

**Historical Background:** The Festival of Britain was a national exhibition held throughout the United Kingdom in the summer of 1951. It was organised by the government to give the British a feeling of recovery in the aftermath of war and to promote the British contribution to science, technology, industrial design, architecture and the arts.

The Festival of Britain Exhibition officially opened in Hull at 2pm on Saturday 19th May 1951, and was held in the City Hall until 26th May. It had originally been proposed that the Hull Corporation Development Committee would sponsor a £20,000 Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Exhibition which would take place on the Bricknell Avenue site covering an area of 26 acres. It had promise of being the largest Exhibition of its character ever staged in the North of England at this time. However, due to circumstances “connected with the weather and the rearmament programme” the scheme was abandoned. Alderman F. Holmes, chairman of the Development Committee “determined to fight back and not let the citizens of Hull down”, agreed the Development Committee would sponsor and organise an Exhibition on a much smaller scale at the City Hall.

For 1/- entrance fee visitors could see many of the products of Hull factories, hear music by the Black Dyke Mills Band and follow the “Story of Wool”, recalling the role of this commodity in making Hull Britain’s third port as early as the 13th century. The story was complete from the daily sheep shearing demonstrations by champion East Riding farmers, to demonstrations of weaving the wool into patterns and the making of dresses and coats, and to finally the wearing of the garments, as displayed by models in a parade which concluded the demonstrations.

#### Festival Ship HMS Campania

HMS Campania was an aircraft carrier of the Royal Navy that saw service during the Second World War. After the war, the ship was used as a floating exhibition hall for the 1951 Festival of Britain and docked in 10 cities. Numbers reached almost 900,000 people visiting the Festival ship, with 87,840 visiting while the ship was docked at Hull.

Berthed at No.3 Quay, King George Dock, the Festival ship was officially opened at Hull on 19th June 1951 by the Lord Mayor, Alderman R. E. Smith. The ship was made as accessible as possible with a special bus service put on to take visitors to HMS Campania leaving every 15 minutes from the coach station. Visitors could also enjoy a meal on board the ship in the Hangar Deck Restaurant.

The Campania’s exhibition was effectively a replica of the London South Bank exhibition, and consisted of displays for agriculture as well as other industries including coal, steel, power and transport, which included a fascinating section on railways, the sea and ships. Here, in addition to many models of ships, there was a complete radar unit layout on which visitors were able to watch shipping moving in the Humber. Hundreds of school children from all parts of Yorkshire visited the ship at Hull and there was an average daily attendance of just under 9,000 on the Campania during her 10 days stay in Hull.

**Custodial history:** Records were created in the course of planning the Festival of Britain events in Hull

Hull History Centre: Records relating to the Festival of Britain

**Description:** Mainly comprises correspondence files relating to the planning of the Festival of Britain events in Hull. Also includes plans of the ship the Campania and a volume of publications relating to the Festival of Britain events hosted in various cities.

**Arrangement:**

C TMFB/1	Planning and Correspondence files relating to the Festival of Britain	1949-1951
C TMFB/2	Publications relating to the Festival of Britain	1951

**Extent:** 6 boxes

**Access conditions:** Access will be granted to any accredited reader

<b>C TMFB/1</b>	<b>Planning and correspondence files relating to the Festival of Britain</b> <b>Files relating to the Festival of Britain were originally given the file number 13091 and allocated a letter of the alphabet to signify a particular subject (e.g. the letter 'b' relates to the Campania). The files have been alphabetically arranged. However, a file does not exist for every letter of the alphabet.</b> <b>16 bundles</b>	<b>1949-1951</b>
C TMFB/1/1	Festival of Britain file: General General correspondence regarding the planning of the Festival of Britain. Includes a price list for Festival of Britain display items such as banners, badges, napkins, etc., committee proposals and resolutions, layout plan for the hall of commerce, plan showing the original layout of "country comes to town", list of organisations that may wish to meet to organise events, proposed programme of events, list of official Festival guides and catalogues, details of display alphabet type to be used in all Festival publicity, and speeches made at a meeting of heads of local government 1 bundle	8 Jun 1949- 10 Apr 1951
C TMFB/1/2	Festival of Britain file: General General correspondence and includes Festival ship Campania itinerary, souvenir chorus sheet, a leaflet providing a word to the promoter 1 bundle	27 Nov 1950- Nov 1951

