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[2] LANE MEMORIAL. Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Lane (1827-95) is known as the "Father of Local Government

BUCKHURST SQUARE TRAIL (Orange trail)

Start your walk by the Town Hall in Buckhurst Square. **[1] TOWN HALL.** Built in 1894, this impressive building was opened on April 27th 1895 by Sir Joseph Renals, the Lord Mayor of London, whose state coach and horses were brought to the town by train for the ceremony. The date is recorded in stone around the entrance door. Also if the main doors are open then look for the initials "BDC" (Bexhill District Council: 1894-1902) in the tiled steps at the entrance. To the left of this door may be seen a marble wall plaque dated March 16th 1908 which is when the Town Hall was extended. Cross over the road into the small gardens in the centre of the square to view the

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Bexhill on Sea HERITAGE TRAILS



4. BUCKHURST SQUARE Orange trail

Town Hall, Buckhurst Road, Clifford Road, Station Road, Buckhurst Place, Terminus Road, Wainwright Road, Victoria Road

[3] ROTHER COMMUNITY HUB & CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU. This is the former London and County Bank which was opened in 1898 and later became a branch of the National Westminster Bank. Note the weatherane with the initials "LCB" and the word "Bank" in stone above the front entrance. With this building on your left walk up and then cross over the Buckhurst Road to stand beside the large grey modern building called the

[4] TELEPHONE EXCHANGE. This site originally housed a roller-skating rink which opened in 1910. When the rink closed in the early 1920s it became a garage. Then the building was converted into the Ritz Cinema opening in 1937 and finally closing in 1961. The town's Telephone Exchange was opened on this site in 1970. Continue walking up Buckhurst Road then turn right along Clifford Road to view

[5] BEULAH BAPTIST CHURCH. Opened in August 1898, there are two impressive foundation stones to be seen just beyond the entrance to the Beulah Centre. These are by the door to the former church hall opened in 1896. Continue along Clifford Road until you reach the corner with Station Road. On your right is

[6] BEXHILL YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE. Built in 1887, it opened as the Bexhill Institute, to commemorate Queen Victoria's golden jubilee. Originally the building contained a reading room, smoking room, committee room, card room, bar parlour and, later, a billiard room. Subsequently the Institute became a Church Army centre and since 1961

[7] BAIRD AND HELENSBURGH COURTS. John Logie Baird (1888-1946), inventor of the world's first practical, and publicly demonstrated, television system and also the world's first fully electric colour television tube, lived from January 1945 until his death in June 1946 in the building which previously occupied this site. That house was demolished in 2007 to be replaced by these two apartment blocks in 2009. Helensburgh in Scotland was John Logie Baird's birth place. Bexhill's first blue heritage plaque dedicated to John Logie Baird may be seen on the new building.

BEXHILL OLD TOWN. At this point on the Trail it is possible to turn left and go up the hill along Sea Road to reach Bexhill Old Town. Many interesting buildings and sites may be found there including the Saxon St Peter's Church, the grounds and ruins of the 13th century coaching inn, and the Hotel which is a former 17th century coaching inn, and the German Legion who were stationed in Bexhill between 1804 and 1814. An information board and map is provided in the Manor Gardens close to the public conveniences in the car park on De La Warr Road.

Continuing with this trail then cross over Sea Road at the nearby crossing to view-

in Bexhill". All his achievements, both military and political, can be clearly read on his Memorial which was unveiled on June 25th 1898. This Grade II listed memorial also carries his portrait in bas relief and evidence of its use as a former drinking fountain. Decorative black lamp-standards, erected in 2003, with the former Bexhill District Council motif may also be seen around the Square. Re-cross the road back to the Town Hall side of the square, turn right and continue over Amherst Road to stand outside the building with the green copper dome.

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and Victoria Road developed as a close-knit community during the late Victorian and early Edwardian periods. Many of the town's earliest small businesses and shops were to be found here. Continue along Victoria Road crossing both Reginald Road and Windsor Road until you reach house No.11

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

email: membership@bexhillmuseum.co.uk



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[16] VICTORIA HALL. This was a Congregationalist meeting hall, reading room and private school so-called because it opened in 1887 during Queen Victoria's golden jubilee. Look for the circular terra cotta bas relief of Queen Victoria above the bay window. Since 2010 both the Victoria Hall and St John's Church have been developed as an activity centre for young people. Continue to the end of Victoria Road to view

[17] ST JOHN'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH. This church was built in 1897 but, following a reorganisation of the Congregational churches within Bexhill, it was closed to services in 2007. Cross over London Road and turn right to view

[18] O'DONNELL HOUSE. Opened in 1922, the building is now home to the British Legion Comrades Club. It was named after Brigadier-General H O'Donnell who unveiled the War Memorial on Bexhill's seafront on December 12th 1920. O'Donnell became president of the Bexhill branch of the Legion on its formation in 1921 and was the first local organiser of Poppy Day.

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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.



