

# WHEN BRITISH HOLIDAYS WERE FUN

*Recalling the Heyday of Holidays at Home*

Tom Tyler

*Oh I do like to be beside the seaside,  
Oh I do like to be beside the sea.  
I do like to stroll along the prom, prom, prom,  
Where the brass bands play, Tiddy-om-pom-pom.*

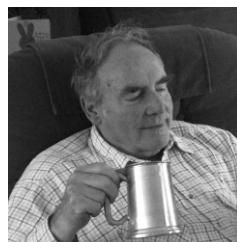
*Oh I do like to be beside the seaside,  
When I'm there I'm beside myself with glee.  
And there are lots of girls beside,  
I would like to be beside,  
Beside the seaside, beside the sea.*

popular song

Before the days of the Costa del Sol and cheap flights abroad, the British holidayed at home. During industrial 'works weeks' whole towns would practically close down and its inhabitants would set off for the seaside en masse. Once quiet coastal towns grew into holiday resorts at which trains would disgorge families blinking into the sunlight, children clutching buckets and spades, their parents battered suitcases with clothes packed for the week. From Blackpool to Bridlington, and from Whitley Bay to Weymouth, the prospect of sun, sea and sand drew the British holidaymaker to a brief break from their labours.

In this humorous look at holidaying at home, Tom Tyler follows on the success of his book *When Motoring Was Fun*, to explore the many aspects of the British holiday. With a wry sense of humour and using photographs drawn from personal and independent sources, he provides a nostalgic look back at the days of Butlins and Boarding Houses, B&Bs and Brighton Pier.

So book your tickets and board the coach. We're off to the seaside for a cream tea, a ride on the fun fair, some candyfloss and a go on the coconut shie! With the emphasis very much on fun, the author takes us back to those golden days.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tom Tyler was born in South Devon just before the Second World War, and was of the generation to whom holidays were a very special treat. After studying history at university, he retained a fascination for all things British, especially for vintage cars, models of all sorts, and a collection of wooden transport jigsaw puzzles. He still takes his holidays at home.

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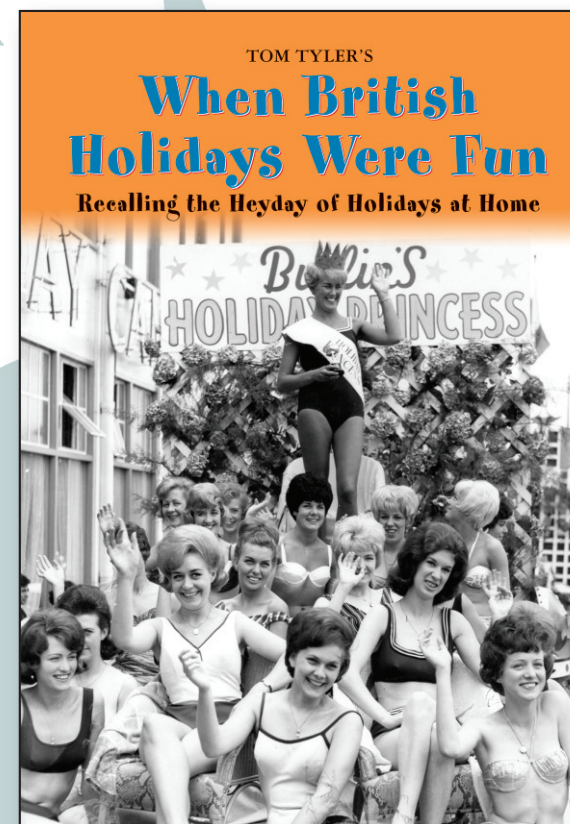
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A crowd gathers around the Punch and Judy Show on Lowestoft beach in the 1930s.



Bathing machines survived well into the Edwardian period, as here at Dawlish.

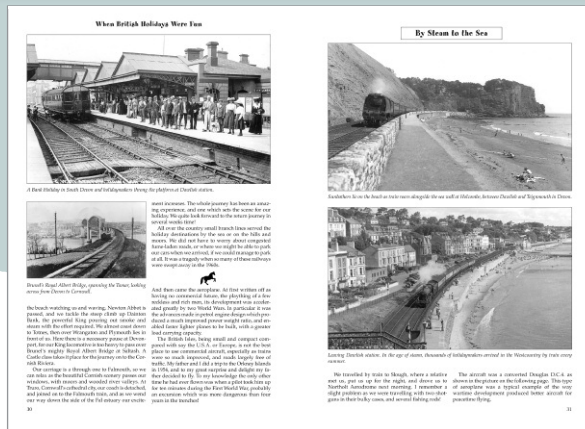
Right: The dining room at St Audries Bay Holiday Camp c.1934.



Below: Everyone wanted pictorial evidence of their holiday to show the folks back home.



Example of a double-page spread.



A Pavilion Tours trip from Penzance, destination Land's End, early 1900s.



The outdoor swimming pool at Butlins Ffiley Holiday Camp.