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C TMFB/1/3	<p>Festival of Britain file: Festival Ship HMS Campania File (a). Correspondence and papers planning the visit of the festival ship Campana. Also includes a car parking pass, number of admissions and number of days stay in Southampton, Dundee, Newcastle, Hull, Plymouth, Bristol, programme for the official opening of the Campana, programme and menu for the luncheon to celebrate its visit, and list of works required in connection with the visit of the Campana. 1 bundle</p>	31 May 1949- 21 Sep 1951
C TMFB/1/4	<p>Festival of Britain file: Festival Ship HMS Campania File (a) (i). Correspondence regarding the visit of local authorities to the festival ship Campana, including issuing of advanced tickets, memorandum, Ministry of Education circular regarding the Festival of Britain. 1 bundle</p>	9 Oct 1950- 10 Apr 1951
C TMFB/1/5	<p>Festival of Britain file: Festival Ship HMS Campania File (a) (ii). Correspondence regarding the visit of local authorities to the festival ship Campana, including a list of school parties booked to visit the ship giving the number of children and adults to attend, amount paid and time of arrival. 1 bundle</p>	4 Apr 1951- 30 Jun 1951
C TMFB/1/6	<p>Festival of Britain file: Festival Ship HMS Campania Includes plans of the layout of the Campana, dock layout plan, a report regarding the visit made by Major General W. F. Lukis and Mr. R. D. Ayliffe in connection with the berthing of the ship in Hull, and a report giving factual information about the ship and including a questionnaire to be complete following consultation with the Festival of Britain Committee 1 bundle</p>	20 Mar 1950- 24 Jan 1951

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C TMFB/1/7	<p>Festival of Britain file: Newsletters and publications File (c). Includes Festival of Britain newsletters, correspondence, minutes of the Festival of Britain sub-committee, booklets regarding standardized lettering, lighting display, catalogue of activities and events and additions and amendments received since the catalogue went to press, information summary, the design and use of festival flags, the arts in the festival, industrial exhibits of power show, programmes of events from other cities, and the official programme of the Festival Ship Campania. 1 bundle</p>	11 Nov 1949- 6 Nov 1950
C TMFB/1/8	<p>Festival of Britain file: Formation of Limited Company for the Festival of Britain File (g). Includes correspondence, memorandum and articles of association regarding Limited Companies for the Festival of Britain in other cities 1 bundle</p>	8 May 1950- 3 Jul 1950
C TMFB/1/9	<p>Festival of Britain file: Sports Organisations File (j). Includes correspondence regarding sports and events in Hull and other cities, poster for Blackburn Welfare Motor Club, the Royal Signals display pictorial souvenir, veteran car rally and run Hull to Scarborough programme, Hull's Festival of Britain May Festival programme, Yorkshire cycling federation handbook. 1 bundle</p>	27 Jun 1950- 17 Sep 1951
C TMFB/1/10	<p>Festival of Britain file: Religious Denominations File (k). Includes correspondence regarding events including parades in Hull, a list of schools affiliated with the Hull and District Sunday School Union, details of possible events concerning the churches in Hull, York Diocesan leaflet including the Archbishop's letter regarding the Festival of Britain. 1 bundle</p>	10 Jul 1950- 16 Aug 1951

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C TMFB/1/11	<p>Festival of Britain file: Junior Chamber of Commerce File (L). Includes correspondence, a list of countries to which the brochure was despatched, a report on the need for an additional information bureau for the duration of the City's celebrations, a report on the suggested plan of action to launch a project to encourage foreign business visitors to the City during the Festival. 1 bundle</p>	31 Dec 1949- 9 Oct 1951
C TMFB/1/12	<p>Festival of Britain file: Committee Papers File (n). Committee papers including minutes, reports and proposals with details of financial provision. 1 bundle</p>	16 May 1950- 1 Mar 1951
C TMFB/1/13	<p>Festival of Britain file: Local brochure File (o). Includes Festival of Britain brochures and leaflets from other cities, correspondence, a list of people and businesses giving the number of copies of the local brochure to be delivered to them, photograph of a poster design, and list of events with dates 1 bundle</p>	4 Jan 1951- 5 Jun 1951
C TMFB/1/14	<p>Festival of Britain file: Official opening ceremony of the Campania File (p). Includes correspondence, financial papers, a plan of the ship's berth, Campania car parking pass, invitation to a luncheon celebrating the official opening of the Campania, programme of official opening events, a list of luncheon guests, order of the procession from the Guildhall to the King George Dock as part of the opening ceremony, list of officials that helped in the preparatory work in connection to the visit of the festival ship, instructions to stewards at quayside, list for flight deck platform seating, and a list of acceptances. 1 bundle</p>	10 Nov 1950- 23 Jul 1951
C TMFB/1/15	<p>Festival of Britain file: Opening Ceremony Lunch File (p) (ii). Includes correspondence, a seating plan, menu, programme, list of luncheon guests, and a list of acceptances. 1 bundle</p>	11 Jun 1951- 23 Jun 1951

Hull History Centre: Records relating to the Festival of Britain

C TMFB/1/16	Festival of Britain file: Athletic sports File (s). Mainly comprises correspondence and costs for events. 1 bundle	20 Oct 1950- 26 Oct 1951
<b>C TMFB/2</b>	<b>Publications relating to the Festival of Britain Includes a volume of publications relating to the Festival of Britain in Hull and a Continental Daily Mail Festival of Britain special supplement newspaper 1 volume, 1 item</b>	<b>1951</b>
C TMFB/2/1	Volume of publications relating to the Festival of Britain Includes leaflets relating to events such as the visit of the Campania, exhibition of silver, visits to industrial premises, 'Country comes to Town' exhibition, laying of foundation stones of Festival House, athletic sports events, posters and newscuttings 1 volume	May-Oct 1951
C TMFB/2/2	Continental Daily Mail Festival of Britain special supplement newspaper 1 item	c.1951