

= Clevedon =

Clevedon is a town and civil parish in the unitary authority of North Somerset , which covers part of the ceremonial county of Somerset , England . The town has a population of 21 @, @ 281 according to the United Kingdom Census 2011 .

The town is situated amongst a group of small hills including Church Hill , Wain 's Hill (which is topped by the remains of an Iron Age hill fort) , Dial Hill , Strawberry Hill , Castle Hill , Hangstone Hill and Court Hill which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest along the Severn estuary . Clevedon was mentioned in the Domesday Book but grew in the Victorian era when it became a popular seaside resort . It was served by a short branch line from the main railway at Yatton , between 1847 and 1966 . The Weston , Clevedon and Portishead Light Railway , which opened in 1897 and closed in 1940 also served the town ,

The seafront has ornamental gardens , a Victorian bandstand , and other visitor attractions . Salthouse Field has a light railway running round the perimeter and is used for donkey rides during the summer . The shore is a mixture of pebbled beaches and low rocky cliffs , with the old harbour at the western edge of the town at the mouth of the Land Yeo . The rocky beach has been designated as the Clevedon Shore geological Site of Special Scientific Interest . Clevedon Pier , opened in 1869 , is one of the earliest surviving examples of a Victorian pier the United Kingdom . On October 17 , 1970 , two outward spans collapsed when the seventh set of legs from the shore failed during a routine insurance load test . After protracted considerations a trust was formed and the pier and its terminal buildings were restored and reopened on May 27 , 1989 , when the Waverley paddle steamer berthed and took on passengers . Other landmarks include Walton Castle , Clevedon Court the Clock Tower and the Curzon Cinema . Clevedon 's light industry is centred mainly in industrial estates including Hither Green Trading Estate near the M5 motorway junction . It is a dormitory town for Bristol . The town is home to educational , religious and cultural buildings and sporting clubs .

= = History = =

The name derives from the Old English , cleve meaning " cleave " or " cleft " and don meaning " hill " .

Wain 's Hill is an univallate Iron Age hill fort situated approximately 1 mile (1 @. @ 6 km) south @- @ west of Clevedon . The hill fort is defined by a steep , natural slope from the south and north with two ramparts to the east .

The Domesday Book mentions Clevedon as a holding of a tenant @- @ in @- @ chief by the name of Mathew of Mortaigne , with eight villagers and ten smallholders . The parish of Clevedon formed part of the Portbury Hundred .

The small rivers the Land Yeo and Middle Yeo supported at least two mills . The Tuck Mills lay in the fields south of Clevedon Court and were used for fulling cloth . The other mills , near Wain 's Hill , probably date from the early 17th century .

During the Victorian era Clevedon became a popular seaside town ; before that it had been an agricultural village . The Victorian craze for bathing in the sea was catered for in the late 19th century by saltwater baths adjacent to the pier (since demolished , though the foundations remain) , and bathing machines on the main beach .

Clevedon was home to St Edith 's children 's home for almost 100 years until it closed in 1974 . The building on Dial Hill is listed , and therefore the outside has changed little , but it now houses privately owned flats . The home was run by nuns from the Community of the Sisters of the Church , an international body of women within the Anglican Communion , living under the gospel values of poverty , chastity and obedience .

The first large @- @ scale production of penicillin took place in the town . In 1938 Howard Florey was working at Lincoln College , Oxford University with Ernst Boris Chain and Norman Heatley , when he read Alexander Fleming 's paper discussing the antibacterial effects of *Penicillium notatum* mould . He made arrangements for this to be grown in deep culture tanks at the Medical Research Council 's Antibiotic Research Station in Clevedon , enabling mass production of this mould for the

injections of the forthcoming soldiers of World War II who suffered from infections .

Clevedon was served by a short branch line from the main railway at Yatton . It opened in 1847 , six years after the main line itself , but closed in 1966 . The site of the station is now Queen 's Square , a shopping precinct . The town was the headquarters for another railway , the Weston , Clevedon and Portishead Light Railway , which connected the three coastal towns in its name . It opened to Weston @-@ super @-@ Mare in 1897 , was extended to Portishead ten years later , and closed in 1940 . Its trains crossed the road in the town centre , known as The Triangle , preceded by a man with red and green flags .

= = Governance = =

The town has 7 electoral wards . Their area and population are the same as mentioned above .

