

1.PREVENTING A SMALL SOCIETY.

Though big government at both a local and national level is potentially damaging to both society and culture, it is equally true that the retrenchment of government at both levels can have damaging social and cultural consequences. If society is not to be reduced by current changes then charitable, community, voluntary and other third sector groups will have to be able to flourish and grow. Alternative funding sources need to be identified to ensure that this happens, enabling those locally-significant charitable and voluntary sector organisations which require funding to employ staff to carry out their work to continue doing so. Failure to do this runs the risk of the creation of a small society, rather than the “Big Society” which Government aspires to, or the “Good Society” espoused by the Opposition in Parliament. Charitable and voluntary organisations in the heritage sector will be central to this for a number of reasons;

- **Civic Pride.** A strong sense of local histories and an understanding and empathy for the fabric and past of a place is a pivotal aspect of a sense of pride and ownership in a place, with all of the social benefits which this and the sense of self-worth which comes with it brings.

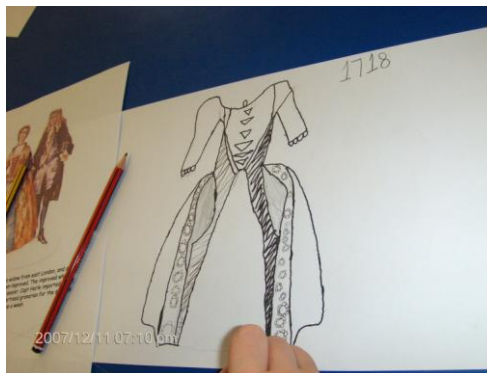


50th Anniversary of Harold Wood Library.

- Having residents make strong links between local history and a sense of pride in where they live. The 2010 Havering Culture Survey asked local residents to indicate how strongly they agreed with various statements about a cross-section of cultural activities. 70% gave a score of 8 or more out of 10 to the statement “Heritage in Havering is a valuable asset to the borough”. 74% agreed with the statement that local heritage is “fun and enjoyable”. 72% said they would like to learn more about local history.
- **Volunteering.** Local history is a key focal point for volunteering in Havering. Residents gain much pleasure from volunteering in organisations involved in studying and conserving the historic and natural environment and researching local history. Among others in the borough Gidea Park and District Civic Society has some 600 members. Both Romford and Hornchurch and District Historical Societies have healthy membership levels and lively newsletters. Friends of Upminster Windmill has a membership of about 200 local enthusiasts and volunteers, many Friends of Parks groups deal directly with

significant historic environments – Friends of Langtons Gardens, Raphael and Lodge Farm Parks, Bedfords Park, and King George’s Playing Fields come immediately to mind, as do the volunteers at Thames Chase, carrying out practical work in the parks and fund-raising to improve them in the future. Most notably, of course, Havering Museum is operated and governed by volunteers, and they employ the two vital members of staff there, who make such an important contribution to ensuring both the intrinsic and instrumental role of the museum in culture and society within the borough.

- **Young People.** Getting involved in local history offers young people positive activities and the opportunity for greater self-awareness and personal development. Havering Museum Ltd. are working with young people to develop two new youth projects from their base in High Street, Romford. The work of Havering Museum with young people has recently been recognised by the Mayor of London.
- **Education.** The pivotal role of history and local history in a rounded education has been highlighted by the 2011 Ofsted report “History for All“. Debate has been further fostered by the views of Niall Ferguson on the matter. Both sides of the argument agree, however, that history matters in a child and young person’s education. Local history in particular has the power to bring abstract principles and distant events alive for children, stimulating minds and imaginations and improving learning. Havering teachers view local history as being a useful educational resource when teaching a wide range of disciplines, and a recent appeal for information on how local schools use local history in their teaching, and how the link between pupils, archives, artefacts and the historic environment in Havering which I sent to all Head Teachers in the borough has been well received. Havering Museum Ltd. collects object and artefacts relating to the history of Havering and employs an Education Officer who is working with local primary schools on providing support from the museum collection for the curriculum throughout the borough. The Local Studies Library and Archive collects documents and material on paper or in two dimensions. A number of schools have used the resources which it offers to support teaching over the last year.



Pupils from Rainham Village Primary School study local history at Rainham Hall

- **Older people.** Local history offers older people opportunities to volunteer and learn, maintaining active minds and healthy bodies, opportunities to socialise and to enjoy a high quality of life with all the social benefits that come from that. Havering Museum is staffed by over 40 trained volunteers, many of whom are older people. Local historical societies, civic and amenity societies and other such vital supports to a civilised society are often attractive to older people.
- **Inclusion.** Locally the work of the History Group at the Western Road Life Skills Centre in Romford has produced important social benefits for group members with learning disabilities - including a greater awareness and understanding of concepts such a future time (important for independent living) - as well as being very enjoyable and resulting in high-quality research and learning. Work by local groups such as the Academy of African Arts and East London Malayalee Association has used history and diverse traditions to overcome perceived barriers between communities.



