

Saturday opening is back!

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



Extended opening hours from November

We are pleased to report that - subject to Covid restrictions continuing at their current level - we are extending our opening hours to include two Saturdays a month and Thursday evenings.

From November we will be open **every Thursday until 7pm**, and on the **first and third Saturdays** of every month from **10am-5pm**. That's the following Saturdays in 2021:

- Saturday 6 and 20 November
- Saturday 4 and 18 December

Our weekday opening hours will be

- **Tuesday and Wednesday:** 10.30am-4.00pm
- **Thursday:** 10.30am-7.00pm

NB: The Vanished East End exhibition is also open on Mondays and Fridays but there is no access to the Reading Room for research on these days.



What's on at Bancroft Road

Exhibition: The Vanished East End
Documentary photography from the 70s and 80s
At Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives
Until 4 February 2022



The photography on display in this popular exhibition highlights the huge social and economic changes in the area, including the now vanished industrial landscape and the deregulation of the financial markets. A group show, the exhibition features work from the 1970s and the 1980s by acclaimed photographers Tom Hunter, Diane Bush, Mike Seaborne, Brian Griffin and Syd Shelton. The exhibition has been curated to highlight the publication of much of this work in a recent series by [Café Royal Books](#), a long-term advocate of British documentary photography.

The five books in the series showcase each photographer's distinctive and personal approach to capturing the area. The series includes:

- ***Down the Lane*** features the work of **Tom Hunter** and dates from a time prior to his professional career when he had a stall at Brick Lane Market and photographed the passers-by.
- ***East End*** features the work of **Diane Bush** and was made during her work with EXIT, Britain's first photography collective. EXIT believed in the power of photography to contribute to positive social change.
- ***London Docklands*** features the work of **Mike Seaborne**, showcasing the huge social and economic changes in the area through the 1970s which were defined by a vanished post-industrial landscape.
- ***The Broadgate Development*** features the work of **Brian Griffin**, which comments on massive economic shifts during this time in the City of London in the 1980s. Borders were re-drawn as the City spread with the deregulation of the financial markets.
- ***Syd Shelton*** is a British photographer who documented the Rock Against Racism movement. His work is held in the collections of Tate and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Please be sure to check our opening hours in order to plan your visit to this brilliant show.

NEW EVENT! Curator's tour

Saturday 6 November 2021 | 2.00pm

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

We are pleased to announce the first special event in support of the extremely popular exhibition *The Vanished East End*. Join its curator Susan Andrews and participating photographers Mike Seaborne, Tom Hunter and Syd Shelton for a tour of the show.

Please email to book a place: s.andrews@londonmet.ac.uk

For more about the East End Archive, visit <http://www.eastendarchive.org/>

Bangladesh 50 Years



Our collaboration with the National Portrait Gallery launched last month, BANGLA is a bright and bold celebration of the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh, installed in the facade of Idea Store Whitechapel facing the bustling street market.

Initially planned as an exhibition in our entrance hall, the pandemic required the project's stakeholders to identify an open-air space to display the artwork, which was designed by lead Bangladesh-based Londoner Ruhul Abdin. The result - the word BANGLA constructed as a 3D illuminated steel structure clad in sari fabric - was informed by research in the collections of Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives by a group of more than twenty Citizen Researchers from the local British Bangladeshi community.

In addition to the sculptural artwork - which is illuminated at dusk every evening and will be on display until spring 2022 - the installation includes two large embroidered hangings depicting archival fragments of the 1971 Liberation War, and its impact on the Bengali East End.

Pasted onto the disused escalator shaft facing the street market, highlights from our collections are used in a new exhibition about the history of the independence struggle, the contribution of Tower Hamlets residents and the Language Movement in the East End.

[Click here](#) to see the research and reflections of citizen researchers.

Bangladesh 50 is part of Citizen UK, a collaboration between the National Portrait Gallery and local authority archives. THLHLA will be holding a free public event at the Idea Store exploring the themes of the exhibition in December, to mark Victory Day - watch this space for more details!



Sources for Black history in Tower Hamlets



Explore the THACMHO archives

We are proud to provide a home for the preservation of publications and other records produced by the Tower Hamlets African Caribbean Mental Health Organisation (THACMHO). Founded in 1996, THACMHO was established to promote the well-being of African and Caribbean users of mental health services, and to create a nurturing, strong, vibrant and caring community through a holistic model of care.

THACHMO provides "opportunities for members to develop positive self-awareness and identity" - a key strand of their work being the *Health through History* programme.

In the late 1990s and 2000s THACHMO produced pamphlets comprising a great deal of vital research on Black historical figures, including 'Power Writers and the struggle against slavery' and 'Power Writers: Discovering and Celebrating Five African Writers who came to London in the Eighteenth Century'. They also organised conferences about Black history in the context of contemporary mental health.

Images shared with kind permission from THACHMO. Why not come down to our Reading Room and have a read about their incredible work?

The library is open! Come and visit us
No appointment needed

We welcome visitors to our Reading Room for research on the following days:

- **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays**
10.30am – 4.00pm
- From next week:
 - Thursdays: late opening until 7pm
 - First and third Saturday of every month: 10am-5pm
 - Sundays and Bank Holidays: closed
- **Mondays and Fridays**
 - Open for exhibition viewing only: 10am-5pm

Reading Room visitors are welcome to drop-in without an appointment but if all tables are in use, you will be asked to queue or return later. The exhibition can be visited without pre-booking.

There is a slightly reduced Reading Room capacity with some tables reserved for walk-ins and other tables reserved for booked appointments. Please visit our [Visitor Information page](#) for more information, including on our health & safety procedures.

You will not need to order documents in advance, however we encourage you to plan your research visit before you come. Consult our online catalogue THcatalogue.org.uk and refer to our [User Guides](#) to get a head start. On arrival, you will need to provide reference numbers for the items you would like to see.

If you want to ensure you are not turned away from the Reading Room (for example, if you are travelling some distance to use our collections) we invite you to email us at least two working days in advance, and we can reserve you a table.

Contact us

For further information and to book an appointment, please email localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk or call 020 6364 1290. The telephone is answered during our opening hours only, and the inbox is monitored Monday-Friday.

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