

BEXHILL WEST STATION

car races along the Parade and the opening of the Bexhill West railway branch line to Crowhurst thereby providing an alternative route to London via the Hastings to Charing Cross line. The commercial centre of the town was now south of the original railway line and the population had grown to about 13,000. Following the 8th Earl's death during the First World War, his only son, Herbrand, succeeded him as the 9th Earl. He was instrumental in promoting the construction of the modernist De La Warr Pavilion which opened in 1935. Another source of prosperity at that time was the significant number of independent schools, mostly boarding, established within the town. They catered mainly for the children of parents who were overseas in the armed services or colonial administration. The railway branch line from Crowhurst, on the London and Hastings main line, to Bexhill closed in June 1964. From the 1960s, like many other British seaside resorts, Bexhill saw a gradual reduction in the numbers of holidaymakers but the town still retains a quiet and dignified appeal for its many visitors and residents.

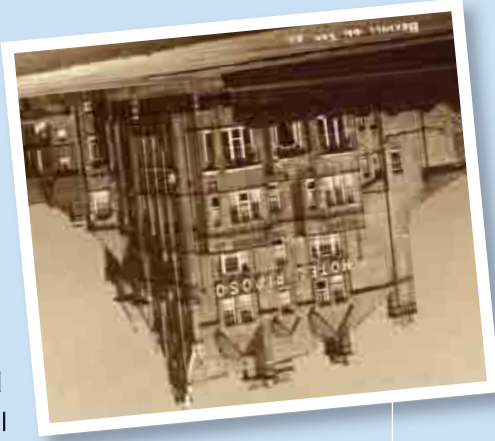


Bexhill-on-Sea has a rich historical heritage which encompasses a Saxon church, the King's German Legion garrison during the Napoleonic Wars, the emergence of a late Victorian seaside resort, Britain's first motor car races and the construction of the modernist De La Warr Pavilion. These four trails have been created to explore both the obvious and the less well known aspects of our town's history which we hope will appeal to both visitors and residents alike.

- 
1. EAST PARADE (red trail)
War Memorial, Sea Road, Cantlelupe Road, Brookfield Road, De La Warr Parade
- 
2. WEST PARADE (blue trail)
Museum, Egerton Park, West Parade, Channel View, Wilton Road, Marina, Egerton Road
- 
3. DEVONSHIRE SQUARE (green trail)
Devonshire Square, Western Road, Sackville Road, Marina, Devonshire Road, St Leonards Road, Sea Road, Endwell Road
- 
4. BUCKHURST SQUARE (orange trail)
Town Hall, Buckhurst Road, Clifford Road, Station Road, Buckhurst Place, Terminus Road, Wainwright Road, Victoria Road

Each trail is about 2 miles long and will take about 1 to 2 hours to walk around but you may wish to allow more time by visiting any of the buildings open to the public. The trails are 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.

In 1896 a bicycle boulevard was built along the eastern promenade. 1902 was a busy year for Bexhill receiving its Charter of Incorporation as a municipal borough, the staging of the first motor



One of the most important developments to influence the expansion of the town was the arrival of the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway which in 1846 opened the town's first station. Bexhill at that time was still isolated at the top of the hill in the area now referred to as Bexhill Old Town, but soon the village began to spread south to meet the railway line. The 7th Earl De La Warr was instrumental in deciding to develop Bexhill as a fashionable seaside resort adding the words "on-Sea" to the town in 1884. The Earl commissioned the London builder, John Webb, to build the eastern sea wall and lay out a promenade on the eastern side of the town, now De La Warr Parade. In part payment Webb accepted land south of the railway between Sea Road and the Polegrove which he soon developed forming the foundations of the modern town we know today. The luxurious Sackville Hotel was opened on the seaford in 1890 and originally included a home for the use of the 7th Earl's family. When the 7th Earl died in 1896, his eldest son, Viscount Cantelupe, became the 8th Earl De La Warr. He continued his father's work building high-class Victorian and Edwardian establishments and amenities including the town hall, hotels and places of entertainment to promote the new resort.

