



Public computers coming soon

We will soon be getting public PCs in our reading room. This will provide access to the impressive range of on-line reference materials currently available at other libraries and Idea Stores in the borough. Of these of particular interest to users of the Local History Library and Archives will be the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, The Times Digital Archive, 1785-1985, and especially, Ancestry Library Edition.



The latter provides access to a wealth of genealogical resources, notably census returns from 1841 to 1901 and indexes to births, deaths and marriages from 1837 onwards. Excitingly, Ancestry Library Edition has recently been expanded to include large series of records held at the London Metropolitan Archives, many of which relate to Tower Hamlets.

Included are searchable-by-name parish registers, of marriages 1754 -1921, baptisms 1813-1906, and burials from 1813. Earlier records, from 1538, are available as searchable images only.



Also available are Boards of Guardians records including workhouse admission registers. School admission registers and electoral registers will be added at a future date.

CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

We will close for the Christmas break at 1pm on Thursday 24th December, and re-open on Saturday 2nd January 2010. Our normal opening times apply either side of this.

Dec 21: Closed
Dec 22: 10am-8pm
Dec 23: Closed
Dec 24: 9am-1pm

Dec 25 to Jan 1
(inclusive): Closed

Jan 2: 9am-5pm
Jan 3: Closed
Jan 4: Closed
Jan 5: 10am-8pm

Collection News: Spitalfields Silk and Lace Donation

Spitalfields is famous for its silk weaving industry introduced by the French Huguenots in the 17th century. Therefore we are pleased to have recently received a donation of some attractive silk and lace handiwork dating back to 1848. One item is a black silk purse with beaded edges and is inscribed with the words "Spitalfields School of Design, 1848".

The second item is a silk needle case embroidered with a flower design and this contains a card with the words "Made by Amy Cooper" who is unknown to the donors. The other two items are childrens lace bonnets which may have been made for the children of the family.

The donors were three sisters who inherited the handiwork from their mother, Mrs Ann Maitland MacEwen, but it is not known how she acquired the collection. It is likely that the items were made by students at the Spitalfields School of Design.

Reader Registration

From the end of November 2009, all users of the Local History Library & Archives will be required to register as readers. This is a measure used in most archive repositories and it provides added security and protection for our unique collections by making sure we have an accurate and full record of all of the service users.

Visitors will be asked to fill in a brief registration form and show a form of identification which features proof of their address. Idea Store card holders will need to complete a separate registration form but can use their Idea Store card as their proof of ID. We will also be asking visitors to complete a monitoring form. This enables us to collect statistics on our users which are increasingly needed for fundraising

and to measure and evaluate how the service is being used. Personal data will be kept securely and in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

So, please remember to bring with you on your next visit proof of ID which includes proof of your address. Accepted forms include:

- driving licence
- utility bill
- council tax statement
- bank statement
- recent payslip
- Idea Store card

The visitors book will be kept in use but scaled down so that we also have a log of daily visits, including those by returning users.

NEW LOCKERS

We are very pleased to announce that lockers are now in use for visitors to the reading room. There are 18



generously-sized lockers for you to store your coats and bags while you are using the library – just in time for winter! We hope that these lockers will free up more space around the table and will better protect the collections from the risk of theft.

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

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Library Learning Information