

Havering Libraries- Havering Local Studies Library 2021-2022

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. These hours were re-established in July 2021 following a period of appointment only hours to maintain a Covid-19 safety compliant setting. Visitors are gradually returning though there remains caution among several long established regular users of the service.

Enquiries via email, Facebook and telephone have been maintained. Local Studies has continued to help other parts of Havering Council on local history matters, where required. The service has maintained its links with other local heritage organisations, in particular, the Havering Museum, the Land of the Fanns project and the Hornchurch Aerodrome Historical Trust – the Local History Librarian attended the formal opening of the museum.

Staffing

There is one full time member of staff in Local Studies. Ordinarily there are an average of 14 volunteers who help sort, repackage, digitise and catalogue images in our collection to make them available online. It is anticipated that volunteers will be re-introduced in the near future and existing volunteers have reiterated their interest in returning. One volunteer has carried out research into local pubs and has photographed the changes at the Waterloo Road Estate in Romford.

Family History

Enhanced home access to Find My Past remained available to library members until October 2021 and Ancestry until the end of December 2021. These databases are now available to library users in Romford, Hornchurch and Upminster Libraries as they were before the pandemic.

Face to Face family history appointments returned in July 2021 when normal hours resumed.

Havering Libraries Facebook

Local Studies has maintained a strong digital presence through the Havering Libraries' Facebook page. This commenced on a daily basis when the first nationwide Covid-19 Lockdown began and is now embedded as a regular feature of the service, sharing the Borough's local history collection with present and former residents.



Thank you. Another fascinating story that brings to life the characters and scenes of historical Havering

Like Reply Hide 6 w

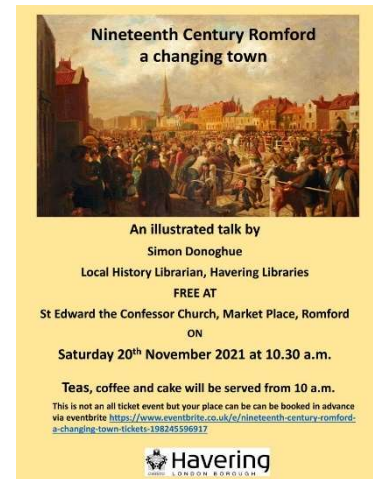


Photograph from a Facebook post showing the redevelopment of the old Romford Barrack Ground as the Waterloo Road estate in the 1960s, posted as demolition began to make way for a new housing development and a typical comment in response to the posts

Talks

Promotional activities, school visits, talks and exhibitions have not taken place as usual in this current year. The Local History Librarian did give a talk at the Church of St Edward the Confessor, Market Place, Romford as part of their series of local history talks and over 100 people attended for “Nineteenth century Romford-a changing town” in November 2021

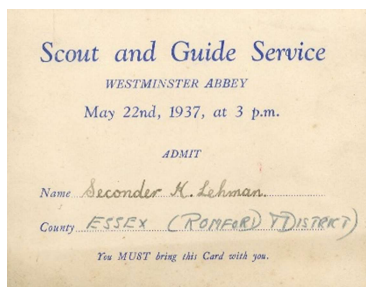
This talk was repeated at the meeting of the London and Essex Heritage Group on 8th March 2022 with 14 members in attendance.



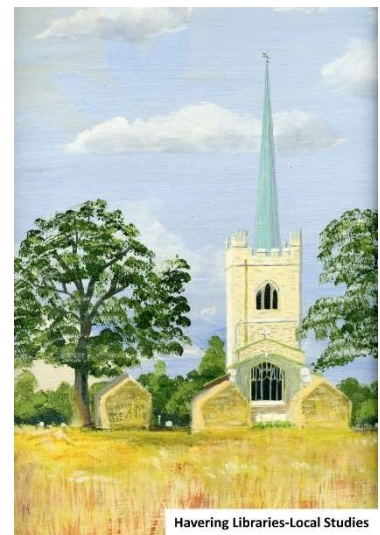
Accessions 06.2021/02.2022

Since the previous report which ended in May 2021 there have been several new additions to the Local Studies Library, including

2021/11 Local History books, Hornchurch and District Historical Society Newsletters (now defunct) and two paintings, St Andrew's Church, Hornchurch from a 1925 photograph by Edward Ivermee (1996) and Hornchurch Mill 1910 by H. Edgar (1979) were donated to the collection by Mr. Peter Butler, President of the Hornchurch and District Historical Society. **St Andrew's Church, Hornchurch by Edward Ivermee**



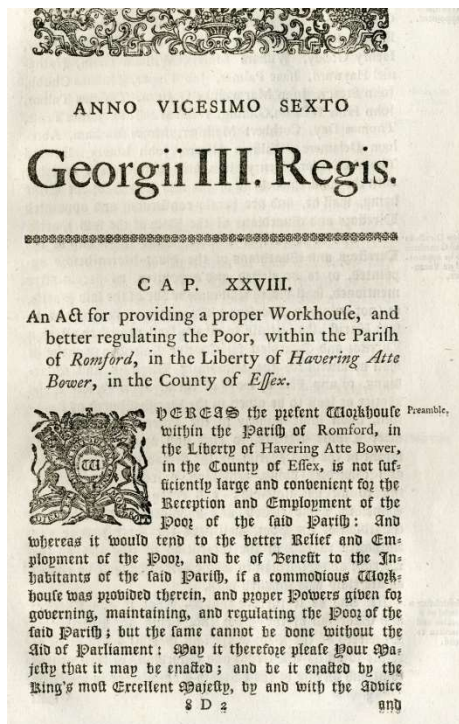
2021/12 A collection of Romford souvenirs and guidebooks also included this ticket and a programme for the Scout and Guide Service at Westminster Abbey in May 1937, attended by Seconder H. Lehman of Romford & District scouts. **Scout and Guide Service ticket 1937**



2021/14 A digital copy of a film made by Jack Henningham about Romford Football Club in 1949, the year they reached the first televised F.A. Amateur Cup final was added to the collection. This has unique footage of preparations for the final and supporters waiting at Roneo Corner for one of the 40 coaches booked to transport them. The film includes additional modern footage by Bill Barlow and an interview with one of the players in 1949, Bill MacKenzie.

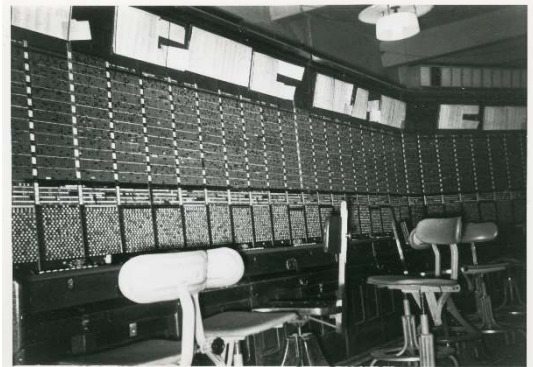
Still from Romford Football Club 1949 with supporters waiting for coaches to Wembley

2021/16 Family records of Dr John Brown and Irene Gladys Brown of 6, Oaklands Avenue, Romford



2021/17 A copy of the Act off Parliament providing a proper workhouse, and better regulating the poor, within the Parish of Romford, in the Liberty of Havering Atte Bower, in the County of Essex,1786 was purchased for the collection.

2022/1 Digital copies of 1960 photographs of the interior of the Romford Telephone Exchange as it closed.



Interior Romford Telephone Exchange 1960 by Jean Webb
Romford Workhouse Act of Parliament 1786

2022/2 Photographs of nursing staff at St George's Hospital, Hornchurch 1950s and 1960s.