The first reference to Bexhill, as it is now known, was in a charter granted by King Offa of Mercia in AD 772 which established a church, St Peter's, and religious community in the village. Domesday Book of 1086 records the manor of Bexhill as being worth £18 10s. Queen Elizabeth I took possession of the manor in 1561 and nine years later in 1570 she granted it to Sir Thomas Sackville, Earl of Dorset. His descendants owned much of Bexhill until the mid-19th century.

In 1804, during the Napoleonic Wars, over 5000 soldiers of the King's German Legion were garrisoned at Bexhill. At the same time a number of defensive Martello Towers were built along the coast some near Bexhill. In 1814 the soldiers left having no doubt had a considerable effect on what was still a small village of about 500 people. During the early 1800s smuggling was a highly lucrative and common activity amongst a number of local residents. Elizabeth Sackville married the 5th Earl De La Warr in 1813 and when the male line of the Dukes of Dorset died out in 1865, the De La Warr family inherited Bexhill.

Brief history of Bexhill-on-Sea





BEXHILL MUSEUM

Encouraging Discovery





JOIN US TODAY!



Help us to ensure the future of Bexhill Museum and its fantastic collections

BENEFITS OF OUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP INCLUDE:


- FREE admission to Bexhill Museum
- Regular Newsletters
- Advanced notice of events including exhibitions, walks, lectures, day schools, social activities and outings
- Reduced rate for the museum's events and activities.

Single Adult £15


Family (2 adults + 2 Children under 18yrs) £30

Life membership: £300

Memberships (except Life Memberships) are valid for 12 months from the date of joining.
Other Membership categories are available.



Bexhill on Sea HERITAGE TRAILS



INTRODUCTION

**No. 1 East Parade • No.2 West Parade
No.3 Devonshire Square • No.4 Buckhurst Square**



Bexhill on Sea HERITAGE TRAILS



- RED TRAIL - East Parade
- BLUE TRAIL - West Parade
- GREEN TRAIL - Devonshire Square
- ORANGE TRAIL - Buckhurst Square

P Parking **WC** Toilets



Bexhill Museum - Something for Everyone



The Sargent Gallery

Housing a quirky mixture of objects and still retaining the atmosphere of a small Edwardian museum, the Sargent Gallery displays some of the first collections from the founding days of the museum.

In this gallery you will discover everything from stone-age life and Bexhill's links with dinosaurs to ancient Egyptians and an original Lowry painting. Explore local wildlife, customs and cultures of the world and get up close and personal with the Giant Crab!

This gallery also contains our Access Centre where you can research the history of Bexhill from Domesday times to the present day.



The Motor Racing Gallery

This gallery is devoted to celebrating Bexhill's role as the birth place of British Motor racing.

You can see three vehicles representing different eras and technology: a reproduction steam driven 1902 Serpollet or 'Easter Egg', a 1958 mk III Elva sports racing car and the 1993 world record breaker Volta electric car.

There are hands on displays so you can have a go at changing a car's tyre, installing spark plus and see how engines work.



The Costume Gallery

Delve into the museum's sumptuous fashion and costume collections dating from the 17th century to the modern day in our Costume Gallery.

These fantastic displays lead you through two hundred years of fashion and design, from tortuous corsets to stunning evening dresses.

Aspects of each era's social history are also brought to life with a selection of original everyday items alongside the costumes.



BEXHILL MUSEUM

Encouraging Discovery

Children and Families

Make the most of your visit by picking up one of our quiz sheets in the ticket office. There are a selection to choose from according to age and interests. Children are encouraged to have a go at the hands on exhibits in the Motor Racing Gallery.

There are also themed activities for children at different times of the year, so keep an eye on our website.

Events Throughout The Year

The museum hosts and organises a range of special events and activities throughout the year.

Our talks are extremely popular, covering a wide range of topics to suit all tastes. There are also coffee mornings, outings, walks, quiz nights and much more. Join the museum to receive a discount on ticket prices.

Our website and newsletter will keep you up to date with the latest details or just give us a call if you would like to know more.