The Western Road Life Skills Centre History Group at Work.

- **Health.** The contribution of local history to health, in particular to mental health, has been highlighted by studies such a “Opening Minds; Mental Health, Creativity and the Open Museum” by Museums, Libraries, Archives Renaissance East Midlands and Leicestershire County Council, published in 2010. The study argued that work with museum and archive collections made an important contribution to promoting mental health and recovery from mental illness because “Being able to see, smell or touch strange or beautiful things (or maybe very familiar objects from childhood) and then share such experiences with others through imagination and creativity can bring people back to themselves and begin to revitalise their confidence in communicating with others”, (p.7) and that work with museum and archive collections resulted a “surge in confidence and levels of skill [which] can be more potent than

medication". (p.7)

- The benefit of local history in general wellbeing and seeming to mitigate the prevalence of dementia has been documented in reports such as "Delivering Outcomes in the South West" by Museums, Libraries, Archives (MLA) in 2008.
- Reminiscence sessions run by Havering Museum Ltd. Constitute an important part of a broader strategy to reduce levels of Dementia in the borough.
- **Environment.**
A well maintained and conserved local historic environment contributes strongly to a visually interesting and rewarding local environment, with associated improvements in levels of mental wellbeing, physical wellbeing, a reduced propensity to low-level "enviro-crime" (tagging, vandalism at the like), and attracts people to a place.



Restoration of gazebo in Langtons Gardens by Historic Buildings and Landscapes Officer, with the support of Friends of Langtons Gardens

- **The economy.** The power of local history to be a catalyst to contribute to the economy of an area, whether be attracting people who then make secondary spend in the area, or by acting as a catalyst for a high-quality creative economy has been made in publications such as the 2010 English Heritage publication "The Impact of Historic Environment Regeneration", and is accepted by Havering Council in it's "Living Ambitions" policy document, Local Development Framework and Culture Strategy.

Clearly, local history - its study, conservation, restoration and interpretation - has an important social role, as well as being important for its own sake. The local authority has an important role in this matter, but in this context it is important that action is taken to ensure that local charitable organisations involved in local history, in particular those employing professional expertise in the field such as Havering Museum Ltd., are able to flourish and grow in the future, if society in Havering is not to become smaller rather than bigger in the coming years.

2.COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLE.

Harold Wood



History way marker board, Harold Wood Park.

2010 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the public library being built in Harold Wood. A celebration was held at the library to mark this event. The Havering List of Local Anniversaries, compiled by the Local Studies Librarian, has proved an invaluable resource in raising the profile of local history within the borough. The current list runs until the end of 2012, and it will be most beneficial to prepare another one to follow it. Planning permission has been granted for the redevelopment of the former Harold Wood Hospital site. The treatment of The Grange listed building and its immediate setting at the site could be seen as a ideal example of conservation architecture and the creative use of the inspiration of the historic environment to create an original modern response, which makes a positive contribution to the quality of the environment in general. From a conservation point of view, however, many people feel that serious questions remain about the layout of the buildings in the broader landscape of the new development here, and whether they make similarly positive use of the historic landscape to create a positive new environment. Working with the local authority, Friends of Harold Wood Park have installed a series of Oral History Waymarker boards in the park, adding to people's enjoyment of the environment, helping to encourage people to walk and take exercise, and drawing on the memories of local residents about the park and local landscape.

Cranham



Publicity for the Exhibition on Boyd Hall.

Sadly the former Boyd School building in Cranham was demolished by the local church which owned it in summer 2010. Many people felt that alternative, more sympathetic, solutions, blending the historic fabric of the site with the broader aspirations on the Church could have been explored more fully. An exhibition marking the 140th anniversary of the school and looking at its social impact was shown at local libraries and schools in late 2010/ early 2011. The carved portland stone plaque from Boyd Hall was kindly donated to the borough by All Saints, Cranham, and is kept in safe storage prior to a suitable site for it to be used being identified in the future.

