

Local studies at Hastings Library



Local studies at Hastings Library

Hastings Library has the largest local studies collection in East Sussex.

The reference collection includes books, maps, press cuttings and other material relating to the local area.

The topics covered in some detail include:

- Hastings
- St Leonards
- Bexhill
- Rye
- Battle

Other areas that are covered are East Sussex, West Sussex, Brighton & Hove and Kent.

You can use the [E-library](#) to find out what books are available at Hastings library, and our periodicals list to see full details of what newspapers and magazines we can offer you. A brief list of the main newspapers and magazines at Hastings library is given below.

If you are doing lengthy research or just have a general interest in the county's past - contact us. Library staff are happy to help you.

Hastings Reference Library
Brassey Institute
13 Claremont
Hastings
TN34 1HE
Phone: 0345 60 80 196
Fax: 01424 443289
Email: library.hastings.ref@eastsussex.gov.uk

You can email our Enquiry Team at library.enquiries@eastsussex.gov.uk to ask for information on any of the following:

- finding out about the history of the place, or house where you live
- researching your family history
- writing a thesis or essay on any aspect of the history of the area
- doing a school project on a local theme

Newspapers

Hastings Library has a wide range of local newspapers you can use to find out about local history. These include:

- Cinque Ports Chronicle 1838-1841
- Friday-Ad (2 copies held per year) 1983-
- Hastings AdNews 1973-
- Hastings and St Leonards Advertiser 1866-1918
- Hastings and St Leonards Chronicle 1849-1905
- Hastings and St Leonards Independent 1873-1917
- Hastings and St Leonards News 1848-1905
- Hastings and St Leonards Observer 1866-
- Hastings and St Leonards Standard 1899
- Hastings and St Leonards Times 1857-1899
- Hastings and St Leonards Weekly Mail and Times 1898-1911
- Hastings Gazette 1860-1893
- Hastings Iris 1830-1831
- Illustrated London News 1842-2003 (latterly 2 issues a year)
- Kent and Sussex Courier 1980-
- South Eastern Advertiser 1872-1914
- St Leonards Chronicle and Hastings Post 1919-1920
- Sussex Agricultural Express 1837-1846
- Sussex Express 1837-1987 + last 6 months
- Sussex Weekly Advertiser 1749-1901

The library also has a surname index to birth, marriage and death notices which appeared in the following newspapers:

- Hastings and St Leonards News 1848-1901
- Hastings and St Leonards Observer 1901, 1903-1955

Often those notices give more information – addresses, for example – than is given in the index and you may wish to look at the original newspaper, whether on paper or microfilm, to check. Generally this is not an index to obituaries, funeral reports or other news items.

The library tries to keep a complete set of local newspapers. However, some copies may be missing.

Most of the newspapers are available on microfilm.

It is not usually possible to make photocopies from bound volumes of newspapers. Copies can be made from microfilms. There is a small charge for printing.

See our [Periodicals list](#) for a full list of what is available at Hastings Library.

General periodicals

Hastings Library has a range of general magazines and other periodicals on local and family history in East Sussex. These include:

- Federation of Sussex Local History Societies Newsletter 1982-1992
- Sussex Archaeological Collections 1948-
- Sussex County Magazine 1926-1956
- Sussex Family Historian 1973-
- Sussex Genealogist and Local Historian 1979-1986
- Sussex History 1976-1991
- Sussex Industrial History 1970-
- Sussex Life 1965-
- Sussex Notes and Queries 1926-1971
- Sussex Past and Present 1970-
- Sussex Rural News 1983-1993

See our [Periodicals list](#) for a full list of what is available at Hastings Library.

Current periodicals

Hastings Library currently receives a range of magazines and periodicals on the history of Hastings and the surrounding area, the county of East Sussex in general and other counties including West Sussex and Kent. Other topics covered are local and family history.

The periodicals at Hastings Library include:

- Bygone Kent
- Dungeness 'A' News
- Dungeness 'B' News
- Ewhurst Parish News
- Fairlight Newsletter
- Family History News and Digest
- Family Tree
- Genealogists Magazine
- Grey Owl Society Bulletin
- HAARG Journal (Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group)
- HAARG Newsletter (Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group)
- Hastings and East Sussex Naturalist
- Kent Archaeological Review
- Kent Archaeological Society Newsletter
- Kent Family History Society Journal
- Kent Life
- Kipling Journal
- Local Historian
- Local History News
- Old Town Parish News
- Robertsbridge & District Archaeological News
- Rye and District Fixtures
- Rye Local History Group Newsletter
- South East Business
- Sussex Post
- Sussex Review

- Wealden Iron
- West Sussex History

See our [Periodicals list](#) for a full list of what is available at Hastings Library.

Directories and electoral registers

Hastings Library has a range of directories and electoral registers which you can use to find out about local and family history.

