A short guide to

The Film Collection

at Southwark Local History Library & Archive

The film collection of Southwark Local History Library and Archive is made up of over 200 films covering a wide range of subjects relevant to the borough of Southwark. A full list of film titles is available at http://www.southwark.gov.uk/assets/attach/1395/Southwark_Film_Collection.pdf.

We regularly add titles to the film collection. So, if there is a film that you feel we may have that is not on this list, please ask a member of staff.
Access

Visitors to Southwark Local History Library and Archive can view any film its collection in the library for private research and educational use. Films are not available for loan for personal use and copying is strictly prohibited.

What’s Online?

Over half of the film collection was digitized by London’s Screen Archives in 2011. LSA is the regional network for over 100 archives, museums, libraries and organisations with moving image holdings. A selection of our film collection is available to view online free of charge through their website:

www.londonsscreenarchives.org.uk

Some of the collection can also be seen on the LSA YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/user/LondonsScreenArchive

The BFI Player also includes some films of local interest:
http://player.bfi.org.uk

British Pathé has over 85,000 films. There are many Southwark-related films which can be accessed at:

www.youtube.com/user/britishpathe

Donations and reproduction requests

Please contact us if you have film that may be of significance to the London Borough of Southwark. You can donate your film where it will be preserved and made accessible to the general public.

If you would like to use a film as part of a community event or other activity, please send your request in writing to Southwark Local History Library and Archive (see the back page for contact details).
Among the films in the collection are…

Bermondsey Borough Council Films

Bermondsey Borough Council made around 20 to 30 films between the 1920s and 1940s. They were made by the council’s Public Health Department under the direction of Dr D M Connan, the Medical Officer for Health. The films were aimed at improving the health of the borough’s residents, many of whom had died from preventable diseases like diphtheria. The Council were able to show these films in ‘cinemotors’ enabling them to reach communities that would otherwise not have the means to see them.

Brandon Estate Cine Club films of the 1960s and 70s

The Brandon Estate Cine Club film collection comprises around 23 films originally shot on standard 8mm film. The films were made by Richard Morgan and Brian Waterman, both cine enthusiasts who started the cine club on the Brandon Estate in Walworth, south east London in the 1960s. The films are a historical record of the resident’s activities on the estate and on their annual trips to Canvey Island.

Other films in the collection

The rest of the collection comprises a wide variety of films, spanning over a hundred years of Southwark history. They have been collected over the years as a record of the people, places and events in the borough. Some of the highlights are:

A London Borough (1950)

Celebrating the Borough of Camberwell’s Golden Jubilee, this film shows the evolution of local government using actors in a mock trial.

A Pool of Information (1993)

Former members and staff of the Pioneer Health Centre in Peckham discuss their experiences of ‘The Peckham Experiment’, which was undertaken by Dr Innes Pearse and George Scott Williamson

A Visit to Peek Frean and Co’s Biscuit Works (1906)

Rare film made by Cricks and Sharp of the famous biscuit factory that was based in Clement’s Road, Bermondsey.

Clubland Original Films 1925-1976

A selection of films showing the activities of Clubland throughout this period, compiled by Reverend Jimmy Butterworth’s family.
The Changing Face of Camberwell (1963)

Camberwell was experiencing a period of drastic change in the 1960s. This documentary, newly digitised by the BFI shows the contrast between old poorly lit Victorian tenements like Waterloo Square and modern housing schemes like the Brandon Estate.

My Little Grey Home in the West (1968)

An intimate portrait of the residents of Newington Lodge, a former GLC institution for the homeless and elderly and previously the site of the Newington Workhouse. Filmed on 16mm by John Goldschmidt, a former student of the Royal College of Arts, London.

Keep in touch

Southwark Local History Library and Archive
211 Borough High Street
London
SE1 1JA
020 7525 0232
LHLibrary@southwark.gov.uk
heritage.southwark.gov.uk
twitter.com/swkheritage
pinterest.com/swkheritage

Hours of opening
Monday 10am to 7pm
Tuesday 10am to 5pm
Wednesday Closed
Thursday 10am to 7pm
Friday 10am to 5pm
Saturday 10am to 3pm
Sunday Closed