

Victorian chronology

How the area developed during the Victorian period.

This is not meant to be a comprehensive guide to every event that occurred within the area now covered by the London Borough of Bexley during the Victorian era. However, it is a useful guide to the development of the local area during that time and includes many aspects of that development such as those in transport, education, health, population and religion.

1837	Victoria becomes Queen
1838	Bexley Poor House sold as responsibility for the poor passed to the Dartford Board of Guardians
1840	Police station opened on Broadway, Bexleyheath
1841	Population - Bexley 3955 (of which Bexleyheath 2115) Erith 3955 Crayford 2408 Sidcup 358
	Anti-Corn Law Association of Crayford and Vicinity formed at the One Bell public house
	Foundation stone laid of first St. John the Evangelist Church, Sidcup
	Lamorbey National School built Burnt Oak Lane (school until 1880 now private house)
1842	Erith Pier constructed by Guardians of the Wheatley Estate
	Erith Ballast Wharf built
1843	David Evans Silk Printing Works moves to Crayford
1844	First St. John the Evangelist Church, Sidcup completed
1845	Wooden Wesleyan Chapel built at Bexleyheath
	Erith Police Station built
1846	Original Strict Baptist Chapel at Bexley built
1847	Original Ursula Lodges Almshouses built in Sidcup (later replaced in 1972)
1848	Special constables enrolled at Erith to combat Chartist Movement disturbances
	Pincott Hall built (then known as The Athenaeum)
1849	North Kent Line opens serving Erith and Abbey Wood stations

c.1850's	Black Horse, Albert Road, Bexley built (area known as Building Fields at that time)
1850	Original West Street School, Erith built as a National School
1851	Population - Bexley 4490
	Steeple of Chapel of Ease, Bexleyheath, erected
	Gas lighting introduced in Bexleyheath
1852	"Robin Hood & Little John" Public House in Bexleyheath built
	Gas introduced for private use in Erith (by West Kent Gas Co.)
	Crayford Gas Works opened
	St. James Church, North Cray rebuilt
1853	Public gas lighting begins in Erith
	Duke of Wellington public house, London Rd, Crayford opened
c.1853	The Hollies, Sidcup built
1854	Bexleyheath Congregational Church built
1857	St Mary's, Bexley, Cemetery opened
1858	Wheatley Manor House demolished
1859	Abbey Wood and Belvedere stations opened
	Work begins on Red House, William Morris' home in Bexleyheath
	Erith Congregational Chapel opens
1860	William Morris moves into Red House, Bexleyheath
	Bridgen National School built
	Wesleyan Chapel in North Street, Bexleyheath opens
	Public gas lighting introduced at Belvedere
	Jolly Miller Public House in Bexleyheath built
	North Cray National School built
1861	Population - Erith 4143 Bexley 4944 (of which Bexleyheath had approximately 3000)1861
	Erith divided into 3 parishes - St Johns, All Saints, Christchurch
1862	Erith Gas Works built at West Street
1863	First sailing barge race at Erith
	Boys' and girls' schools founded at Belvedere by Sir Culling

	Eardley
1864	Kent Water Company begins supplying water to the area - previously all water was from wells
	Gunpowder explosion
	Erith Ironworks founded (Easton, Amos & Anderson)
	Crayford Arms Public house built
	Royal Charlotte public house, Crayford built
1865	Crossness Pumping Station opened
	Belvedere House acquired by Shipwrecked Mariners Society (eventually Royal Alfred Seaman's Home)
1866	Dartford Loop Line opens serving Sidcup, Bexley, and Crayford
	Belvedere Parish established
	Parish of Christchurch, Bexleyheath, created
	Sidcup Station built
	Station Hotel (now The Alma), Sidcup built
	Railway viaduct built & Bexley Station opened
	Crayford Station opened
1867	First local newspaper begins - Bexleyheath, Erith & Sidcup Observers
	Crayford Baptist Church built
1868	Trinity Baptist Chapel, Bexleyheath, built
1870s	The Park, Main Road, Carlton Road, Hatherley Road
1870	Rose & Crown, Welling, built
1871	Population - Bexley 6448 (of which Bexleyheath 3,500)
	Erith School Board holds first meeting (one of the first in Kent)
1872	Cornerstone of Christchurch, Erith laid
	Corinthian Yacht Club founded
	Present bridge over River Cray, Bexley built
1874	Christchurch, Erith consecrated
	Wheatley Estate sold
	Reffells Brewery established in Bourne Road, Bexley
1875	Erith Hospital moved to site in Avenue Road as 'Erith Cottage Hospital'

