making funny noises, comedy and a ventriloquist act with Filbert his dummy.

He also recruited young performers to join him, called his 'Bright Young Things'. Some had their own careers in entertainment as did some of his audience members who he invited on stage for talent competitions.

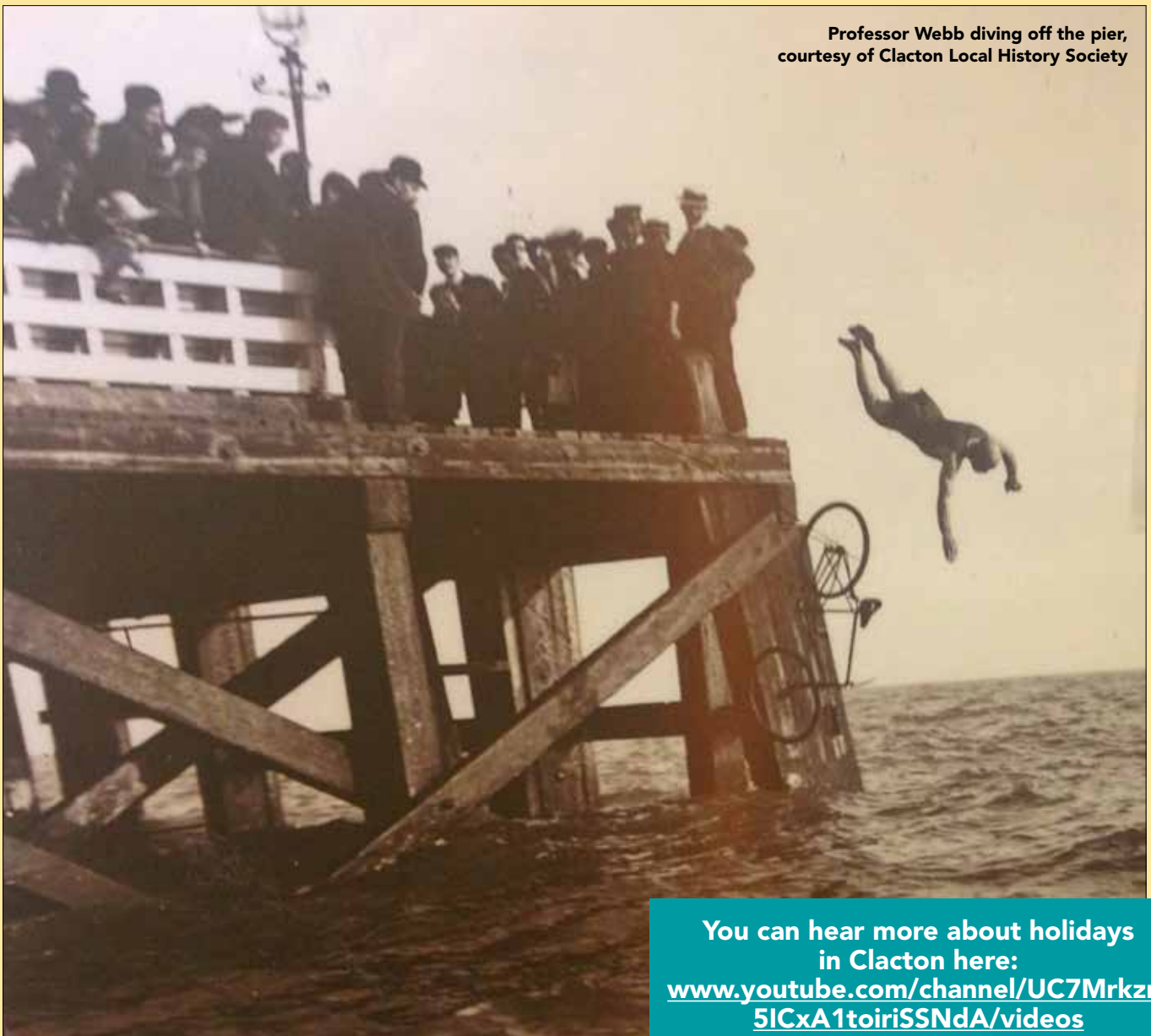
The show was the most popular on the pier up until the Second World War when Clown Bertram stopped performing and the Children's Theatre was demolished as an anti-invasion precaution.

Professor Webb

Professor Webb was a daredevil stuntman who had a diving show off the side of the pier. He had arrived in Clacton from Wales and entertained pre-WW1 crowds with dives from a platform on the east side of the pier.

The highlight was cycling off the pier. In 1911 he landed in a rowing boat underneath and passengers were taken to hospital.

In 1932, when he was 74 years old, Webb was asked to open the swimming pool on the pier by being the first person to dive in.



**Professor Webb diving off the pier,
courtesy of Clacton Local History Society**

**You can hear more about holidays
in Clacton here:
[www.youtube.com/channel/UC7Mrkzm
5ICxA1toiriSSNdA/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7Mrkzm5ICxA1toiriSSNdA/videos)**

Frinton Lido, 1930, courtesy of Frinton and Walton Heritage Trust



Frinton-on-Sea: A quiet get-away

Frinton was developed as a peaceful resort and was attractive to families looking for a quieter holiday as well as for well-known people such as politicians and film stars to relax.

Peter Bruff, who also developed Walton and Clacton, was the first person to take an interest in developing Frinton as a seaside destination, but Richard Powell Cooper took over from him in the 1890s and made Frinton what it is today.

Unlike other local resorts there was never a pier at Frinton which meant holiday makers couldn't arrive by steamer, instead arriving by train or later by car. In 1902 the council took over the management of the greensward, cliffs and beach and the kiosk and were keen to avoid the

commercialisation they saw at other nearby places. They oversaw what was possible in Frinton, deciding to exclude pubs, seafood stalls and ice-cream sellers.

In 1925 the only trading allowed on the beach was boat hire and swimming lessons. The naming and design of beach huts, which could only be owned by Frinton residents, was also monitored.

This created a resort more suited to weekend or holiday homes for families rather than day trippers at the other nearby resorts like Clacton and Walton.

It was a private place where well-known people could spend time without being noticed by members of the public.

Politicians such as Winston Churchill and Clement Atlee were amongst those who stayed there.

Some people even called it Royal Frinton-on-Sea. The King's son, the Duke of Connaught visited and gave his name to Frinton's Connaught Avenue, Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson, and George VI and Queen Elizabeth stayed at the Grand Hotel.

Sport was important with golf, tennis and cricket clubs all opening in the first years of development. Tennis week welcomed leading players, including Wimbledon champion Margaret Court in 1970.

Local societies such as the Frinton Arts and Music Society and Frinton Amateur Dramatic Society could hire the halls such as The Casino and Empire Hall for musical concerts, plays, dancing and cinema.

Summer Theatre

Frinton's Summer Theatre became known as the nursery to the stars, as many well-known performers started out there.

