

Carmarthen museum



[Photo reference Kayla Bird taken 03/10/25]

During this module, our class went on three trips and the trip that stuck out the most to me was Carmarthenshire museum. This is due to being able to immerse yourself fully in roleplay, and you are also able to walk through late Victorian classrooms and imagine yourself being a student in that time.

[photo reference Kayla Bird 03/10/25]

For me I'm not a fan of modern history but being able to walk through reconstructions of how people from the late Victorian era to post war Carmarthen lived was really

interesting to me. Wearing Victorian clothing felt scratchy and stiff, and was very uncomfortable. For someone in the 21st century, the rough wool and very coarse cotton irritated my skin especially due to the fact I'm used to



the softer clothing we have today and are used to today. The clothing felt heavy and ill fitting, there was little freedom for movement as well, this reminded me of how harsh life was for the poorer people in

the Victorian era compared to what we have today.

This made me appreciate the comfort and convenience of the clothing we wear now a lot more

than I did before as I had never really thought about clothing from other periods in time and what it would be like to wear them.

[photo reference Kayla Bird taken 03/10/25]

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Walking around the museum felt very disorganised to me, there was a wide variety of artifacts to look at such as Roman gold, Egyptian funerary pottery, Victorian classrooms and local folklore exhibits that represent Carmarthenshire's rich history, however there was a lack of a clear narrative or logical layout which led to confusion about the direction of the museum. [Photo reference Kayla Bird taken 03//10/25]

The historical nature of the building, due to it being listed, adds to the challenge for exhibit design, accessibility and the flow of visitors. I noticed there were many cramped hallways that people with mobility issues would struggle to get through even when empty let alone busy. The rooms were also a tight squeeze and felt claustrophobic and hard to walk around even when there were only a couple people in a room at a time. After talking to people who were not from the university, they stated that the museum had unclear signs and was inconsistent with



interpretations which adds to the artifacts feeling cluttered and not coherent, they also stated that they were confused why certain artifacts were held in specific areas and why there was little to no information about what they were when they were found, and what the purpose of the artifact was. I personally felt the same when walking around. I was confused and didn't understand why these specific artifacts were out on display when we don't understand what we are looking at.

However, after talking to staff, they have stated that this is more from the fact they have limited resources rather than neglecting the artifacts, the staff are working on gathering more information and working to renovate the galleries and to improve the displays, this shows the staff are committed to progressing the museum. Despite its disorganisation, Carmarthen Museum is a valuable institution for preservation of Carmarthenshire's heritage and unique history

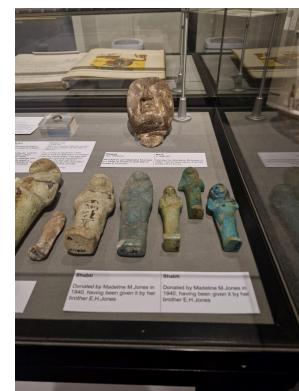
[Photo reference Kayla Bird taken 03/10/25]

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As an Ancient Civilisations student I found Carmarthen Museum both really interesting and frustrating. The museum has an impressive



range of artifacts which includes prehistoric tools, Roman coins, Medieval artifacts and Egyptian artifacts too. When walking through the galleries I felt a strong sense of community between the ancient world and the local history of Carmarthenshire. The Roman displays in particular really interested me the most as it shows how far the imperial culture touched even this corner of Wales.



However the museum's disorganization did make it hard to fully appreciate it and make connections. Some of the displays themselves were poorly labeled as I said before and the layout itself did not seem

to be in a clear chronological order. As someone who studies ancient civilisations this lack of structure prevented me from making deeper interpretations of how one period developed into the other. Other than this I still appreciated being able to see the artifacts up close which is something a textbook or google cant replace.

[Photo reference Kayla Bird taken 03/10/25]

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Carmarthen museum attracts a wide variety of people, each person engaging with the space in different ways. The visitors ranged with people on quiet dates, families, students and older people lingering in the cafe. The museum became not just a place to learn about history but also an environment where people could relax, talk and share an experience with each other.

For some people the museum was more of a place to connect rather than reflecting on the past. I noticed couples wandering



through the exhibits hand in hand and occasionally pausing to look at a display before

quickly moving on to the next room. They were more absorbed in their conversation than the actual exhibits.

In contrast to this I did notice people who were genuinely interested about the past and saw them taking their time to read labels and study the artifacts and asking questions to the staff members to understand in more detail. They may reflect on who owned the Roman coin and what it was used to buy or what a medieval object was used for in daily life. This shows the museum's educational purpose at work.

Meanwhile the older visitors linger in the cafe, enjoying the peaceful surroundings and how the museum offers a sense of community. This mixture of people, some engaged with the artifacts and some just enjoying the atmosphere, creates a unique balance between learning and leisure. Carmarthen museum offers both spaces for education, comfort, socialisation and quiet enjoyment.

Bibliography

[Photo reference Kayla Bird taken 03/10/25]

