

Seaside Holidays Trail

Littlehampton Museum

Before the 1400s, Littlehampton used to be called Hampton, and it was a tiny village where most people earned their living either fishing or farming. Its name changed to Littlehampton so sailors would not confuse it with a larger town along the coast. **Do you know which town this might have been?**

It was Southampton, which was also known as Hampton at this time. So you can see how it might have been confusing!

Can you find the museum's 'Treasures from the Ground' case? Look for a medieval silver finger ring, this dates from when Littlehampton was Hampton. What number is it? What would you like to discover digging in the ground?

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If we now move forward in time to the 1800s, Littlehampton was slowly turning into a holiday destination. People would travel here for their holidays to enjoy the seaside. **Can you find the big painting by A. Plant? When was it painted?**

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Take a good look. What do you think the main differences are between the beach scene in the painting and what the same scene might look like today.

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By the 1930s, Littlehampton was very popular with holiday makers and day trippers. During summer the beaches would be full of people enjoying the sunshine.

Many people liked to buy souvenirs to help remember their holidays, just like you may do today. The museum has some of these old souvenirs in the 'Children's Paradise' case. **Can you find them? Are they similar to the souvenirs you might buy today?**

Can you spot some stamps? When do they date from? Stamp collecting was a very popular hobby, and these ones are special souvenir stamps which could only be bought in Littlehampton.

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There used to be many hotels and guest houses in Littlehampton, the biggest was called 'The Beach Hotel' and it used to be right in the middle of the Beach Green. **Back in the 1920s a young boy started working there, the museum has his old uniform. Can you find it?**

What was the boys name? How old was he when he started working there?

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Can you find something called a 'Chamber pot'? This is also from the Beach Hotel, and one used to be in the room of every guest. What do you think it was used for?

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