

Havering Libraries- Havering Local Studies Library 2019-2020

Havering Local Studies is part of the Havering Library Service and is open to the public 21 hours per week and an additional 6 hours on the second Saturday of each month. Local Studies continues to support individuals and organisations in their local and family history research and responds to over 1,000 enquiries via visit, email, letter and telephone.

The service has also supported work in other Council departments and links with the Havering Museum and other heritage organisations and local historians in the Borough are maintained.

Staffing

There is one full time member of staff in Local Studies. The Local History Librarian is assisted by an average of 14 volunteers who help sort, repackage, digitise and catalogue images in our collection to make them available online. Some of the volunteers support the Local History Librarian working with members of the public.

New volunteers recruited to assist visitors to Local Studies attend three two hour Local Studies training sessions and have completed a set of questions designed to build on the information and skills in the training sessions.

This summary highlights some of the activities and events during the year May 2019- May 2020 and an increasing presence online via social media, primarily Facebook, accelerated by the Covid-19 lockdown.

7th June 2019 An exhibition was produced for Elm Park Library to mark its 10th anniversary in the present building, with a look back at the development of the library service in Elm Park.

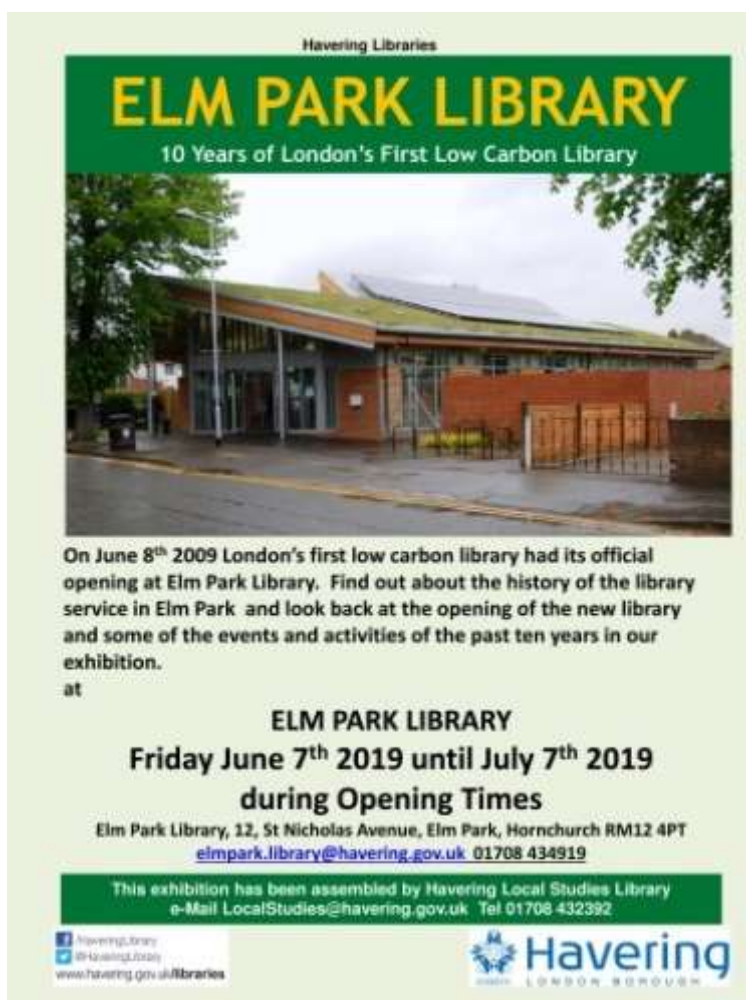
19th June 2019 Film London delivered copies of newly digitised films as part of the HLF funded **London-A Bigger Picture** project. A planned screening in the last week of March 2020 was cancelled due to Covid-19. It is hoped to re-arrange this.

