

Education Pack



LOOK & SEA

Littlehampton's History

Education and Learning Pack



Key Terms

- Littlehampton
- Settlement
- Prehistoric
- Roman
- Domesday Book
- Hanton/Hantone
- Earls of Arundel
- Dukes of Norfolk

Learning Objectives

- To understand the timeline of Littlehampton
- To understand how Littlehampton started
- To find out how Littlehampton grew from a small settlement to a busy holiday town
- To understand how Littlehampton has changed over time

Littlehampton's History

There has been a settlement at Littlehampton since the early prehistoric era, with evidence to also suggest that a Roman settlement came here shortly after their AD 43 invasion. Littlehampton appears in the Domesday Book of 1086 as the small hamlet of 'Hantone'. The area has continued to thrive over the centuries, with its heydays including being made one of the more important ports along the River Arun, being given town status in 1853, building the railway in 1863 and being known as one of the top holiday destinations in Britain during the Victorian Era. Littlehampton does still continue to thrive today, but its history shows how this has come about.



High Street and Surrey Street, Littlehampton, c. 1912.



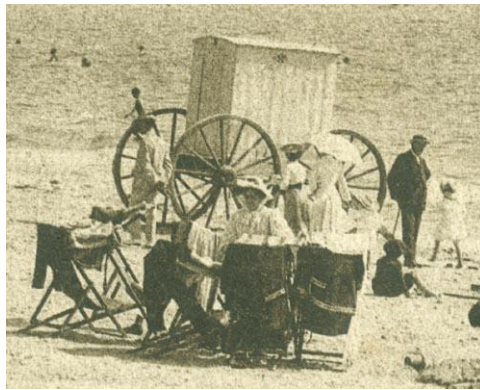
Littlehampton Town Today

The History of Littlehampton

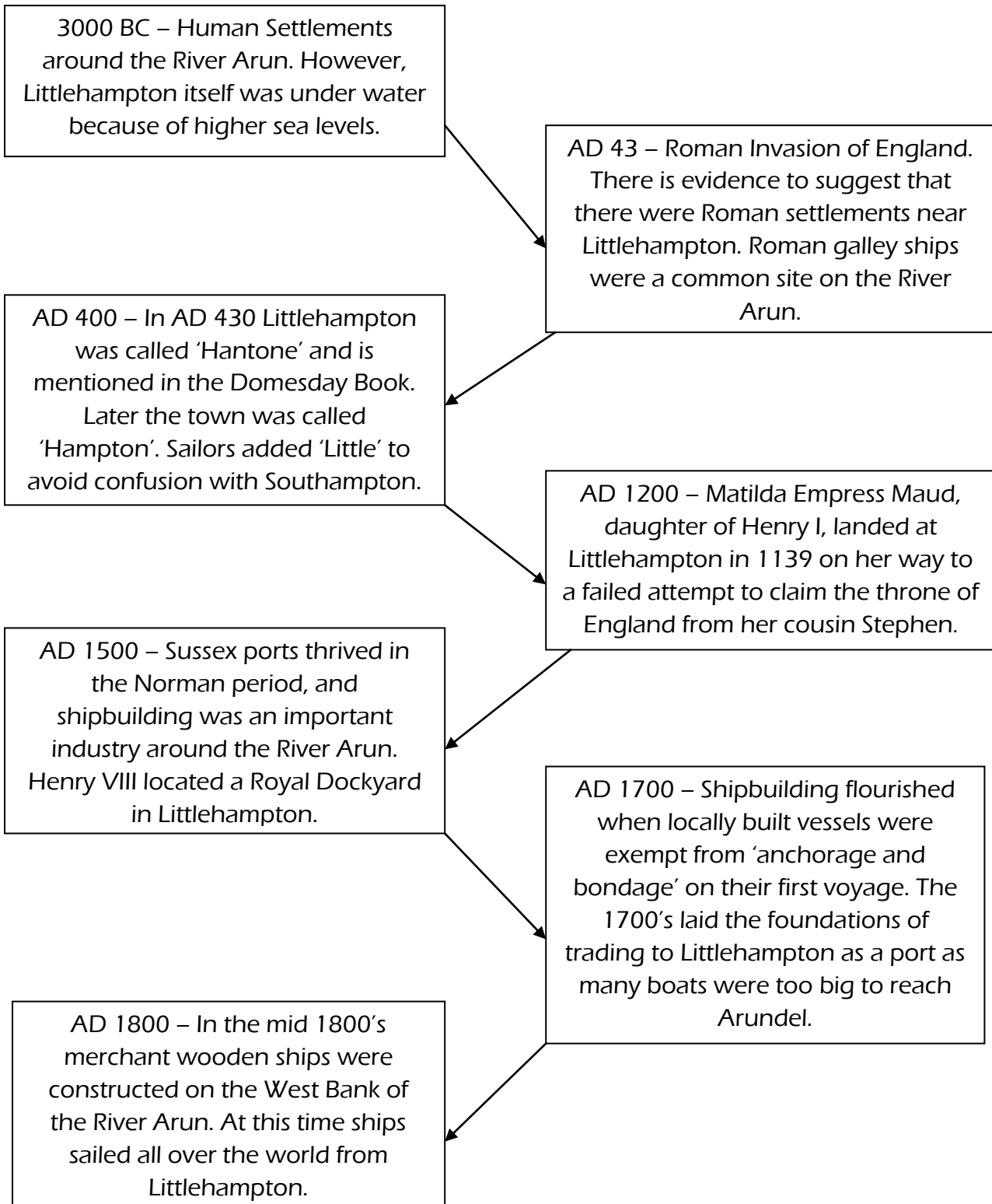
- Evidence of human settlements here from Prehistoric and Roman times.
- It is suggested that the Romans settled in this area soon after their AD 43 invasion. This is because there are lots of Roman settlements in the local area.
- Littlehampton first appears as a settlement in the Domesday Book of 1086. It is known as 'Hantone' at this time. It belonged to the sister of Edward the Confessor.
- It then passed to Lord Roger de Montgomery, who held Arundel Castle for William the Conqueror.
- Littlehampton was a fishing village at this time.
- It then next appears on a French map around 1100 as 'Hanton'.
- In 1139, there was a civil war in England. Both Matilda and Stephen claimed the throne. Matilda's forces sailed and landed at Littlehampton.
- William the Conqueror then gave Littlehampton to the Abbey of St Martin de Seez in Normandy. This continued until the 1400's.
- It was also around this time that the 'Little' part was added to the name. This was so sailors knew whether they were coming to Littlehampton or to Southampton.
- The area changed hands a lot. The manor of Littlehampton then went to Syon Abbey in Middlesex. They owned Littlehampton until the dissolution of the monasteries in the 1530's.
- Littlehampton finally settled with the Earls of Arundel and the Dukes of Norfolk from 1610. Their successors still reside in Arundel today.
- The Dukes of Norfolk continued to own large parts of Littlehampton until the 1930's.