BUCKHURST SQUARE TRAIL



[8] ST MARY MAGDALENE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH & PEACE MEMORIAL. A clergy and school-house was established here in 1891 and the present church opened in October 1907. The church and adjacent hall are Grade II listed buildings. The Peace Memorial at the junction of Sea Road and Magdalen Road was the town's first war memorial being unveiled on November 2nd 1919; it was designed by the then Mayor, George Gray. On the reverse of the Memorial may be seen, but usually with some difficulty, a Latin inscription dedicated to the 500 or so Belgian refugees who were cared for in Bexhill during World War One. The names of five refugees who died during this time are also recorded. Re-cross Sea Road to look at

[9] BEXHILL RAILWAY STATION. This is the third station to be built on the former London, Brighton and South Coast Railway line, and was opened in 1902. A major restoration project was completed in 2008 and it is now a Grade II listed building. In the booking hall the central lantern of the roof space is worth admiring. Walk through the concourse for an elevated view of the station. The long platforms were created when the old station in Devonshire Square closed and its existing platforms joined up to those of the present station. Although it is believed by some that the platforms were made deliberately long to accommodate the trains at the start of each new term serving the 180 or so independent schools that flourished in the town between 1900 and 1940, this was not the case and the long platforms were just a fortunate outcome of the two stations being built close together. On leaving the station turn left and retrace your steps down Station Road passing the footbridge over the railway until you reach a point where the road curves to the right. Here to your left is

[10] CHESSINGTON TYRES. This building was originally part of Caffyns' garage established during the First World War. The art deco style frontage was added in the 1930s. Opposite, where Sainsbury's car park can now be seen,

was the site of Bexhill's first railway station opened in June 1846. Later this area developed into a railway goods yard when the station was rebuilt on the opposite side of the tracks in Devonshire Square. Continue along Station Road until you re-enter Buckhurst Square. On your left may be seen Warburton & Sons (established in 1887) which, since 1910, have occupied these premises specialising in pet and garden supplies. Continue to keep to the left of the Square until you reach, on your left, the

[11] SAINSBURY'S SCULPTURAL RELIEF. This three-panelled sculpture, designed by Henry and Joyce Collins, was unveiled in 1976. It depicts local historical events, industry and landmarks. Now look over to the nearby corner of the Square to view

[12] THE TOWN HOUSE. Originally this was the Castle Hotel, built in 1886, which provided not only refreshments and accommodation but also livery, bait stables and lock-up coach-houses. Continue walking along Buckhurst Place then cross over the road at the pedestrian crossing. Turn left and as you cross over Windsor Road look to your left to see

[13] SACKVILLE ROAD RAILWAY BRIDGE. When the railway first arrived at Bexhill in 1846 it was necessary to construct cattle arches to allow mainly livestock movement from one side of the track to the other. As Sackville Road grew in importance the arch proved too narrow for traffic so in 1892 the arch was demolished and replaced by a cast-iron bridge. This was made by the Pimlico foundry in London, owned by Henry Young who lived in Bexhill. The present bridge dates from 1978. Before the construction of adequate sea defences, in rough weather the sea could reach to about this point on Sackville Road. Now continue straight ahead along Terminus Road until you reach on your right

[14] WNA PRINTERS. This is the site of the former blacksmiths, Turner and Dawes. Note evidence of the originally larger entrance to the forge. The business was

ideally situated for the nearby railway stables. Behind the printers can be seen a large brick building, with a 1901 stone date plaque near the roof apex, which was built for Mr Johnson, a carpenter and joiner. The large wooden access doors and hoist allowed timber to be stored on a strengthened first floor with a workshop on the ground floor. Continue along Terminus Road crossing over Reginald Road and then eventually passing Bexhill Police Station (opened in 1999). Cross over Beeching Road until you reach, on your right, the former

[15] BEXHILL WEST RAILWAY STATION. Originally part of the Crowhurst, Sidley and Bexhill Railway, this station opened on June 1st 1902. The 4 miles branch line from here to Sidley and finally Crowhurst provided a link to the South Eastern Railway's Hastings to London mainline. The journey times to London by this route were significantly less than those on the already existing London, Brighton and South Coast Railway line along the coast from Bexhill to London via Lewes. However, the large numbers of expected holidaymakers travelling to Bexhill on this new route never materialised and commuter numbers were not large enough to maintain the route. The Beeching Report (1963) recommended the line's closure. Freight services to the station ceased in September 1963 and the branch line closed completely with the withdrawal of passenger services on June 15th 1964. Subsequently the main station buildings became an auction gallery. Major renovations were undertaken in 2011 before the station reopened as an antiques centre; if open the old station interior is well worth viewing. Also part of the original buildings is now a free house and restaurant. Retrace your steps and turn left along Beeching Road (named after Lord Beeching, Chairman of British Railways Board and author of the 1963 report) then turn right down Wainwright Road behind the Police Station. Follow the road around to the left then just beyond the recycling centre turn right along a footpath passing by the side the Scouts headquarters until you reach Victoria Road. This area of the town covering Reginald Road, Windsor Road, Leopold Road