

[1] WAR MEMORIAL. The seafront Memorial was unveiled on December 12th 1920 by Brigadier-General H O'Donnell. The bronze figure representing Victory is the work of British sculptor Louis Frederick Roslyn (1878-1934) one of the most prolific sculptors of war memorials. Looking north, then to your right near this road junction is where the De La Warr Gates were erected in 1895 across the Parade. They were erected when Bexhill Urban District Council would not pay the amount the 8th Earl De La Warr was asking for his private land east of this spot. Bexhill Corporation finally bought East Parade in 1913 and the gates were then removed. There was also a bandstand near here in the style of the remaining Victorian shelters which can still

Start your walk at the War Memorial, near Bexhill Sailing Club's headquarters, on the seafront at the junction of Marina, De La Warr Parade and Sea Road.

EAST PARADE (Red trail)

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



[6] OLD MAGISTRATES COURT (24 Cantelupe Road). This building was opened in 1903 with the resort's new police station next door. In hindsight both buildings were probably built in the wrong place as the town did not develop to the east of Sea Road as had been anticipated by Earl De La Warr. Note the "Sessions Court" and the 1889 seal of East Sussex County Council set in stone above the entrance. The building was converted into residential use during 2002. A few yards further on brings you outside the

along the road until you are outside the croquet being played on this lawn. Continue a little further never materialised. During summer months you may see However plans for a much larger building on this site Presbyterian church were laid on Easter Monday 1901. (ST GEORGE'S). Two foundation stones for this

[5] BEXHILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH sign on the wall, and Dorset Road South until you reach Bedford Avenue, noting the yellow cast-iron fire hydrant site. Continue walking along Cantelupe Road crossing both demolished in 2001 and St George's Court was built on the the First Church of Christ Scientist. Opened in 1931 it was Cantelupe Road and Bolebrook Road. Here used to stand Road and Middlessex Road until you reach the corner of Road. Walk along Cantelupe Road, crossing over Brassey wall, the sea could reach to about this point on Sea weather, before the construction of the present-day sea



[12] THE OLD BATHING STATION. Previously along this stretch of the beach striped tents were erected for sea bathers to change their clothes. It is often claimed that in 1901 Bexhill was the first English resort to permit mixed bathing. However, there is no known documentary evidence to support this claim but the town was probably amongst the very first resorts to allow such scandalous activities. Continue walking past another Victorian shelter which was originally a bandstand. On the opposite side of the road look at Sandringham, Cantelupe and De La Warr Courts (built c1904), where a public clock (2003) may be seen near the roof, and Glyne Hall (mid-1970s). Close by you will see the

[13] BEXHILL SAILING CLUB HEADQUARTERS. The sailing Club was established in 1947 and this clubhouse was built in 1964 on the former site of the Kursaal which stood here from 1896 to 1936. The Kursaal was Bexhill's first entertainment pavilion which included a theatre, reading rooms and tea lounge. It was intended as the first stage of a pier but this was never built. Despite many schemes being put forward between 1895 and 1907 no pier has ever been built in Bexhill. The Kursaal was managed by Jimmy Glover who was also the Musical Director at Drury Lane, London, and he arranged for many famous artistes of the day to perform in Bexhill. Its distinctive domes and oriental-type architecture set the trend for other buildings in the area some of which can still be seen today.



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] SYDENHAM COURT. Sydenham House, a popular cafe, opened on this site in 1927. During World War Two it became the WRVS "Forces Corner" and probably its most famous customer was the comedian Spike Milligan who was stationed in Bexhill as part of D Battery 56th Regiment Royal Artillery, from June 1940 until February 1941. He describes his war-time experiences in his book *Adolf Hitler: My Part in His Downfall* (1971). The building was eventually demolished in 1974 and replaced by this residential block of flats. In rough

road can be seen 1903 until his death in 1961. On the opposite side of the enthusiast and journalist writing for The Motor Cycle from the nom-de-plume Ixion, he was a keen motorcycling St Barnabas from 1926-1940. In his spare time, and using heritage plaque dedicated to Canon Basil Davies, vicar of Anglican church. If open, then inside may be seen a blue cobbles as a building material. It is now a Grade C listed the following year, this is a fine example of the use of flint [3] ST BARNABAS' CHURCH. Built in 1890 and consecrated Cantelupe Road to view

[2] THE NORTHERN HOTEL. Created from a terrace of six town houses, the premises originally offered guest house facilities before becoming the Northern Hotel during the 1960s. The reason for the hotel's name remains uncertain but may reflect the earlier proprietors desire to attract visitors from 'The North'. Outside the hotel look for the large piece of wood from the submerged forest that runs along the coast here; this piece is about 4,000 years old. Continue walking up Sea Road until you reach the junction with St Leonards Road. Cross over Sea Road into Cantelupe Road to view

until you reach cross over Marina, turn right and then left up Sea Road and, finally, outside the Star Inn at Normans Bay. Now Sidley Green; close to A259 roundabout in Little Common Galleys Hill; near the Manor Gardens, Bexhill Od Town; by boards, The locations of the other boards are at the top of crossing look at The *Bexhill Smuggling Trail* interpretive be seen further along the promenade. Near the pedestrian


