

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 31

JULY 2026

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Charity No. 1216717



Latest News of the Museum

The Museum & Community News

The museum is pleased to work closely with the local community. In June, we welcomed visits from a couple of local schools.

Children from Brixington School came to the museum and enjoyed a morning learning about the history of Exmouth, including how the seafront has changed over time and what it looked like during the Victorian era.

The pupils also experienced what school life was like in Victorian times by sitting at authentic Victorian school desks and using ink wells and chalk on slate boards instead of modern pens, pencils, and paper. The visit provided a fun and engaging way for the children to learn about their local heritage.

Year 1 and 2 pupils from Beacon Church of England School also visited the museum in June and enjoyed learning about what life was like in the early 1900s.

They discovered how homes had no bathrooms and how families would wash in a tin bath placed in front of the fire. The children also had the opportunity to step into the role of a railway worker, clipping passengers' tickets using original ticket punches from the 1970s to 1990s. In addition, they learned about old typewriters and how they were used before the age of computers.

The museum also works with the local language school, Hello! Exmouth. Groups of international students visit the museum to take part in a treasure hunt quiz, working together in teams. As well as practising their English reading skills, they learn about the history of Exmouth and what life was like in earlier times, making the experience both educational and enjoyable.



Beacon Church of England School photo taken from their Facebook page

Diary Dates JULY 2026

Saturday 11th & 12th July 2026

Exmouth Festival

The Strand,
We will be there with our gazebo.

Thursday 16th July 2026

Museum Coffee Morning

10.15 - 12.15 at the Axis Centre, Market Street, (behind the cinema)

Saturday 25th July 2026

Organ and Transplant Awareness Day

The Strand,
We will be there with our gazebo

Thursday 30th July 2026

Museum Quiz night

7.15 for 7.45 start, at the Wings Bar Imperial Road, Exmouth

A Victorian Summer Holiday

The development of the Victorian seaside holiday transformed towns such as Exmouth.

The arrival of the railway on 1 May 1861 made the town much more accessible, bringing large numbers of visitors and helping it grow from a fishing community into a popular seaside resort.

Victorian holidaymakers enjoyed promenading along the seafront, both for health reasons and as a social activity where people could be seen by others. Strict social rules applied, including expectations about proper behaviour and chaperoning of women. Seaside visits were often recommended for health benefits. Many visitors came to "take to the waters" by bathing in the sea. This was popular as the upper classes thought this was beneficial to their health and doctors were increasingly recommending trips to seaside resorts. Bathing machines provided privacy while changing and entering the water, and some resorts employed "dippers" to assist bathers.

The original article was written by Pam Langford for the OneMag

The construction of Exmouth's sea wall in 1841–42 enabled land reclamation and further development of the town as a seaside destination.

One of Exmouth's most famous landmarks, the Clock Tower, was built in 1897 to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. Originally powered by a clockwork mechanism wound twice weekly, the clock was made by J. W. Benson of London, official clockmakers to the Queen. The original mechanism is still preserved and displayed in the museum. Where it is wound daily by stewards.

With its golden sands, the railway and good quality hotels all helped create the Victorian seaside holiday experience in Exmouth.



Outside Events News

In June, the Museum gazebo was at the Armed Forces Day event in The Strand. It was a busy day in Exmouth, as the Exmouth Pride event was also taking place in the Manor Gardens.

The Museum had artefacts and merchandise on display and enjoyed welcoming many visitors who stopped to chat and look around.

In July, we will once again be out and about with our gazebo at the Exmouth Festival. You can find us in The Strand on both Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th July. This time we will be displaying a different selection of artefacts, along with our ever-popular merchandise, The Key Game, Treasure Hunt and raffle, will be there helping to raise funds for the Museum.

Later in July, we will return to The Strand for Organ Donor and Transplant Awareness Day. Once again, we will be bringing our popular games, raffle and Museum merchandise.

Please do come along and have a chat with us.

If you would like to help the Museum in any way, we would love to hear from you. Whether you would like to make a donation, volunteer your time, or have artefacts that you think may be of interest to us, your support would be greatly appreciated.



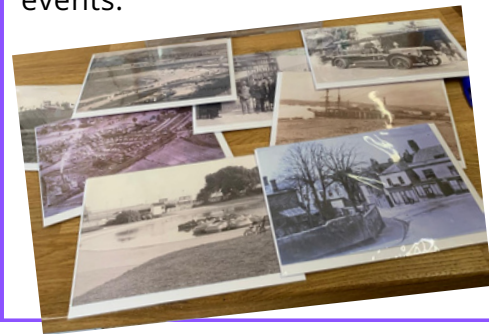
WHAT'S NEW AT THE MUSEUM

The Museum is pleased to be able to add a lovely range of picture cards of old Exmouth to its merchandise sales. The photographs were taken by the late Bill Sleeman and showcase many of the town's most memorable scenes.

Each picture is beautifully presented on a blank folded card, allowing plenty of space for your own personal message. Whether it is for a birthday, a thank-you note, or any special occasion, each card comes complete with an envelope and is packaged in a cellophane bag.

Cards are priced at £3 each.

The selection features a variety of famous photographs taken by Bill throughout his lifetime, carefully compiled by his nephew for everyone to enjoy. These cards are available from the Museum Shop and from our stall when we attend outside events.



Don't Forget our Fund Raising Events

