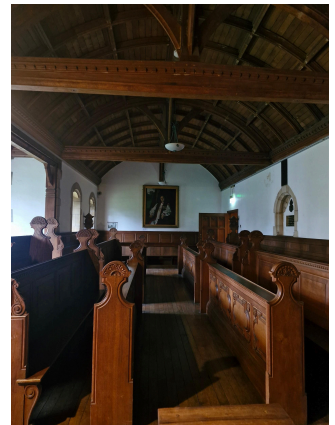


Museum review-Carmarthenshire Museum



¹Carmarthenshire museum, which is located in the village of Abergwili, Wales, is an engaging and informative museum which offers its visitors insights into the history, culture and everyday life of the county of Carmarthenshire. This Museum is inside a historic building called Old Bishops Palace, the museum has a wide range of exhibits that reflect both rural and social history.² Overall the museum provides a valuable and enjoyable experience, especially for those interested in Welsh heritage and local history.

One of the most interesting aspects of Carmarthenshire museum is its ³location. The old Bishops palace is a historic building that immediately creates a sense of atmosphere and importance. The use of an authentic historic site enhances the visitors experience, as the building itself feels like an exhibit. Features such as wood paneled rooms, stone walls and the former chapel contribute to a strong sense of the past compared to modern buildings that allows the visitors to feel immersed in history rather than just simply observing it from a distance. The surrounding gardens and fields add to a peaceful environment that complements the museum well.



The museum's exhibition focuses mainly on the social and rural history of Carmarthenshire. Displays include artefacts from farming, domestic life, education and local industries, which help build a picture of how the people in the county lived and worked over time. One room in particular that immerses you into how people were educated is the Victorian schoolroom, this allows visitors to visualise education in the past and compare it with the modern schooling the visitors grew up with. In this display you are in a small classroom, with Victorian desks and a big black chalk board. This type of interactive visual display is effective, especially for the younger visitors as you are able to dress up and roleplay as a Victorian teacher or a Victorian student, this makes historical experiences more relatable and memorable. However the information that was given on this room can be confusing to visitors, this is due to instead explaining the room it explains about more modern classrooms and how the Welsh education system has developed. Instead of this more information should be given about the classroom itself as people who do

¹ Image, *carmarthenshire*

museum, <<https://www.visitwales.com/attraction/museum/carmarthenshire-museum-532931>> ,
accessed: 16/01/26.

² *Carmarthenshire Museum*. (n.d.). Cofgar. Retrieved January 16, 2026, from
<https://cofgar.wales/venues/carmarthenshire-museum/>.

³ image, Kayla Bird, 2025.

not know about Victorian decorations and what that looks like would confuse it for a more modern classroom and think that Welsh schools still look like this.

Another exhibit at the Carmarthenshire museum is the Egyptian exhibit, this introduces visitors to aspects of Ancient Egyptian civilisation. Although this exhibit is small in scale the display is effective in broadening the museum's displays just from local history. This display does link Carmarthenshire to Egypt due to Harold Jones, an English artist who went to art school in Carmarthen.⁴ This exhibit holds artefacts such as funerary objects, like pottery, shabatis and



original paintings from Harold Jones's, which depicts parts from the⁵tombs he was asked to draw. The room itself has Egyptian artwork on the walls to immerse you into the exhibit. There are interactive parts to this exhibit such as a mummy and boxes which replicate the organ jars, which Egyptians would have placed certain organs in certain jars, and also has an element of dress up, this is well received by younger visitors such as children and keeps them engaged.

By including the Egyptian collection, Carmarthenshire Museum demonstrates how global history can be incorporated into a local county museum setting, this adds variety and brings more people to the museum. However there are again some problems with the information given on some of the artworks, some information was wrong and needs to be changed, and in addition to this the information given is brief and often confusing. This is a downside as some who have little to no understanding about this topic are led to believe the wrong information. This could be due to funding and not being able to get professionals in to help out with the information or just a simple mistake on the curators behalf.

In conclusion, Carmarthenshire Museum is a valuable cultural asset that offers a fun and educational visit despite its small size. The Museum's entry is free and the staff are friendly, the exhibits are informative and engaging and a pretty historic setting, it provides an introduction to the heritage of Carmarthenshire. However it may not compete with the large national museums, its strength is its focus on local history and community identity, making it a worthwhile place for both residents and visitors to visit.

⁴ *Exploring Ancient Egypt: The Story of Harold Jones*. (n.d.). Cofgar. Retrieved January 16, 2026, from <https://cofgar.wales/whats-on/exploring-ancient-egypt/>.

⁵ image, Kayla Bird, 2025.

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