27th June An exhibition to mark the centenary of the death of the Upminster historian **Thomas Lewis Wilson**, in conjunction with Upminster historian, Tony Benton, who also gave a talk for Upminster Library as part of the commemoration, was opened in Upminster Library and displayed in the Local Studies Library from January 2020.

Havering Libraries

ELM PARK LIBRARY

10 Years of London's First Low Carbon Library




On June 8th 2009 London's first low carbon library had its official opening at Elm Park Library. Find out about the history of the library service in Elm Park and look back at the opening of the new library and some of the events and activities of the past ten years in our exhibition.


at

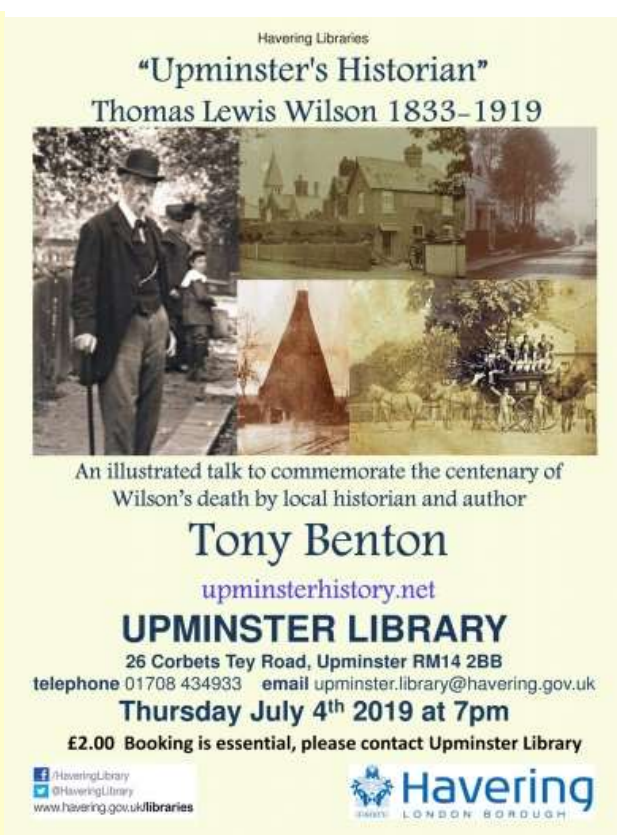
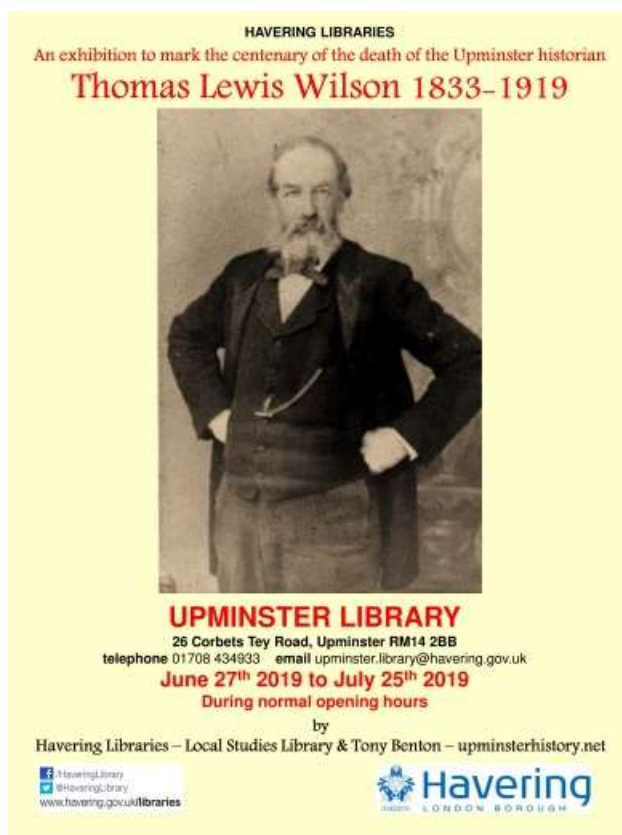
ELM PARK LIBRARY
Friday June 7th 2019 until July 7th 2019
during Opening Times

