

HAVERHILL AT WORK

Home and casual working

Many mothers, especially those new to Haverhill who had left their social networks behind, found it difficult to go out to work because of the need for childcare.

Home working was an option that suited many. It was an opportunity to earn a few pounds to supplement the household income. Fruit and potato picking was a seasonal option too.

EARN MONEY AT HOME

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Experienced Dress Machinist for outdoor work

Work collected and delivered, any area, good rates paid.

Regular work assured.



"We all came down on our own so we never had family to look after the children and we had to cope the best we could to get money."

"Home working was a life saver. It paid for food and clothes for the children. We were just grateful that we were able to earn the money quite honestly."

"I did home work for a few weeks – there were so many boxes it took up most of my dining room. I walked all the way up to pick up my first week's pay - no one told me you had to work a week in hand."

"When I lived in London I worked at Harrods, I was trained as a tailoress there. Here I worked for 'Glamour Gowns'. I sat at night doing it as I had no childcare and my husband was at work so I sat all night sometimes to get them done, just for a few pounds."



"It used to be strawberries, plums, then apples. Then in September time the potatoes...that was hard graft. We used to be picked up at 6 in the morning in old open top lorries. We used to take the children. Those that were too young stayed in their prams, the others ran around the field. They had a wail of a time but ate all the strawberries."

"It was a bit like slave labour. Packing bin bags, sandwich bags, greaseproof paper and jam pot covers - everybody's pet hate. We had to just work until it was done, things like jam pot covers went on forever. If you had a lot left on Friday night or Saturday morning you just stayed up the whole weekend to get it done! We used to go up to Marchants at the end of the week to collect our wages."

