

# Canterbury Library



## The Local Studies Collection



Awarded for excellence



ARTS & LIBRARIES



Welcome to Canterbury Library's Local Studies Collection. This leaflet has been produced to help you with your research. Our collection is extensive and I hope that you will benefit from the service which is available. Please do not hesitate to ask my staff if you require assistance and I am pleased to receive any comments and suggestions that you may have.

Paula Tempest  
Group Manager

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#### CANTERBURY LIBRARY : BRIEF HISTORY

On 23 September 1769 the Canterbury Historical Society for the Cultivation of Useful Knowledge was established. In 1825 it was decided to reform the society as the Canterbury Philosophical and Literary Institution and a building to house the society's museum and library was constructed in Guildhall Street. In 1847 the City Corporation bought the museum, building and collection and the Public Libraries Act was adopted in 1858.

In 1895 the news reached the city that the late Dr J G Beaney, a native of Canterbury who had made a fortune in Australia, had left money to establish an institute for working men in Canterbury. As a result, our present building, the "Beaney Institute" was built.

This was designed by Mr A H Campbell the City Surveyor. The institute was opened in 1899 and soon afterwards Mr Henry Mead became the first librarian, a post he held until the appointment in 1939 of Mr Frank Higenbottam.

In 1967 the library was enlarged by the transformation of the Slater Hall into the Lending Library. Other internal alterations were also made at the same time. Mr Higenbottam retired on 31 March 1974 when, as a result of Local Government Re-organisation, control of the library was transferred to Kent County Council. Mr Vic Ralph (retired 1987) was appointed Divisional Librarian. Other organisational changes have followed with the introduction of the computer issue system in 1983.

After a county wide staff re-organisation took place in 1990, Ms Paula Tempest was appointed Group Manager. Refurbishment of the Lending, Childrens and Reference departments has since taken place. A separate Local Studies Room, previously the Reading Room, was opened in March 1992, this has allowed us to bring together in one room all the local history material which has been collected since the library's foundation.

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## THE COLLECTION

### BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, & EPHEMERA

The collection covers Canterbury and the surrounding areas with some general material on the county of Kent. Topics covered include history, biography, archaeology, natural history etc.

### NEWSPAPERS & PERIODICALS

The following newspapers are available on microfilm:-

The Kentish Post 1726-1768

The Kentish Gazette 1768 to date

Kent Herald 1824-1870

Kentish Observer 1891-1939.

Original copies of some local newspapers are held and a file of local press cuttings.

Back copies of magazines are kept such as Kent Life; Bygone Kent; parish magazines etc.

### ILLUSTRATIONS

Photographs and postcards on all aspects of the locality are collected and donated items are always welcome.

## MAPS & PLANS

There are plans of the city from Tudor times with more detailed O.S. maps from the 1870's onwards. Goad Insurance maps of the city for 1912 are in stock as are Goad shopping plans from 1969 onwards.

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## GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION

### DIRECTORIES & ELECTORAL ROLLS

Directories of the county and city for the 19th and 20th Centuries including some on microfiche are available. There are also 18th and 19th Century county and city poll books and city electoral rolls for 1832-1915 and 1937 onwards.

### CENSUS RETURNS

Microfilm copies of the Census returns covering the whole of the Canterbury area including Herne Bay, Whitstable and surrounding villages are available for 1841-1891.



## PARISH RETURNS

Transcriptions of some parish registers have been deposited with the library and microfiche of local items produced by Kent Family History Society are also in stock.

## MISCELLANEOUS

There is a large range of other material to help with research such as lists of freemen of Canterbury; telephone directories; indexes to wills; marriage licence lists and our name index of items in books and periodicals on local people.

## GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

A separate leaflet is available giving details of research services provided by Kent Arts & Libraries.

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## INDEXES AND CATALOGUES

There are two A-Z indices to items in periodicals and some local studies books. One is Canterbury based and the other is county wide in scope. There is also an author/title/subject catalogue to the book and pamphlet collection.

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## PLANNING YOUR VISIT

The Local Studies Collection is housed in the first room on the left as you enter the main entrance hall. Disabled access is available at the rear of the building. If you cannot visit during normal opening times or wish to arrange a group visit a special appointment can be made.

Microfilms for newspapers and censuses are housed in the Reference Library and it is advisable to make an appointment. Opening times are given below.

A photocopying service is available. Please ask staff for full details.

