1914-1918

Havering Remembers

Events to mark the centenary of the start of the First World War

www.havering.gov.uk/ww1
Introduction

One hundred years on, we are all connected to the First World War, either through our family histories, the heritage of our local communities or because of the long-term impact of the conflict on society and the world we live in today.

Havering has a rich First World War heritage. The airfield at Sutton’s Farm (later RAF Hornchurch) played a vital role in defending London from the threat of enemy air raids and was the base from which William Leefe Robinson shot down the first German airship over the United Kingdom in 1916. The army had a camp at Grey Towers, while the Artists’ Rifles Officer Training Corps (which subsequently became the SAS) were based at Gidea Hall, Balgores House and Hare Hall, where the war poet Wilfred Owen trained.

A wide range of projects, events and exhibitions are planned across the borough to commemorate the First World War and those who lived, fought and died in it both nationally and locally. This booklet provides a guide to the projects, events, exhibitions and resources available in Havering over the next 12 months. For further information and updates please go to: www.havering.gov.uk/ww1

The First World War Centenary Partnership
The First World War Centenary partnership is a network of more than 1400 local, regional, national and international cultural and educational organisations led by the Imperial War Museum. It provides resources and information about events and projects taking place across the country, including the opportunity to discuss and share expertise. Many organisations in Havering are members, including Havering Council, Havering Museum and several schools. For more information about the partnerships visit www.1914.org

Cover image: the Sportsmen’s Battalion accompany the funeral procession of Private Alfred Thomas Hills, who was buried with full military honours at Hornchurch on 2 May 1915

The photograph opposite shows the Royal Fusiliers resting in the Grand Place, Mons, on 22 August 1914. From the Imperial War Museum’s Collection c.IWM

Photographs in this publication relating to the local area are supplied by Havering Libraries Local Studies and Family History Centre from its digital collection.

www.havering.gov.uk/ww1
This joint exhibition between Havering Museum and Havering Libraries Local Studies and Family History Centre tells the story of the area that now forms the London Borough of Havering during an extraordinary and devastating period of modern history. The exhibition explores the impact of conscription, the role of women, changes in industry and the impact of a heavy military presence with army camps at Hornchurch and Romford and the birth of what became RAF Hornchurch.

Entrance to the library exhibition is free, while admission to the museum’s exhibition is at the standard rate of £2.50 (senior citizens £2, children up to 16, free). Artefacts, photographs and memorabilia contributed by local people will be displayed in the museum’s Memory Case.

For more information, contact the Local Studies and Family History Centre (localstudies@havering.gov.uk, 01708 432392) or Havering Museum (exhibitions@haveringmuseum.org.uk, 01708 766 571).

Talks and exhibitions

Havering Museum and Romford Library

Home Front Havering: Local Life in the First World War
Saturday 9 August to Saturday 15 November 2014

This joint exhibition between Havering Museum and Havering Libraries Local Studies and Family History Centre tells the story of the area that now forms the London Borough of Havering during an extraordinary and devastating period of modern history. The exhibition explores the impact of conscription, the role of women, changes in industry and the impact of a heavy military presence with army camps at Hornchurch and Romford and the birth of what became RAF Hornchurch.

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Havering Museum

The Human Face of the Great War
Thursday 18 September 2014, 7pm

Western Front Association Essex Branch chairman Bill Fulton discusses some of the human stories from the battlefields and on the home front, illustrating his talk with original objects from the war.
Tickets £3.50, advance booking essential. Phone Havering Museum on 01708 766571.

The Old Chapel Upminster

Remembered Not Forgotten: The Old Chapel and World War I
6-9, 13-16, 20-23 and 27-30 November, 2-5pm

Using research by local volunteers, this exhibition, supported with Heritage Lottery Funding, explores the stories of the men listed in the Brethren Assembly Roll Book, who were involved in the Great War. On selected days, young people from the local community will perform drama pieces inspired by stories from the war. There will be a series of talks in conjunction with the display.
Contact the Chapel’s Heritage Officer Gemma Smith gsmith@mary.havering.sch.uk

Hornchurch and the New Zealand Connection
Friday 14 November 2014, 11am

Ray Needham shares his extensive research about the connection between New Zealand and Hornchurch during the Great War.
Free entry. Booking required. gsmith@mary.havering.sch.uk

Sister Edith Appleton: Front Line Nurse and Diarist in the Great War
Friday 28 November, 7pm

The amazing daily journal A Nurse at the Front – The First World War Diaries of Sister Edith Appleton was published by the Imperial War Museum in March 2012.