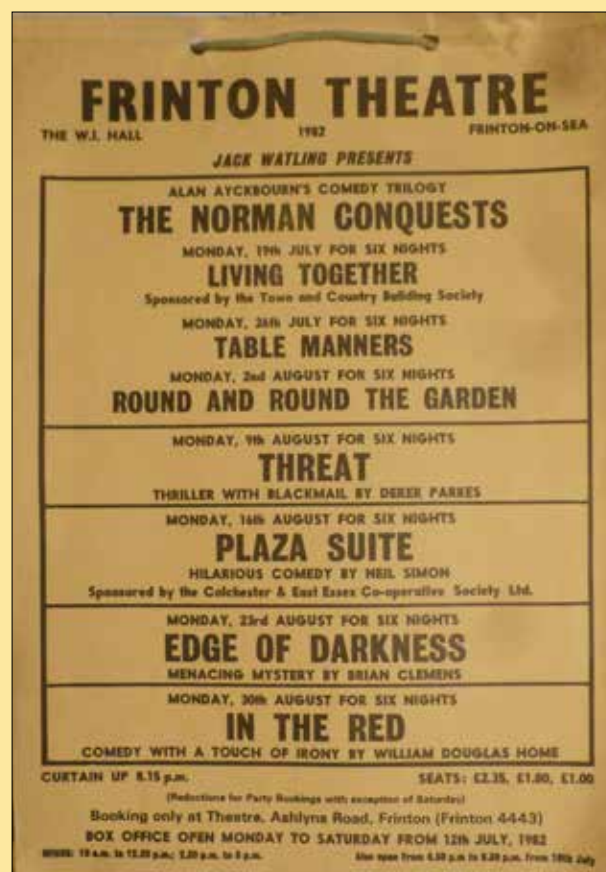
The Summer Theatre was established in 1937, originally in the Imperial Hall but then at the McGrigor Hall. Throughout the summer season the theatre performed plays and continues today.

Well known performers such as David Suchet, Vanessa Redgrave and Timothy West have all performed there.

The Lido: Frinton's Brightest Rendezvous

The lido was a multi-purpose and all-day venue with café and outside seating, outdoor swimming pool and hall that could be used for visiting entertainers and musicians. You could even hire the space for a game of badminton.

You can hear more about holidays in Frinton here:
www.youtube.com/channel/UC7Mrkzm5ICxA1toiriSSNdA/videos



Summer Theatre posters, 1953 and 1982.
 Courtesy of Frinton and Walton Heritage Trust

Jaywick Sands: Where your leisure becomes a pleasure

Holidaymakers were attracted to Jaywick Sands as an affordable, fun and healthy-living destination. In 1928, Frank Stedman bought the land with the intention of developing the Jaywick Sands Estate.

His initial plan was to build permanent housing but the council were concerned about the suitability of the land due to the risk of flooding so permission was only given for holiday accommodation and beach huts.

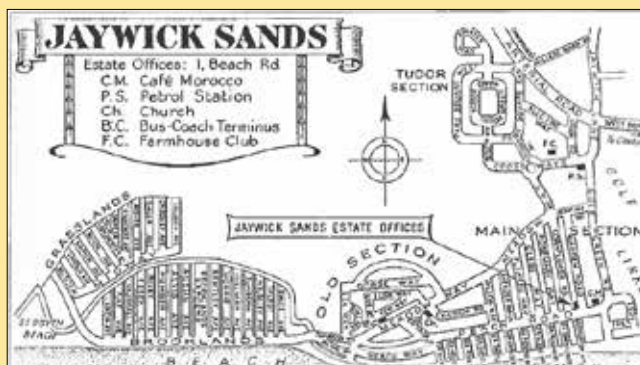
This permission was not meant to include overnight stays but people did stay overnight anyway. This dispute continued with the council for many years.

In the 1930s, Jaywick Sands gave families an opportunity to own a beach hut by the sea. Prospective owners could visit the Estate Office and select the style of hut they wanted, all at affordable prices: £50 would buy a plot and hut in 1932.

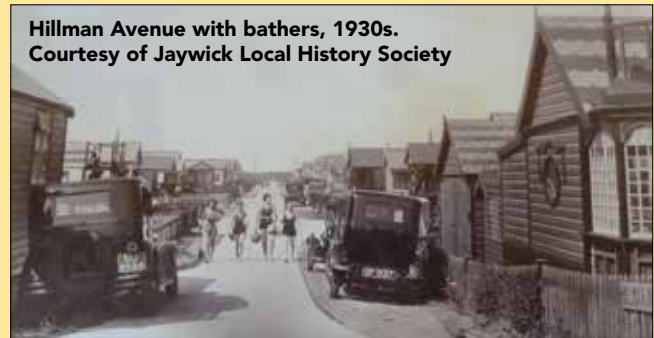
Motorists Mecca by the Sea

The Brooklands part of the estate was laid out with roads in the shape of a car grille and roads named after makes of car such as Hillman, Austin and Fiat Avenues.

Families could motor down from London for a weekend or for their whole holiday, but if you didn't have a car there were also buses laid on with pick-ups in East London.



Courtesy of Clacton Local History Society



Beach entertainments

A holiday in 1930s, 1940s and 1950s Jaywick was an outdoors holiday. Families spent time on the beach, bathing, playing in the sand or messing about with boats and rafts.

There were donkeys for rides on the beach and play equipment such as trampolines, fun bikes, a helter skelter, roller skating rink, miniature railway, zoo, boating lake and even a racing track.

Organised entertainments took place on a temporary stage set up in Brooklands. There was also a fortune teller tent. Café Morocco was built in 1938 and was the spot for dancing.

There were concert party troupes called the Jolly Jays and the Jaywick Follies who performed at the Beach Café and the Café Morocco where there was also dancing every night of the week.

Uncle Peter

Uncle Peter was Jaywick's resident entertainer. He performed his family show each evening at 6.45pm, and held daily keep fit classes on the beach.

Highlights of Uncle Peter's show included beautiful baby competitions plus talent shows, pet shows, boys dressed as girls and girls dressed as boys.

**You can hear more about holidays
in Jaywick here:**
www.youtube.com/channel/UC7Mrkzm5lCxA1toiriSSNdA/videos



The Busybodies. Courtesy of The Harwich Society

Harwich and Dovercourt: Every night something different

As early as 1854, John Bagshaw set about making Harwich and Dovercourt a spa town, where people could come to 'take the water'. The scheme didn't work and the spa and pump room fell into the sea.

But the arrival of the railway in the same year and beach huts set Harwich and Dovercourt on course to become a busy holiday destination. In the 1920s the promenade at Dovercourt was developed and in 1937 a holiday camp, Dovercourt Bay and Lido all opened to the public.

Cliff Pavilion

There were many venues for performers in Harwich and Dovercourt. Early performance spaces could be found in the parks and open spaces, Harwich Green and Cliff Park.

Later, performers could be found at the Cliff Pavilion, Victoria Hall or Alexandra Hall.

The Cliff Pavilion had started as a band stand in Cliff Park in 1899. After a series of enclosures to protect against the weather, by 1932 it was a bright, inside venue for entertainments every night.

It could seat 330 people who came to listen to orchestras, bands, singers, to watch talent shows and entertainers, and to dance on a Saturday night.

Before World War One, troupes such as the K & K Fragmentoes, The BusyBodies and Toft Tate's Motley Pierrots performed, first on the Harwich Green enclosure and later at the Electric Palace and Dovercourt Park.

The Pierrots were regulars for many summers, with tickets for their outside shows cheaper if you stood on the promenade.



Image courtesy of
harwichanddovercourt.co.uk

Performances at the Cliff Pavillion varied each night. Monday was singsong night, Tuesday was novelty night, Wednesday was request night, Thursday was for music lovers. Saturday was party night.

Cinema

The innovation of cinema was important at Harwich which at one point had 4 cinemas. William Friese-Greene lived in Cliff Road, Dovercourt between 1897 and 1904.

He was involved in the development of early cinema cameras and is remembered as one of the inventors of cinematography.

