



History – Local History of Bridlington

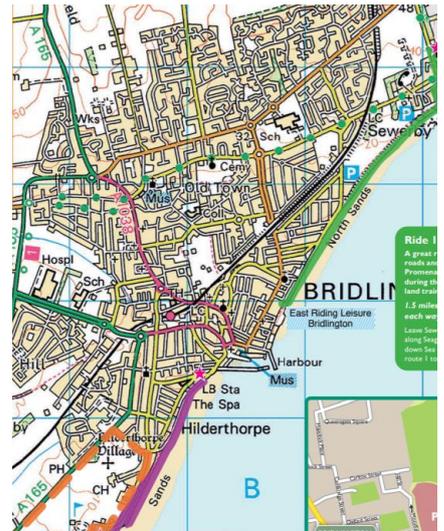
Key Knowledge

- Bridlington is located in the East Riding of Yorkshire. It is 28 miles (45 km) north of Hull and 34 miles (55 km) east of York.
- The man-made Danes Dyke at Flamborough Head goes back to the Bronze Age. Some believe Bridlington was the site of a Roman station.
- The present town of Bridlington was once two separate towns that have now grown together. The original Bridlington was about a mile from the sea, and this part is now referred to as the Old Town. The part by the sea was a port called Bridlington Quay.
- Well-known for its shellfish, Bridlington has always been a sea-fishing port. It is the largest lobster port in the UK and Europe.
- Alongside manufacturing, retail and service firms, Bridlington's main trade is summer tourism.
- After the discovery of natural spring waters in the early 19th century, people began to visit Bridlington for a healthy holiday. Bridlington's first hotel was opened in 1805. Bridlington was a major tourist attraction for many years, but this lessened after the Second World War.
- Famous buildings and landmarks include The Priory, The Spa and The Harbour. Other local famous landmarks include Bempton Cliffs, which is a haven for over 500,000 nesting seabirds.
- The Great Gale occurred at Bridlington on Friday 10th February 1871. At least 70 lives were lost, including local lifeboat men, and 30 ships were wrecked.
- Christopher 'Kit' Brown was a local fisherman and lifeboat man who had saved many lives. During a storm off Bridlington on 19th November 1893, Kit launched a coble, the 'Swiftsure', to mount a rescue of a stricken ship, where he tragically lost his life.

In this unit children will:

- Identify key areas in Bridlington
- Explore how Bridlington has changed over time
- Explain why they think these changes may have happened
- Identify key local industries from the past and the present
- Create a timeline of the key events that have happened in Bridlington in the past
- Place key local events in chronological order
- Understand why the Great Gale had such an impact on Bridlington
- Discover who Christopher 'Kit' Brown is and why he was important, creating a biography of his life
- Research the lifeboats used in Bridlington, from the first one used to the modern lifeboat in action today
- Learn more about the local fishing industry
- Find out why Bridlington attracted people to visit it in the past
- Find out more about why people still visit Bridlington today
- Identify many of the key attractions in Bridlington

Key places:



Key Vocabulary

- Great Gale** – A powerful windy storm which occurred at Bridlington on Friday 10th February 1871, losing 70 lives and wrecking 30 ships.
- Kit Brown** – a local fisherman and lifeboat man, who was born in 1842 and who died in 1893 whilst trying to save lives from a sinking ship.
- fishing industry** - the economic activity concerned with catching fish for food.
- coxswain** - the person who steers a ship's boat, racing boat, or other boat.
- tourism** - the selling of and operation of holidays and visits to places of interest.
- harbour** - a place on the coast where ships may moor in shelter, often protected from rough water by piers or jetties.
- Swiftsure** – a small boat (a coble) which was used by Kit Brown in 1893 during the Great Storm to rescue people out at sea.
- commercial fishing** - the activity of catching fish and other seafood for commercial profit, mostly from wild fisheries.
- North Sea** - an area of the Atlantic between Great Britain and the European mainland.
- William John and Frances Lifeboat** – the Bridlington lifeboat from 1885 to 1898, launched 16 times, saving 44 lives.
- quayside** – the area around the quay, which is platform that extends into the water for loading and unloading ships.
- pier** - a platform on pillars projecting from the shore into the sea, often with entertainment arcades and places to eat built on them.
- vessel** - a ship or large boat.
- RNLI** - RNLI stands for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.
- shellfish** – an edible shelled sea animal (e.g. an oyster or cockle) or crustacean (e.g. a crab or shrimp)
- resort** - a place that is often visited for holidays or recreation or for a particular purpose.



The Priory

Bridlington Priory was founded in 1113 by Walter de Gant. The Priory was wealthy from the start and produced scholars and musicians. At the Reformation led by Henry VIII, the Priory, along with all religious houses, was 'dissolved', most of its buildings destroyed and its property seized. The nave only was left and that is what we see today.



The Harbour

The harbour is managed by the Harbour Commissioners, a group of individuals who manage, protect and develop all aspects of the harbour and its activities. Many men and women earn their livelihood there from tourism and fishing; it is also a magnet for the tens of thousands of people who visit Bridlington every summer for their holidays or family days out.



The Spa

The Bridlington Spa stands overlooking the sea. It was rebuilt in 1907 after a fire destroyed the original building from 1896. The Royal Hall was first built in 1926. It was then rebuilt in 1932 following extensive fire damage and refurbished in 2006. It is a place where many bands play, many events are held and people come to celebrate.



Old Town

Old town was the original part of Bridlington, situated by The Priory, and is now home to a variety of shops, art galleries and cafes. It was a major trading area for many of the surrounding villages. Some of the older houses date back from the 1600s. In late 2014, the film Dad's Army was shot in Old Town, which was transformed to a World War 2 setting.

Key Historic Events:

- 400 - Roman Occupation
- 1072 - William the Conqueror confiscated the manor of Bridlington.
- 1086 - The previous names of Bridlington are known to be Brellington, Britlington and Bretlington mentioned in Domesday book. The name Burlington was used up until the 19th Century.
- 1113 - Priory Church built
- 1114 - Bayle Gate Built
- 1538 – Henry VIII claimed possession of the monastery and dissolved it in 1538 along with Bridlington Priory and its buildings.
- 1664 - First Earl of Burlington created by Charles II.
- 1666 - Bridlington was raided by Dutch boats.
- 1714-1720 - Sewerby Hall was a house built by John Greame
- 1779 - Battle of Flamborough Head
- 1805 - The town's first hotel was built. It was called the George Hotel.
- 1805 - Bridlington's first Life Boat was launched
- 1811 - Town population reaches 3741 with 869 houses accounted for.
- 1842 - Kit Brown born
- 1846 - A railway built from Hull, Beverley and Driffield to Bridlington opened in October.
- 1871 - The Great Gale
- 1896 - The Spa and Gardens opened
- 1901 - Bridlington's population stands at 12482.
- 1906 - Spa Hall destroyed by fire.
- 1910 - Burlington Infants and Junior School opened
- 1936 - Sewerby Hall opened to the public by Amy Johnson
- 1940 - Woolworth's store hit by bomb (WWII)