

Milborne Port Museum

This small museum is a treasure trove of artefacts and documents, some on display, others available for people to examine when required. The museum is open to the public every Sunday afternoon from the end of May until the end of August, from 2.30 to 4.00 pm. If this time does not suit you, we are happy to open the museum when required for pre-arranged visits. To book a visit please contact the group or email Lesley on lesmik71@gmail.com. The museum is free to visit, but a donation towards our costs would be appreciated.

Our collection of artefacts range from the village bier, used to carry coffins to the cemetery for burial, to a tiny roman coin. We hold a wide collection of locally made gloves as well as many small glove making tools. Clay pipes, old bottles, coins and ammonites dug up in local gardens are among the many other items, too varied to describe here. Artefacts from both the first and second world wars offer an insight into life in the services and in the Home Guard, while younger villagers are not forgotten with a display of memorabilia from the Boys' Brigade and items from the Girl Guides and Scouts to see.

We hold a large collection of photographs of the village and its inhabitants, from 1880 onwards, both digitally and in hardcopy, and will happily supply copies of these, for a small donation, unless we are constrained by copyright considerations.

We also hold a number of books, most on subjects linked to the village history, although there are some more general history books among them. Some of these can be borrowed for research providing contact details are supplied and a donation towards our costs is made. The rest can be consulted in the museum, and it may be possible to borrow them in special circumstances.

However, it is our collection of documents that deserves to be more widely appreciated. Our documents are split into subject areas as follows:

The Church and Village Organisations: the earliest of these documents is from 1824, many dealing with repairs to the church, but they also include the many organisations that have thrived here over the years.

Gloving: the majority of these relate to the Dyke Glove factory, from 1864 until 1980.

World Wars and The Home Guard: these include letters and other documents relating to both world wars, and many documents about the running of the home guard and the various exercises undertaken locally. There are also copies of many training booklets. This is a valuable source for anyone wanting to do research into the Home Guard since it was donated by the local HG Commander and includes a short home movie.

General Information about the Village: these documents date from 1880 to the present day and include many newspaper cuttings as well as family and business letters on various subjects and would be useful for family research.

Parish Council Papers: the earliest of these dates from 1904, just 10 years after the PC was established. They are mainly from the 1930s to the 1960s and cover all aspects of parish council business.

General Information about the Area: this includes various leaflets and letters relating to events in the general area.

Maps: there is a small collection of historic maps of the area for people to view. Hard copy maps from the 20th century can be studied and copied, or digital copies of maps of Milborne Port from 1680 and 1817 can be supplied.

Deeds: there is a large collection of deeds including property deeds, indentures, mortgages and marriage settlements. Most are from the 18th and 19th centuries, although the earliest is dated 1697.

All these are available for research, for a small donation.

A researcher's permit, cost £5.00p valid for one year, can be issued if multiple visits are necessary. Apply for details.

If you are interested in viewing any part of our collection, please contact the Milborne Port History and Heritage Group by email to mphhgroup@gmail.com or through our website, <http://milborneporthistory.org.uk> or face book page: Face book Group, Milborne Port History and Heritage.