

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



Tonight! Holocaust Memorial Day 2024

Talk | Wednesday 24 January | 6.00-7.30pm

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives, Education Room

Join us for an inter-generational conversation on remembrance and memorialisation of the Jewish Holocaust. How do Jews of different generations commemorate the Holocaust today? How effective are national memorialisation initiatives in the UK and Europe? In the decades that followed World War Two, what was the response of the East End's Jewish community to the genocide? Can Holocaust remembrance ever be non-political? Join **Barnaby Raine**, **David Rosenberg** and **Nadia Valman** as they discuss these questions and more, from a personal, national and local perspective.

UPDATE: Unfortunately due to illness **Nadia Valman** can no longer join us this evening.

About the speakers

Barnaby Raine is an intellectual historian writing his PhD at Columbia University. His doctoral research seeks to explain the decline of thinking about the end of capitalism from Marx through to debates in twentieth century Britain, amid the end of formal empire. Raine is also Associate Faculty at the Brooklyn Institute for Social Research, an editor of *Salvage* journal, and a contributor to *The Guardian*, *n+1*, *Jacobin*, *Red Pepper* and others.

David Rosenberg is an educator, writer and tour guide specialising in London's radical history. He is an anti-fascist activist and educator. He was the convenor of Cable Street 80 and is the author of *Battle for the East End*. He has helped to organise educational trips to Auschwitz and Krakow for trade unionists and anti-racist campaigners. He teaches a course at the City Literary institute called 'Ghetto Uprising 1943, Jewish Life and death in Warsaw'.

Nadia Valman is Professor of Urban Literature at Queen Mary, University of London. She has authored or co-edited eight books on British Jewish history and culture and has recently worked with Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives on a project on the Jewish East End. At Queen Mary, where she has been a member of staff for 16 years, her teaching has a focus on literatures of migration to London, including Irish, Jewish, Caribbean and Bangladeshi migrations.

Free event but booking is essential.

LGBTQI+ History Month



IMAGINING QUEER PASTS & FUTURES

Creative writing workshop | Thursday 15 February | 6.00-7.30pm

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

You are invited to an evening of writing and discussion, where you will explore photos, records and memories of the LGBTQ+ community in Tower Hamlets. East London-based writer and facilitator **F. Zeeshan Choudhury** will provide writing games and activities to interact with these archival materials. As well as sharing your work, there will be a discussion exploring elements of our queer past and ways it can be brought into the future.

This workshop is for all people 18+ who want to find strength and inspiration from the past, as well as writers looking to see how archival material can inform their work.

[Free to attend but booking is essential - book your place here.](#)

Brick Lane 1978: The Turning Point

BRICK LANE 1978 THE TURNING POINT



02/DECEMBER/2023
TO 16/MARCH/2024

Photograph (c) Paul Trevor of an anti-racist protest in Brick Lane, 1978.

Exhibition and events | until 16 March

The new exhibition at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives reveals the dramatic events in 1978 which were sparked by the racist murder of Altab Ali, a 24-year-old Bengali leather garments worker, and pays tribute to the activists who mobilised around the rallying cry of justice that followed.

Local photographer **Paul Trevor** documented how members of the local Bengali community endured racial abuse as a constant factor of everyday life, and the moment at which they mobilised against racist violence and institutional police racism. The exhibition – **Brick Lane 1978: The Turning Point** - brings together seventy of Trevor's photographs as well as original archival materials and first-person testimony.

The display was originally created in 2022 as part of a major heritage project led by Four Corners and [Swadhinata Trust](#), in partnership with [Paul Trevor](#) and supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. With the help of volunteers and original activists, the project created a record of this watershed moment as told by local people.

The exhibition is now on show until Saturday 16 March 2024. Please see below for February's events programme - keep an eye on our website and newsletter as details are confirmed for final events in March on this theme.



Workshop | Resistance in the archive

Saturday 17 February | 2.00-4.00pm

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

In this workshop with Fatima Rajina and Hajera Begum from [Nijjor Manush](#), we will investigate anti-racist resistance and advocacy from local communities through archival material from [MayDay Rooms](#) and Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives. What social and political hardships have communities faced in Tower Hamlets since the 1970s? What lessons can be learnt from their radical histories? And how do we apply these teachings to contemporary struggles? Join us in exploring grassroots activism and strategies of resistance.

MayDay Rooms is an archive, resource and safe haven for social movements, experimental and marginal cultures and their histories.

Nijjor Manush is an independent campaigning group that aims to educate, empower and organise Bengalis and Bangladeshis in the UK.

[Free to attend - book your place here.](#)



Workshop | Bengali radical housing movement

Thursday 29 February | 6.00-7.30pm

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

1970s Britain witnessed housing struggles for many working-class communities across the country. Racialised groups, like the growing Bengali community in Tower Hamlets, faced additional hardships owing to structural racism and the rise of far-right racist attacks by the National Front. In her book 'From Sylhet to Spitalfields', Shabna Begum explores how the longstanding Bengali community resisted the housing crisis amidst the violence and discrimination, by squatting.

In this workshop with Shabna, we will be revisiting her archival research for the book, examining how records are used to uncover hidden narratives, and discussing the radical history of the Bengali squatters' movement.

Shabna Begum is interim CEO at the Runnymede Trust, the UK's leading race equality think tank. In her work she has worked on numerous projects including on income inequality, housing and problem debt. She is also Honorary Research Fellow at Queen Mary University London in the School of Geography, where she conducted her doctoral research. Prior to this, Shabna was a teacher for over two decades in London secondary schools.

[Free to attend - book your place here.](#)

Save the date... details to follow



Communities of Liberation

African people in the East End from 1567 to 1802

Launching Thursday 22 February | 6.30pm
Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

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Library Learning Information

TOWER HAMLETS

New opportunity for 18–24-year-old East Enders

- Discover career paths in museums, galleries and libraries
- Meet new people
- Learn from friendly professionals
- Work together to create an exhibition for Newham Heritage Month!

THE NEW
CURATORS
PROJECT

[The New Curators Project 2024](#) is open for applications. It aims to open the cultural heritage sector to young adults in east London who do not have a degree or previous experience in the sector.

We are hoping to reach people who are:

- aged 18 to 24
- Living, working or studying in Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest
- have an interest in working in galleries, museums, libraries or archives
- not a graduate and not at university
- have less than six weeks' paid experience in the cultural heritage sector

The deadline for applications is February 17th 2024, 8pm. There are ten places funded at the equivalent of London Living Wage. Please [see the website for info](#), including application form and who to contact if you have any questions.

Contact us

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

Reading Room opening hours

- Tuesday 10.00am-4.30pm
- Wednesday 10.00am-4.30pm
- Thursday 10.00am-7.00pm

First and third Saturdays of every month:

- Saturday 10.00am-5.00pm

That's the following Saturdays coming up:

- Saturday 3 February
- Saturday 17 February
- Saturday 2 March
- Saturday 16 March

Exhibition opening times are: 10am-5pm Monday-Friday, plus the Saturdays and Thursday evenings noted above. On Monday and Friday lunchtimes, the exhibition will be closed for lunch between 1 and 2pm.
