

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 32

AUGUST 2026

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CIO



Latest News of the Museum

Museum News

Bishop of Crediton Becomes Museum's First Patron

As we celebrate the anniversary of the museum's opening this July, we are delighted to announce the appointment of our very first Museum Patron.

The Right Reverend Moira Astin, Bishop of Crediton, has kindly accepted our invitation to become Patron of Exmouth Museum. As Bishop of Crediton, whose episcopal area includes Exmouth, Bishop Moira welcomed the opportunity to support the museum and join our growing family of Trustees, volunteers and supporters.

Her appointment marks an important milestone in the museum's development and reflects the growing recognition of the museum's role in preserving and sharing Exmouth's rich history and heritage.

We are honoured to have Bishop Moira's support and hope this is the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the museum. In the coming weeks, we also look forward to welcoming additional Trustees as we continue to strengthen our team and build for the future.

As we celebrate another year since the museum first opened its doors, we thank everyone who has contributed to its success and look forward with confidence to the opportunities ahead.

Diary Dates AUGUST 2026

Thursday 20th August 2026

Museum Coffee Morning
at The Axis Centre (behind the cinema) Market St.
Exmouth

Thursday 27th August 2026

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

TBC August 2026

Afternoon Tea Party
Exmouth museum and
Salvation Army working
together to bring you an
afternoon tea party



L to R
Trustee Rev. David Arnott
Chair Management Committee
Carole Evershed, Bishop Moira,
Trustee & Management
Committee
Pete Hayes

photo taken
from our
Facebook page

The River Exe

Since the Romans established the settlement of Exeter around AD 50, the River Exe has played a major role in shaping the history of Exmouth.

The River Exe flows south for approximately 60 miles (96 km) from its source at Exe Head on Exmoor to its mouth at Exmouth, where it enters the sea through the Exe Estuary. Rising at an elevation of around 1,600 feet (490 metres) above sea level, the river winds across moorland before passing through Exeter on its journey to the coast.

The name "Exe" is believed to derive from the ancient Celtic word *Isca*, meaning "water" or "fish-filled river". This root is also found in the Roman name for Exeter, *Isca Dumnoniorum*.

The River Exe was central to Exmouth's development. Its waters

supported important local industries including fishing, boatbuilding and dock operations.

Built in 1868, Exmouth Docks became a busy commercial port where goods were loaded and unloaded from vessels arriving from around the world. The docks continued operating well into the twentieth century, with the final commercial vessel, the 700-ton *Star Libra*, departing in 1990.

Dixon's Boatyard began as a small yard near the seafront at the turn of the twentieth century. In addition to constructing commercial fishing vessels, Dixon & Sons built clinker-built punts, sailing dinghies and yachts, earning a reputation for quality craftsmanship.

Exmouth has always maintained a strong maritime tradition. Although the fishing industry has declined over the years, commercial fishing boats still operate from the town today.

The arrival of the railway brought considerable prosperity to Exmouth. Unusually, railway lines run on both sides of the River Exe: the Avocet Line on the eastern side of the estuary and the South Devon Main Line along the western shore.

The Exmouth to Starcross Ferry has carried passengers across the River Exe for many centuries. Early crossings were made using simple boats launched directly from the beach. Later, the ferry operated from a quay known as *Mona Island*, situated near what is now *Glenorchy Church* on Exeter Road. It is difficult to imagine today, but until the mid-eighteenth century the sea extended much further inland.

If you wish to know more there is a large collection of photographs at the Museum.

The original article was written by Pam Langford for the OneMag

How you can Help !

After a long haul we have succeeded in buying our building at a cost of £150,000.00

This was achieved by fundraising and donation from the public amounting to £70,000.00, and a loan from East Devon District Council of £80,000.00

- Now, we have a commitment to make repayments of £4,025.44 each year
- Would you make a commitment to us to help? Just £2.00 a month or £24.00 a year?
- If just 168 people did this it would cover one year's repayment!

You could set this up at your bank, in person or online banking (if you have that facility). Or you could go to our website (see below) or do the same through PayPal, it is not necessary to have an account with them first.

Or, if you prefer to write a cheque, post in our letterbox or in the mail the address is :

Exmouth Museum & Heritage Centre, Sheppards Row, Exmouth.
EX8 1PW

or hand to our steward in Reception.

If you are a UK Tax payer you may wish to Gift Aid your donation this raises us even more funds. Forms are on our website or in Reception.

Our account details are:
Exmouth Museum & Heritage Centre

A/c 12059994
Sort code: 52-10-26

Or, you can do a donation through our Just Giving QR code



Just so you know, we are not state funded, everyone is a volunteer including the management team, we have to pay business rates for our utilities as well as trying to improve and maintain the 19th century building and bring value to our community.

Your help will be valued.

HOW GOOD WAS JULY

July was a wonderful month for the museum, with plenty of opportunities to connect with our local community and welcome both familiar and new faces through our doors.

We were delighted to take part in a number of outside events and to welcome visitors from Hello! Exmouth. It was also a pleasure to host a school visit, giving Students the chance to learn more about our local heritage, and to continue our outreach work we visited local care homes.

Our regular coffee morning remains as popular as ever, providing a friendly space for people to meet and chat. We also enjoyed another successful quiz night at the Wings Bar, which brought together supporters for an evening of fun, laughter, and friendly competition.

We would like to thank everyone who attended our events, volunteered their time, and support throughout the month. Your enthusiasm and involvement help and vibrant part of the community, and we look forward to seeing you at future events.