

Local History Library @ ETR

What is the Local History Library @ ETR?

Sunderland Local History Library @ ETR is dedicated to the collection of local and family history material covering the North East region, with particular emphasis on Sunderland. It contains over 10,000 books, as well as other printed material, such as journals, maps, photographs, newspapers and local records.



Where can I find the Local Studies Library @ ETR?

Situated at the historic Elephant Tea Rooms in Fawcett Street in Sunderland city centre. The Elephant Tea Rooms were built between 1872-1877 by Henry Hopper and designed by Frank Caws, the upper floors boasted Doulton & Co terracotta ornamental elephants, as well as oriental birds all over the façade. In its day, the business was credited with controlling one of the largest retail tea, coffee and grocery trades in the whole North East of England.

Visitors do not need to make an appointment, although it is advisable to book a microfilm/fiche reader if required.

Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30am - 5pm, Wednesday 9.30am - 7pm, Saturday 10am - 4pm. Closed Sundays and public holidays, including Saturdays of Bank Holiday weekends.

What information does the Local History Library @ ETR have?

Books The book collection covers an extensive range of local subjects. All books are for reference only and many are not kept on open shelves, as they are rare or irreplaceable, but can be obtained on request.

Newspapers Copies of local newspapers from 1831 to the most current Sunderland Echo are held and indexed for important events and personalities. Most are held on microfilm.

Maps The collection includes maps from 1723 to the present day, the most popular being the various editions and scales of the Ordnance Survey series dating from mid 1850s, some of which cover County Durham.

Shipping registers The largest resource is Lloyd's Registers of Shipping, 1816-2012 (complete from 1874). Lloyd's Wreck registers are also stocked.

Local History Library @ ETR
64 Fawcett Street, Sunderland SR1 1BB
Tel: 0191 5618 439
Email: local.historylibrary@sunderland.gov.uk


Sunderland
City Council

Trade and telephone directories Trade directories date from the 1820s to early 1960s. Telephone directories are stocked from 1960s, although not complete.

Genealogy A "Tracing your family history" guide is available on the library website: www.sunderland.gov.uk. All city public libraries have free access to the Find My Past website.

Birth, marriage and death indexes Indexes from 1837 up to 2010 for England and Wales can be searched by name through the library website: www.sunderland.gov.uk The centre also stocks a microfiche copy (1837-1983).

Census records Personal information, such as names, ages, birthplace, occupations and relationships can often be accessed from the nationwide census (every decade, 1841-1911). Census records for the city (every decade, 1841- 1901) are also available on microfilm.

Parish and cemetery records Parish records hold details of baptisms, marriages and burials prior to 1837. The collection contains microfilms copies of most city Church of England registers, Roman Catholic and some non-conformist registers, as well as burial and grave registers for municipal run cemeteries from 1856.

Electoral registers The collection dates from the 1820s, and registers are arranged by electoral ward and then street.

Special items of local interest

Photographs There are in excess of 20000 photographs in the collection, some of which can be viewed at: www.sunderland.gov.uk www.flickr.com/sunderlandpubliclibraries

Lilburn collection A collection of pamphlets and posters relating to Sunderland from the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Corder manuscripts A unique resource covering pedigrees of Sunderland families and shipbuilders, together with histories of older Sunderland streets.

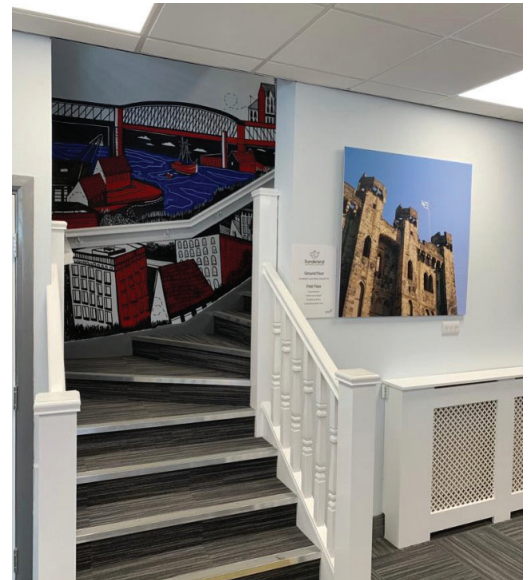
Alf Rodenby collection Includes many aspects of Sunderland shipping, although the main focus is shipowners and their vessels.

Lindisfarne gospels A facsimile copy is displayed of the eighth century illuminated gospels created on Holy Island to celebrate the life of Saint Cuthbert.

Codex Amiatinus A replica copy is displayed of the Codex Amiatinus, originally produced at Wearmouth-Jarrow in the eighth century. Currently on loan and displayed at St Peters church.

What facilities does the Local History Library @ ETR have?

Relocated in 2020, to the well-known Elephant Tea Rooms on the corner of Fawcett Street, the ground floor offers microfilm and readers, study areas, historical maps and all local history services, while the space on the first floor has an area that can be used to deliver events and activities, which could include anything from dementia and reminiscence workshops to creative programmes to support general health and wellbeing. Professional library staff with a breadth of knowledge across the collections manage the Local History Library @ETR and can support with all enquiries.



Contact details

For more information, visit the Local History Library @ ETR, 64 Fawcett Street. Telephone 0191 561 8439. Email Local.historylibrary@sunderland.gov.uk Website www.sunderland.gov.uk