

Start your walk at Bexhill Museum on Egerton Road. **[1] BEXHILL MUSEUM.** The Museum was opened in 1914 in the former Egerton Park Shelter Hall. This Hall had originally been built in 1903 to provide public toilets and the park's first indoor entertainments venue. In 1920 Mr Henry Sargent was appointed firstly as Assistant Curator and then as Curator, a post he retained until his death in 1983. Following a £2 million extension and renovation in 2009, the Museum now has three galleries displaying natural history, costumes and the town's motor racing heritage; local history is displayed in all three galleries. One of the five Bexhill-on-Sea Motoring Heritage Trail interpretative boards can be found near the Museum's entrance. The position of the other boards are between Trail locations No.8 and 9; on the promenade opposite The Sackville and at the end of the promenade near

WEST PARADE (Blue trail)

Bexhill-on-Sea has a rich and varied history which continues to interest both its visitors and residents alike. To help you explore the town's interesting past, Bexhill Museum has devised four heritage trails which provide a fascinating glimpse of our town's history. This trail is about 2 miles long and will take about 2 hours to walk around but you may wish to allow more time by visiting any of the buildings open to the public. The trail is largely wheelchair friendly with no stairs or steep slopes. Several busy roads will need to be crossed so care should be taken at all times and pedestrian crossings used, if available.



the foot of Galley Hill and finally outside Cooden Beach Hotel on Cooden Sea Road. Please try and find time to visit the Museum either at the start or finish of this trail or at some other convenient time. From the Museum's entrance walk to the east along Egerton Road passing Egerton Park Children's Centre, and then turn left through the metal gate into

[2] EGERTON PARK (PART 1). The Park was first laid out in 1888 by John Webb, a London surveyor and builder, who was responsible for the construction of much of modern-day Bexhill south of the railway from Sea Road

to the Polegrove. The Park was sold to Bexhill Urban District Council in 1901. The area to your left, where the Children's Centre and the Museum's extension are now located, was formerly the site of an open-air swimming pool first created in 1889. The pool was modernised on a number of occasions before finally being demolished in 1987. Also towards the left can be seen the adizone, an outdoors sports and fitness area which was erected in 2010 inspired by the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympic Games. Walk across the large oval of grassland, on which a bandstand once stood, towards the clubhouse, with the clock, of the Spartan Bowls Club and Lakeside Women's Bowls Club. Pass to the right of this building along the perimeter path and view the first public bowling green to be laid out in the town in 1907. At first there were no ditches or banks around the green so woods would sometimes roll into the nearby lake. Continue along this path past the lake with its folly tower up the slope to the Park's corner entrance at Wickham Avenue and Park Road. Cross the road to view

the foundations were laid in January 1899 and this Anglican church was dedicated in March 1900. Various extensions have since been added and the main church walls are distinctively made of flint cobbles. The church closed in January 2012 and the future of the building is now uncertain. Retrace your steps back through the Park's corner entrance to re-enter

[3] ST ANDREW'S CHURCH. The foundations were laid in January 1899 and this Anglican church was dedicated in March 1900. Various extensions have since been added and the main church walls are distinctively made of flint cobbles. The church closed in January 2012 and the future of the building is now uncertain. Retrace your steps back through the Park's corner entrance to re-enter

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BEXHILL MUSEUM

Encouraging Discovery



Bexhill Museums Limited
A charitable company limited by guarantee owing collections of costume, textiles, cultures of other lands, archaeology, natural history and the diverse heritage of Bexhill and district. It administers Bexhill Museum in Egerton Road which is an accredited museum. Liability of all members is legally limited to £1.

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LOGOS

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BEXHILL MUSEUM
Encouraging Discovery

Bexhill on Sea HERITAGE TRAILS



2. WEST PARADE Blue trail

War Memorial, Marina, De La Warr Pavilion, West Parade, Egerton Park, Polegrove, Richmond Road, West Parade

War Two are recorded on this Memorial funded by public subscription. It was unveiled on May 6th 1995. Now walk through the car park to the front entrance of

[12] DE LA WARR PAVILION. This Grade I listed modernist building was the first major welded steel-framed building in Britain. It was designed by Erich Mendelsohn and Serge Chermayeff after they won a RIBA competition. Building work commenced in January 1935 and the pavilion was officially opened on December 12th 1935 by the Duke and Duchess of York, later to become King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. The cost was about £60,000. Please also look at the bandstand (2001) with its shell-like canopy. After, hopefully, spending some time exploring this important building and any of the current exhibitions, leave by the main entrance and turn left to walk towards the roundabout on Marina. On these grassy lawns adjacent to the De La Warr Pavilion once stood the large Metropole Hotel. It opened in 1900 but was left derelict after a serious fire in 1940 and bomb damage in 1941 and was finally demolished in 1955. A tram service between St Leonards and Bexhill began in 1906 and the trams terminated at this roundabout until, later in the year, the line was extended to Cooden Beach on the western side of town. Continue straight across the roundabout walking along Egerton Road, with the park on your left, until you once again reach the Museum's entrance.



