

# Thorpeness: Dream Village [B2]

La regione dell'Anglia Orientale è famosa per i suoi pittoreschi paesaggi costieri, ma Thorpeness è unico nel suo genere: frutto dell'ingegno di un uomo, questo piccolo villaggio di pescatori è stato trasformato in una favolosa destinazione turistica.

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If you could [dream a village into existence](#), what would it look like? Perhaps something like the seaside village of Thorpeness in Suffolk. [Framed](#) by [heathland](#), [sandy beaches](#) and the sea, Thorpeness features beautiful [timbered and brick](#) buildings, waterfront bungalows and a [windmill](#), plus a tearoom, pub and local shops. At its heart is an expansive and delightful boating lake called the Meare.

## INHERITANCE

In 1910, Glencairn Stuart Ogilvie, a wealthy [barrister](#), [playwright](#) and architect, looked out onto the [puddled](#) landscape around the tiny fishing [hamlet](#) of Thorpe. Ogilvie had inherited the 2,400-hectare (24 sq. km) [estate](#) on the Suffolk coast, but the [encroaching](#) North Sea was threatening to submerge it. Now, he had to decide whether to abandon Thorpe, or save it for the future. Ogilvie decided he would build an exclusive holiday village. He renamed the village Thorpeness to distinguish it from the many other villages called Thorpe in the country.

## PETER PAN

With the help of a large team of skilled workers, Ogilvie built [mock-Tudor](#) and Jacobean houses, bungalows, a boathouse, golf course, tennis courts, [bowling green](#) and a country club called the Kursaal. The Crown Inn was renovated and renamed the Dolphin Hotel. The Meare, once an [inlet](#) on Suffolk's Hundred River that provided [shelter](#) for ships, had [silted up](#) over the centuries. Ogilvie decided to transform it into a [shallow](#) boating lake. The author J. M. Barrie was a family friend, so tiny islands were created

inspired by his children's book Peter Pan. A water tower was refashioned into a wooden house on a high [plinth](#) and named the House in the Clouds, and the transformation of Thorpeness into a [fairytale](#) resort was complete.

## **IDEALISM**

Ogilvie followed what were known as the 'garden city' ideals of urban planner Ebenezer Howard. Howard wanted to create a place for people to live healthy lives in harmony with nature. Ogilvie hoped that Thorpeness would help visitors and residents become citizens who were "kind, generous, polite, energetic, moral, nationalistic, intellectual, comfort-loving and [fond of](#) beauty." He was certainly ambitious! Ogilvie died in 1932, but would be pleased to know that Thorpeness remains a genteel holiday paradise for children and their families. As well as taking a [rowing boat](#) on the Meare, or enjoying the annual regatta with fireworks and festivities, visitors can enjoy ice creams, [cream teas](#), antiques, walking, cycling and [wildlife-spotting](#) here on the [unspoiled](#) Suffolk coast.

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# Glossary

- **rowing boat** = barca a remi
- **cream teas** = tè del pomeriggio
- **timbered and brick** = in legno e mattoni
- **playwright** = drammaturgo
- **puddled** = fangoso, paludoso
- **hamlet** = borgo, paesino
- **bowling green** = campo da bocce
- **Framed** = incorniciato
- **sandy beaches** = spiagge di sabbia
- **windmill** = mulino a vento
- **shelter** = rifugio
- **unspoiled** = incontaminata
- **encroaching** = invadere
- **silted up** = diventare fangoso
- **shallow** = poco profondo
- **plinth** = piedistallo
- **fond of** = essere affezionato a
- **inlet** = insenatura
- **fairytale** = da favola
- **wildlife-spotting** = avvistamento di fauna
- **dream a village into existence** = trasformare un sogno in realtà, far avverare un sogno
- **heathland** = lande
- **barrister** = avvocato
- **estate** = tenuta
- **mock-Tudor** = finto stile Tudor