



Gay Pride Festival Victoria Park 1995

LGBT History Month

In February Tower Hamlets is celebrating the historical presence of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people in east London as part of the national LGBT History Month campaign. An exhibition that was researched in part using the archive and local history collections, 'Out In Time', will tour Idea Stores and libraries as follows:

Monday 1st Feb:
Town Hall, Mulberry Place

Tues 2nd -Sun 7th Feb:
Idea Store Canary Wharf

Mon 8th - Sat 13th Feb:
Local History Library & Archives

Mon 15th - Thurs 18th Feb:
Idea Store Whitechapel

Fri 19th - Sun 21st Feb:
Bethnal Green Library

Mon 22nd - Sun 28th Feb:
Idea Store Crisp Street

In addition we will be exhibiting some ephemera and archives reflecting the LGBT histories of the borough in the first floor display cases at the Local History Library & Archives throughout February.

Look out for a special brochure giving details of a number of exhibitions and events in the borough, and see www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk for more information.

Memories of Bethnal Green Civil Defence



Our picture of the Bethnal Green Civil Defence children's New Year party in our December issue brought an interesting response from Fay Cattini (nee Watson), for in it were herself, her younger sister (who died in 1987) and younger brother.

She writes:

"I don't remember this picture being taken but I certainly remember the Civil Defence parties. My family came to England from India in 1949 and we moved to Spitalfields in 1950. My father joined the Civil Defence (not sure why) and I remember his uniform - navy wool trousers and bomber

jacket. When he died in 1954, we were invited to the Christmas parties. I only have two memories of these (1) there was a group of Hungarian children at a party (maybe this one, who knows) and (2) a group of American soldiers at a party and when we went to see Santa Claus we were asked what we would like and got it! I remember my brother asked for a train and got a train set and I asked for a doll and was given a huge box with a doll and lots of extras including a bath. When you put her in water and squeezed the water came out through 3 holes - two tear ducts and a whole in her bottom! When we left we were all given an orange - something we never got at home, which is probably why I remember the party.

P.S. My sister is to the right of the mayor, wearing a hat, and I am the next one, with the funny fringe and my brother is just in front but you can only see a tiny part of his face."

FAMILY HISTORY TALK

Borough Archivist Malcolm Barr-Hamilton is giving a talk to the East London History Society on sources for family history at 7.30 pm on Thursday 14th January at Latimer Church Hall, Ernest Street, E1

New Salvation Army Archives

The papers of William Booth, who founded the Salvation Army in Stepney in the mid-nineteenth century, have recently been catalogued. They are available for consultation by researchers at the Salvation Army Heritage Centre in Camberwell, south London, from the end of February 2010. Copies of the Booth catalogue and of the papers of the East London Christian Mission are now available for reference in Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives. For more information on the history of the Salvation Army, please visit www.salvationarmy.org.uk/heritage



Statue of William Booth in Stepney

Website round-up

East London History Society (www.eastlondonhistory.org.uk)

This site continues to develop as a very useful resource for the Study of East London. Check out the virtual tours along Bow Road and Mile End Road, and of the London Hospital and Victoria Park. There is an impressive range of historic maps in the Map Gallery. The site also hosts 'Tower Hamlets History on Line' developed originally by former Assistant Local History Librarian, David Rich.

Swadinhata Trust (www.swadinhata.org.uk)

Those interested in Bengali History must take a look at the Swadinhata Trust's site. Here you can find details of the Trust's activities including its current oral history project. The Studies and Reports section has an impressive range of digitised materials relating to the UK Bengali community.

Jewish East End Celebration Society (www.jeeccs.org.uk)

Full details of JEECS's many activities can be found here. The "Around the East End" section includes two fascinating walks compiled by JEECS founder Clive Bettington.

The East London Postcard Site (www.btinternet.com/~eastlondonpostcard)

This site has images of well over 100 postcards of East-End interest, all with detailed historical information. Groups arranged thematically include parks, markets, seamens' welfare, and police and fire stations.

Caption competition winner

Ami Sekhon is the winner of our caption competition with:
"I love my new gas mask! Smile chaps, just forty photographs to go..."



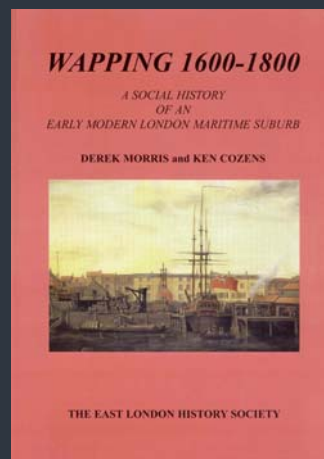
Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

Bancroft Library
277 Bancroft Road
London E1 4DQ

Tel: 020 7364 1290
Fax: 020 7364 1292
Email: localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk
Web: www.ideastore.co.uk

idea
Library Learning Information

HURRY WHILE STOCKS LAST!



Our best selling book in 2009 was: Wapping 1600-1800; a social history of an early modern London maritime suburb by Derek Morris and Ken Cozens. This highly acclaimed and beautifully produced volume is published by the East London History Society. For over 180 well illustrated pages, A4 size, the cost is just £9.60 plus £3.00 p&p. .

**REGULAR
OPENING
HOURS**

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 10 - 8
Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: 9 - 8
Friday: 9 - 6
Saturday: 9 - 5
Sunday: Closed