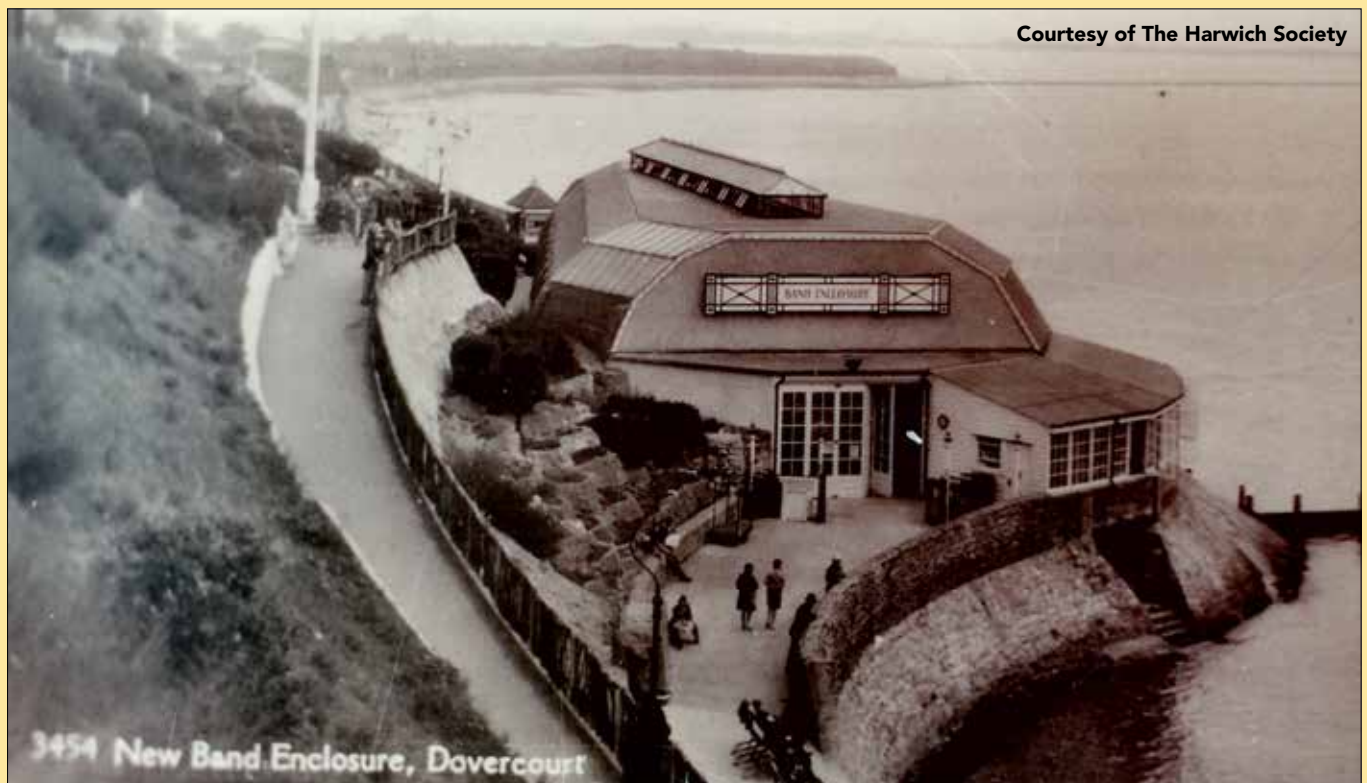
The Electric Palace in Harwich is one of the oldest purpose built cinemas in the country, opening in 1911.

7 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD VISIT DOVERCOURT BAY THIS SEASON

- 1 **Sunshine** . . . Dovercourt holds a record for the BRITISH ISLES.
- 2 **Sea Air** . . . There is **no** resort more bracing and invigorating.
- 3 **Bathing** . . . Safe and floodlighted till midnight.
- 4 **Bathing Pool** . . . Definitely the finest SEA-WATER bathing Pool in EAST ANGLIA.
- 5 **Sports** . . . EVERY kind: Golf, Miniature Golf, Tennis, Bowls, Cricket, Fishing.
- 6 **Access** . . . Frequent Rail and Motor Coaches from all parts of the British Isles.
- 7 **Amusements** . . . Apart from Municipal Bands Concerts, the first class Cinemas present the latest attractions.

Courtesy of The Harwich Society

You can hear more about holidays
in Harwich and Dovercourt here:
www.youtube.com/channel/UC7Mrkzm5ICxA1toiriSSNdA/videos



Courtesy of The Harwich Society



33rd Fatigues, courtesy of
Frinton and Walton Heritage Trust

Walton-on-the-Naze: First pier in Tendring

Holidaymakers made their way to Walton before many of the other resorts along the coast with a pier built in 1830 that allowed them to walk over the sea for the first time.

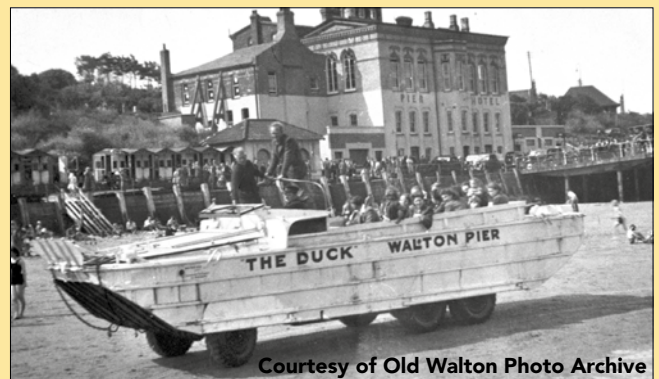
Peter Bruff saw potential in Walton as a popular destination and once the railway arrived in 1865 and a new, longer pier was built in 1871, holidaymakers came too.

At one point Walton had the fourth longest pier in the country which had a electric railway to take visitors to and from the end.

Bathing and bathing machines

As early as 1819 people were using bathing tents and huts at Walton. By 1860 Swallow and Bates set up bathing machines with different areas of the beach given over to bathing for men and women.

After the Second World War, holiday makers could take pleasure rides in the Lady Kent or in the DUCK, an ex American military vehicle that could drive on land or sea.



Courtesy of Old Walton Photo Archive

The Pierrots and Concert Parties

Walton attracted big name entertainers touring around the country. The council had started to rent beach sites out to traders in 1900 and in 1904 let Mr Vesta and Mr Victor rent a pitch to perform a concert party.

In 1908 Catlin's Royal Pierrots performed a 'refined musical melange' on the Albion beach at 11am, 3pm and 7.30pm.

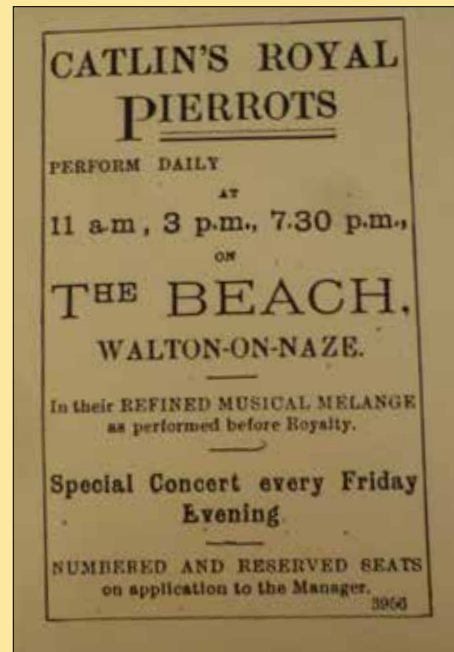
Development of venues such as the Pier Pavilion, Kings Theatre and the Assembly rooms meant that by 1920 the concert parties could be found inside, with beach entertainments left to the Punch and Judy shows, and other attractions such as the Camera Obscura.