Elm Park Library, 12, St Nicholas Avenue, Elm Park, Hornchurch RM12 4PT
elpark.library@haverling.gov.uk 01708 434919

This exhibition has been assembled by Havering Local Studies Library
e-Mail LocalStudies@haverling.gov.uk Tel. 01708 432392

 www.haverling.gov.uk/libraries

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Posters Thomas Lewis Wilson exhibitions and the notice advertising Tony Benton's talk at Upminster Library as part of the celebration of Wilson's work and life.

2nd July, 9th July and 20th August 2019 Three two hour training sessions with new volunteers were run on these dates. Both have continued as volunteers.

3rd September 2019 Collected Second World War Bomb Map from the Essex Record Office after conservation.




The Romford Bomb Map before and after conservation

10th September 2019 Exhibition “**Havering in the Second World War**” opened until 18th December 2019, commemorating the 80th anniversary of the start of the war. The display includes copies of wartime photographs and several original archive items including The Romford Bomb Map.

HAVERING LIBRARIES


Havering in the Second World War




A display of maps, photographs, newspapers, documents and other items from the Havering Local Studies Library illustrating wartime Havering to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the declaration of war in September 1939.

September 13th 2019-December 18th 2019

Central Library, St Edward's Way, Romford RM1 3AR
Telephone 01708 432392 email LocalStudies@havering.gov.uk
DURING NORMAL OPENING HOURS

 www.havering.gov.uk/libraries

 **Havering**
LONDON BOROUGH



Havering in the Second World War poster. Part of the exhibition was displayed in the Library foyer to begin with and the main exhibition on the first floor continued until December 2019



14th September 2019 The 50th anniversary of the closing of Romford Market to through traffic and the opening of the first stretch of the ring road in the town was commemorated on Facebook and proved extremely popular.

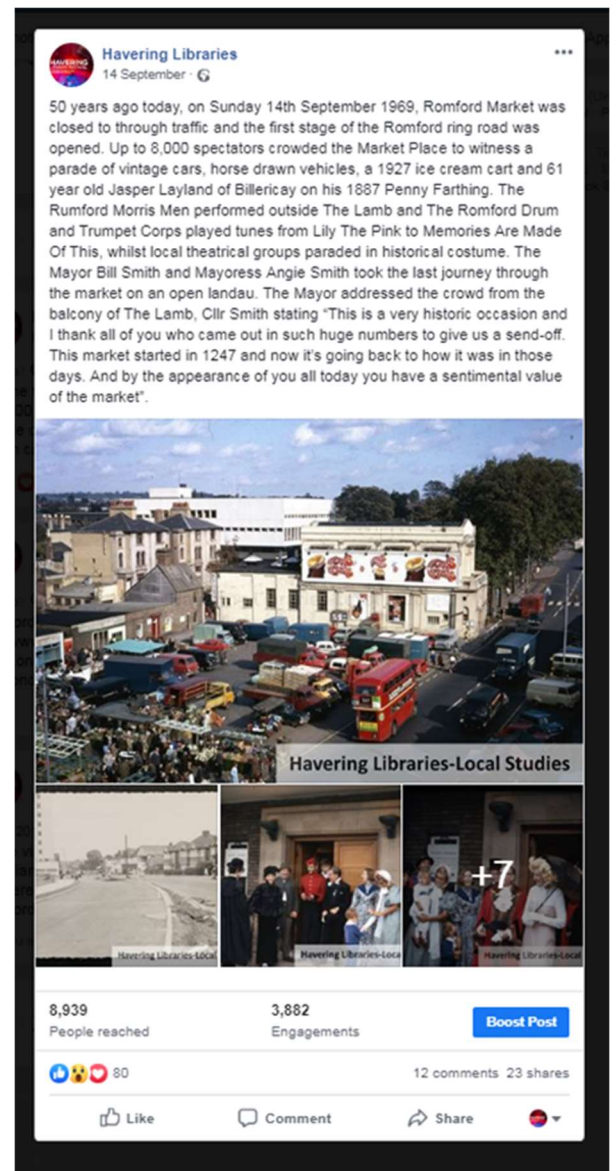
The very popular Facebook post about the 50th anniversary of the closing of Romford Market to through traffic.