- During Henry VIII's reign there was shipbuilding in Littlehampton. However, this died out during the 1600's and 1700's and did not become prominent until the 1800's again.
- By the 1600's, Littlehampton had grown to between 100 and 150 people. It was still a farming settlement but it now had a ferry, smithy and pub.
- It was around this time that Littlehampton started to develop as a port. However, Arundel was still the main port until the 1820's.
- Between 1801 and 1901, Littlehampton grew in population from 584 to 5,954 (roughly).
- By 1911, the population had grown to over 8,000.
- Littlehampton was a popular holiday destination from the 1760's.
- In 1853, Littlehampton officially became a town and adopted the motto of 'Progress'.
- Littlehampton continued to grow with the introduction of the railway in 1863.
- This brought lots of visitors to Littlehampton. Previously it had only been the rich upper and middle classes but now the railway meant that everybody could visit.
- By the mid-1930's over 250,000 holidaymakers and day trippers were visiting every year.
- The Butlin's Fun Fair opened in 1932 on the site of the old windmill and cottages. This made the town more popular.
- During World War Two, pleasure visitors were banned. Everybody was banned from certain parts of the beaches too.
- Visitors did return after the war but it took a long time.

- In 1967 the famous *Blue Peter 1 Lifeboat*, donated by viewers of the Blue Peter TV programme, arrived to coincide with the restart of a lifeboat station in Littlehampton. The Blue Peter 1 successor is on duty for the RLNI today.
- By the 1980's, sea trade to and from Littlehampton had decreased.
- Now Littlehampton is known as a holiday destination with lots of fun things to do.



Timeline



AD 1863 – In 1863 the first passenger and cargo ‘steam packet’ began with the arrival of the railway. The *SS Honfleur* from London, via Littlehampton, ran to northern France and the Channel Islands. She brought considerable prosperity to the town.

