

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Latest News from the Museum

HALLOWEEN HALF-TERM AT EXMOUTH MUSEUM! 🎃

Get ready for a spooktacular week at Exmouth Museum as we celebrate our final week of the 2026 season!

Monday 26th – Saturday 31st October 2026

Bring the family along and enjoy some Halloween fun, including:

🎃 Hunt the Pumpkin

🍬 Trick-or-Treats

👻 Halloween fun for the children

👗 Fancy dress welcome!

Fancy dress is optional, but dressing up will certainly add to the occasion and help make our Halloween week extra special!



OUR FINAL DAY OPEN OF 2026

Saturday 31st October will be our final open day of the 2026 season.

But don't think that means our volunteers will be putting their feet up for the winter!

Far from it !

Once we close to visitors, our dedicated volunteers will be busy behind the scenes carrying out essential repairs, maintenance and improvements, as well as working on new displays and projects throughout the winter there is always plenty to keep us busy, and all of this work helps ensure that Exmouth Museum is ready to welcome you back for the 2027 season.

Diary Dates OCTOBER 2026

Thursday 15th October 2026

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

Thursday 29th October 2026

Museum Quiz night

7.45 start, at the Wings Bar
Imperial Road, Exmouth

Monday 26th - 31st October 2026

Halloween Week

Pumpkin Hunt Trail, Trick or Treat,

Saturday 31st October 2026

Last day of the museum

we will be closed for the winter

❤️ A huge thank you to everyone who has visited, supported and volunteered with us throughout 2026.

So come and see us during our final week — and help us finish the 2026 season with a little Halloween magic! 🎃 🕷️ 👻

REOPENING:

Monday 22nd March 2027

Ready for the Easter holidays! 🐰

We look forward to seeing you!

Halloween: A Bit of History

With October drawing close, the pumpkins are appearing on doorsteps, fancy dress costumes are being dusted off and the shops are filling up with enough sweets to keep the nation going until Christmas!

But where did Halloween actually come from?

Well, it turns out that this increasingly popular celebration has a rather long history - stretching back over 2,000 years.

It all began with Samhain

Halloween's roots can be traced back to an ancient Celtic festival called **Samhain** (pronounced roughly *sow-en*).

Samhain marked the end of the harvest and the beginning of winter. It was traditionally celebrated around the end of October and was an important time of the year for Celtic communities, particularly in Ireland and Scotland.

It was also believed that, at this time of year, the boundary between the world of the living and the world of the dead became rather thin.

Bonfires were lit and people sometimes wore disguises, perhaps to confuse or ward off unwanted spirits.

So, if you've ever wondered why



Halloween involves dressing up and a slightly unhealthy interest in ghosts, witches and things that go bump in the night- now you know!

How did it become Halloween?

As Christianity spread throughout Britain and Europe, some older seasonal traditions became mixed with Christian celebrations.

1 November became All Saints' Day, also known as All Hallows' Day.

The evening before was therefore known as **All Hallows' Eve**- which over time, was shortened to the rather snappier **Halloween**.

The following day, **2 November, was All Souls' Day**, a time to remember those who had died.

A very old version of trick-or-treating

The tradition of knocking for treats isn't entirely modern either. During the Middle Ages, people took part in **souling**, visiting homes and offering prayer for the dead in return for food. There was also **guising** where people dressed up and performed songs, poems or little tricks in exchange for something to eat.

It sounds remarkably like an early vision of trick-or-treating-although



today's children are probably more interested in the sweets than a prayer!

From turnips to pumpkins

And then there's the humble jack-o'-lantern.

In Ireland and Scotland, people originally carved **turnips and other root vegetables**, rather than pumpkins. Candles were placed inside to create lanterns.

When Irish and Scottish immigrants took their Halloween traditions to North America, they discovered that pumpkins were plentiful-and considerably easier to carve.

The pumpkin soon became the star of the show.

Halloween today

Here in Britain, Halloween has become increasingly popular, with children dressing up, families carving pumpkins, parties taking place and, inevitably, the occasional doorbell rung by a small witch or vampire demanding sweets. From ancient Celtic harvest celebration's to today's pumpkins filled doorsteps. Halloween has certainly had a interesting journey.

So, as you carve your pumpkin spare a thought for those ancient turnips carvers-they had considerably had a tougher work ahead of them!

Have a fightfully good Halloween!



Exmouth Comes Together for the Town Mayor's Civic Service

On Saturday, 12 September, the people of Exmouth came together to celebrate the Town Mayor's Civic Service, held at Holy Trinity Church.

A member of the Museum Trustees was present to represent the museum and join the many local organisations and members of the community who gathered for this special occasion.

The service was opened by the Town Crier, followed by a performance from the Exmouth Town Concert Band.

The congregation was then taken on a journey through some of the many events that had taken place in Exmouth.

Among those remembered was the extraordinary event in January, when a Second World War bomb was dredged from the waters of Exmouth Marina. It was certainly a memorable day for the

people of Exmouth, and more about this remarkable event can be read at the museum. The Mayor spoke about the importance of community and the many people and organisations who contribute to making Exmouth such a vibrant and welcoming town. The service continued with a variety of musical performances, including singing from Hannah Deasy and members of the Exmouth Musical Theatre Company, among others. The Civic Service concluded with words of thanks, followed by a closing prayer for Exmouth and a blessing. The occasion ended with the National Anthem. It was a wonderful celebration of Exmouth, its community, and the many people who give their time and talents to make the town such a special place.

VOLUNTEER END-OF-SEASON COFFEE MORNING

10am – 12 noon
Friday 30th October
at Exmouth Museum

We would like to invite all **our volunteers** to join us for a relaxed end-of-season coffee morning.

This is our way of saying a **BIG THANK YOU** for all your support, dedication and hard work throughout the 2026 season.

Whether you've been with us all season or have helped whenever you could, you are very much appreciated and warmly invited. Come along, enjoy a cuppa, have a chat and spend some time together as we celebrate another successful season at Exmouth Museum.

Thank you for everything you do!