Upminster



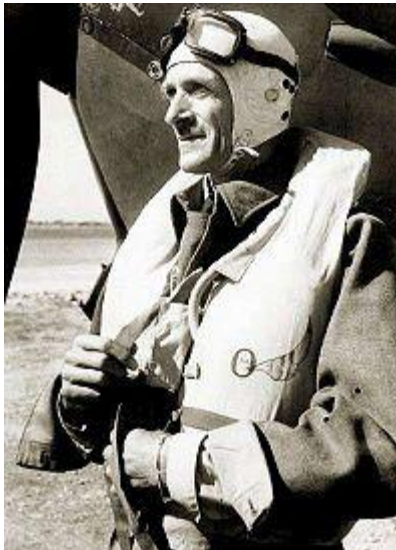
Upminster Windmill Cap Works

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2010 marked the 125th anniversary of Upminster Railway Station being opened on 1st May 1885, and the 80th anniversary of the demolition of Gaynes in 1930. Sacred Heart of Mary School have been successful in their bid to Heritage Lottery Fund for money to restore the Old Chapel in St. Mary's Lane, and are embarking on an exciting project of research and public involvement in the history of Upminster as part of this. Progress remains good at Upminster Mill, and the Trust which will take over the running of the building as part of a restoration scheme which it is hoped Heritage Lottery Fund will support have continued to make very valuable contributions to the environment of Upminster and neighbouring centres with their work at the Mill. Most notably, the sails have been put back on the Mill and the cap has now been restored to full working order for the first time in many years. Friends of Clockhouse Gardens have continued to pursue very welcome projects to open up the historic environment of the gardens to the public, working with the local authority on story telling and childrens events for local people. Work has been done to the moat and to progress the development of a rose walk at the gardens. The restoration of Parklands Bridge and Park remain an outstanding project, which it is hoped can be returned to when further funding can be identified.

Friends of Upminster Park have continued to play a proactive role in supporting the quality of the environment at the park, which forms the foreground for views of the historic environment of Upminster, including views of the windmill and Sacred Heart School, arranging fund-raising, holding events, and supporting and carrying out other work to improve the visual appeal of the park.

Elm Park



Sir Keith Park

2010 marked the 75th anniversary of the official opening of Elm Park. Working with the Council, Elm Park Regeneration organised a number of very popular local events to mark this significant date. In particular the Pasadena Roof Orchestra played a special

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concert at Elm Park Assembly Hall and an elm tree was planted in Harrow Lodge Park to mark the anniversary, and the 2010 Elm Park Fiesta was also used to mark the event.

Residents have asked whether it would be possible to commemorate the life of Air Chief Marshall Sir Keith Park in a road name in Elm Park. Air Chief Marshall Park made very complementary remarks about the role of RAF Hornchurch in the Battle of Britain, and prior to that was the very first Station Commander of RAF Hornchurch when it re-opened in 1928.

Collier Row and Mawneys



Knight from Chaucer's Canterbury Tales

2010 marked the 75th anniversary of the demolition of Mawneys, which it is reputed was once owned by a knight who was the inspiration for the Knight in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. The rural and agricultural character of Collier Row and the Mawneys area until relatively recently was emphasised by the contents of the 1845 Romford and Havering Parish Tithe Map, which was acquired on long-term loan by the Local Studies Library in 2010. Documents donated to the Local Studies Library in 2010/11 include "The Great War 1914-1918; Mawneys Roll of Honour" which sheds more light on the history of the local community during this time.

Friends of King Georges Playing Fields and Friends of Lawns Park have continued to undertake practical steps to improve the visual appeal of the local environment over the last year.

Harold Hill



Harold Hill residents take part in the "X-Presents" project.

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Local residents have been keen to pursue the idea of installing a plaque to mark the house in which the artist and illustrator Harry Eccleston, who did many of the design work for the illustrations on paper money in England and Wales.

A bench marking Mr. Eccleston's contribution to life in Harold Hill has been installed in Central Park. Residents are also keen to be involved in naming new roads created as part of the regeneration of Harold Hill to ensure that they are linked to the history and environment of Harold Hill and contribute to a strong sense of community and local identity in new developments. X-Presents artists collective have been working at their base in Exchange Studios, 110 Petersfield Avenue, since February. Part of their work has been the creation of a "Museum of Everyday" using objects, images and photographs loaned by people from Harold Hill and surrounding areas. The "Museum of Everyday" gave a platform to local people to share memories and experiences. British Conservation Trust volunteers have completed an annual work programme at the scheduled moat site in Dagnam Park. A management agreement is now in place with English Heritage to deal with the regular maintenance and upkeep of this important historic site.

A local historian is working with the Local Studies Librarian on a book examining the historic landscapes of Harold Hill

The Academy of African Arts has been established by a resident in Harold Hill, promoting learning about traditional African arts and crafts and the social structures within which they exist.

Heritage Lottery Fund has funded the development of a heritage walk in Harold Hill, working with local residents and the Council.