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Bexhill Museum
 Egerton Rd, Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex TN39 3HL
 Tel: 01424 787950

email: membership@bexhillmuseum.co.uk

LOGOS

www.bexhillmuseum.co.uk


Bexhill on Sea
HERITAGE TRAILS





2. EAST PARADE

Red trail

War Memorial, Sea Road, Cantelupe Road,
 Brookfield Road, De La Warr Parade


BEXHILL MUSEUM
Encouraging Discovery

EAST PARADE TRAIL



[7] POLICE STATION (26 Cantelupe Road). Also opened in 1903, note “East Sussex County Police” set in stone around the entrance door as well as the remaining old brick walls and railings surrounding both properties. The building was closed and converted into residential use as Chancery Court during 2002 after a new police station was opened on the other side of town. Proceed further along this road turning the sharp right-hand corner into Brookfield Road. The modernist building, Brookfield Court, built in 1934-35, is best viewed from Lionel Road. Continue until you reach De La Warr Parade on the seafront. At the junction on the left-hand side is

[8] BUPA GROSVENOR PARK. This building was opened in 1958 by the then Lord Mayor of London, Sir Denis Truscott, as a convalescent home of the National Union of Printing, Bookbinding and Paper Workers (now the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades). Originally known as the Alf Evans Convalescent Home it is now a BUPA nursing and residential home. At the junction with De La Warr Parade look to your left up Galley Hill. This large expanse of grass was part of the links golf course of Bexhill’s first golf club founded in 1880 on Earl De La Warr’s private estate. The 18-hole course stretched to the top of Galley Hill and onto the other side of the current railway line; 5 holes this side of the railway, 13 on the other side. Although the course closed early in World War Two the outline of some former bunkers can still be seen. The building at the top of the hill is Bexhill HM Coastguard Rescue Station and nearby can be seen the Trafalgar Beacon (2005). Now cross over De La Warr Parade and turn right along the promenade to hopefully enjoy some lovely shoreline views. The sea wall and promenade were built in 1883. Notice on your right a series of residential apartment blocks including Barbados (built c1965), Strathmore Court (c1932), Cavendish Court (c1963), Motcombe Court (1938), Trafalgar House (2002) and Belgrave Court (c1963). Continue until you are opposite

[9] THE SACKVILLE. Opened in 1890 this was then considered the town’s most luxurious hotel. The eastern half of the building was the private residence of the 7th Earl De La Warr’s family. The Hotel was damaged by bombs, as were many buildings in Bexhill, during World War Two, and it closed in 1960 to be converted into apartments. At the entrance to the bar and restaurant can be seen a blue plaque recognising the Sackville Hotel as the headquarters for the first international motor races in Britain in May 1902. Then inside this building on the right-hand side can be viewed the *Motor Racing Heritage Centre*, a fine display of photographs relating to the 1902 and 1904 motor races. In May 1902 the 8th Earl De La Warr, having been impressed by similar events he had seen at Nice in France, organised races along De La Warr Parade which at that time was his private land, hence the national speed limit of 12 mph could be ignored. The main race of the 1902 meeting was won by the French driver Leon Serpollet in his steam car *Easter Egg* which reached an average speed of nearly 55mph. Opposite the Sackville on the promenade may be seen a tubular sculpture (2002) designed by former mayor, Peter Fairhurst, of the *Easter Egg* as part of Bexhill’s centenary of incorporation celebrations. A full-size road-worthy replica of the original car can be seen in the *Motoring Gallery* at Bexhill Museum. Near the sculpture can be viewed one of the five *Bexhill-on-Sea Motoring Heritage Trail* interpretative boards. The location of the other boards are at the end of the promenade near the foot of Galley Hill; by the main road on Channel View East close to The Sailing Club Headquarters (Trail location No.13); outside Bexhill Museum on Egerton Road and, finally, outside the Cooden Beach Hotel on Cooden Sea Road where there is also a fine display of photographs in their *Motor Racing Heritage Centre*. Also near the sculpture is a Grade II listed shelter, one of a number of Victorian shelters to be found along the seafront. In 1896 on the promenade close to where you are now standing was built the *Cycle Chalet*. This was another of the 8th Earl’s innovations to attract affluent visitors

to the town and a bicycle boulevard was laid out from here to a turnaround point at the foot of Galley Hill; cycles could be hired and lessons were also provided. International cycling tournaments were held in the town between 1896-8. Cross over De La Warr Parade and start walking up Middlesex Road, crossing over Knole Road until you reach the

[10] VICTORIA HOUSE. A wall plaque records that this house was built in 1897 to commemorate the 60th year of Queen Victoria’s reign. This house is a private residence so please respect the owner’s privacy. Retrace your steps to De La Warr Parade noting on your right the long curved terraces of Stonehaven Court, Knole Court, Berkeley Mansions, Newdigate House, Carlton Court and Hartley Court, all completed in 1893 and now Grade II listed. On the De La Warr Parade turn right to look at a Victorian pillar box, one of only four such boxes remaining in the town. On the lawn on the opposite side of the road can be found a stone plaque (1994) which marks the finishing line of the 1902 motor races. Towards the top of Galley Hill is a similar stone plaque marking the starting line for the race; the course was one kilometre in length. For the 1904 races the course was reversed. The impressive row of terraced Grade II listed buildings can now be seen from their seaward side. Continue along De La Warr Parade, crossing over Brassey Road until you reach

[11] THE NORMANHURST. This imposing former hotel was built in about 1904 and is named after Normanhurst Court which was the Brassey family’s residence at nearby Catsfield. Thomas, 1st Earl Brassey, was Bexhill Borough Mayor between 1907 and 1908 and his son Thomas was also the town’s Mayor the following year. Since 1968 this building has been a combined residential hotel, nursing and care home. Stucco and cement ornamental decoration on the upper part of the building along Brassey Road is to be admired. Now re-cross De La Warr Parade to view