Len Blease: "What a character, miniature dynamite!!"

Len Blease was a well-loved entertainer known for his magic, Punch and Judy shows on the beach and his TV appearances. He came from Walton and lived there all his life.

His life was totally taken up with magic. He would devise and perfect his tricks in his garden shed and was always happy to help and advise other entertainers.

Len's Punch & Judy shows were especially popular on Walton's Central Beach until the 1970s. He performed with his own hand-made puppets. Off season, Len worked as a bus conductor, regularly entertaining school children on the 107.



Handbill, 1908. Courtesy of Frinton and Walton Heritage Trust

Pierrots, courtesy of Frinton and Walton Heritage Trust



You can hear more about holidays in Walton here:
www.youtube.com/channel/UC7Mrkzm5ICxA1toiriSSNdA/videos

Activity plans

This section presents activity plans that explore the Resorting to the Coast theme in more detail. To support these plans, you can use the resources in the image bank at the end and from the [Resorting to the Coast](#) website and the digital stories on [YouTube](#).

Courtesy of Clacton Local History Society



Tour Guides

So much of the heritage explored by Resorting to the Coast can be seen if you know where to look. This activity puts students in the role of Tour Guides. They need to consider what buildings, facts and stories interest them about this resort, research content for their tour and devise a short script with 2-3 points of interest. This can be extended to become a real tour for the class on a guided tour of the resort.

Aim

Students become familiar with the seaside heritage around them and devise their own tour guide scripts.

This plan can be delivered in 3-4 classroom sessions and one heritage walk.

Pack resources

www.tendringcoastalheritage.org.uk/content/category/visit/heritage-walks-trails. It might help to divide one of these routes up into sections and give each group a section to work on.

Pack photos and research for each resort.

Activities

Discuss what interests the class about the resort. Are there any unmissable buildings, stories or surprising facts? Who is the tour for, what are they interested in and what do they need to know? How can the tour promote tourism?

Use the resources to research one or more tours for the resort. This could be one tour that the whole class will go on or tours for specific audiences, for example, history lovers, fans of theme park rides, families with small children.

Some things to look out for might be: How have the buildings changed or remained the same? Where could performances spaces be set up for traveling performance troupes?

Devise a short script for the tour. This needs to be engaging, informative and suitable for the intended audience. Consider enhancing the script with additional resources such as images, video and oral histories.

If possible, go on a visit to the resort and ask the students to present their tours with the rest of the class as the audience. Alternatively, develop a virtual tour using a display of photos or slideshow, asking students to provide a commentary.

Seaside soundscapes

Aim

Students listen to and identify natural and human sounds to consider how they create a sense of place and create their own soundscape recordings.

This plan can be delivered in 1 session, and extended to record a soundscape.

Pack resources

Listen to the digital stories www.youtube.com/channel/UC7Mrkzm5ICxA1toiriSSNdA/videos without viewing the images.

Select sounds from <http://www.essexsounds.org.uk/>

Activities

Ask students to describe one of the Tendring resorts. They might describe what it looks like, the people or what there is to do, but have they thought about what it sounds like? Ask them to list all the sounds that make them think of the resort, including natural and human-made sounds. Explain that a soundscape is made of all the sounds in one place. Consider how the sounds we can hear today would be different from the past.

Listen to the Essex Sounds recordings or digital stories with closed eyes. Name the different sounds and how they are made. How easy or difficult is it to identify some sounds? Could you hear these sounds in other places or just in these resorts? Can you tell what time of day the recording was made, or what time of year it is?

Plan your own soundscape recording. Consider what you want to record, the time of day. This could be combined with the Tour Guide activity in this pack.

Record your sounds on a tablet or mp3 player. You might want to upload your mp3 soundscape files and add them to the Essex Sounds collection <http://www.essexsounds.org.uk/content/contribute/contribute-your-sounds>.

Suitcase stories

Aim

Students create sets and puppets for stories they have researched and devise scripts to perform these for an audience. This plan can be delivered in 3-4 lessons.

Pack resources

Use the digital stories and other oral histories on www.youtube.com/channel/UC7Mrkzm5lCxAltoiriSSNdA/videos. Pack research and images for each resort

Materials

For sock puppets: socks, cardboard (cereal boxes are the best), glue (UHU), felt, buttons, sequins, foam sheets, feathers, scissors, pens, wool

For suitcase sets: 1 small suitcase (or large shoe box) for each group, wallpaper, craft foam sheets, coloured paper, glitter glue, glue (UHU and hot glue), fabric and felt, cardboard, sponges, lolly sticks, tape, pipe cleaners, paint.

Activities:

Use the pack resources to identify holiday stories that interest students or ask them to collect new stories from family members.

Students choose one story to explore, and develop these by acting them out with characters and simple props.

Each group writes their story up as a script.

Introduce that they will now be telling their stories using puppets and a suitcase set. Each group designs the sock characters, set and props required for their story.



Ad writing

Aim

Students create a TV advert for their chosen resort which they perform to other groups. This can be introduced or extended by creating posters. This plan can be delivered in 1 -2 lessons.

Pack resources

Use 7 reasons to visit Dovercourt page, Follow the sun to Clacton, An invitation to Frinton, Why continue to pay hotel and boarding prices?

Materials:

Poster: A4 white paper, coloured paper, glue sticks

Activities

Discuss the key features of a holiday in your chosen Tending resort. What is there to do? What makes it special? What is there to see? Where will you eat or sleep? How will you get there?

Consider why people go on holiday and what attracts them to a place. Discuss students' favourite ads, and show some examples of your choice. Which ones do they like? Do they persuade their audience? Do they inform their audience? What features are common to them (a jingle, slogan, jokes, a voiceover?)

Creating and presenting a TV ad. In pairs students discuss the message of their TV ad and prepare a storyboard that shows their slogan, logo or jingle, voiceover and images. Students perform their ads to each other and take feedback.

Extend this activity to create a promotional poster. Select the logo, slogan and key words from the TV ads. Use the coloured paper to cut out lettering and shapes and experiment with layout on the page before sticking down.

This activity could be repeated to create adverts for the resorts in the past.

Wish you were here postcards

Aim

Students consider what messages they would like to share about their chosen resort and create giant postcards.

Pack resources

Jaywick postcards from the 1970s.

Materials

A1 white card, A3 card, A4 paper, decorating roller and poster paint, aprons, scissors, glue, pens.

Activities

Discuss what the coastal towns mean to the children. Consider what images come into their minds when they think of that place, for example, fish, boats or sunglasses.

Ask the children to draw these images as large and simple outline drawings and cut these out to create templates. Decide on landscape or portrait compositions for postcards and arrange the shapes on A3 card until they look their best together.

Remember that the negative space (the space around and in between the images) needs to work well too. Glue the shapes down when happy. Fill in the back of the postcards with messages.

Extend this activity by making larger A1 postcards. Decide whether the postcard is landscape or portrait. Design a simple background layout, perhaps of two colours. Use newspaper to mask off areas to add to the background design.

