

# 200 years of drills and thrills, DANDO's history is boring!



DRILL DANDO: Museum curator Juliet Nye with Betty Parker and one of the DANDO exhibits L17086H10

**TWO centuries of industry are being celebrated at Littlehampton Museum.**  
One of the town's oldest companies, DANDO Drilling International, then known as Duke and Ockenden, was founded 200 years ago, and the exhibition, in the museum's Lens Room Gallery, looks back to chart its success.

A spokeswoman for the museum said: "There is little documentation dating from the first 60 years of their existence, although an advertisement in a promotional catalogue does inform us that the company was founded in the year 1810.

"It was not until the 1860s, when the water department was formed, that the business really began to expand and flourish, and soon they were sending men and equipment to carry out work all over the world."

It's great to look back at the history of one of Littlehampton's most successful companies

Dr James Walsh  
Littlehampton Town Council

By 1863, the company was already supplying tubewells to Ethiopia, or Abyssinia as it was known then, and among the exhibits is information, from documentation and newspaper cuttings, on how the company saved the people of Worthing from a typhoid break-out.

In 1893, more than 1,400 people were infected with the disease, and 188 died, after a workman accidentally polluted the town's water supply. DANDO drilled new wells at Broadwater, and gave Worthing a new water source.

In 1867, the company had done the same

for Littlehampton, after an outbreak of cholera, and by the start of the Second World War, DANDO was so respected it was asked to form a well-boring unit for the Royal Engineers, which was based all over the world, including Malta and Cyprus.

The exhibition, which will run until June 4, features photographs and memorabilia, including signs and equipment.

Dr James Walsh, chairman of Littlehampton Town Council's community resources committee, called it an "interesting exhibition".

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