

# Museums in West Devon

**Over 195,000 visits to museums in 2014/15**

**5 museums in the Accreditation scheme**  
The National standard for museums

**79% of adults visited a heritage site in the last 12 months in the South West – Taking Part 2015/16**

**121 education, activity and outreach events run by museums in 2014/15**

**34,398 hours contributed by 191 volunteers in 2014/15**

**£245,678**  
the value of volunteer contributions to museums and their surrounding communities

**To find out more visit:**  
[www.southwestmuseums.org.uk](http://www.southwestmuseums.org.uk)  
[@swmuseums](https://twitter.com/swmuseums)

**Visits contributed £4.6 million to local tourism economy**



Dingles Fairground Heritage Centre

**History, heritage and culture are key drivers of tourism in UK – Visit England**

**Museums are a vital part of our social fabric. They enrich people's lives and can act as a focal point for their communities. They inspire creativity, promote wellbeing and support active education and lifelong learning.**

**Museum Development in West Devon is co-funded by Arts Council England and West Devon Borough Council ensuring all museums can access professional support to develop sustainably and thrive.**

# Museum Development 2015-18

Arts Council England's (ACE) Museum Development programme supports museums to meet and exceed national standards driving excellence, raising ambition and strengthening resilience. The programme works with museums to provide engaging, valued and inspirational services for their audiences and communities.

For the period April 2015 to March 2018 ACE has awarded funding to the South West Museum Development Programme to continue to deliver Museum Development services for the 200+ Accredited museums in the South West, awarding £1.4 million over the three years.

## 2015-18 programme structure

For the period 2015-18, there is an enhanced level of support available to museums in areas where the local authority co-funds Museum Development provision.

The core offer available to all museums includes the following:

- Access to a local Museum Development Officer (MDO) providing professional advice covering all areas of a museum's operations.
- Free, high-quality training through the South West Museum Skills Programme.
- Remote advice and support through Museum Group meetings from four specialist regional posts covering audiences, collections, digital engagement and volunteering.
- Access to sector data to support performance benchmarking, advocacy and local impact reporting.

There are currently 24 local authorities, including West Devon Borough Council, that co-fund Museum Development provision that collectively invest over £135,000 per year in the programme.

To find out more about Museum Development provision contact Programme Manager, Victoria Harding, [victoria.harding@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:victoria.harding@bristol.gov.uk)

## Investing in South West Museum Development

The support of local authorities is vital in enabling museums to prosper. Making a financial contribution to South West Museum Development provides local authorities with a cost effective means of supporting museums in their locality through an existing support infrastructure.

In addition to the core offer, the enhanced level of support available to museums in West Devon includes:

- Increased MDO capacity to respond to local needs and support fundraising and partnership development.
- A grants programme offering museums up to £2,000 and up to £10,000 for partnerships of two or more museums.
- Increased investment through externally funded project initiatives which will focus on collections, digital and volunteering.
- Enhanced micro-consultancy support from our specialist posts (audiences, collections, digital and volunteering) to support project development, skills training, fundraising and partnership work.
- Dedicated capacity to support museums to collect, understand and apply audience data more effectively.

# Museum Development 2015-16

In the last year, the South West Museum Development programme has delivered a range of support to museums in West Devon, including investment in a local Museum Development Officer, awards of grants and provision of skills development opportunities worth a total of £8,769 to museums in West Devon.

## Dingles Fairground Heritage Centre

Dingles provides a unique opportunity to view the UK's largest historic fairground collection. It houses an array of vintage stalls and rides, many of which are still operational.

Over the last year the MDO has provided significant support to Dingles as the museum has begun to formally work towards Accreditation, the national standard for museums. This has included supporting them to appoint their first paid Curator.

The museum also secured a grant of £1,353 from our small grants scheme to purchase new collections management software as part of a project to audit and re-catalogue their collections.

## Museum of Dartmoor Life

The museum tells the story of people on Dartmoor from prehistoric settlement to 20th century mining and hill farming.

In the last year the museum has received support to establish a programme of audience data collection as part of a cluster of smaller museums in Devon. The data collected will provide evidence to support future marketing, fundraising and business planning.

The museum also secured a grant of £1,624 from our small grants scheme to fund upgrades to their collections management software and provide training for a new volunteer documentation team.

## National Trust properties

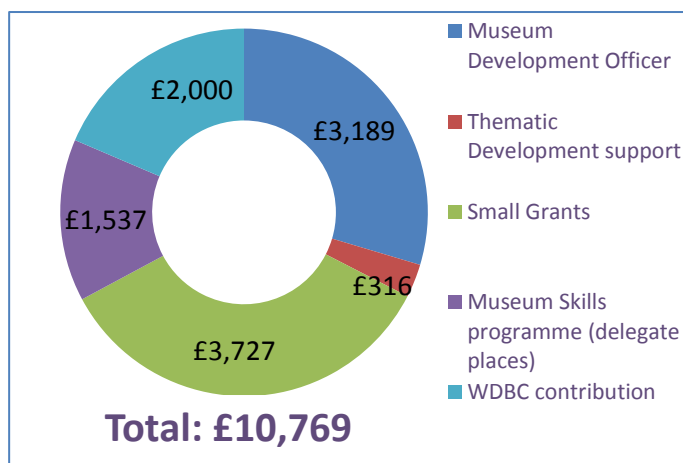
The National Trust, whilst not accessing the support of the MDO, access all services provided by the South West Museum Development programme including, grants, training and development advice.

## Tavistock Museum

Tavistock Museum is an entirely volunteer-run town museum with collections relating to its monastic, market, and mining past.

In 2015/16 the museum successfully secured a grant of £750 from our small grants scheme to enable them to improve external signage including a new bespoke sign at the museum entrance. The new signage will help increase the visibility of the museum to passers by and help raise local awareness of the museum.

## Museum Development investment in West Devon museums 2015-16



***“The museum is in regular touch with the CDO and the MDO through meetings of the West Devon Museums Group. This professional support has been critically important to the improvements at this museum which has been under new management since 2012.”*** Museum Manager, Museum of Dartmoor Life