Create stencils of the shapes used in the first postcard but this time cutting out them out from paper. Do a rough layout of the stencils on A1 card and roller over the stencil with paint (try not to use too much as it can smudge). Let each print and stencil dry before the next addition. Overlapping prints can look effective. Experiment with rolling hard for a strong print and more softly for a lighter textured print.

Ask students to consider who they would like to invite to visit their town. When the paintings are dry turn them into postcards and write them to the people they would like to invite.



Cut out the outline shapes and position them into a postcard design.



Create silhouette stencils and carefully cut them out.



Pierrot Academy

Aim

Students investigate the popular Pierrot troupes and set up their own troupe. This can be delivered in 1-3 sessions.

Pack resources

Picture of The Motley Merrimen
Catlin's Royal Pierrot advert
Catlin's Royal Pierrot photo
Picture of the Vesta and Victor stage at Walton
Pages 6 and 7 of the pack
Pierrot training camp activity sheet
Pierrot training camp activity answer sheet

Activities

Copy the activity sheet for each student and display the resources listed above around the room. Students move around to collect the answers.

In groups students create a name for their Pierrot troupe and for themselves. They can design their own costumes, either based on the traditional Pierrot costumes or they can update it with their own creations. This could be extended by making these costumes for themselves or as mock-ups on mannequins. Each troupe needs to consider what Pierrot skills they have and devise a short sketch to perform to the rest of the class. At least one person in each group needs to compere the performance

You are now enrolling into the Pierrot training camp. Your mission is to answer all the questions.



Q1. This is a picture of the Catlin's Royal Pierrots performing on the beach. Which beach is it? And what pier is it near?

Q2. How many times a day did the Pierrots perform?

Please circle your answer:

1

2

3

Q3. What is a Pierrot?

Q4. What country does the word Pierrot come from?

Q5. Where did the Catlin's Royal Pierrot perform? Please underline your answer:

On the beach

Outside

Inside

In special made theatres

On temporary stages

Q6. Were the troupes made up of all MALE or all FEMALE entertainers?

Q7. What were the costumes like? (You have three things to find.)

Q8. Pierrots could: (You have to find their skills!)

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

Q9. What is this?



Q10. Why do you think the Pierrots played these in particular? (Clue: think where they were performing)

Q10. What is the name for the skill when an entertainer holds a puppet and makes them speak without moving their own lips? The sounds appears to be coming from the puppet.

(Be sure to spell it correctly.)

You are now a member of the _____ Pierrot Troupe!

Congratulations! Congratulazioni! Félicitations!

Your Pierrot character name	
What is your most special skill?	
What is your favourite seaside town?	

**Please draw a picture of yourself here in full Pierrot costume:
(You might like to take your costume into modern day but remember to
keep the important features.)**

Pierrot Academy Quiz Answers

1. Walton beach near Walton Pier
2. 3
3. A stock clown pantomime character
4. From the French name Pierre
5. All of them
6. All male
7. A cone shaped hat, black pom-poms, white shirt, baggy trousers
8. Sing, tell jokes, play an instrument, perform a sketch, compere, dance
9. A banjo
10. They needed loud, portable instruments
11. Ventriloquism

Dressed for the occasion

Aim

Students use a range of photos from different times to compare seaside clothing through the ages and the entertainment troupes costumes.

Pack resources

Walton bathers
Jaywick bathers
Bathers on Hillman Avenue
Harwich bather on steps of bathing machine
Children on the beach at Walton
Vesta and Victor stage at Walton
1960s beach scene from Walton
The Motley Merrimen
Clown Bertram
The Busybodies and 33rd Fatigues

Activities

Discuss what people wear to the beach today.

Put the photos into chronological order and look closely to compare what we wear today and what people wore in the past.

What do you notice? Think about the materials used, changes in design of swimming outfits, and how formal/informal the clothing is.

Layout the photos of the entertainment troupes. What do you notice about their costumes? What messages are they sending out? What do they have in common with each other? How do they compare with costumes worn today by presenters or performers on TV?

Clown Bertram and Filbert

Aim

Students practise clowning skills particularly relevant to Clown Bertram and use an extract of his script to perform a ventriloquist sketch. This can be developed to creating their own scripts.

Pack resources

Clown Bertram script extract
Photo of Clown Bertram and Filbert

Activities

Use the Clown Bertram script extract to look at how a script is written down. This is written for Bertram and his dummy Filbert.

In pairs, students read the script and identify key features such as stage directions, script punctuation, and content that make the show funny. Look for examples of jokes with the audience, tricks, asides to the audience, the rule of three and audience participation.

In pairs, one student is the dummy Filbert, the other is ventriloquist Clown Bertram. They stand side by side, the ventriloquist with their hand on the dummy's back. The dummy moves and mouths when the ventriloquist speaks for them.

Discuss rule of 3 as a feature of clowning using a clown and dummy sneeze or eating an apple as an example. For the sneeze: First the dummy starts to sneeze but the sneeze goes away, second time the clown puts his finger under the dummy's nose, third time the dummy sneezes dramatically. For eating an apple: first and second bites are fine, third bite something goes wrong, such as losing a tooth or biting into a maggot.

Students develop their own ventriloquist and dummy sketches based on what they have found out and write it down. They will need to think about:

- Title of the sketch.
- Characters in the sketch.
- Stage directions (put these in brackets) to help performers know how to say their lines, for example, loudly, happily.
- Character dialogue (not in speech marks) with each speaker on a new line and clearly named.



F. Finch

Clown Bertram, Clacton Pier.



"CRACKERS"