19th September *Lives Remembered*, a permanent new exhibition at Romford Cemetery, Crow Lane was assembled by Havering's Cemeteries and Crematoria and opened on this day.

It reveals the interesting tales behind 80 weathered headstones and bare cemetery plots. This project has involved Local Studies helping with research, organising maps and images and liaising with family members of the deceased to copy photographs and to link them with the Council's Bereavement and Registration Services over the course of 18 months.

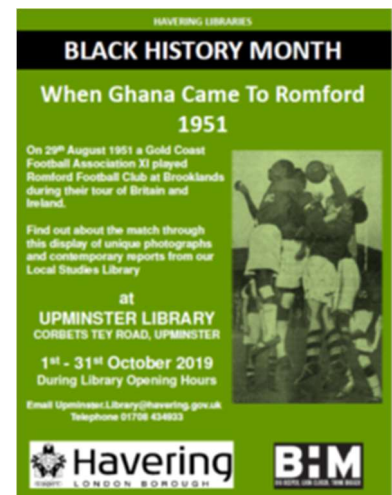


1st October to 31st October The exhibition ***When Ghana Came to Romford*** was displayed at Upminster Library for Black History Month



One of the main storyboards in the *Lives Remembered* exhibition at Crow Lane Cemetery. All of the images in this board, with the photograph of Thomas England, are from the Local Studies Library

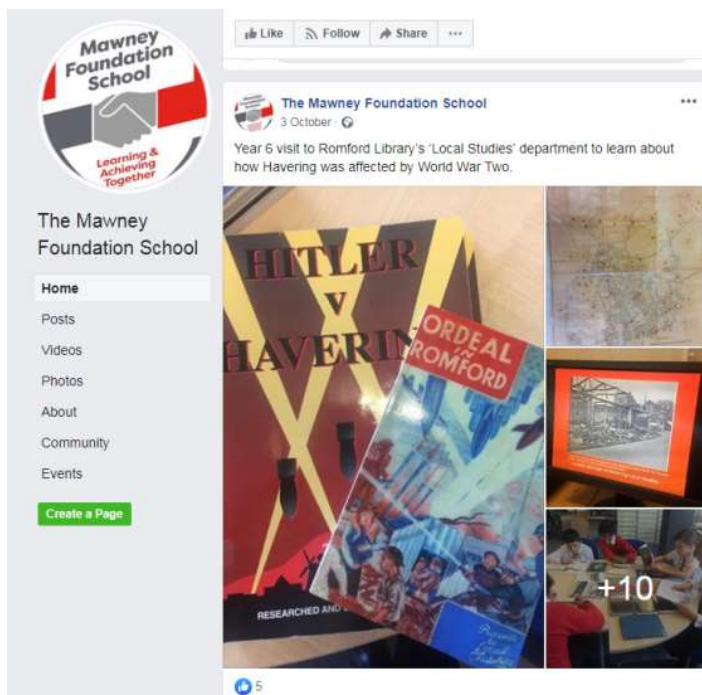
25th September 2019 30 Year 5 pupils from St Peter's RC School Romford visited Local Studies to find out about the history and development of Romford looking at maps, photographs, books, documents and census information.