You are now back at your starting point and we hope you have enjoyed this heritage trail. There are a number of other heritage trails around the town details of which may be obtained at Bexhill Museum.



[4] EGERTON PARK (PART 2). Walk down the slope or steps and follow the lake around to your right continuing towards the wooden kiosk. On your left there is a good view of the former Shelter Hall, now the Museum, and the children's playground refurbished in 2012. On your right is the model yacht pond followed by the Scented Garden for the Blind, opened in May 1951 and thought to be one of the first of its type in the country. Next on your left are the tennis courts then a fenced-off weather station followed by a large brick building which is the rear of Egerton Park Indoor Bowls Clubhouse opened in 1992. It stands on the site of a former open-air stage known as the Egerton Park Pergola, built in 1906 and partially enclosed in 1909. During the early 1930s it was replaced by the Egerton Park Pavilion, a combined theatre and indoor bowling centre. Continue along the footpath and look to the right for Egerton Park Lodge. This is the former home of the Parks Gardener built in about 1906 when the Parks extension to Brockley Road was completed to create a total of 13 acres. Continue to follow the footpath straight ahead to leave the park, cross over Brockley Road and walk through the entrance opposite to view the -

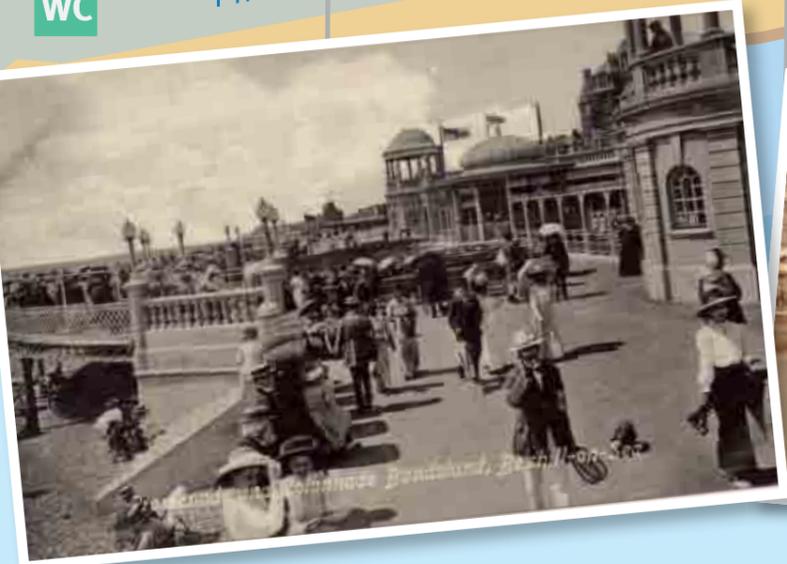
[5] POLEGROVE RECREATION GROUND. These former marshy grounds consist of 12 acres and were purchased by Bexhill Corporation in 1912. The land was initially levelled by the creation of a municipal land-fill site which in some places raised the land surface by six feet. This was followed by



WEST PARADE TRAIL

Bexhill on Sea
HERITAGE TRAILS

i Points of Interest
P Car Parks (also on street parking)
WC Toilets



the development of a recreation ground in 1923. The present football stand, on your left, was completed in 1929 replacing an earlier one which collapsed during a match fortunately without any serious injury to the spectators. Behind the stand can be seen the six "West Indies" blocks of flats, built in the 1970s and early 80s, and all named after some of the Caribbean islands, which were popular holiday destinations for the builder, R A Larkin and his family. During the Second World War part of the Polegrove was cultivated to grow food as part of the "Dig for Victory" campaign and part was used to store bomb damaged debris as a source of raw materials for reconstruction work. The Polegrove has been home to the Bexhill Horse Show on the Late May Bank Holiday Monday since 1903. On the far side can be seen the cricket pavilion, opened in 1971, and beyond the hedge are four Cumberland bowling greens, the first laid in 1923, belonging to Polegrove Bowls Club and Bexhill Bowls Club. To the left can just be seen the top of their Art Deco style clubhouse built in 1937. Leave the Polegrove through the same opening, turn right and walk down Brockley Road until you are opposite the Sovereign Light Café on West Parade. Cross over the road and turn left to walk back towards the town centre hopefully enjoying the sea air and lovely views. Soon you will be opposite the