Emerson Park and Ardleigh Green

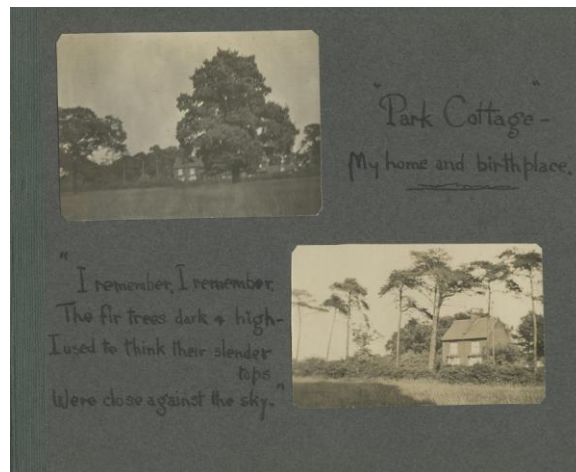


Image of Park Cottage. Re-produced with permission of the Local Studies Library

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2010 marked the 75th anniversary of Ardleigh Green School being founded. Photographs of Park Cottage in Ardleigh Green have been donated to the Local Studies Library in 2010.

South Hornchurch

The landscape and buildings of Bretons Manor House are of significant importance from the point of view both of heritage and nature conservation. Work has continued throughout the year on recording and assessing the full extent of the historic and nature conservation characteristic of the landscape and buildings at this significant cultural asset for local residents and the borough as a whole.

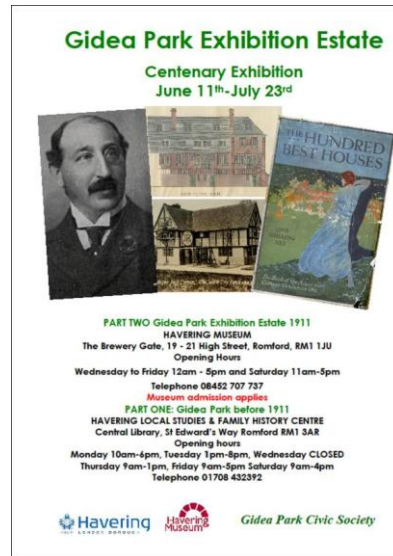
The Historic Buildings and Landscapes Officer has carried out important work to stabilise and protect the fabric of the listed manor house at Bretons. The state of the walled garden at the site continues to be of concern.



Bretons Manor House Windows

2011 marks the 300th anniversary of the baptism of the university teacher David Fordyce, who was appointed private chaplain to John Hopkins at Bretons in the early eighteenth century

Gidea Park



*Publicity for Exhibition Marking the Centenary of Romford Garden Suburb.
Prepared by Havering Local Studies Library*

2011 marks the 100th anniversary of the completion of Romford Garden Suburb, a nationally important example of architecture and town planning with contributions by some of the leading architects of the day. Gidea Park and District Civic Society has republished an essay about the history on the estate written by the late Larry Leicester to mark the event. The publication was generously sponsored by Porter-Glenny Gidea Park Estates. An exhibition about the estate using material from the Local Studies Library and Gidea Park and District Civic Society has been held in Havering Museum and an exhibition about the landscapes of Gidea Hall and surrounding area prior to the building of the estate has been held in the Local Studies Library. The Civic Society held an event at the bandstand in Raphael Park to mark the centenary and also intend to erect interpretation boards guiding people around key buildings in the conservation area at two key points in the estate to mark its centenary. A walk around the estate, led by local historian Brian Evans, was included in this year's Havering Mini Open House to mark the anniversary.

A bid to Heritage Lottery Fund for the restoration of the historic and natural landscape at Raphael Park has been successful. Work on the restoration is scheduled to begin in early 2012. Friends of Raphael Park and Lodge Farm Park have continued to make a very positive contribution to the quality of the environment at the site, arranging fund-raising events, carrying out litter picks and planting and maintaining some of the flower beds in the park.

Heritage Lottery Fund has funded the development of a heritage walk in Gidea Park, working with local residents and the Council.

2011 also marks the fiftieth anniversary of Romford Summer Theatre producing Shakespeare in Raphael Park, an event which has been marked by the publication of a

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history of the company by local historian Norma Jennings, which was kindly part sponsored by Havering Council. An exhibition about the history of Shakespeare productions in Raphael Park has been held at Sacred Heart of Mary School in Upminster and subsequently transferred to the Local Studies Library in Romford.

2010 marked the probable 600th anniversary of the birth of Sir Thomas Cook, Mayor of London, who was an owner of Gidea Hall and tutor to the children of Henry VIII, it also marked the 80th anniversary of the demolition of the final Gidea Hall which succeeded the Medieval structure. 2011 also marked the centenary of the birth of Kenneth Farnes, who was a pupil at Royal Liberty School and after whom Farnes Drive in Gidea Park is named.

Squirrels Heath School marked its centenary in its current building in 2011, with a fascinating exhibition about the history of the school drawing on archive material that was exhibited at the school's annual May Fayre and then went on to be displayed at the Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch.

