

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Latest News of the Museum

Winter Work Process - Removal of the Hayloft carpet & new displays

After closing the doors to the public at the end of October, and following the visit of the 3rd Exmouth Scout Group on 12th November, John Wakefield (the Curator), together with a team of volunteers and members of the local Men's Shed, removed the old sticky carpet and the hardboard beneath it. This work revealed the original floorboards, which unfortunately showed signs of woodworm damage. With the replacement of several boards, the new-look Hayloft is now beginning to take shape. Over the next few weeks, the floorboards will be thoroughly cleaned, after which the display cabinets will be put back in place, ready for the 2026 displays to be installed.



As well as the Hayloft floor, many other displays have been move round. This includes the Railway display, which will be relocated from the cabinet near the Steam Engine to just inside the stable door on the left-hand side, alongside the newly reframed viaduct blueprint plans. These plans are now being rehoused on the wall above the cabinet.

January 2026 Diary Dates

***Mondays - Quiz
night*** at the
Grapevine, Victoria
Rd. 7.0 - 7.30 Start,
teams of 6 or less
and all proceeds go
to the museum
new front door.
Booking a
table is
recommended.



***Thursday 15th
January 2026 -
Museum Coffee
Morning***
10.15 - 12.15 at the
Axis Centre, Markets
Street, (behind the
cinema)

In addition, various other displays have already been replaced, or are scheduled to be replaced, in preparation for the 2026 season. One such display is the WWII display in the tall cabinet in the cottage which will be replaced in early 2026 with a new Battle of the Somme display.

Local Brewery Quiz Nights Support Museum Improvements

The museum is delighted to announce that Grapevine Brew House (Victoria Road, Exmouth,) have kindly donated the proceeds from their Monday quiz nights to support essential improvements to the building.

Thanks to this generous community support, the museum will be able to purchase a much-needed new front door. After careful consideration, the committee has chosen a solid hardwood stable door, which will be both practical and in keeping with the historic character of the museum.

In addition to enhancing the appearance of the building, the new door will provide better insulation, helping to keep the museum warmer during colder months and improving comfort for visitors and volunteers alike.

The museum would like to extend its sincere thanks to Grapevine Brew House and everyone who has taken part in the quiz nights. Their support makes a meaningful difference and highlights the value of local businesses supporting local heritage.

Lime Klin Burner to Stable Hand

In the 1911 census of England, Robert G. Pengilley, aged 28, was recorded as a lime burner, residing at Lime Kiln Cottages, The Docks, Exmouth, Devon. He was married to Florence E. Pengilley (née Lock). The household included their two sons, Thomas Pengilley and Robert Pengilley.

Both sons later became businessmen in Exmouth. Thomas Pengilley operated a cycle shop in Albion Street, while Robert Pengilley a cobbler, also in Albion Street.



Following his residence at Lime Kiln Cottages, Robert G. Pengilley was employed as a stable hand at the Exmouth Council yard, Sheppards Row, (later to become Exmouth Museum & Heritage Centre). He subsequently resided at 41 The Village, Withycombe Raleigh, Exmouth, Devon. At that time, two cottages stood adjacent to the public house known as The Holly Tree; these cottages have since been removed and the site now forms part of the public house car park.

Picture remain the property of the book
Yesteryear pt. one

Tribute to Bernice Williams



Bernice Williams first began volunteering at the Museum in 2018. In addition to her work with the museum, she also gave her time one day a week to the Tourist Information Board. Bernice was very fond of the Royal Marine Band and, in earlier years, loved dancing with her husband, Geoffrey. She worked tirelessly for the Museum, not only as a steward on Tuesday afternoons but also in her role as Assistant Treasurer, where her dedication and reliability were greatly valued. Sadly, on 24th November, Bernice passed away. She will be fondly remembered for her commitment, kindness, and the invaluable contribution she made to the Museum and the wider community.

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