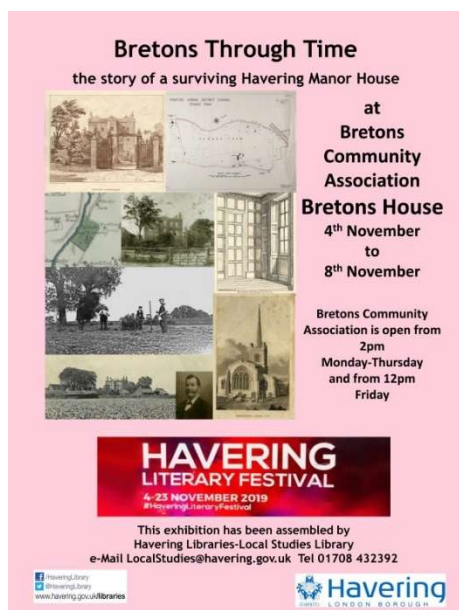
2nd October 2019 44 children from two Year 6 classes at Mawney Foundation School visited Local Studies to find out about Havering in the Second World War

Mawney Foundation School shared photographs on their Facebook page of their visit to Local Studies

16th October 2019 Visit to Benhurst School in Elm Park. The Local History Librarian showed a slideshow of images and talked to two Year 2 school classes (60 x 6 and 7 year olds) about the history and development of Elm Park and viewed their own plans and models for a redesigned Elm Park.



19th October 2019 Following the implementation of the new Havering Libraries' circulation system, work was completed to make the non-book element of our Local Studies catalogue available online, this includes digitised content such as photographs and maps.



4th November 2019 For the Havering Literary Festival, Local Studies completed and delivered the exhibition ***Bretons Through Time – the story of a surviving Havering Manor House*** to Bretons House for the first week of the festival. It then transferred to South Hornchurch Library.

The display features the first tenant of the Romford Sewage Farm, William Hope VC and includes a copy of a painting depicting his act of bravery in the Crimean War courtesy of the ***Trustees of the Fusilier Museum London***

***Bretons Through Time* poster and the exhibition displayed at South Hornchurch Library.**

6th November 2019 The Local History Librarian attended the **Land of the Fanns** Legacy Plan Scoping Workshop at Thames Chase.

8th-21st November During this period Local Studies assisted the Parks department with information and images about the history of Spring Farm Park in Rainham for their Green Flag bid and contributed research into several other parks



**Two Havering estates
through photograph albums
The Bower House and Havering Park**



14th November 2019 Talk at **Havering Atte Bower Conservation Society AGM** showing photographs from two of the historical estates in the village, Havering Park and the Bower House. Approximately 30 people in attendance.

Title slide from HABCOS presentation

3rd March 2020 For Rainham Library's Young at Heart Club, Local Studies organised a talk by Neil Hawkins of Pre-Construct Archaeology "Prehistoric to Roman occupation in Rainham" which revealed the archaeological excavations at former Mardyke Estate in South Hornchurch. An appreciative audience of 37 attended.

Initial discussions for a talk about the **Havering Hoard**, a unique Bronze Age discovery, an exhibition about it was due to open at the Museum of London Docklands Museum in April 2020, have been paused due to Covid-19. It is hoped that once events return to libraries, a talk can be organised.

Notice for talk by Neil Hawkins at Rainham Library one of the final events in libraries before the Covid-19 closure.

Young At Heart at Rainham Library
Everyone Welcome

Prehistoric to Roman occupation in Rainham
Archaeological excavations at the former Mardyke Estate
Illustrated talk by Neil Hawkins

Archaeological excavations in 2013 during redevelopment of the 1960s Mardyke Estate uncovered considerable prehistoric, Roman and later occupation, including Roman pottery production. Such activity is well documented across Rainham and over the years has revealed the area to be intensely settled from the prehistoric period onwards as part of a network of settlements along the Thames in south Essex. The history of the area of the Mardyke Estate is also brought to the fore right up until 21st century redevelopment.

