

**1. Exeter Cathedral, North Tower, west elevation.**

Latin inscription, probably dating from before 1310.

**2. Exeter Cathedral, North Cloisters.**

Site of the Cathedral's medieval Library from 1412.

**3. Bishop's Palace, Palace Gate.**

Exeter Cathedral Library, includes Exeter book of poems ca.980.

**4. Old Deanery. Cathedral Close.**

Probable location of William of Orange's printing press, 1688.

**5. Cathedral Close and Yard.**

[text to complete]

**6. Cathedral Yard.**

Philip Bishop.

**7. Cathedral Yard.**

Joseph Bliss.

**8. Cathedral Close.**

Mol's Coffee House.

**9. Cathedral Close.**

Devon and Exeter Institution.

**10. Cathedral Close.**

Exeter Law Library.

**11. Cathedral Close.**

SPCK Bookshop.

**12. Cathedral Yard.**

Charles Elkin Mathews.

**13. Cathedral Yard.**

James G. Commin.

**14. Cathedral Close**

Webb and Bower.

**15. Little Stile.**

Thomas Benet.

**16. South Street.**

James Tucker charged with selling seditious literature at Black Dwarf 1819. Besley family publishers of guidebooks and directories at no. 89 1825-1942.

**17. 96 South Street.**

Oxfam Bookshop since 1984. .

**18. 84 South Street.**

Hospiscare Book and Vintage shop since 2014.

**19. 53 South Street.**

Big Issue, regional centre 2008-2024.

**20. 143 Fore Street.**

Western Times Office 1840-1901, Wheaton publishers 1910-39.

**21. 185-186 Fore Street.**

Wheatons, publishers specialising in school textbooks 1846-1906.

**22. North Street**

William Pollard, printers and publishers worked at various 1818-1919. Now in Sowton Industrial Estate.

**23. 187 High Street.**

James Holman (1786-1857), blind traveller was born here. His voyages round the world were published in London.

**24. High Street.**

[text to complete]

**25. 56 High Street.**

Gilbert Dyer.

**26. 203 High Street.**

Guildhall.

**27. 226 High Street.**

Exeter Flying Post office.

**28. 229 High Street.**

Sir Thomas Bodley.

**29. 230 High Street.**

James G. Commin.

**30. Gandy Street.**

[text to complete]

**31. Gandy Street.**

Andrew Brice 1740-1744.

**32. Gandy Street.**

Joanna Southcott.

**33. 28 Gandy Street.**

Castle Bookshop.

**34. Gandy Street.**

J. K. Rowling.



**Discovering Exeter Walks  
The architecture of information  
a literary walk for Heritage Open Days,  
September 2025**



*First-century tile, Roman legionary bath-house,  
with start of alphabet (Royal Albert Memorial Museum).*

Exeter has been a literate city for two millennia, but the printed word has only been present for a quarter of this period. Before that there were coins, monumental inscriptions, correspondence and legal documents. These were inscribed on wooden sheets, parchment, occasionally papyrus, and only from the fifteenth century paper. Paper and print did not displace the manuscript tradition; several important histories of Exeter and Devon took centuries to get into print. Nor did the written word replace the oral tradition. News, information and ideas could be conveyed by proclamation, by sermons, by drama and by folk songs, such as those collected by Exeter-born Sabine-Baring-Gould.

The buildings on this walk are (or more often were) real structures, operated by real people, specialists often with years of experience using machines to produce and disseminate information in hard copy which should be stored to build the community's memory in libraries and archives, guardians of knowledge that should be cherished in this digital age.

*Ian Maxted, an old bibliofool, September 2025*

