

The History of Battle Museum of Local History

The Museum opened to the public in its current premises in April 2003, winning at the time the prestigious Sussex Heritage Trust Award. Before that, the Museum had been located in various buildings in Battle, since its establishment in 1954 by the Battle and District Historical Society (BDHS), which had organised a major collection of local artefacts in Battle to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953.

The Museum's first permanent premises opened on 18 May 1956 in a converted stable block behind Church House in Upper Lake, with the help of Joyce Pain and Muriel Powell. Subsequently until 2001, the Museum was in what is now Battle Memorial Halls- Lt Col Lemmon of the BDHS is pictured below, in the Museum, in the early 1960's.



After two years in storage, the Museum then reopened in the current premises next to the Almonry. The Museum was awarded full MLA (Museum and Libraries) Accreditation in 2006 and was again awarded full accreditation by the Arts Council in 2014.

The current Museum building used to be a garage and before that an abattoir and was converted through the generosity of the Heritage Lottery Fund and other donors, local and national.