

## Severn Beach – Blue Lagoon Bathing Pool

The railway reached Severn Beach in 1900, but was at first used only for goods traffic to Pilning. A platform was built beside the line at Severn Beach by the Great Western Railway in 1922, and a bay platform added to the west for excursion traffic, with terminating passenger services from Bristol starting in 1924.

Severn Beach village quickly flourished into a busy riverside resort. By the 1930s there were shops and amusements available to the crowds that came by train from Bristol at weekends.

There was a large hotel and a boating lake, and many cafes catered for the visitors; however, by far the most popular attraction was the Blue Lagoon swimming pool, built in the early 1930s. Severn Beach soon became known as “the Blackpool of the West”. It was always known to Bristol people as “Severn Beach on the mud”.



By the 1960s the heyday of Severn Beach as a resort had waned. Bristol residents could drive further afield in their automobiles and the amusement area became dilapidated. The danger of flooding had to be addressed and the Blue Lagoon was demolished to allow sea defences to be greatly improved.

The Severn Beach railway line still provides an important link for the communities of Severn Beach, north Bristol and east Bristol and is a viable solution to beating heavy city traffic.

Thank you to “brizzle born and bred” for permission to use the image. His website is a mine of information: <http://www.bristolpast.co.uk/>

There are some nice anecdotes about getting the steam train to the beach on the Francis Frith website: [http://www.francisfrith.com/severn-beach/photos/blue-lagoon-swimming-pool-1951\\_s269011/](http://www.francisfrith.com/severn-beach/photos/blue-lagoon-swimming-pool-1951_s269011/)

Bath and Avon Family History Society have an informative article by Andrew Plaster which explains how the village of Severn Beach grew up in the parish of Northwick: <http://www.bafhs.org.uk/bafhs-parishes/other-bafhs-parishes/159-northwick>