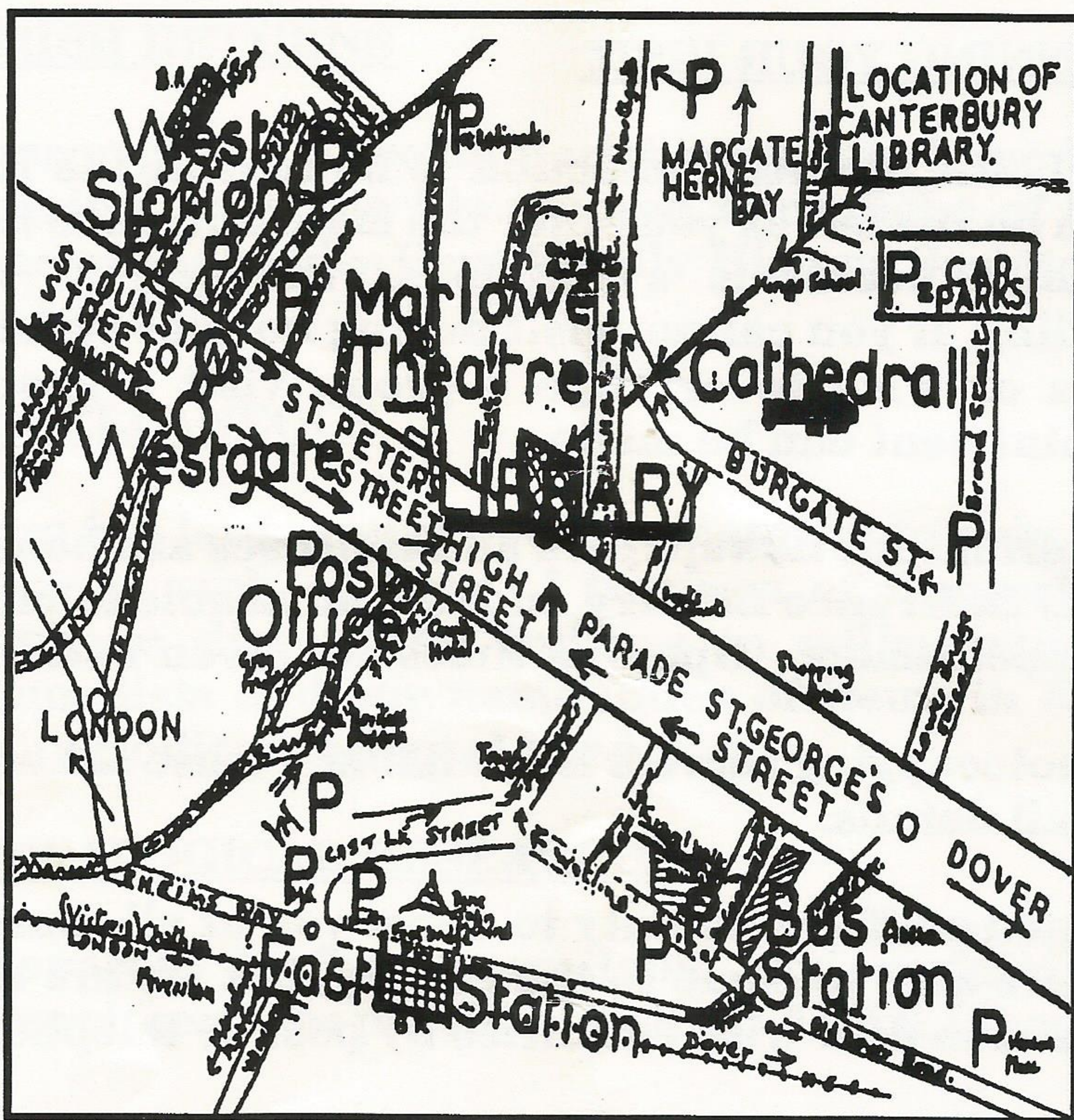
Trained staff are on duty to assist you at all times if you are able to come to the library, but we are also pleased to deal with enquiries by post or telephone.

## OPENING HOURS

<u>Local Studies Collection</u>		<u>Reference Library</u>	
Mon	2 - 5	Mon	9.30 - 6
Tues	2 - 5	Tues	9.30 - 6
Wed	2 - 5	Wed	9.30 - 5
Thurs	2 - 7	Thurs	9.30 - 7
Fri	2 - 5	Fri	9.30 - 7
Sat	9 - 1 2 - 5	Sat	9.00 - 5

There are Local collections at Herne Bay and Whitstable Libraries. Details available on request.





The Library is situated in the High Street which is a pedestrian zone between 10.30 am and 4.00 pm.

Canterbury West and Canterbury East Railway Stations together with the Bus Station are all within walking distance.

**Canterbury Library**  
**High Street**  
**Canterbury**  
**Kent CT2 2JF**

**Tel: (01227) 463608**  
**Fax: (01227) 768338**

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832  
1891 850  
1911 991

**Heritage Services Officer: David S Cousins B.A.,D.M.A.,A.L.A.**