Gidea Park Primary School organised a treasure hunt in Raphael Park at the start of the 2010/11 school year, with prizes of the catalogues of the 1911 exhibition estate and the catalogue of the 1934 Modern Homes exhibition being donated by Gidea Park and District Civic Society and Havering Council's Parks Department.

Romford

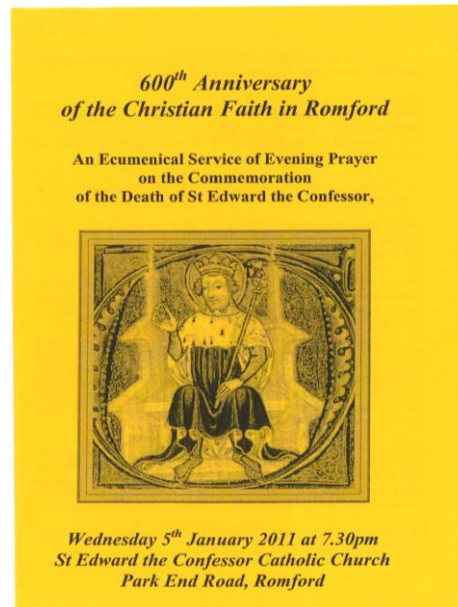
2010 was marked by major anniversaries for Romford. It was the 600th anniversary of a church first being built in the Market Place and the 300th anniversary of St. Edward's School being founded in the church.



Service Marking the 300th Anniversary of St Edward's Schools held at Westminster Abbey.

The Archbishop of Canterbury visited St. Edward's Church of England Primary and Secondary Schools and preached at a service of thanksgiving in St. Edward's Church in the Market to mark both occasions. A service of thanksgiving was also held at Westminster Abbey to mark both events, with very many Romford parents, pupils, teachers and former pupils and teachers of the school attending. A service was also held at St. Edward's Catholic Church, Romford, to mark the first establishment of a

church in the Market.



Order of Service for a service marking the 600th Anniversary of there being a church in Romford Market Place held by St Edward's Catholic Church, Romford.

Progress has been good in improving the environment of Romford Conservation Area. English Heritage and the local authority have commenced a jointly-funded environmental improvement scheme for the High Street in the area, and positive planning applications have been submitted for the conservation and restoration of The Golden Lion and The Lamb public houses, both in the Conservation Area. Planning Applications have also been refused, and refusals upheld on appeal, which would have had a negative impact on the visual appeal of the conservation area.

A full audit of the Conservation Area, and the wider town centre, has been undertaken to provide a means of informing and focussing improvements in the Conservation Area.



Subway improvements in Romford make reference to the history of the town.

Work continues on putting together funding for the restoration of the churchyard behind St. Edward's Church in the Market, and progress has been excellent on re-establishing links between Romford at its past and the landscape around it in the broader environment. In particular Streetcare have made welcome improvements to North Street underpass pass introducing simple stencilled motifs into the design which link the environment there to the Market and to the role of the area as an important pathway into the town for livestock on their way in to the Market in the past. Work at North Street roundabout and proposed work at London Road and Oldchurch Road roundabouts will also make a great contribution to strengthening nature corridors linking the centre of the town to the countryside around its suburbs and softening the environment of the centre of the town.

Havering Museum and the Local Studies Library have both made a very positive contribution to the Culture of the town. A full report of the work and acquisitions of the Local Studies Library, written by the Local Studies Librarian, is attached. As noted elsewhere in this report, the Museum has provided a social and cultural focus for young and old, visitors and residents over the last year, providing educational, cultural and social opportunities for a wide variety of people and a report on their work is also attached as an appendix to this report.

Edward Gotto's 1853 map of Romford was conserved while Central Library was closed for refurbishment, and is now available for researchers to use again following the re-opening of Central Library and the opening of a dedicated Local Studies Library in 2010.

Hunt and Hunt Solicitors donated a series of deeds, wills and other documents relating to Romford to the Local Studies Library in 2010, including a copy of the 1845 Romford and Havering Parish Tithe Map.

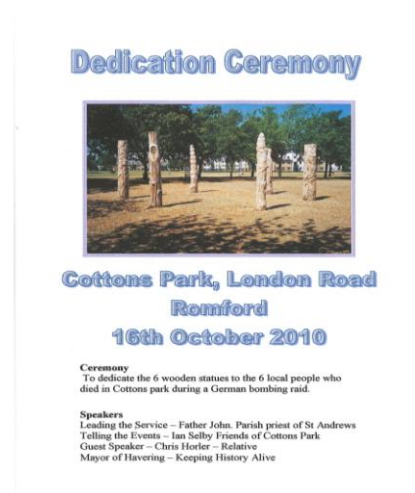
A series of photographs of Romford Brewery taken around 1971 by Howard "Bill"

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Mawby were also donated to the Local Studies Library during the year.

