

Reader Offer!

Clacton - The Way We Were DVD

CLACTON THE WAY WE WERE

This new DVD presents a fascinating look back at bygone Clacton and the surrounding district. Clacton on Sea as was born on the 18th of July 1871. This article from the London Standard records its official inauguration.

On Thursday morning at half past nine, a large party, invited by the directors of the Woolwich Steam Packet Company, left London Bridge Pier on board the fine saloon steamer, the Albert Edward, to inaugurate Clacton as a watering place, and to formally open the pier. The population of the surrounding villages turned out to see, as they said, 'the great boat from London' come in, and they welcomed the visitors very heartily.

The DVD explores Clacton's growth from an insignificant hamlet and a haunt of smugglers to a fashionable Victorian resort,

its transformation into a playground for day-trippers from London, and its rise to become one of the country's leading holiday resorts

It recalls some of the memorable events from the town's past including, the opening of the Pier, the coming of the railway, the opening of Butlins, and the floods of 1953, which claimed 35 lives in Jaywick.

The DVD also looks back at Clacton's experiences during the Second World War. At the outbreak of war it was declared a safe zone and received evacuees from London; then, in a dramatic reversal in fortunes, the town suffered the first civilian casualties of the war, its own children were evacuated, and it was fortified against an expected invasion.

This remarkable period in Clacton's past is brought to life with a selection of old photos and a unique collection of archive film, which captures many aspects of life in old Clacton, Frinton, Jaywick and Holland from the 1920s to the 1960s. It shows many views of the district that will bring memories flooding back for those who remember the Clacton of old - and surprise and intrigue those who don't.

Many of the events featured in the DVD are brought to life with first-hand accounts from the archives of the Clacton Times and the Clacton Gazette.

This engaging journey through time is produced exclusively for the Gazette and is narrated by award winning actor, Howard Ellison.

The running time is approximately 50 minutes and the price is £15.50.

Clacton The Way We Were DVD

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