A Ventriloquial Act For
Children. 1947

REVISED 1950

Written and arranged
By
Bertram of Clacton

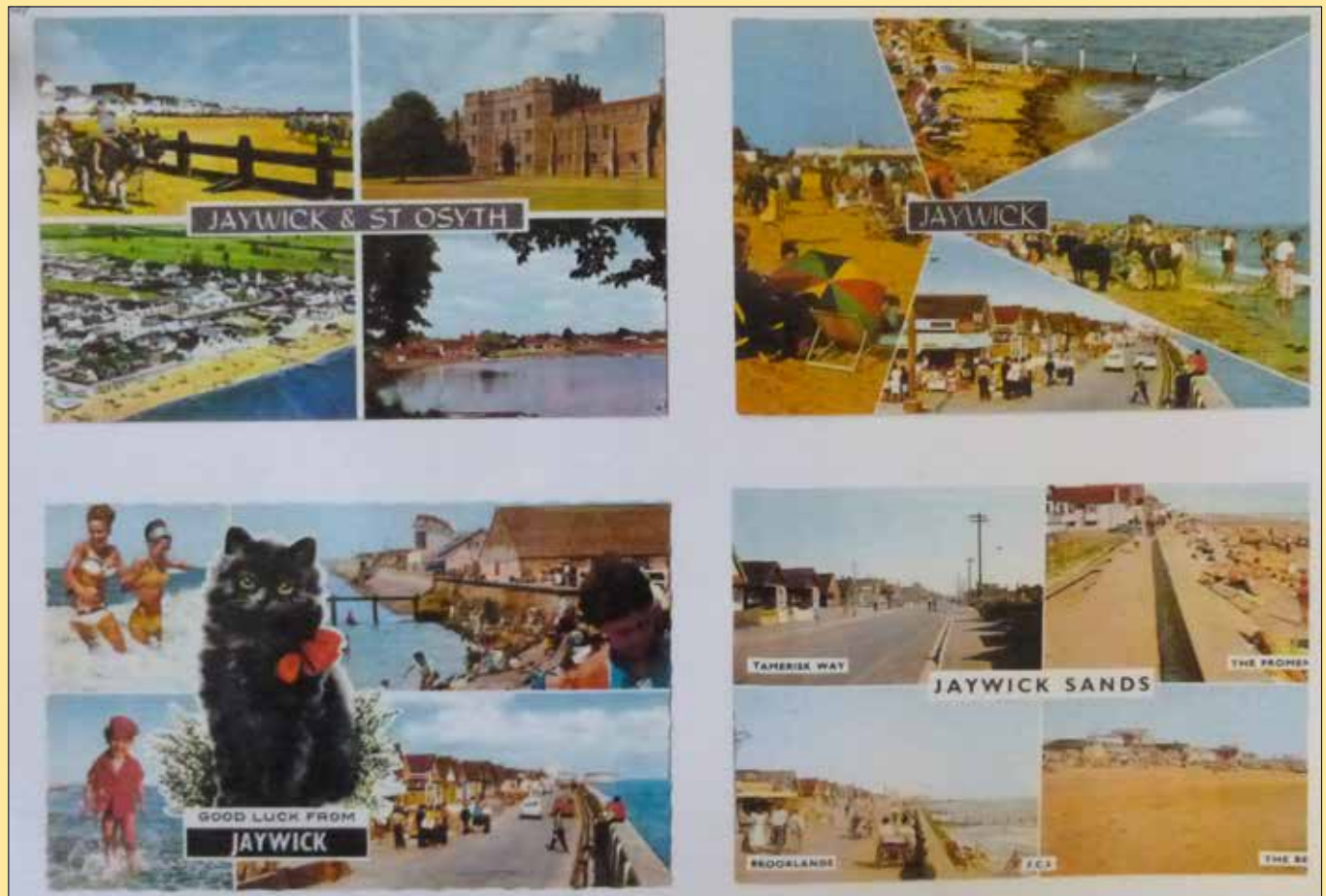
Performer enters carrying a suitcase with his "dummy" inside. Or it can be placed at the side, ready for performer to bring forward after his opening conjuring or the like.

"Now girls and boys, what do you think I have in my bag? You'll never guess....Crackers! Not Christmas crackers, not biscuit crackers, but a cheeky young friend of mine...and that is his name...Crackers!" (produce "Crackers") "He looks very lifelike, does he not, but he is not really alive. He's just a large doll made of wood and cardboard and glue and old iron and all sorts of salvage. He sits on my knee, (seat him on knee) he moves his head, he moves his eyes, he smiles, (and any other movements) he opens his mouth and he can talk. But of course it's not him talking at all really...it's me all the time. So off we go with his little tricks and then I'll make him talk. Move your head, Crackers. (C does so) "Now wink at the girls", (C does so) "Now smile (and any other movements he has. This method is good for reassuring any "tinies" in front who may be a little nervous) "Now open your mouth....careful, not too wide....you'll swallow the children. Now you can talk."

- C. "Oh I can talk now, can I?"
 P. "Yes you can talk now."
 C. "Well I don't want to talk."
 P. "You don't want to talk?"
 C. "No I don't want to talk."
 P. "Very well then, don't talk. We don't care do we girls and boys?"
 C. "I'm not going to talk. I'm not going to say a word. Not one single word. I AM NOT GOING TO TALK!" (a little of this business) "I'm not going to talk cause I'm on strike!"
 P. "Oh, you're on strike are you....and what are you on strike for?"
 C. "I want more money. I want more money every week than what I'm getting now."
 P. "Oh you do, do you....and how much more money do you want every week?"
 C. "I want twice as much every week as what I'm getting now."
 P. "How much are you getting now?"
 C. "Nothing."
 P. "Oh well, we'll see."
 C. "Yes I know....we'll see. You grown ups tell us kids anything."

-2-

P. "Well anyway, you be a good boy and we will see what we can do.
 C. "You are going to be a good boy, are you not?"
 P. "No I aint."
 C. "No I aint. Dear, dear, where's your grammar?"
 P. "Dear, dear....she's just gone down the road with grandfather."
 C. "Well anyway. You must not say 'aint."
 P. "Why not?"
 C. "Because it is not correct. It is not grammar. Say 'are not'.. not 'aint'. We are not having any sweets. I am not having any sweets. They are not having any sweets."
 P. "No, they aint got no coupons. Aint I going to have no sweets?"
 C. "No, not if you speak like that. You are not, we are not, I am not, they are not."
 P. "Nobody aint not."
 C. "You are hopeless."
 P. "Yes, and you are helpless."
 C. "Anyway. I think you ought to say 'Good Evening' to the girls and boys."
 P. "You think I ought to say 'Good Evening'?"
 C. "Yes I certainly do. You haven't spoken to them yet."
 P. "Well I don't know 'em."
 C. "Alright I'll introduce you to them. Girls and Boys, this is Crackers. Crackers, this is the audience. Say how do you do."
 P. "How do you do what? They aint doing anything."
 C. "Say 'Good Evening' girls and boys. How do you find yourselves this evening?"
 P. "But they aint lost themselves yet."
 C. "Nonsense, Say 'Good Evening' nicely."
 P. "Good Evening nicely."
 C. "No, not nicely."
 P. "Good Evening nastily!"
 C. "Cant you say 'Good Evening' properly?"
 P. "Yes I can say that. Good Evening properly!"
 C. "No, no, no, (threateningly in his ear) say 'Good Evening'you fathead."
 P. "Good Evening you fathead."
 C. "Well anyone can see you don't know how to address an audience."
 P. "Why they are dressed, aren't they?"
 C. "Haven't you got any manners?"
 P. "Yes but I left them at home in the garage!" (in a very "college" manner).
 C. "Well, we can see you have not been at school lately."
 P. "Well, I ain't been to-day."
 C. "Why haven't you been to school to-day?"
 P. "Cause we've got a day's holiday to-morrow."
 C. "And why have you got a day's holiday to-morrow?"
 P. "Cause we don't go to school the next day."



CATLIN'S ROYAL PIERROTS

PERFORM DAILY

AT

11 a.m., 3 p.m., 7.30 p.m.,

ON

THE BEACH,
WALTON-ON-NAZE.