This illustrated presentation by her great nephew Dick Robinson tells her story. Extracts from the diaries are read by Dick’s wife Lisa. Copies of the book will be available at a discounted price.
Free entry. Booking required gsmith@mary.havering.sch.uk
The Western Front Association (Essex Branch)
A charity dedicated to the study of the First World War. The Essex Branch presents monthly talks at the Royal British Legion in Hornchurch. www.westernfrontassociation.com

What Do We Want With Eggs and Ham?
A talk by Rachel Duffett.
Wednesday 11 June

British Expeditionary Force Artillery 1917: Surprise Attack
A talk by Geoff Spring.
Wednesday 9 July

The 56th (London) Division on the First Day of the Somme
A talk by Bill MacCormick.
Wednesday 10 September

The Man Called Uncle: Lieutenant General Sir George Montague Harper
A talk by Bryn Hammond.
Wednesday 8 October

Death From Above: The First Blitz
Peter Boalch talks about the Bombing of Britain by German Airships during the Great War.
Wednesday 12 November

All talks start at 8pm (doors open 7.15pm). Entry to each talk is £3. Non-members welcome. For more information about the Western Front Association, phone chairman Bill Fulton on 01245 361864 or email essexwfa@googlemail.com

Havering Libraries
Rainham Library Exhibition
Free entry, from August 2014

This exhibition in the new Rainham Library is dedicated to those from Rainham who fought in the First World War. Based on information gathered by local researcher Sean Connolly, the exhibition allows visitors to follow the story around the building. Local people can display photos and information about friends and relatives who fought in the war.
Contact David Dennison, Rainham Library Manager, on 01708 551905 david.dennison@havering.gov.uk

Author Talk: Marcia Williams
Children’s author Marcia Williams talks about her book Archie’s War: My Scrapbook of the First World War 1914-1918. The book will be on sale at the event.
New Rainham Library, Tuesday 12 August, 10am, £2.50 library members, £4 non-members

Women and the Home Front
Ian Porter examines the contribution of women in the war and the difficulties they faced in taking on work traditionally undertaken by men – from munitions to football.
Hornchurch Library, Thursday 17 July, 2pm and the new Rainham Library, Thursday 21 August, 2pm £6 members, £7.50 non-members

Fun Day
Sunday 6 July, 12noon to 6pm
Free entry
To commemorate the First World War, a fun day organised by the Friends of King George V Playing Field.
Queen’s Theatre

Paper Planes
The Story of William Leefe Robinson VC
Wednesday 30 July to Saturday 2 August, 8pm, plus a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm

The Queen’s Theatre, Hornchurch, presents a story of courage, hope, love and loss in this magical new musical, which tells the life story of William Leefe Robinson, who shot down the first German airship over British soil. The Schutte Lanz SL11 was on a raid over London when Robinson in his BE.2c brought it down in a field near Cuffley, Hertfordshire. He received the first Victoria Cross to be awarded for action within the UK. Robinson survived a period as a prisoner of war, but died in the Spanish influenza epidemic at the end of 1918. Robinson Close in Hornchurch is named after him.

Produced by the team at the Queen’s Theatre, more than 60 community performers of all ages from Havering and the surrounding areas make it a truly ‘inter-generational’ show.

Tickets, £10-£15 available from the Queen’s Theatre Box Office on 01708 443333 or at www.queens-theatre.co.uk

Havering Museum

Reminiscence Session
Saturday 13 September
1.30-3.30pm

Havering Museum runs regular reminiscence sessions every Friday afternoon where visitors can bring photographs and memories to share or just to listen to others.

This special session will focus on the First World War. Everyone is welcome and visitors will be invited to view the museum’s First World War exhibition.

Admission £3, including entry to the museum and refreshments
Military and Flying Machines Show

Damys Hall Aerodrome
Upminster
Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 August

This popular annual event hosts hundreds of military vehicles. The show features a tank and armoured vehicle parade, flying display and many living history exhibitions depicting military life from various periods and nationalities.

