



## Feeding the Hamlets

### Exhibition launch

Thursday 21 July | 5.30-7.30pm | FREE | [Book your place](#)

In production since 2019 but delayed by the pandemic, the brand new exhibition at Tower Hamlets Local History & Archives uses the unique collections held here as a lens through which to explore the borough's history of producing food.

For centuries, the East End's landscape and social and economic history have been influenced by the growing, trading or manufacturing of food. Before 1800 farmland and market gardens characterised the area, but rapid industrialisation saw this pastoral tradition give way to the factories and warehouses producing food for mass consumption nationwide and globally. Close proximity to the docks ensured that food businesses based in the East End had ready access to a fresh supply of raw ingredients, within many supplies imported from countries colonised by Britain.

Photographs, deeds, plans, minutes, illustrations and maps are among the many unique items selected by staff. These sources illustrate fascinating and lesser-known tales from

the history of food production in the East End – from flour milling and sugar refining to cow-keeping and vegetable growing.

The exhibition looks at the methods and sites where food production took place, as well as the people who were involved. A programme of free events is taking place to explore the exhibition's themes in more detail. Come to the free drinks reception on Thursday 22 July, 5.30-7.30pm, to be the first to hear about the activities and talks we have lined up.

Feeding the Hamlets will run until early 2023. If you would like to bring a group or class for a tour or workshop inspired by the display, please get in touch at [localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk)!

[Book your place at the free launch event by clicking here!](#)

## Tuesday 19 July - heatwave closure

Due to the red weather warning issued for London & South East England our Reading Room and exhibition space will be temporarily closed on Monday 18 and Tuesday 19 July.

We will be open as usual from 10.30am on Wednesday 20 July.



*The iconic bust of Stepney Alderman Stanley Bean Atkinson says "Stay hydrated!"*

## Contact us

**We are waiting to hear from you!**

- Email us: [localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk)
- Visit our website: <http://www.ideastore.co.uk/local-history>
- Phone (during opening hours only): 020 7364 1290

### **Reading Room - Regular opening hours**

- Tuesday 10.30am-4pm
- Wednesday 10.30am-4pm

- Thursday 10.30am-7pm

First and third Saturdays of every month:

- Saturday 10am-5pm

Additionally our **Exhibition Hall** is open 10am-5pm Monday-Friday, plus the Saturdays and Thursday evenings as above..

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