Parasol

The parasol was an important accessory for Victorian women. Parasols protected the lady’s delicate facial skin from the sun’s rays so that she could maintain her ‘peaches and cream’ Complexion. Tanned skin was not a desired look for Victorian women, as this denoted a woman of work and not one of leisure. Parasols also served as an elegant fashion accessory.

Parasol canopy tops were sometimes made from satin, lined in silk and were often trimmed in lace. They could be in many different colours and made to match a lady’s outfit for special occasions. Parasol handles could be made from horn, silver, ivory or ebony. Many Victorian ladies adorned their parasols with silk cords, bows and tassels. The two parasols in the box are dated 1920s to 1930s.
Seaside Loans Box

Punch and Judy

From Victorian times Punch and Judy has been associated with the seaside resorts, although Mr. Punch dates back to the 17th century and was known as Punchinello. In Victorian times Mr Punch became a glove puppet instead of a marionette and the street Punch and Judy show was born.

When the railways brought travel to the masses and took town crowds to the seaside Mr Punch went too, making himself part of traditional beach fun along with sand castles, paddling and donkey rides. With the gradual decline of the traditional British seaside holiday the Punch and Judy man has found it harder and harder to make a living from a seaside pitch.

The Dock Museum, North Road, Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 2PW
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Boy's bathing costume [replica]

This is an accurate replica of a 1920s boy's one-piece bathing costume. Wool was used because it didn't become see-through when wet, however it did cling and hug the body.

By the late 19th century men's swimsuits started to show more leg and at the beachside had even started to show some chest, with the shorts design of today beginning to make an appearance. During the 20th century men's bathing suits shorts got shorter. A specialised swimsuit company called Speedo introduced the Y-front brief swimsuits for men. This became the fashion for a number of years until the surfing culture saw the rise of long shorts again.
Ladies swimming costume

This is an original 1960s ladies swimsuit, made from a mix of nylon and stretch material. Modern swimming costumes have the same style (although the material is different).

In Victorian times things were very different as ladies wore bloomers and a wool over-dress. The dress ends were sometimes weighed down to stop them rising up upon entering the water. In the early 1900s ladies grew tired of these heavy woollen swimsuits. Swimming costumes have changed over the years, reflecting the changes in freedom and fashion in clothing for women.
Dinky Toys

Dinky toys were the first British toy cars produced using advanced die-casting techniques which made them cheaper and easier to make than tin toys. The first Dinky toys appeared in the 1930s in Liverpool but World War II brought production almost to a standstill for several years. When it resumed Dinky Toys produced cars, trucks, buses, military vehicles, aircraft, ships, dolls house furniture and farm implements and virtually every boy and many a girl in the 1930s, 1940s, 1950s and 1960s would have played with them.
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Dacora Camera

This camera dates to the 1950s. It is a simple camera and is light and compact so it was probably meant for home use. The camera lens can be packed away so you could fold it up if you didn't want to get it dirty (for example, with sand from the beach).

The 1950s in Britain was of increasing prosperity and full employment. People had more money to spend and this camera could have been bought as a hobby (a pastime) or for taking pictures of family and friends and of special occasions.

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Brownie Camera

This camera was made between 1917 to 1927. Autographic cameras were special as dates and names could be included on the negatives. This camera is small, light and portable and therefore ideal for taking on holiday and to the seaside.

The cameras of the nineteenth century were quite expensive and not many people could afford them, so George Eastman introduced the Brownie, the first simple, affordable camera. This company still makes cameras today. The name Brownie came from the characters in a children's storybook, which was popular in North America.
Initial the first toys for the beach were made of wood, but soon tin became more common, especially for buckets as it gave more opportunity for colourful patterns and pictures. Today most seaside toys are made of plastic, which means they no longer become rusty.

In the nineteenth century the seaside holiday, as we know it, developed. It was made possible by the expansion of the railways in the 1840s and 1850s, which made long distance travel affordable for most people.
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Magic Grandad DVD and Resource Pack

Magic Grandad takes his two grandchildren back in time to find out about life at the seaside one hundred years ago.

The three programmes from the BBC use photographs, postcards, old film and souvenirs to provide a rich stimulus for contrasting seaside holidays then and now.

Programmes: The Promenade, The Beach and Entertainment and each programme lasts fifteen minutes and is divided into different sections.