The History Group from the Western Road Lifeskills Centre have continued to do valuable historical research with important social benefits over the year, and will shortly be opening a new exhibition.

In Cottons Park a service organised by Friends of Cottons Park and taken by the priest from St. Andrew's Church, Romford, was held to bless six sculptures installed by the Council to commemorate residents who lost their lives in the park during a bombing raid in World War II.



The cover from the Order of Service for the Dedication Ceremony for the sculptures in Cottons Park.

The Queen's Theatre organised dance performances giving a modern twist to traditional dance forms in The Brewery shopping centre in July 2010.

2011 marks the 200th anniversary of the Romford penny Post being established and the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Romford Special School in Malvern Road, possibly the beginning of such specialist school provision in the town. 2010 marked the 140th anniversary of the first telegraph service being installed in Romford Post Office, the 80th anniversary of the first public library being opened in Romford and the 75th anniversary of Frances Bardsley School being opened in Brentwood Road.

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An exhibition to mark 80 years of public libraries in Romford was held in Central Library to coincide with the re-opening of the building by Sir Andrew Motion after its refurbishment.

A Romford Civic Society has been established, and it is hoped that this will grow into an effective lobbying organisation regarding civic amenity issues in the town.

Heritage Lottery Fund has funded the development of a heritage walk in Romford, working with residents and the Council.

Hornchurch

Proposed improvements in Hornchurch High Street, to be funded by Transport for London, will have a very welcome positive impact on the historic environment of Hornchurch.



Improvements to the environment in Hornchurch High Street. The palette of colours has since been changed to make a more sympathetic setting for the buildings.

They will improve the setting of a key link between the two conservation areas in the village at Langtons and St. Andrew's Church, and will also greatly improve the streetscene around a number of buildings of local interest in the High Street, which are currently less attractive than they could be due to the poor quality of the public realm in front of them.

The recent installation of crossings and other changes to the street scene in Billet Lane in Langtons Conservation Area have been carried out with reference to best practice in the conservation of the historic environment. Road markings have been made in a less glaring colour, where possible, than in other areas, and they have been thinner. The Council's Streetcare and Regeneration Departments are to be complemented on this work, and the way in which they liaised with the Council's Culture Department, which reflects English Heritage advice on how to mitigate the negative impact of street signage and markings on conservation areas.

The Council has worked with Friends of Langtons Gardens on a number of restoration projects here over the last year. The restoration of the gazebo is continuing with the installation of new Portland stone and slate flooring.

Central doors are to be made for the structure and preparations for the restoration of

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the plunge bath in 2012 are underway.

Friends of Langtons Gardens have successfully fund-raised to support Council investment in the restoration of the gardens, and have been keen helpers at Havering Mini-Open House, provided refreshments and the annual Langtons Summer Concert and held a charity pantomime to raise money for their work. They have worked in the gardens, helping to dig out and plant flowerbeds and maintain the quality of the environment.

The Council has continued to progress the restoration of Langtons House over the last year, with the restoration of Langtons Stableblock including the reinstatement of a historical colour scheme, the opening up of many of the fireplaces and refurbishment of the window frames. The 18th-century kitchen in at the house has been restored and adapted into a servery for wedding venue. A large pine table based on 18th-century designs has been built for the kitchen and a new fire surround installed on the site of the old range. A new pine dresser is to be installed in the house shortly, and lighting improvements are to be carried out.



Authentic designs used in the furnishing of Langtons.

Chamber concerts in Langtons Hall during the Winter months have proved very popular with local residents and have attracted major established figures and ensembles such as Emma Kirkby and London Mozart Players as well as up and coming young musicians. The concerts have also opened up the restored house to the public as a very pleasant place in which to listen to small-scale performances.



Well attended Chamber Music concerts have attracted people to the restored historic environment of Langtons House.

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The restoration of Fairkytes by the Council has continued in 2011. Work is currently ongoing to restore and conserve roofs, walls and windows and this popular local landmark, which is a product of building in a number of centuries. Based on a comprehensive assessment of the nature of the historic fabric of the building, the work has attracted much interest and support from local people and users of the centre.

Environmental improvements at the green by the Queen's Theatre, including the introduction of wild flower meadow areas, have improved the setting and views of grade II listed Fairkytes and helped to re-establish links between the centre of Hornchurch and the natural environment around the village. Work is beginning on the development of Conservation Area Appraisals and Conservation Area Management Plans for both Langtons and St. Andrew's Conservation Areas, which will guide future work to improve the conservation, restoration and visual appeal of these two very different areas.

Planning has begun for work to mark the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Theatre producing new work in Hornchurch in 2013. A bid to Heritage Lottery Fund to support work to capture the emotional and social role of the theatre in the life of the community in Hornchurch and beyond and to improve access to the theatre archive has been submitted.