For the first time, this year there will also be flying machines from the First World War. There is also a vintage fairground, model making and lots of activities for children.

£10 adults (£8 concessions) £5 children, available from www.militaryandflyingmachines.org.uk

Arts Events

Fairkytes Arts Centre in Billet Lane, Hornchurch, offers First World War related arts activities for children. For more information or to book please phone 01708 456308 or follow on Twitter @fairkytesarts

Saturday Art Scheme
September 2014

Fairkytes’ regular Saturday Art Scheme activities will be themed to reflect the First World War, including ‘decorate a war plane’ and picture art war scenes.

£5 per session
Age 5+

‘A Letter Home’
October half term 2014

A creative writing workshop for the half-term holiday encouraging young people to imagine what life was like in the trenches and to write mock letters home from the front line.

£5 per session
Age 11+

WWI Memorial Art
From Saturday 4 October

A four-week programme every Saturday morning throughout October. Young people are invited to design and create a large memorial art piece commemorating those that died in the First World War. The completed piece will displayed at a key location in the borough.

£5 per session
Age 11+

Keep up to date with the full list of events
www.havering.gov.uk/ww1
**Havering Libraries**

**First World War Havering – An Online Diary**

Havering Libraries Local Studies and Family History Centre’s online diary will run throughout the duration of the First World War centenary. Regular updates will capture the experiences of wartime Havering as they happened 100 years ago.

**SMART Tables**

Havering Libraries are among the first in the country to invest in a range of new 42” high-definition SMART tables, bringing a wealth of information and 3D multimedia content to life. Up to eight people can use the interactive touch-screen tables at one time.

The tables have a variety of ready-made activity packs, including one dedicated to the First World War.

Tables are located at Romford and Hornchurch and will be at the new Rainham Library and also Harold Hill Library when it opens next year.

**The Retreat From Mons**

Recreation by the 10th Essex Regiment Living History Group August and September

In August and September 1914, the British Expeditionary Force fought numerous rearguard actions to hold off the advancing German Army. To mark the centenary of the Retreat from Mons, the 10th Essex Regiment WWI Living History Group will re-enact the retreat, in which the real 10th Essex Regiment took part. Following the route of the retreat on bicycles, the group will visit some of the key battlefields. Local children and young people from Havering Libraries’ reading groups have written mock letters to soldiers on the frontline, which the Living History Group will open as part of the re-enactment. Havering Council will report on the progress of the re-enactment via social media: @10th Essex.

**War memorial restoration**

Havering’s five main war memorials in Harold Hill, Upminster, Rainham, Romford and Hornchurch are being cleaned and restored. Havering Council secured £86,000 from Veolia North Thames Trust for the project, part of the council’s pledge to commemorate those who died during the world wars and more recent conflicts. Restoration includes replacing mortar, re-pointing stone and joints, replacing letters and specialist cleaning.
Havering Council has organised a programme of poppy planting across the borough. Poppies grow well in poor soil. They filled the fields of northern France because the disturbed ground triggered germination. Havering Council has worked hard in recent years to ensure we have good quality soil in many of our parks and open spaces. This made identifying sites to grow poppies very difficult. However, a number of sites have been identified and four companies, Glasdon UK, F.Goodale & Sons, Boultons Nurseries and IMG Limited, are sponsoring the initiative by purchasing seeds for the project.

Look out for the poppies at various locations across the borough over the next few years.

Havering Parks and Open Spaces

Poppy Planting Programme
Autumn 2014

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At 11pm on 4 August 1914, Britain declared war on Germany, ushering in one of the darkest periods in the nation’s history.

On the eve of war, the Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Grey, watching a man lighting gas lamps in St James’s Park, observed: “The lamps are going out all over Europe. We shall not see them lit again in our lifetime.”

On 4 August 2014, from 10pm to 11pm, everyone in the UK is invited to share a moment of reflection by turning off their lights, leaving on a single light or candle.

For more information about LIGHTS OUT, visit www.1418NOW.org.uk or to find out how Havering Council is participating locally go to havering.gov.uk/ww1
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.

‘Ode of Remembrance’, poem For the Fallen
by Robert Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)