Clevedon falls within the non @-@ metropolitan district of North Somerset unitary authority which replaced the Woodspring district , having formerly been part of Somerset , and between 1974 and 1996 within the county of Avon . Until 2010 the parliamentary constituency was still called Woodspring and was represented in the House of Commons of the Parliament of the United Kingdom , however following the review of parliamentary representation by the Boundary Commission for England in Somerset , this seat was renamed North Somerset . It elects one Member of Parliament (MP) by the first past the post system of election . The current MP is Liam Fox of the Conservative Party . It is also part of the South West England constituency of the European Parliament , which currently elects six MEPs using the d 'Hondt method of party @-@ list proportional representation .

= = Geography = =

Clevedon is situated on and round seven hills called Church Hill , Wain 's Hill (which is topped by the remains of an Iron Age hill fort) , Dial Hill , Strawberry Hill , Castle Hill , Hangstone hill and Court Hill which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest . On a clear day there are far reaching views across the Severn estuary to Wales . When the visibility is good the islands of Steep Holm and Flat Holm in the Bristol Channel can be seen . The tidal rise and fall in the Severn Estuary and Bristol Channel can be as great as 14 @. @ 5 m (48 ft) , second only to Bay of Fundy in Eastern Canada .

The seafront stretches for approximately half a mile from the pier to Salthouse Field , and includes ornamental gardens , a Victorian bandstand , a bowling green , tennis courts , crazy golf and other amusements . An addition to this list is Marine Lake , which was once a Victorian swimming pool , is now used for boating activities , as well as a small festival once a year where people can try out new sports . The Salthouse Field has a light railway running round the perimeter and is still used for donkey rides during the summer .

The shore at Clevedon is a mixture of pebbled beaches and low rocky cliffs , with the old harbour being at the western edge of the town at the mouth of the Land Yeo river . It is remembered as the place at which John Ashley conceived of the idea of creating The Mission to Seafarers . The rocky beach , which has been designated as the Clevedon Shore geological Site of Special Scientific Interest . It is the side of a mineralised fault , which runs east @-@ west adjacent to the pier , and forms a small cliff feature in Dolomitic Conglomerate on the north side of Clevedon Beach , containing cream to pink baryte together with sulfides . The minerals identified at the site include : haematite , chalcopyrite , tennantite , galena , tetrahedrite , bornite , pyrite , marcasite , enargite and sphalerite . Secondary alteration of this assemblage has produced idaite , Covellite and other Copper sulphides .

" Poet 's Walk " is a footpath around Wain 's Hill and Church Hill , to the south west of the seafront , and the upper part of the town contains many other footpaths through parks and wooded areas which were laid out in the nineteenth century . The name of the walk is a commemoration of the poets and writers who have visited Clevedon . These include Coleridge in 1795 and Tennyson in 1834 . It is a local nature reserve covering Church Hill and Wain 's Hill and includes calcareous grassland , coastal scrub and woodland .

== Climate ==

Along with the rest of South West England , Clevedon has a temperate climate which is generally wetter and milder than the rest of the country . The annual mean temperature is approximately 10 ° C (50 @.@ 0 ° F) . Seasonal temperature variation is less extreme than most of the United Kingdom because of the adjacent sea temperatures . The summer months of July and August are the warmest with mean daily maxima of approximately 21 ° C (69 @.@ 8 ° F) . In winter mean minimum temperatures of 1 ° C (33 @.@ 8 ° F) or 2 ° C (35 @.@ 6 ° F) are common . In the summer the Azores high pressure affects the south @-@ west of England , however convective cloud sometimes forms inland , reducing the number of hours of sunshine . Annual sunshine rates are slightly less than the regional average of 1 @,@ 600 hours . In December 1998 there were 20 days without sun recorded at Yeovilton . Most of the rainfall in the South @-@ West is caused by Atlantic depressions or by convection . Most of the rainfall in autumn and winter is caused by the Atlantic depressions , which is when they are most active . In summer , a large proportion of the rainfall is caused by sun heating the ground leading to convection and to showers and thunderstorms . Average rainfall is around 700 mm (28 in) . About 8 ? 15 days of snowfall is typical . November to March have the highest mean wind speeds , and June to August have the lightest winds . The predominant wind direction is from the south @-@ west .

== Demography ==

The town has a population of 21 @,@ 957 according to the United Kingdom Census 2001 . Of these almost 20 % are over the age of 65 years and 98 @.@ 8 % are white . Almost three quarters of the population described themselves as being Christian , with 17 @.@ 4 % having no religion and another 7 @.@ 3 % not stating any religion . 72 @.@ 4 % of the 15 @,@ 408 people between the ages of 16 and 74 years are economically active .