The Asian Women's Association of Havering continue to organise their very popular Havering Mela, giving access to traditional arts, crafts and food from the Indian subcontinent in the setting of Langtons Conservation Area.

Hornchurch Festival of Arts and Heritage continues to open up new opportunities for residents to learn about the history of Hornchurch, its communities and natural environment and to attract visitors to the village each year.

The Heritage Lottery funded "Up the River and Down the Road" project run by Havering Theatre Trust at the Queen's Theatre encouraged and supported community learning about the history of Hornchurch and local communities.

Heritage Lottery Fund has funded the development of a heritage walk in Hornchurch, working with residents and the Council.

Friends of St. Andrew's Park continue to make a very positive contribution to the historic environment of Hornchurch in their work with the Council to maintain and improve the quality of this important park with its fine views of listed St. Andrew's Church, Hornchurch, and the conservation area around it.



A fine view of St Andrew's Church, Hornchurch across one of the many meadow areas which the Council is introducing across the borough to promote nature conservation.

2010 marked the 400th anniversary of the horns first being recorded at St. Andrew's Church, Hornchurch, the 125th anniversary of Hornchurch Station and the 75th anniversary of the present White Hart building in Hornchurch. 2011 marks the 75th anniversary of a public library first being opened in Hornchurch and the 175th anniversary of the probable date of birth of Daniel Mendoza, who fought a famous boxing match at The Dell in 1795. The minutes of the Rotary Club of Hornchurch and Upminster 1951-1983 were donated to the Local Studies Library in 2010/11.

The 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain was commemorated by the Heritage Lottery Fund funded "Hornchurch Hullabaloo" at Hornchurch Country Park, which was an important centre for Britain's air defences during the battle. Worked by Essex Wildlife Trust continues to try to draw together funding to develop a visitor centre at the park and to progress the conservation of the historic and natural environment. 2010 also marked the 30th anniversary of the creation of Hornchurch Country Park.

Rainham and Wennington

2010 saw some important local anniversaries in Rainham. It was the 300th anniversary of the Vicarage being built and the 100th anniversary of the completion of the restoration of St. Hellen and Giles Church in 1910. 2011 is the 75th anniversary of the formation of Rainham Smallholders and Horticultural Society and the 75th anniversary of a public library first being opened in Rainham.

Conservation and restoration of the historic environment of Rainham Village Conservation Area continues. Five shops have taken advantage of the joint Havering Council/ English Heritage scheme to promote the improvement of shop fronts in the area.

Plans were being developed to restore the historic facade of The Phoenix as part of this scheme, but unfortunately the owner of the property chose not to pursue a planning application in this matter.



Original appearance of The Phoenix.

Image re-produced with permission of the Havering Local Studies Library

The National Trust has progressed the restoration of the gardens at Rainham Hall in partnership with the local authority, and has also undertaken much community engagement, including with schools, as part of its work on developing a vision for the future of this historic asset for the village and the borough.



Plan of the restoration of the gardens at Rainham Hall.

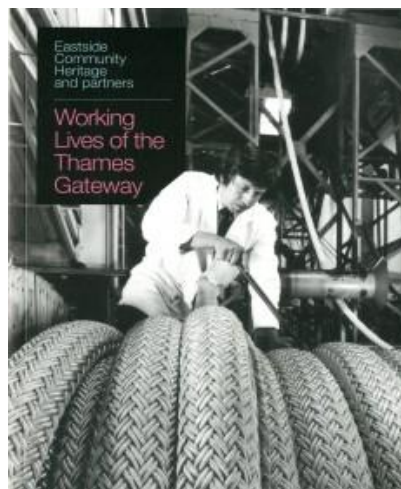
The Council awaits funding being released by London Thames Gateway Development Corporation for the building of the new library in Rainham Village Conservation Area and the positive visual impact that the building will have on views within, from and into the conservation area. Archaeological conditions associated with the planning application may well reveal more fascinating information about the social history of Rainham.



Visualisation of the view from Rainham Village conservation area to the fine new library and residential accommodation.

The Council has progressed work on the Rainham Marshes “Trackway” project, improving links between the village, the natural environment around it, and particularly to the Thames. The project has a particular focus on increasing awareness of the rich and varied history of the area, especially making reference to the history of causeway structures dating back to at least the Bronze Age in the area, which used to link settlements on higher ground where Rainham and Wennington are now to the Thames.

2011 has seen the completion of the Heritage Lottery funded “Working Lives of the Thames Gateway” project. The project has resulted in new archive material being gathered which sheds light on the working lives of people at a number of major Rainham businesses including Murex. Recorded interviews and transcripts of interviews with people who used to work in the area have been deposited in the Local Studies Library and form a rich source of information on the social and economic history of Rainham.