World War One (1914-1918) – By 1916, Littlehampton Harbour was completely taken over by the military war effort. There was continuous activity of ships carrying supplies and war materials to France for military use.

World War Two (1939-1945) – With the arrival of World War Two, pleasure visitors were banned from parts of the beach. Visitors gradually returned to Littlehampton after the war, but it took a while. Also, the similarity of West Sussex beaches to those of Normandy enabled Littlehampton’s West Beach to be used for D-Day landing practice. Additionally, at the start of 1940 the port had lost 70% of its trade.

1967 – The famous *Blue Peter 1 Lifeboat*, donated by viewers of the Blue Peter TV programme, arrived to coincide with the restart of a lifeboat station in Littlehampton. The Blue Peter 1 successor is on duty for the RLNI today.

1980 – Towards the end of the 20th century, sea trade to and from Littlehampton had greatly reduced.

2010 – Whilst a number of commercial activities continue in the harbour, such as fishing and diving, the growth in recent years has been in leisure activities in the water.

SEN

We are flexible and open to the requirements of any child that visits the Look and Sea. We will therefore tailor the experience, in conjunction with teachers and carers, to the requirements and needs of each child.

Guidelines for Teaching SEN

- Provide oral instructions and written instructions.
- Make instructions brief and clear, and teach one step at a time.
- When necessary, plan to repeat instructions in both written and oral forms.
- Give immediate feedback to students. Frequent progress checks and specific praise should be provided.
- Make activities concise and short; adjust work time so it matches attention span.
- Learning disabled students have difficulty learning abstract terms and concepts. Whenever possible, provide them with concrete objects and events – items they can touch, hear, smell etc.
- Encourage cooperative learning activities when possible. Invite students of varying abilities to work together on a specific project or toward a common goal. Create an atmosphere in which a true 'community of learners' is facilitated and enhanced.
- Students with physical impairments: Focus on the intellectual investment in an activity. That is, help the child use his or her problem-solving abilities and thinking skills in completing an assignment.



Ferry Crossing, Littlehampton, c. 1905.



Lobster Fishing in the Harbour, Littlehampton, c. 1900



High Street, Littlehampton, c. 1820.

Teacher/Volunteer Notes

A human settlement at Littlehampton can be traced back to prehistoric and Roman times. With the departure of the Romans Littlehampton slips back into the mists of time until it appears in the Domesday Book of AD 1086 as the tiny hamlet of *Hantone* and belonged to the Countess Goda, the sister of Edward the Confessor. However it soon passed to Lord Roger de Montgomery who held Arundel Castle for William the Conqueror. It was later given by him to the Abbey of St Martin de Seez in Normandy which continued to own Littlehampton until the 1400's. It was also around this time that the prefix *Little* was added to *Hampton* (as it had now become) to distinguish it from its much larger neighbour *Southampton* which was also called Hampton at the time. It is thought that mariners coined this new name as a way of distinguishing between the two settlements. The manor of Littlehampton continued to be owned by a number of different people and was eventually given to Syon Abbey in Middlesex who continued to own it until the dissolution of the monasteries in the 1530's. It then continued changing hands until it came back to the Arundel Castle Estate in 1610. The Dukes of Norfolk continued to own large parts of Littlehampton up to the 1930's. By the 17th Century it also had grown a little to between 100 and 150 people but remained primarily a farming settlement but it now boasted a ferry, smithy and alehouse. Littlehampton began to develop as a port as a result of constant silting of the River Arun, perhaps leading to the prefix of 'Little' being added to 'Hampton', in order to distinguish it from the larger Southampton further along the coast. The expansion of port activities led to a new river mouth being cut in 1735, alongside the building of a wooden harbour. At this time it was also known as *Arundel Port*. As the eighteenth century progressed, the town developed from a fishing community to a holiday destination, with Lord

Byron, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Percy Shelley and John Constable all believed to have spent time there. The town's status as both a port and a holiday resort led to economic success in the nineteenth century, with a railway line and a cross-channel ferry to Honfleur in France being introduced. The population of the town grew tenfold over the century, from 584 in 1801 to 5,954 in 1901. Littlehampton remained as a holiday resort in the twentieth century, becoming known as 'The Children's Paradise' in the 1920s. Post-war Littlehampton saw large-scale house building on the outskirts of the town, eventually absorbing the surrounding villages of Wick, Lyminster and Toddington, while the commercial element of the town became increasingly focused on boat building and water sports. In 1967, the town attracted attention by becoming the base for the first ever *Blue Peter* lifeboat.