

# The Story of Eastbourne

## Victorian Eastbourne

Use this box to explore and uncover the Victorian story of Eastbourne and the surrounding area.

Find a selection of real and replica artefacts used and made by people in Eastbourne as well as suggested learning activities. This box also features digital files including an introduction to Victorian Eastbourne



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Medicine Bottles



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### Eastbourne Newspapers

The oldest Eastbourne newspaper is the Eastbourne Chronicle (1856) It was a great way for people in Eastbourne to keep up to date on the town's news as well as find out who was visiting that week. The paper would publish a list of all of the fashionable visitors staying in or around Eastbourne.

### Doctors Receipt

Seeing a doctor or going to hospital, unlike today, was not free. Most poor people would not have been able to afford to get treated unless they were very sick. Often when poor Victorians were sick they went to the local chemist where they could buy medicine. One popular treatment for both rich and poor people was the use of leeches. The leeches were supposed to suck toxins from the blood of a sick person and make them better.

### Elliotts and Devonshire Stores advertising blocks

These blocks were used to stamp adverts onto posters and at the top of receipts in Elliotts (later Devonshire) Stores. The shop was at the end of South Street opposite St Saviours Church.





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### Flat Iron

The flat iron was also known as the sad (meaning solid) iron. Flat irons were used in pairs so that whilst one was being used the other could be heated up. The irons were placed face up in front of open fires on stands called trivets, or suspended from hangers over the fire.

### Police Truncheon

Truncheons like this one were often painted with the Royal Crest or the Eastbourne Crest and would be an important part of their uniform and equipment. Until the mid-1990s, British police officers carried traditional wooden truncheons of a sort that had changed little from Victorian times.

There's more information about the history of Eastbourne Police here:

[https://www.oldpolicecellsmuseum.org.uk/content/history/local-historians-history/david-rowland/history-of-sussex-police-forces/history\\_of\\_eastbourne\\_police\\_1891\\_1967](https://www.oldpolicecellsmuseum.org.uk/content/history/local-historians-history/david-rowland/history-of-sussex-police-forces/history_of_eastbourne_police_1891_1967)

### Medicine Bottles

Medicine had long been prescribed as a dry mixture which the patient would take home to brew into a dose. From the mid 1800s generally multiple doses of liquid medicine, mixed and ready to take, were bottled. In the late 1800s graduations were moulded on to bottles show dose amounts, and doses were later prescribed in teaspoons. They will sometimes have printed labels from local pharmacists, which can help to date and identify them. They often have handwritten instructions for the patient. 'Not to be taken' indicates that the medicine was for external use.



### Star Brewery bottle

The Star Brewery was founded in 1777 and was built in the area around Waitrose Car Park. The brewery was a major employer in Eastbourne and made beer and lemonade as well as other drinks. They stopped brewing in 1967 and the buildings were demolished in 1971

### Toasting Fork

Used to toast bread in front of an open fire. The person using it stuck a piece of bread onto the fork tines (prongs) and held the bread in front the fire until it was done. By about 1800, some toasting forks had telescopic handles with some three to four slides so the length could be reduced when the fork was not in use

### Isinglass

Isinglass made from the bladders of fish was the purest form of gelatine and was used in recipes for puddings or thickening of soup. It was most popular around the 1880s