

## Digital Archive

Over 800 historic and contemporary local images to view using the **North Devon on Disc** computer archive at the Museum.

## The Museum

The South Molton & District Museum is housed in the Town's 18th century Guildhall. The Museum's collections reflect the life and times of South Molton and the surrounding countryside. Local trades, agriculture and domestic history are also strongly featured.

## Heritage Trail

For those wishing to explore the Town further, a booklet is available from the Tourist Information Centre.

## 1716 Coat of Arms

The coat of arms symbolises the Crown, Episcopacy and, most importantly, the woollen trade, upon which the Town's early prosperity was founded.



If you would like to contact the Museum please use the following:  
Tel: 01769 572951  
Email: [info@southmoltonmuseum.org](mailto:info@southmoltonmuseum.org)  
Website: [www.southmoltonmuseum.org](http://www.southmoltonmuseum.org)

Further details of Devon Museums and the South Molton Area:  
[www.devonmuseums.net](http://www.devonmuseums.net)  
[www.northdevonlink.co.uk/south-molton.htm](http://www.northdevonlink.co.uk/south-molton.htm)



Tailored group visits, geared to your requirements or curriculum, are available by appointment.

Regular history/folklore related story telling sessions and hands-on "please **do** touch" collections are favourites with children of all ages.

If you have a friend who has particular access needs please call the Museum in advance so help may be given to make the most of their visit.

**Disabled Access**  
**Toilets and Parking nearby**

Supported by  
**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



# South Molton and District MUSEUM

Museum Patron: The Countess of Arran



The Guildhall The Square  
South Molton Devon EX36 3AB  
**Tel: 01769 572951**

**Opening Times:**  
Mon & Tue, 10.30-16.00  
Thurs & Sat: 10.30-13.00

**ADMISSION FREE**

The museum is closed from November to March see Devon Museums web site for details  
[www.devonmuseums.net](http://www.devonmuseums.net)

Discover the true spirit of the characters from South Molton's past through the exhibits and interactive displays. The Museum, managed by the South Molton Town Council and volunteers, engages with the local community and visitors to show the social history of the town and its evolution through the centuries.

# The WEBBER Gallery

## Merryweather Fire Engine

This horse-drawn fire tender was purchased by the Town in 1886 and was still in use until the early 1930s.



## Other exhibits in the Webber Gallery include:

- The Elizabethan and Carolinean Town Charters
- Local trades and industries display
- Penny-farthing bicycle
- Standard weights and measures used
- Children's "hands-on" play area

## Archaeology Collection

The Museum's modest archaeology collection is a dramatic display on a black background, a perfect foil for the clay pipes, spindle whorls, pot fragments and flint tools. The star of the display is part of a medieval huntsman's whistle, discovered locally. This item has recently been authenticated by the British museum



## Other exhibits in the Gingell Gallery include:

- English coins from the 1500s
- Agricultural implements
- Pewter items and chinaware
- Household items

## Bottle Display

A variety of soft drink and beer bottles that contained locally produced brews.



## The Saxon Church Font

This font, dated 700 to 900 AD, is lead lined and has a 19th Century base and column. Donated by St. Michaels All Angels Parish church in Creacombe prior to its closure in 1988, it is of particular interest because of the evidence of vandalism, possibly Cromwellian, where the original decoration has been crudely removed



## Cider Press c.1780

One of the oldest types of cider press with a central hand-cut wooden screw set in a massive headblock. It is made of oak and elm and weighs three quarters of a ton.



# The TURNER Gallery

## The Newsham Pump Engine

The 1736 Newsham Pump Engine is one of the earliest of its kind in England. Its purchase by the Corporation of South Molton for £46 is evidence of the Town's prosperity. At that time New York City was indecisive about the purchase of two such engines.



## Children's Area

This bright, welcoming area is the venue for our popular story telling sessions. Children are encouraged to engage with the exhibits in various ways. There are "please do touch" signs, handling collections, interactive and multimedia displays and a variety of fun collections.



## Children's Display

The collection of toys in the Turner gallery includes Victorian marbles, mother of pearl counters and a rare 18th century slide recorder.



## Other exhibits in the Turner Gallery include:

- Display of textiles
- Law and order Police truncheons and handcuffs
- World War I and II Services memorabilia
- Railways display

# The GINGELL Gallery