Rainham Library, 6 Celtic Farm Road, Rainham, RM13 9GP
Telephone 01708 434970 email Rainham.Library@haverling.gov.uk
Tuesday 3rd March 2020 at 2pm £1.00

www.haverling.gov.uk/libraries

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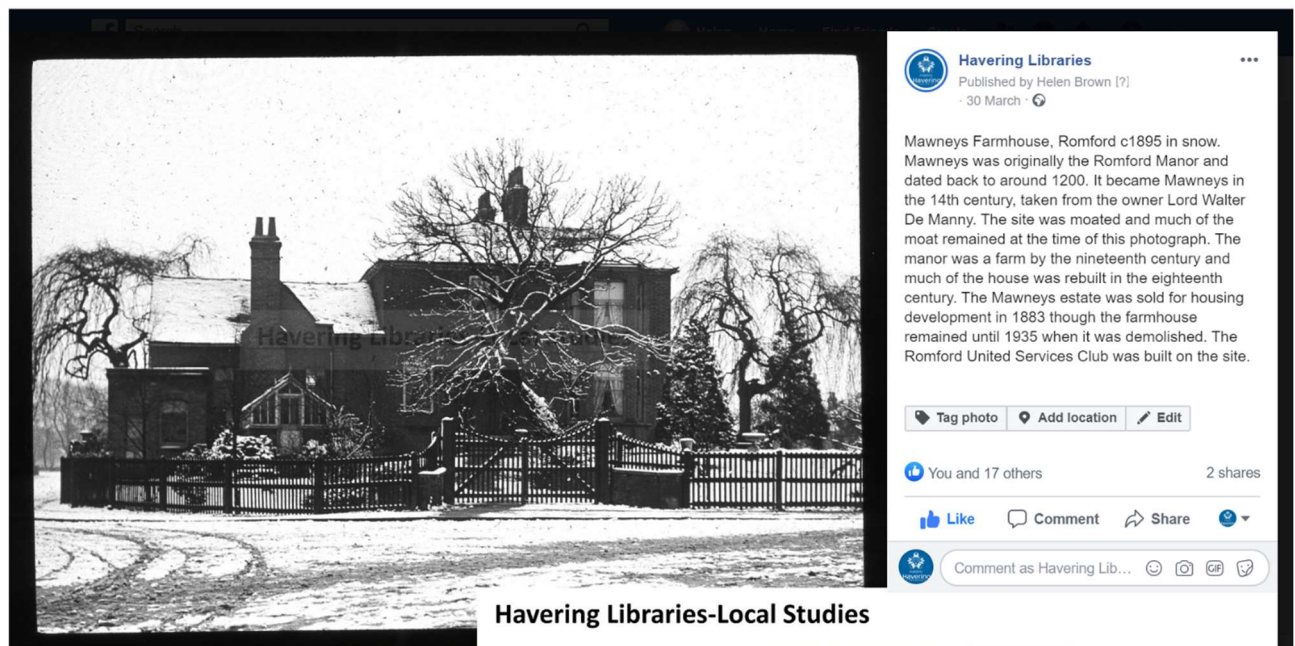
9th March 2020 17 members of the **Havering Adult College Local History Class** visited the Local Studies Library for an introductory session about our local history collection. The course tutor provided feedback *"Thanks again for the excellent presentation - it was just right as an initial overview. As we continued our field trip, the instant feedback was that everyone was extremely impressed & had no idea the borough had such extensive resources available."*

12th March 2020 The **Romford Bomb Map** and **Hornchurch Parish Map 1812** were sent to London Metropolitan Archives to be digitised for the **Layers of London** project. The digitisation is funded by the project and Local Studies will receive digital copies of the maps. The maps will also be added as "layers" to the Layers of London website.

23rd March 2020 All of Havering's Libraries closed due to Covid-19 and as a result, events, activities and appointments were cancelled. Library staff contributed to Havering Council's Covid-19 response but an online presence was maintained by Havering Libraries throughout the period.