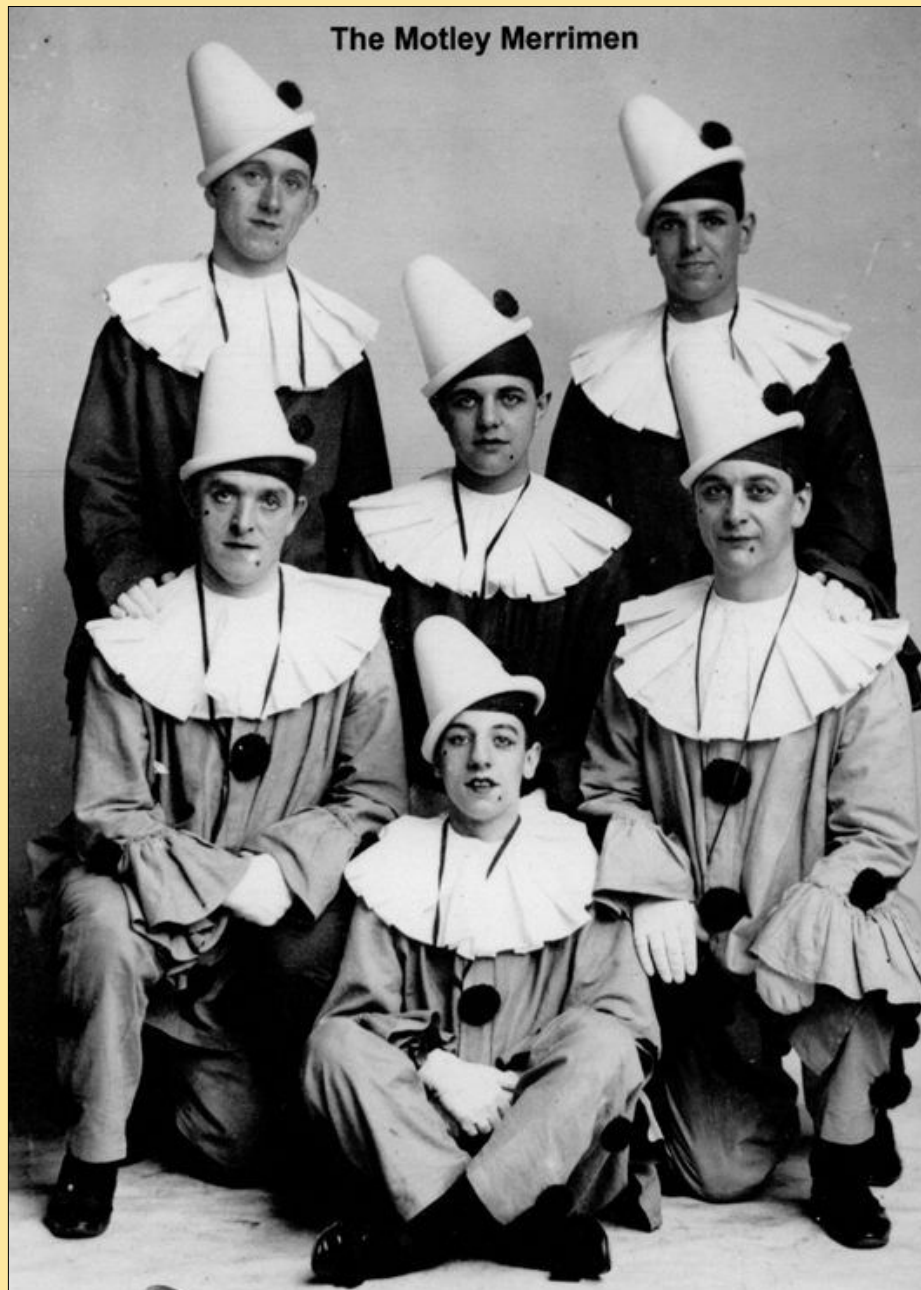
In their REFINED MUSICAL MELANGE
as performed before Royalty.

Special Concert every Friday
Evening.

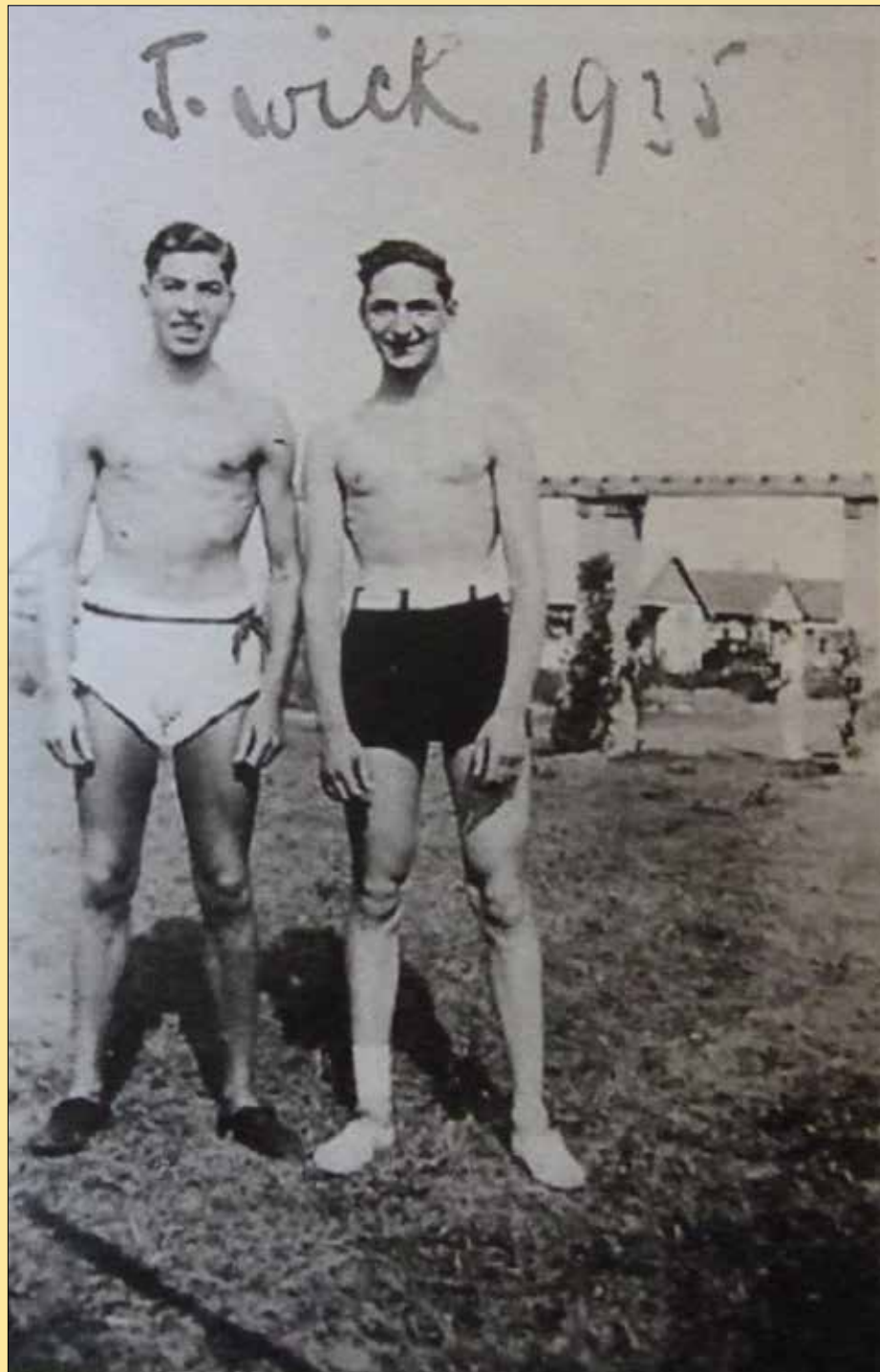
NUMBERED AND RESERVED SEATS
on application to the Manager.

