

# 10 Objects 10 Minutes at Littlehampton Museum



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## 1 Hanging Bowl Mount Stand alone case in Archaeology Gallery

Discovered in 2015 by a local gentleman, this Anglo Saxon hanging bowl mount is a beautiful example of 7th century AD craftwork. The object would have been a decorative feature and fixed to a hanging bowl. It is not known if they had a specific purpose. It is in excellent condition, the colour is still vivid and the metalwork is intricate.



## 2 Iron Age Wheat Iron Age Case

These little grains of wheat have survived many centuries because they have been burnt. As a result, their chemical compound was carbonised, preventing decay. Wheat was a staple of an Iron Age diet, cultivated in large amounts and stored in grain pits, just like where these were found in nearby Wick.

## 3 Biddenden Maids Cabinet of Curiosity

Here we have an unusual 'broadside' paper which tells us of the Biddenden Maids. As the legend goes, these 'maids' were two conjoined sisters who lived in Kent. It is not known how this object came to the museum, but items like these were sold across the country as curios and passed around friends and family.



## 4 'The Barque Trossachs' Picture Gallery

This painting of a ship was created in the 1880s by Maurice Randall, the son of a local draper (a trader in cloth). Maurice was a crewmember on the Trossachs. The ship is what is called a Barque, a type of sailing vessel widely used in the 19th century. It was common practice for crewmembers to paint or commission paintings of their ships that celebrated a fruitful period of business and trade.



## 5 The Body Shop Products Business Case

These are early examples of products created by the global beauty brand, The Body Shop. Visitors to Littlehampton may not know that the brand's founder, Anita Roddick, was born in the town. The company now has its headquarters here, housed in a Japanese-style building.



## 8 Rupee Notes Maritime Gallery

These Rupee notes aren't something you expect to see in a British seaside town. They were recovered from the SS Shirala before it sunk due to an attack in 1918. The ship was transporting people and goods to Bombay, and Rupee notes were needed for trade and purchasing goods for the journey home.

## 6 Butt & Sons Catalogue Business Case

This booklet of 'moulding designs' was produced by the local company John Ede Butt & Sons who traded in British and foreign timber and slate in the 19th century. The Butt family have been present in Littlehampton for centuries and have provided the town with many jobs and income.



## 9 30 AU Photographs Littlehampton at War Case

During the Second World War, acclaimed author and Naval Intelligence Officer Ian Fleming led a special unit of skilled soldiers that gathered important information on Germany. These soldiers were based in Littlehampton, yet little is known about the Unit and their activities, as much of it is still kept secret by the Ministry of Defence.



## 7 Fletcher Collection Maritime Gallery

These models are a selection of 500 1:1200 scale boats created by Christopher Fletcher who lived in Horsham. Fletcher wanted to tell the history of the dramatic design changes of different merchant vessels, harbour craft and some warships that sailed during the 20th Century. Fletcher's lifelong passion is evident in the boats' minute detail.



## 10 Littlehampton Bridge Transport Case

The building of a new swing bridge marked a new era of transportation for Littlehampton. Opened in 1908, the bridge allowed a growing number of residents, traders, and tourists to travel all over the town. This is a commemorative booklet by the then Vicar of Clymping, telling the story of the bridge.