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Publication relating to “The Working Lives of the Thames Gateway” project.

Heritage Lottery Fund also funded the development of a heritage walk in Rainham, and the publication of a leaflet about it, by local people in 2010.

An undoubted negative development in 2010 was the most regrettable granting of permission for a major development at Dovers Corner by the Planning Inspectorate. Many people feel that were it to be built the development would have a detrimental impact on the quality of views to and from Rainham Village Conservation Area, and that it fails to make a positive contribution to the visual appeal of the area in general.

Havering-atte-Bower

The Historic Buildings and Landscapes Officer has progressed the restoration of the historic fabric of the green at the centre of Havering-atte-Bower Conservation Area over the year. The stocks have been restored, a new fence around the green installed and the village pond has been desilted. A new colour scheme of royal blue has been established in street furniture in the conservation area to highlight the royal associations that the village has.



*Stocks in Havering-atte-Bower restored by Havering Council's
Historic Buildings & Landscapes Officer*

Traffic calming and new road signage have been installed in the conservation area and its surroundings. Important lessons seem to have arisen for the way in which conservation advice and road safety measures are co-ordinated to minimise visual intrusion in conservation areas as a result of this work, and it is important to firmly embed this learning in practice in the future.

Havering-atte-Bower Conservation Society continues to lobby for improvements to the fabric and visual appeal of the conservation area, and to fund raise to support work. the society also arranges events in the village to enable village residents and others to

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enjoy the historic environment to the full.

Restoration work has been ongoing at Bedfords Park, with some work being undertaken by the Council, but also traditional skills and crafts such as coppicing being employed by Essex Wildlife Trust in work at the park, and hands on conservation and restoration work being actively pursued by Friends of Bedfords Park, who also provide expert advice and support in nature conservation issues at this Local Nature Reserve.

The Council is working with Friends of Bedfords Park and the charity "Clear Village" on conservation and restoration plans for the walled garden at Bedfords Park.

2010 marked the 950th anniversary of the probable date of construction of Havering Palace and the 700th anniversary of the probable date of birth of Queen Philippa of Hainault who apparently viewed the Royal Manor of Havering-atte-Bower as one of her favourite residences.

Heritage Lottery Fund has funded the development of a heritage walk in Havering-atte-Bower, working with residents and the Council.

3. POLICY AND STRATEGY

2011 saw the adoption of the Heritage Supplementary Planning Document for Havering, arising out of the Havering Local Development Framework. The document provides guidance for the implementation of the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies of the Local Development Framework and focuses on four main areas;

- Buildings - statutorily designated and buildings of local historical and/or architectural interest, including structures, curtilage buildings, setting and art work.
- Conservation Areas - including both conservation areas and other areas of special townscape or landscape character, their setting and views in to and out of them.
- Archaeology.
- Historic landscapes - including historic parks, gardens, cemeteries, local and distant views.

The document was developed in consultation with the local community, including at the Historic Environment Forum.

Draft Conservation Area Appraisals and Conservation Area Management Plans are currently being written for both the Langtons and St. Andrew's Conservation Areas in Hornchurch, which the Council adopted in 2010.

Initial work is being carried out with the community on strengthening and enhancing the list of local heritage assets contained in the Heritage SPD.

Work is being carried out to develop a Shop fronts SPD, which will have great relevance to improving the environment of conservation areas in the borough and the setting of listed buildings.

2012 will see both the History and Heritage and Libraries (including the Local Studies Library) sub-strategies of the Havering Culture Strategy being refreshed, and the same process being pursued for the Culture Strategy itself. It will be important to ensure that there are maximum linkages between all of these strategies and the Heritage SPD, and that they fully reflect the important social policy role of a strong understanding of local history within the community and the charitable, third sector and local authority infrastructure necessary to deliver this.

Nationally, Planning Policy 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, has been published by the Government and sets a new context for planning policy in the conservation of the historic environment.

The Mayor's London Plan, including policies to ensure that London's built and landscape heritage is identified, preserved and restored, was adopted in July 2011.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the intrinsic and instrumental values of local history and the local historic environment are fully reflected in ongoing work by the local authority to develop a strategic approach to “Big Society” ideas.
2. That the new iterations of the Havering Culture Strategy and its sub-strategies in History and Heritage and Libraries maximise linkages with the Heritage SPD and fully reflect the social and cultural value of local history and the organisations working in it.
3. That work continue to improve the visual appeal of conservation areas within the borough, including effective collaboration between the Council’s Culture, Planning and Streetcare services, among others, to achieve this.
4. That links between schools and both Havering Museum and the Local Studies Library be further developed and enhanced.
5. That work be progressed to renew the Havering List of Local Anniversaries, the current version of which expires at the end of 2012.