3956



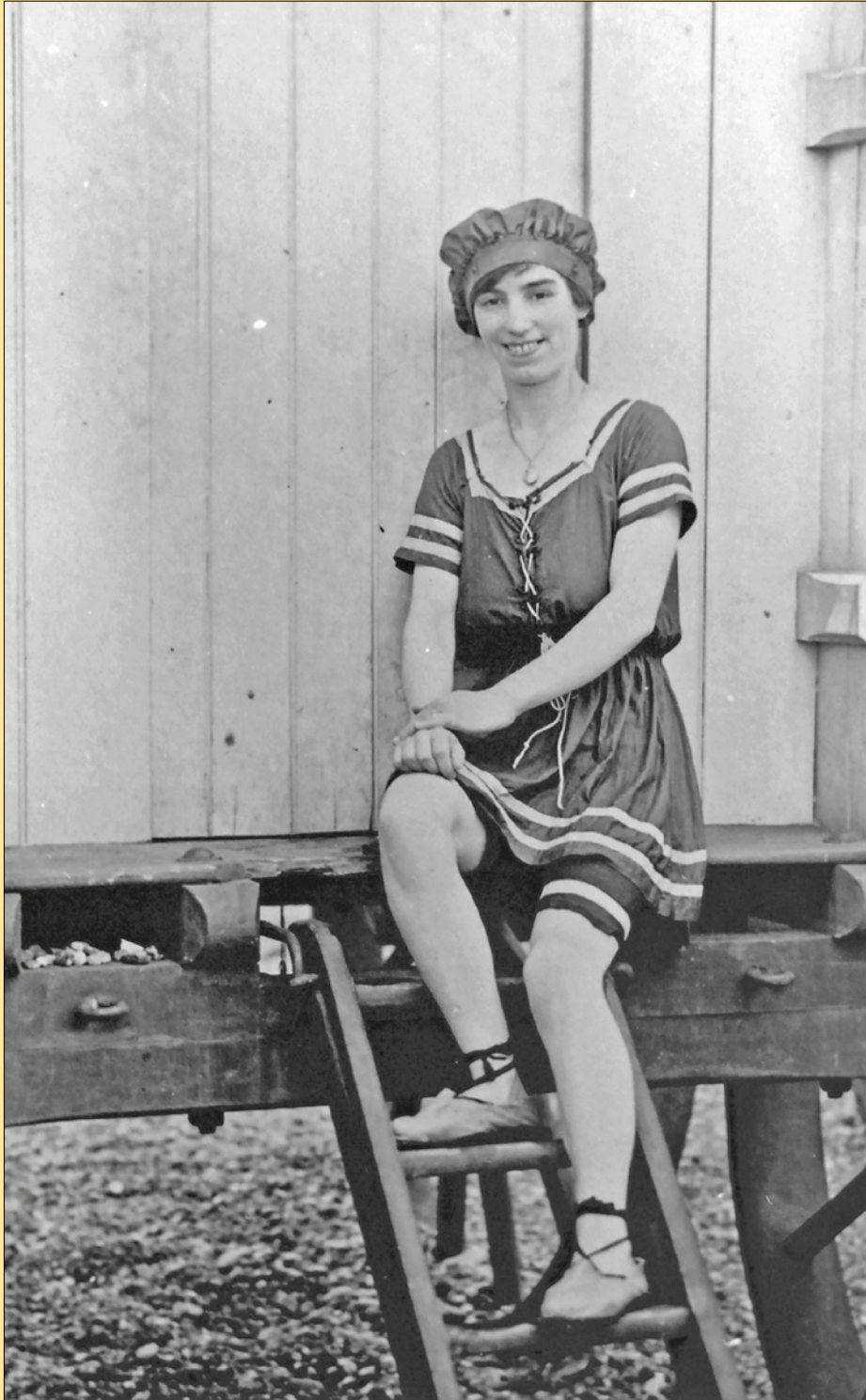








HARWICH BATHER ON STEPS OF BATHING MACHINE









1937

DOVERCOURT BAY *and* H A R W I C H

The
OFFICIAL GUIDE



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On DOVERCOURT BEACH

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Bathing Pools in East Anglia

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May, June and September; 7 a.m.
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CHARGE 6d.; Children half-price.
Book of 12 tickets, 5/-. Costumes
and Towels can be hired.

TEAS AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

FREQUENT AQUATIC SPORTS
including Championship Events

DOVERCOURT
has a picturesque
PAVILION

standing prominently on the sea front.
The Pavilion is laid out on the lines of
a Central European Casino Winter Garden
and to complete the "picture" the
Council have been fortunate in securing
the services of

EUGENE with his «
MAGYAR OCTET

FOR SEASON 1937

This engagement was successfully negotiated despite many other very attractive offers made to M. Eugene by other health resorts, and the issue was still open until Mr. ED. W. JONES, the well known Band Impresario visited the Pavilion and remarked "THIS is the setting for Eugene."

This superb string orchestra translates into pulsating melody, the restless defiant spirit of the roving Hungarian Gipsy, the fierce compelling urge of the Russian for unfettered self-expression, and the rich sensuous atmosphere of the pleasure loving Viennese. The Orchestra renders these romantic and picturesque airs with a vigour and sincerity that is impossible to resist. All tastes are however catered for in the unique and attractive programmes.

It is of Interest to recall that Eugene's Magyar Orchestra appeared before their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary on the occasion of the Royal Command Performance of 1932. Since that time the Orchestra has had an extended tour of Central Europe and now returns to Dovercourt to do its best for us.

7 REASONS WHY
YOU SHOULD VISIT
DOVERCOURT BAY
THIS SEASON

- 1 **Sunshine** . . . Dovercourt holds a record for the BRITISH ISLES.
- 2 **Sea Air** . . . There is no resort more bracing and invigorating.
- 3 **Bathing** . . . Safe and floodlighted till midnight.
- 4 **Bathing Pool** . . . Definitely the finest SEA-WATER bathing Pool in EAST ANGLIA.
- 5 **Sports** . . . EVERY kind: Golf, Miniature Golf, Tennis, Bowls, Cricket, Fishing.
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- 7 **Amusements** . . . Apart from Municipal Bands Concerts, the first class Cinemas present the latest attractions.

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EMPIRE THEATRE (100 Yards from Promenade).
MATINEES DAILY 2.30. EVENINGS from 6 p.m.
PRICES: 1/8, 1/4, 1/-, 9d., 6d. (including Tax).

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MATINEES MON., WED., AND SAT., 2.30. EVENINGS from 6.
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PALACE CINEMA HARWICH
MATINEES WED., AND SAT., 2.30. EVENINGS from 6.
PRICES: 1/6, 1/4, 1/-, 9d., 6d. (including Tax).

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Dovercourt Bay
Holiday Camp
Harwich

THIS new holiday camp is situated on the Sea Front in its own grounds of 40 acres.

Built under the supervision of the Corporation of Harwich, and equipped with company's running water and sanitation, every chalet with its own water supply and electric light, and constructed in concrete and steel.

Organized and built by H. J. Warner, of Northney and Seaton Holiday Camps, whose expert knowledge and experience of the requirements of Holiday Campers comes from years of Holiday Camp direction. This Camp is without doubt the best equipped and most luxurious on the S.E. Coast.

WRITE SECRETARY
FOR BROCHURE

Telling you of its wonderful playing fields, free tennis, bowls, miniature golf, dances; of the cuisine, beautiful dining rooms and lounges, the largest dance hall on the South East Coast, its resident dance band, and the hundred and one other attractions which makes this holiday centre your perfect ideal of what a holiday should be.

Follow the Sun to Clacton

. . . where the Sunshine and dry weather record is equal to that of any Resort in Great Britain.

At Clacton-on-Sea, an average of 1,701 hours of bright sunshine is recorded every year, while the Annual rainfall is as little as 22.95 inches.

CLACTON'S FLORAL CREST

Lux Salubritas Felicitas — Light, Health and Happiness



*An
Invitation*

*to holiday, rest, or convalesce
from early Spring to the late
Autumn in unique surroundings
on the Sunny coast of Essex*



Why
continue to
pay Hotel and Boarding
House Prices, when you
can have a Seaside
Cottage of your own?