== Economy ==

Clevedon has some light industry , mainly in industrial estates including Hither Green Trading Estate near the M5 motorway junction , and it is also a dormitory town for Bristol . The Clerical Medical pensions and investments group , part of HBOS , had its headquarters in the town on the former site of the Hales Cakes factory , but after its closure , North Somerset Council entered into talks to take over the lease . Percy Daniel & Co is a firm of organ builders , whose work includes the instrument in Brentwood Cathedral .

Yeates Removals was established in 1910 using horses and carts for general haulage in Clevedon and the surrounding areas . The removals company has always been run by family members and is currently headed up by James Griffin who took over from his father John in 2001 .

== Landmarks ==

Clevedon Pier was opened on Easter Monday 1869 , one of the earliest examples of a Victorian pier still in existence in the United Kingdom . After a set of legs collapsed during an insurance load check on October 17 , 1970 , it fell into disrepair until in 1985 the pier was dismantled and taken to Portishead dock for restoration , and was rebuilt in 1986 . In 2001 , the pier was upgraded to a grade 1 listed building , The Paddle Steamer Waverley and Motor Vessel Balmoral offer day sea trips from Clevedon Pier to various destinations along the Bristol Channel and Severn estuary . Adjoining the pier and contemporary with it is the Toll House , built in the style of a folly castle and provided as accommodation for the pier @-@ master .

The Royal Pier Hotel is a Grade II listed building located next to the pier . The Royal Pier Hotel was built in 1823 by Thomas Hollyman , and originally called The Rock House . In 1868 , the building was expanded by local architect Hans Price and renamed Rock House & Royal Pier Hotel , later

shortened to Royal Pier Hotel . Since its closure the building has fallen into disrepair , but it is now (Summer 2015) being converted into luxury apartments .

Walton Castle is a 17th @-@ century fort located on Castle Hill that overlooks the Walton St Mary area at the northern end of Clevedon . It was built sometime between 1615 and 1620 . The castle was designed as a hunting lodge for Lord Poulett , a Somerset MP . The English Civil War saw the decline of Poulett 's fortunes , and by 1791 the castle was derelict and being used as a dairy by a local farmer . In 1984 , the castle was purchased for £ 1 by Margarita Hamilton , who restored the building to its former glory .

Clevedon Court is on Court Hill east of the town centre , close to the road to Bristol . It is one of only a few remaining 14th century manorial halls in England , having been built by Sir John de Clevedon circa 1320 . Since the early eighteenth century the house has been owned by the Elton family , who were responsible for much building work on the house and many improvements in the town , and although the house itself is now owned by the National Trust , the associated estates are still owned by the Elton family . Sir Edmund Elton (1846 ? 1920) was a potter who produced unusually shaped ware in a variety of richly @-@ coloured glazes , including a gold glaze of his own invention , at the Clevedon Elton Sunflower Pottery .

Clevedon clock tower in the centre of the town is decorated with " Elton ware " . It was completed in 1898 , and donated by Sir Edmund Elton in celebration of Queen Victoria 's Jubilee . The Curzon cinema was built in 1912 , for Victor Cox , and is the oldest purpose @-@ built , continuously operated cinema in the world .

The town 's market hall on Alexandra Road was designed by local architect Hans Price . A monument , known as the " Spirit of Clevedon " , was erected near the seafront to mark the Millennium . Unveiled in June 2000 , the 5 ft (1 @.@ 5 m) tall sculpture cost £ 9 @,@ 000 . It was designed by local citizens and includes panels and plaques representing the history and community in the town . Within its base is a time capsule containing information about the town .

= = Education = =

Clevedon School is a large secondary comprehensive school serving the whole town and the surrounding rural areas . It has approximately 1 @,@ 200 pupils in years 7 to 11 (Lower School) and 12 to 13 (Upper School or sixth form) . The school has regained its Language College status . There are also six primary schools in the town : Mary Elton Primary School , John the Evangelist Church of England Primary School , All Saints C Of E Primary School and St. Nicholas ' Chantry CEVC Primary School . Yeo Moor Primary School , which opened on 19 April 2010 , is an amalgamated school joining the Infant and Junior schools that held position on the existing site for many years .