There are restrictions on the availability of recent electoral registers. Earlier editions are available for reference. The information at Hastings Library includes:

Directories – printed Various editions from 1854 to 1974

Hastings Library has the following printed directories:

Hastings:

- Pike's Hastings, St Leonards, Bexhill, Battle and district local directory 1854, 1865, 1867/68, 1871, 1876, 1878, 1880/81, 1882, 1884/85 and various years to 1939
- Hastings & St Leonards directory 1885, 1885/86, 1886, 1893, 1894
- Kelly's directory of Hastings and St Leonards (also covers Battle, Bexhill and the surrounding areas) various years 1911-1974
- Mathiesons' Hastings and St Leonards directory 1921
- Osborne's Stranger's guide and commercial directory to Hastings and St Leonards 1921
- Parsons' Hastings and St Leonards almanack, directory and local red book various years 1893-1927
- Pike's Hastings and St Leonards directory (also covers Battle and Bexhill) and local blue book 1886-1940, 1958, 1968

Sussex:

- Pigot's directory of Sussex 1839
- Pigot and Co's royal, national and commercial directory 1839
- Post Office directories
- Home Counties 1851
- Sussex 1855, 1862, 1870, 1878
- Essex, Herts, Kent, Middlesex, Surrey, and Sussex 1859
- Deacon's court guide, gazetteer and county blue book 1881, 1894
- Pike's local blue book and directory of the eastern or Rye parliamentary division of Sussex 1885/86
- Sussex county handbook and county red book 1905
- Kelly's directory of Sussex 1887, 1903, 1905, 1907, 1909, 1911, 1913, 1915, 1918, 1922, 1927, 1930, 1934, 1938
- Kelly's directory of Kent, Surrey and Sussex 1930

Bexhill:

Kelly's directory of Bexhill 1948, 1950, 1960, 1962, 1964, 1966, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1972, 1973, 1974

Rye:

Deacon's almanac and directory 1910

Deacon's Rye directory and year book 1938

Directories – microfiche

The following directories on Sussex – and the Hastings area in particular – are available on microfiche:

- Universal British Directory: Sussex 1792 (1791 also available on CD)
- Pigot Sussex 1828
- Kelly's Sussex 1845-1938
- Sussex directory 1855
- Melville Sussex 1858
- Postal and commercial directory: Sussex 1867
- Deacon's Sussex 1881, 1894
- Bennetts Business Sussex 1902, 1904/05, 1907/08
- Osborne's Hastings 1852
- Simpson's Hastings 1865
- Parson's Hastings 1871, 1894
- Pike's Hastings directory 1876-1901
- Ransom's Hastings 1882
- Hutchings and Crowsley Hastings 1884/85, 1885/86
- Kelly's Hastings 1894, 1897
- Gowland's Eastbourne 1877
- Bennetts Business Kent 1903/04

Electoral registers

- Electoral registers for Hastings – various years 1855-2008 (from 2002 this will be the edited version)
- Ward lists of burgesses 1845-1850
- Poll books for Hastings – various years 1832-1868
- Electoral registers for Rother, including Bexhill.
We have registers for Rother District for most years since 1980. Some are Draft registers, some are the final edition, some do not include Bexhill.

Parish register transcripts

Hastings Library has copies of some parish register transcripts. These contain details about baptisms, marriages and burials and are a great source of information for researching your family history. The parish registers in print at Hastings Library include:

- All Saints
- Christchurch, Blacklands
- Hollington
- Ore
- St Andrew's
- St Clements
- St Mary-in-the-Castle

Hastings Library also has copies of many of the parish registers of East Sussex and Brighton and Hove on microfilm.

Census returns

Every 10 years the UK carries out a census to find out information about the population. This is a great source of information for researching your family history.

Details from census returns are made available to the public 100 years after the census has taken place.

The latest information to be released was from the 1911 Census for England and Wales. It is available online at www.1911census.co.uk/

The online 1911 Census allows you to search individuals' names and view images of the original census pages. There are charges for some of the information. You can buy vouchers for the census service in your library. The vouchers can be used either in the library or at your home.

Ancestry (library edition) is available free of charge online in our libraries.

Hastings Library also has the following census information:

- East Sussex Census Index 1851 Index by June C. Bames and Family Roots
- covers the whole of Sussex, with volumes 1-7 covering Hastings and the surrounding area
- Census Returns for Sussex 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901 (microfilm and microfiche)
- Census entries for the Hastings Workhouse 1841, 1851, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901
- Hastings street index 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901
- Hastings surname index 1871

Illustrations, press cuttings and pamphlets

Hastings Library has a large collection of photographs, postcards, press cuttings, periodical articles and other materials relating to Hastings and St Leonards and the surrounding area.

These items are not included on the E-library online catalogue or the periodicals list.

Contact us at library.enquiries@eastsussex.gov.uk to find out more about what information is available.

Maps

Hastings Library has a large collection of modern and historical maps covering Hastings and St Leonards and the surrounding area which you can use to help you find out about local history and tracing the history of your house.

Maps at Hastings Library include:

- Ordnance Survey large scale maps (1870s onwards)
- Tithe maps
- Estate plans and maps
- Goad plans (showing shops) (1970s onwards)
- Provisional maps of Registered Common Land and Open Country
- Some early maps of Hastings and Sussex are also available

Books on the history of Hastings

You will find the following books on the history of Hastings:

- [‘Historic Hastings’](#) by John Manwaring Baines, 1986 – 3rd edition
- [‘Hastings past’](#) by Rex Marchant, 1997
- [‘Hastings of bygone days and the present’](#) by Henry Cousins, 1911
- [‘Hastings: a living history’](#) by David Thornton, 1987
- [‘Hastings: a pictorial history’](#) by D Robert Elleray, 1979
- [‘Hastings’](#) by Tony Wales, 1998
- [‘Hastings in old photographs’](#) by Pamela Haines, 1989
- [‘Hastings in old photographs: a second selection’](#) by Pamela Haines, 1991