The Local Studies Librarian continued to respond to email enquiries where possible and from 25th March 2020 began a post a day on the Havering Libraries' Facebook page. Between 25th March 2020 and 31st May 2020, Facebook posts included many local history articles accompanying 207 images, map and document extracts from the Local Studies Library.

These posts proved popular and had a "Facebook reach" of between 1,000 and 6,000 per post up to 31st May, reaching a new and different audience. In addition three slideshow videos exploring aspects of the Borough's history were created and shared including one to mark VE-75 which had over 4,000 views between 8th and 31st May. Library users have also had enhanced home access to online family history databases Ancestry and FindMyPast usually only accessible in the library.



Facebook post about Mawneys Farmhouse, Romford on 30th March 2020. This was the most popular of the initial March 2020 posts to the Havering Libraries' Facebook page during the Covid 19 lockdown. Interest grew considerably afterwards.

Accessions 2019/2020

38 collections or individual items have been accessioned to the Local Studies collection and will be catalogued and in some cases digitised with some assistance from volunteers. Highlights include

2019/6 Ada Roberts Letters – a large collection of Second World War letters to and from Ada Roberts of Hornchurch and her family in the Manchester area and in America.

2019/11 Harold Hill photographs – a set of photographs and newspaper cuttings primarily of Harold Hill Football Club.

2019/16 Members of the **Upminster Camera Club** visited Local Studies on 23rd August 2019, following their exhibition at the Havering Museum, to present their project **Upminster's People 2018** for permanent retention by Local Studies. The collection includes printed and digital

photographs as well as an executable presentation programme. Members of the public will can view the entire collection by appointment in Local Studies.

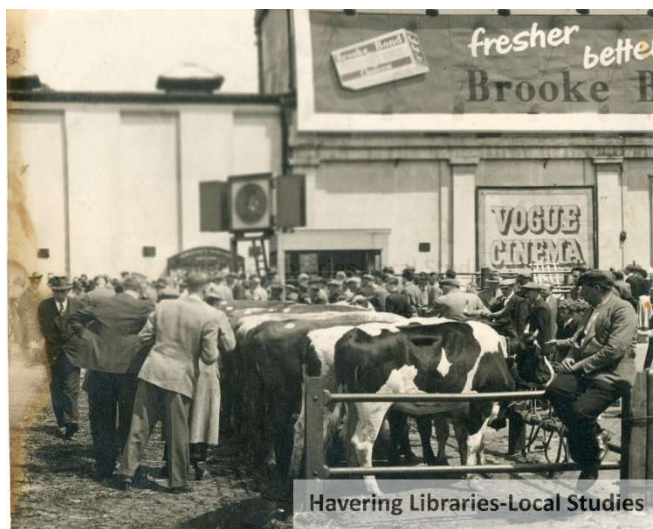
2019/18 Rainham photographs – a set of photographs and negatives associated with E.A. Bird author of booklets about the history of Rainham and ***A History of Murex***

2019/23 Upminster postcards and photographs – a set of postcards and photographs of Upminster, a number of which are associated with the Wright Family.

2019/29 9th Romford Boys Brigade - photograph album from the 1950s



Havering Libraries-Local Studies



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2020/1 Romford Market 1945 3 photographs, purportedly of the first market to take place after the end of World War 2



2020/3 Items relating to St Albans RC Church, Elm Park including photographs (some of La Salette Church in Rainham), church newsletters, commemorative mass sheets and news cuttings.

2020/5 Salem Chapel, London Road, Romford Church Newsletters – Main dates 1985-1998 with some earlier examples.

Local Studies Volunteer Hours 01.04.2019 to 31.03.2020			
Volunteers in Local Studies have supported the work of this part of the Havering Library Service again and have shown great loyalty and commitment.			
Activity	Hours	Volunteers	Average
Local Studies Digitisation and Cataloguing	601	8	75
Local Studies Room Assistant	319	6	53
Total Hours	920	14	