

Monthly Newsletter

November 2025



Just Giving
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Memories of working for Hancock & Wheeler,

Pt.2 (going down memory lane)



Hancock & Wheeler was one of those shops that stays in the memory. The moment you stepped through the door, there was a certain atmosphere about the place—a mixture of wood, paint, and that faint metallic tang from all the ironmongery. On the left ran the long counter, solid and well-worn, with its old-style till set back behind a screen. It gave a reassuring clink and clatter when it was used, the sound of business being done the old-fashioned way. Behind the counter stood the staff, patient and knowledgeable, ready to fetch whatever was asked for from the cupboards and drawers that seemed to line the wall endlessly. They held everything imaginable—screws, nails, bolts, door handles, and all the countless little necessities of everyday repairs, the trade called it “black ironmongery,” but to us it was simply what kept things going at home.

At the far end of the shop was the paint section. Stacked high were tins of Dulux and other well-known brands, their bright labels standing out against the darker shelving. For many, that was the destination—choosing just the right colour, perhaps with the help of one of the

old colour charts, and carrying it away with a new brush or two tucked under the arm. The smell of fresh paint mingled with the air of the place, and somehow even that seemed part of its charm. Painting and decorating mattered a great deal in those days. Exmouth was full of hotels and bed-and-breakfast houses, many of them gathered around Victoria Road and St. Andrews Road, and they all needed to keep up appearances. The shop was a lifeline for them. Trade accounts with Hancock & Wheeler were a blessing, especially during the quieter winter months when curtains were taken down, rooms redecorated, and hallways given a new lick of paint, all in readiness for the holidaymakers who would soon arrive. It wasn't as if Hancock & Wheeler were the only ironmongers in town. Ottons in Rolle Street, Squires in Exeter Road, and McLarin's in Albion Street all had their share of loyal customers. But there was something about Hancock & Wheeler—the way they always seemed to have exactly what you needed, the way the staff seemed to know not just their stock but also their customers—that kept very much to

the fore.

Looking back, it was more than just a shop; it was part of the rhythm of the town, a place where tradesmen, hoteliers, and householders alike would pass through, leaving with their brown paper parcels tied up with string, and a sense that their jobs were now that little bit closer to being done.

The full story of The memories of Kevin Twemlow time at Hancock & Wheeler can be purchased in a booklet on sale at the museum.

In this newsletter
you can expect:

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Lane

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news

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Museum & Community News



Exciting news! The museum now has its very own Just Giving QR code — come and give it a try
Simply Scan & Donate

Mark your calendars —

The museum reopens on Monday, 30th March 2026! Just in time for Easter and the school holidays, we can't wait to welcome everyone back for another great season at our much-loved museum.

Friday 20th March will be the stewards meeting to welcome everyone back.

This will give volunteers time to take a look at what's been happening over the winter and to enjoy our **new exhibits for 2026!**



The new cigarette butt ballot box has been installed on the wall outside the Exmouth Arms. Members of the Sheppard Row Community Partnership, - the Arms' landlord, Exmouth Museum volunteers, along with members of the Town Council, Plastic Free Exmouth, and other supporters gathered for a photo to mark the occasion.

It's already proving effective, - it's fantastic to see smokers already using it and helping to keep the area clean and butt free.

Volunteering over the winter

✨ As always, over the winter our curator will be busy doing a few repairs and updates around the museum! If you'd like to get involved or lend a hand, just let a member of the management committee know or email exmouthmuseum@gmail.com — extra help is always welcome 😊

This winter's plans include updating the displays on the left in the stables, along with removing some visiting displays from this year and hopefully lifting that old sticky carpet in the hayloft! This will mean things have to be temporarily boxed, so if you want to help let the museum know.

Event News

November 2025

Saturday 1st November 2025 Museum Closes at 13.00 until Monday 30th March 2026 10.00

Wednesday 5th November 2025 Guy Fawkes Night

Tuesday 11th November Remembrance Day

Tuesday 11th November 2025 Battle of Britain Talk & Dedication 6.30pm followed by the Talk in The Salvation Army Hall, Sheppards Row, Exmouth (next to the Museum) at 7pm

Thursday 20th November 2025 Coffee Morning 10.15 - 12.15 at the Axis Centre Market Street, (behind the cinema)

Thursday 27th November 2025 Quiz Night at the Wings Bar 7.15 for 7.45 start, £2 per person teams of 6 or less

December 2025

Saturday 6th December 2025 Dickensian Day/Evening Sheppards Row Partnership will be alive with activity and events - The Salvation Army Hall Christmas crafting, Museum Open from 16.00 and Festive Tasting & Mulled Wine etc. in the Exmouth Arms, lots of Fun to have. So, watch our website for more details.