St Brandon 's School was an independent boarding school until 1991 and a coeducational infant and junior school until 2004 .

= = Religious sites = =

There are several churches serving the town , including St. Andrew 's church , which was built in the thirteenth century AD , although there are thought to be Saxon foundations under the present building . It is the burial place of Arthur Hallam , subject of the poem In Memoriam A.H.H. by his friend Alfred , Lord Tennyson .

The Church of St John was built in 1875 , by William Butterfield for Sir Arthur Elton . The Church of All Saints was built in 1861 by C E Giles . The tower of Christ Church , on Chapel Hill , is a very important landmark in Clevedon . It was erected 1838 and 1839 from designs by Thomas Rickman in an early 14th @-@ century style .

The Copse Road Chapel is an Independent Evangelical Church , which was built in 1851 and has been attributed to Foster and Wood of Bristol , who also designed the United Reformed Church on Hill Road . The Roman Catholic church of the Immaculate Conception is served by the Franciscan order .

== Railways ==

The nearest station is Yatton on the Bristol to Exeter Line with trains provided by First Great Western .

== Sport ==

Because of its location watersports are a feature of the local scene . Clevedon Canoe Club is based at the marine lake and facilitates sea paddling trips along the North Somerset coast on the Severn Estuary , and to other sites such as the Wye Valley and Woolacombe . Nearby is based the Clevedon Sailing Club .

Clevedon Cricket Club was established in 1874 . The first team now play in the Bristol and Somerset division of the West of England Premier League . Clevedon Town Football Club was started in the late 19th century and were one of the founder members of the Western Football League , winning its championship in the 1990s . The football club plays at the Everyone Active Stadium , formerly known as the Hand Stadium . Another Non @-@ League football club Clevedon United F.C. who play at Collieridge Vale . Clevedon Bowling Club was formed in 1910 , and since then has achieved several international honours in Bowls . Other sporting facilities include Clevedon Golf Club who have a Par 72 , 6 @, @ 500 yard course , Riding Centre , Rugby Club , and a range of other sports clubs .

== Culture ==

Literary figures associated with the town are Samuel Taylor Coleridge (who spent some months living in a cottage in the town after his marriage to Sarah Fricker) , William Makepeace Thackeray (a frequent guest of the Elton family at Clevedon Court) , and George Gissing (The Odd Women is set in the town) .

In the 1993 movie , The Remains of the Day , starring Anthony Hopkins , Emma Thompson and Christopher Reeve , references are made to Clevedon , where the final scene of the film is set and was filmed . The 1998 adaptation of Cider with Rosie also featured scenes filmed in the town . Scenes from the 2010 film , Never Let Me Go , starring Keira Knightley were filmed in Clevedon during the summer of 2009 . Clevedon has its own comic book superhero , Captain Clevedon .

Clevedon is twinned with Ettlingen , in Baden @-@ Württemberg , Germany since 1980 ; Épernay , France since 1990 ; and Middelkerke , Belgium since 1991 .

Clevedon was the setting for the eponymous town Broadchurch , a detective drama first aired on ITV on 4 March 2013 .

== Notable people ==

In birth order :

Edward Tyson (1651 ? 1708) , scientist and physician considered the pioneer of modern comparative anatomy

Hartley Coleridge (1796 ? 1849) , writer and son of Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Arthur Hallam (1811 ? 1833) , poet and subject of Tennyson 's poem In Memoriam A.H.H. , buried in Clevedon

Sir Arthur Elton , 7th Baronet (1818 ? 1884) , politician and local benefactor

Emma Jane Guyton (1825 ? 1887 , born Emma Jane Worboise) , novelist and editor , born here

Frances Freeling Broderip (1830 ? 1878) , children 's writer , died in Clevedon .

Mortimer Sloper Howell (1841 ? 1925) , colonial magistrate and Asiatic scholar

Sir Arthur Elton , 10th Baronet (1906 ? 1973) , pioneer documentary film maker

David Bryant (born 1931) , three @-@ times world outdoors singles bowls champion

Graham Tripp (born 1932) , county cricketer

Bob Anderson (born 1947) , former world professional darts champion
Tuppence Middleton (born 1987) , film and TV actress , grew up in Clevedon .
Luke Spiller (born 1988) , lead singer and band member of The Struts grew up in Clevedon
Jack Butland (born 1993) , England international & Stoke City goalkeeper
Kate Reed (born 1982) British Olympic runner (Beijing 2008) 10 @, @ 000 m