

Welcome to Museum of Cornish Life in Helston

The museum is open from 10am – 4pm, Monday to Saturday and it is free to come in.



This is the front of the museum, it is spread over five display halls, on three floors and contains thousands of objects

The building has been here since 1837 and was once three separate buildings, the Butter Market, Meat Market and Drill Hall. The museum was opened in in 1947 using two of the buildings and all the buildings were finally joined together in 1999.

We have two entrances to our building. You can use the front steps to come inside. There are five stone steps into the porch and then three carpeted steps into the reception area



Or you can use the side entrance which has a mixture of small cobblestones and a smooth stone ramp.



Both entrances are open every day

This is our information desk.



This is our shop where we have lots of things you may want to buy such as rocks and minerals or books and toys. Ask the person behind the desk if you want any help.



Ground Floor

This is the way into the main part of the museum....



Our museum is special as it is built on a slope. We have 4 types of flooring in the museum

Granite slabs



Wooden Floor Boards



Carpet



Cobble stones



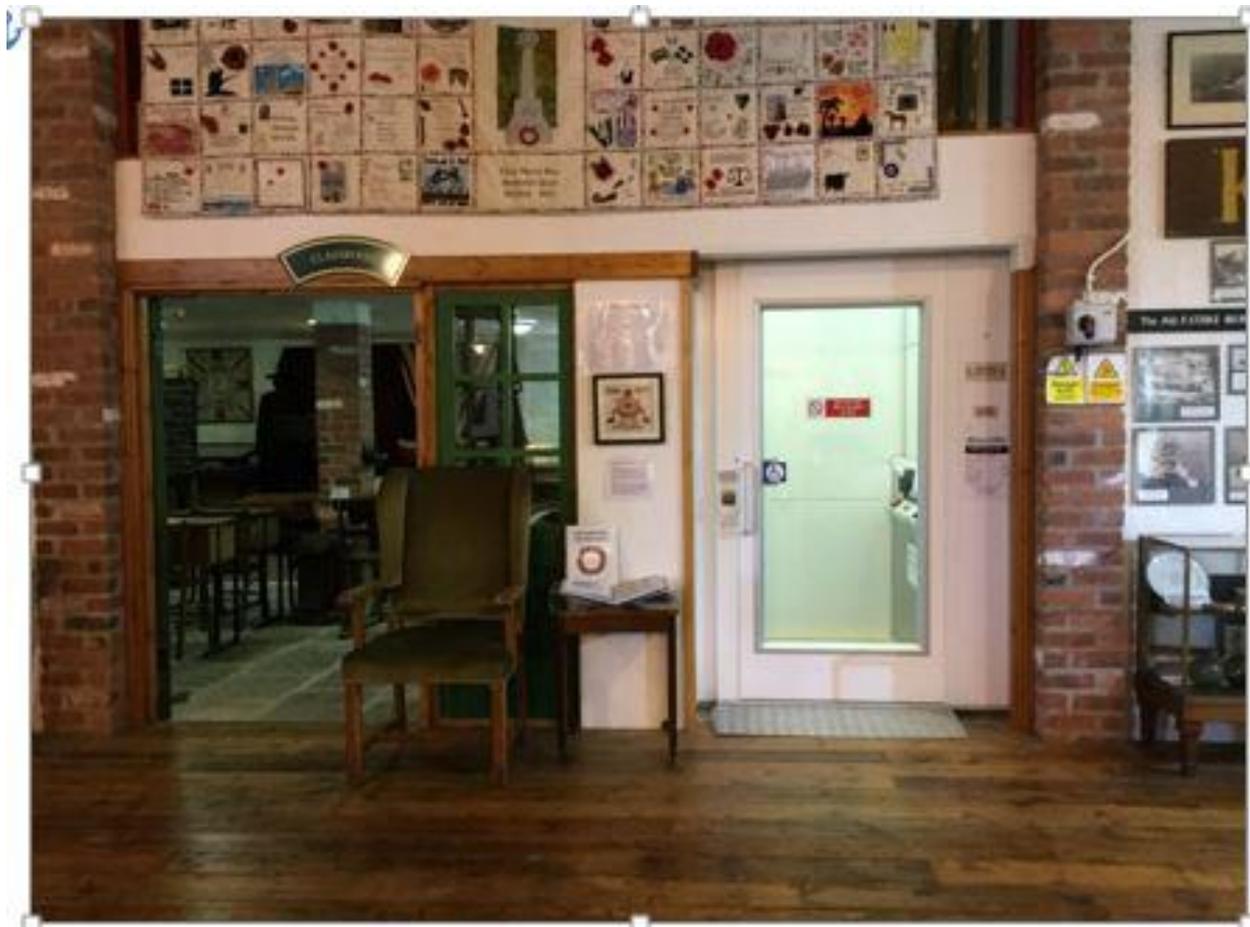
Denzil the Dragon hangs from the ceiling above the main entrance into the museum. He is made out of paper mâché and wood and is very big with a big friendly smile.