[6] CLOCK TOWER. Designed to commemorate the coronation of King Edward VII in 1902 the tower was not finished until 1904 to the embarrassment of all concerned. Opposite the Clock Tower on the promenade stood a bandstand, built in about 1902 but then demolished after it was severely damaged by gales in the 1960s. Near that site now stands a stone plinth with an orientation compass indicating the direction and distances of places of interest. To the left of the Clock Tower on the far side of the road can be seen an elegant house called Oceania, built in 1903. The adjacent Clock Tower Court (built 1958-60) occupies an area formerly used as a putting green. If you now turn around and look out to sea towards the south southwest, then on a clear day you will be

able to see the Royal Sovereign Light Tower, about 6 miles from our shoreline. This automated lighthouse was completed in 1971 replacing a lightvessel which had been anchored there since 1875. Further to your right you can usually see Eastbourne and the headland which leads around to Beachy Head. The gardens along West Parade promenade were completely redesigned during 2009-11. Continue to walk east along West Parade promenade until you reach a large wooden shelter on your left opposite Alderton Court (built 1960-62). Look in the floor behind the shelter near to the road kerb to find the

[7] FRAPPING-ANCHOR POINT. This plaque and a green anchor point records the commercial fishing and pleasure boat operations undertaken by A G Moore and Sons between about 1906 and 1960. If you look at the edge of the promenade on the beach side, opposite this point, you can still see marks where the cables used to haul their boats up the beach cut into the stonework. Continue walking past a seaside kiosk towards the large Metropole Lawn looking out for the circular Diamond Jubilee Walk plaque (2012) set in a pathway close to where the grassed areas slope up towards the De La Warr Pavilion, until you reach the

[8] COLONNADE. Built on the site of former Martello Tower No 46, which was demolished in 1870, this Grade II listed building was opened in July 1911 to commemorate the coronation of King George V. A raised bandstand once stood in the centre of the ground floor with an outside walkway that projected over the beach; both have since been lost. Major refurbishments to the Colonnade were undertaken in 2010-11. Set in the promenade opposite the Colonnade may be seen a human sundial, with plaque, in celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee (2012). By standing on the square of the relevant month, during a sunny day, the shadow of the person falls across the clock thereby showing the time of day. Now continue walking east past the boathouse of Bexhill Rowing Club, established in 1893, along the seaward side of Marina Court Avenue (built 1906) and across Channel

View West (1907) admiring the homes and gardens until you reach the end of this part of the promenade. Turn left up Channel View East and near the main road on the left can be seen another of the Motoring Heritage Trail interpretative boards. Cross over Marina at the pedestrian crossing. Turn left and then just before a large brick-built apartment block, turn right up Wilton Road to find after about 50 yards the

[9] MASONIC TEMPLE. The early meetings of the Bexhill Lodge were held in the former Sackville Hotel. The Temple's foundation stone was laid on May 13th 1931 but it was not until September 1939 that the Lodge transferred its meetings here. Retrace your steps back to Marina, turn right past Marina Court (built 1990) and then Dalmore Court (1961). Marina Arcade (1905), on the opposite side of the road has provided over the years a library, gift shop, photographic studio and tea rooms. At the corner of Devonshire Road cross over and then use the pedestrian crossing back over Marina to reach Marina Court Avenue (1903-06). A number of buildings in this area reflect the Mughal style of architecture, with domes, which was popular at that time. Continue along Marina Court Avenue in the direction of the De La Warr Pavilion until you reach the last house

[10] NO 22, MARINA COURT AVENUE. In 1911 this was the home of the Maharajah of Cooch Behar who had come to Bexhill to try and improve his failing health. At that time the city of Cooch Behar was the seat of the princely state of Koch Bihar in the present-day state of West Bengal. Sadly the Maharajah's health did not get better and he passed away on September 18th 1911. His funeral procession from here, along Devonshire Road to the railway station remains Bexhill's largest state occasion. A funeral train then proceeded to Victoria Station, London. This house is a private residence so please respect the owner's privacy. All the houses and railings of Marina Court Avenue are Grade II listed. Cross over to the adjacent area of lawn and look at

[11] BEXHILL CIVILIAN MEMORIAL. The names of 24 civilians who lost their lives in the town during World