1876	Erith Local Board established
	Manor and Crescent Road Schools opened
	Parkhurst Estate, Bexley developed
1877	Christchurch, Bexleyheath built and opened
	Bexleyheath Lighting Rate introduced
	Queen Street Baptist Chapel, Erith opened
1877	St Johns, Erith rebuilt and enlarged
	Shoulder of Mutton Green, Welling, acquired by the Metropolitan Board of Works from Queens College, Oxford
1879	Foster's School, Upper Wickham Lane, built
	Holy Trinity Church, Sidcup, built
	Bexleyheath Cemetery opened
1880's	Birkbeck Road, Sidcup, developed
1880	Bexley Local Board established
	Callenders Bitumen & Waterproof Co. established at Belvedere
	Second Lamorbey National School built in Hurst Road (now Holy Trinity Church Hall)
1881	Population - Erith 9584
	Bexley Cottage Hospital opens in Upton Road
1881-2	St Johns Church, Bexley built
1882	Sidcup Cottage Hospital, Birkbeck Road built
	First newspaper printed in Erith - The Erith Times
	Sidcup National School built (Now Doreen Bird College)
	Second St. John the Evangelist Church, Sidcup, built
1883	St Mary's, Bexley restored
	New Bexleyheath National School completed in Albert (now Graham) Road
1884	Maxim Gun Co formed to produce the Maxim machine gun at Crayford
	Erith play an Australian XI at cricket
1886	Erith Town Regatta established
1888	Maxim-Nordenfelt Gun & Ammunition Co opens at Erith
	Maxim Gun Co. moved to Crayford, later became Maxim-Nordenfeldt Gun & Ammunition Co. & then Vickers, Sons &

	Maxim
	Congregational Church in Sidcup built
1889	Picardy School, Belvedere opens
1890	Bexley Congregational Church built
	Second Sidcup Cottage Hospital built
c.1890	The Rising Sun (Now Old Wick) public house, Bexley built
1891	Population - Erith 13414 Bexley 10605
	Fraser & Chalmers Engineering Works opens at Erith
1892	Ye Olde Black Horse Sidcup rebuilt
1893	Corinthian Yacht Club became Royal Corinthian Yacht Club
	Last sailing barge race from Erith
	Swaishlands Cotton Printing Works taken over by G.P. & J. Baker (rugs & carpets)
1894	Freemantle Hall in Bexley Village built
	Bexley Urban District Council established
	Erith Urban District Council established
	Bexleyheath School Board elected
	Bexley Heath officially became Bexleyheath
	Erith Cemetery in Brook Street opened
1895	Brook Street School in Erith opens
	Upland School, Church Road, Bexleyheath built
	Barnehurst named after Miles Barne
	Old Manor Way Crayford railway bridge built
1895 May 1	Bexleyheath railway line opened serving Barnehurst, Bexleyheath, Welling
1896	Callenders Bitumen & Waterproof Co become Callenders Cable & Construction Company (and later BICC)
1897	Nordenfelt Gun and Ammunition Company became Vickers, Sons & Maxim
	Victoria Homes in Bourne Road built to celebrate Victoria's golden jubilee
	Station Hotel, (now Moon & Sixpence) Welling, built
1898	Corinthian Yacht Club moves away
1899	The Hollies purchased by the Guardians of the Poor (Greenwich) for an orphanage

	Sidings and engine sheds built at Slade Green
1900	Walnut Tree House & Estate acquired by Erith Council
	New Erith Yacht Club formed
	Miller's Arms PH, Bexleyheath, built
1901	Population - Erith 25296 Bexley 12918 (of which Bexleyheath & Welling 8237) Crayford 6752 Sidcup 5829
	Brook Street Infants School built
	West Street School rebuilt
	Present St. John the Evangelist Church, Sidcup, built
	Christ Church, Sidcup built
	Wansunt Pumping Station, Crayford built for Thames Water
1901	Queen Victoria dies

Sources

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