Sometimes you can hear our special clock, it is loud so you can hear it throughout the front part of the museum. It plays a short recording of the Helston Flora Day tune and moving figures dance to the tune within the machine. It does this on the hour, every hour. If you would like to hear the whole tune you can put a 50p into the machine and it will play all the way through.



This is a photograph of the ground floor, at the back of the museum. Here we have the Victorian Classroom where the light can be a bit darker than in the rest of the museum. Next to the Victorian Classroom is the lift which goes upstairs to our temporary exhibition gallery on level 1 or the main gallery on level 2.



We also have staircases you can use if you don't want to use the lift.



Upstairs

The temporary exhibition gallery is on level 1. The exhibitions in this space change all the time so have a look on our website or ask at the desk when you come in to find out what's on.

This is a picture of the main gallery upstairs



The floor does slope quite a bit so please do take a few minutes to get used to it. You can use one of the chairs to sit down for a while if that helps.

The middle of the gallery is hollow and you can look through to downstairs and the Drill Hall. There is a strong bannister all the way around and of course you don't have to look down if you don't want to.



In the summer the gallery can get very warm but if you move right down through the gallery, past the toy shops you will find a balcony area which is a little cooler. The balcony looks out over the display of carts and it is quite high up but there is a rail for you to hold on to.



What can you touch?

Some of our objects are in cases but most of our objects are out in the open as you can see in this picture



All of our objects are precious to us so the rule in our museum is Please Do Not Touch. In some areas we will have items that you can touch such as in our temporary display gallery. We also have some dress up costumes. Anything you can pick up or touch will have a label letting you know so that you don't get confused or you can ask any of the people in the museum staff who will be happy to help

These are some of the costumes you can try on....



Eating and Drinking

We ask that you don't eat or drink from open cups in the museum, you can use water bottles with a lid.

We have a pop up café at the back of the building which usually looks like this:



Here you can have a hot or cold drink and we have a selection of snacks. We ask that you put a donation in the red box to pay and there is a guide list which has prices on it. If you don't have any money then don't worry as we are happy for you help yourself to a drink.

We have a second hand bookshop area and if you find a book you like you can pay for it at the reception desk at the front of the building.

Things you can see in the museum

Some of our objects will look very familiar to you such as toys and cooking equipment. Some of the objects are more unusual. We have a large number of objects used on farms in the past and many of those have parts which are spiky and quite sharp – this is another reason we ask you not to touch.



We do use mannequins to display clothing such as this soldiers uniform

Most of our objects are over a hundred years old and our collection includes some taxidermy items such as Harry the Parrot



We hope you enjoy your visit to the museum.

If you have any questions before visiting us then please ring us on 01326 564027 or email us at: info@museumofcornishlife.co.uk. Or if you want to have a look at the museum before you arrive please go to our website www.museumofcornishlife.co.uk and have a look at our amazing 3d scan of the building.

If you have any questions when you are in the museum, please do ask someone at the reception desk or any of the other staff and volunteers as we are all happy to help. To help you identify us please look for someone wearing a badge which looks like this.



Please do tell us what you thought about your visit to our museum and we hope you will visit us many times.