

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



'East Endings': Film screening + Q&A

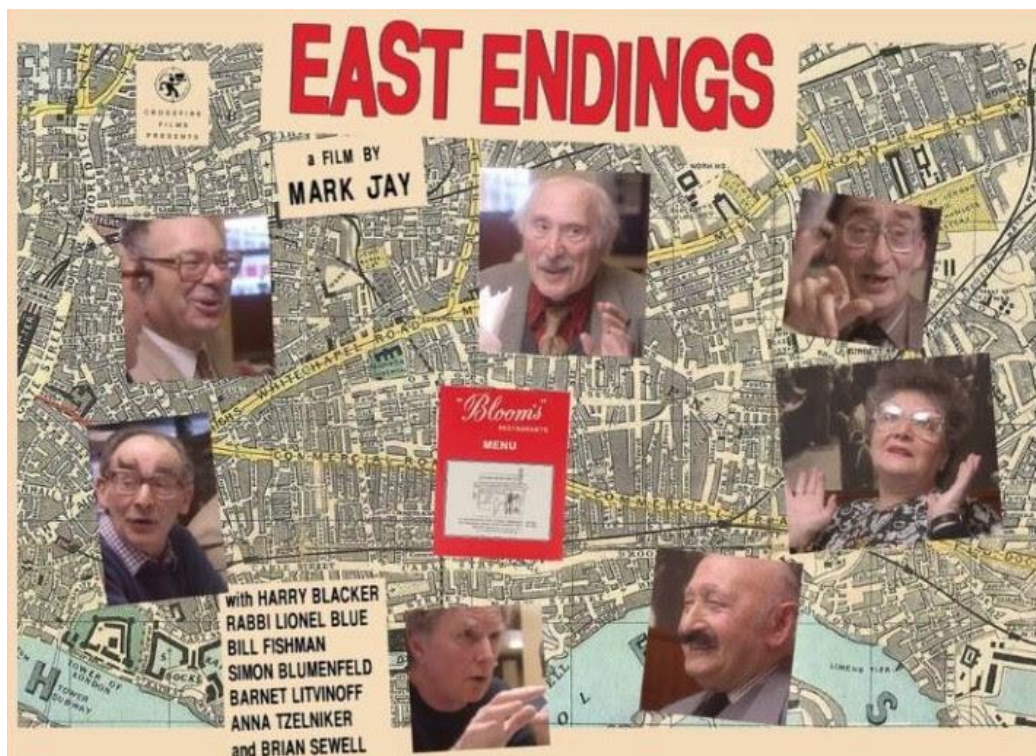
Thursday 24 April | 6.00-8.30pm | Free - booking required

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

The 1993 documentary "East Endings" offers an intimate portrait of the immigrant communities of East London in the 1930s, the diversity of the Jewish diaspora, its language, food religion and humour – and its politics of solidarity.

Filmed in [Bloom's](#), the last kosher restaurant in Whitechapel, a group of Jewish East End writers, artists and activists including Rabbi Lionel Blue, Professor Bill Fishman, Anna Tzelniker, Simon Blumenthal, Barnett Litvinoff and Brian Sewell, meet-up on the occasion of their friend, artist, author and satirist Harry Blacker's 83rd birthday.

Join us for a Q&A with filmmaker **Mark Jay**, chaired by Professor **Nadia Valman**. [Book your free place here!](#)



East End History Club: VE Day

Thursday 8 May | 5.30pm-7.30pm | Free - drop in

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of VE Day, our archivists will select highlights from our wartime collections for you to explore in the Education Room. Drop in, have a cup of tea and meet others with similar interests.

This is an opportunity to browse archives documenting what was happening in the borough during the Second World War in an informal, unstructured session. Our collections on this topic are vast, and include council papers such as Air Raid incident files, bomb strike maps, and personal archives such as papers of the Veltman family, some whom were killed in the V2 rocket strike on Hughes Mansions, Vallance Road in March 1945.

Suitable for ages 14+, children must be supervised. No booking required.

New booklet published



Communities of Liberation

African peoples in London's East End | 1567-1802

Our pioneering exhibition exploring the histories of Africans who lived in Tower Hamlets during the early modern period has now concluded its run at the Town Hall. Thanks to all who attended, and your great feedback.

We have produced a limited quantity of A4 booklets based on the exhibition. These are available on request from the Reading Room enquiry desk, for no charge. Please drop in during opening hours to pick one up.

Communities of Liberation is not over - more updates on what happens next will follow later in the year.

[Visit the website](#)

**Our current exhibition: The Brady
Clubs**



Exhibition | until Saturday 21 June | Free

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

The Brady Boys' Club opened in 1896 in the heart of London's former Jewish East End and by 1925 the Brady Girls' Club was established, moving to purpose-built facilities in Hanbury Street E1 in 1935. Together, the Brady Clubs provided youth facilities and expanded the horizons of largely underprivileged young people for over 80 years.

The Brady Clubs: A Legacy for the Future is an immersive exhibition that explores the immense impact of youth provision on both the individuals concerned and society at large. The Brady Club's legacy stands as testament to the profound impact such initiatives can have and serves as an appeal to government, policymakers, community leaders, and the public to recognise the indispensable role of youth services in shaping positive life trajectories.

Throughout the exhibition, visitors are given the opportunity to engage with the Brady Club experience: through digital links to podcasts and stories, by listening to music, playing games, dressing up, and sitting in the canteen environment to read youth-generated Club magazines and examine Brady Club holiday albums.

Check out our opening hours below before visiting. We look forward to welcoming you!

Dhamail Festival



Saturday 19 April | 4.00-9.00pm | Free

Venue: Poplar Union, 2 Cotall Street, E14 6TL

Join Mukto Arts at Poplar Union for a celebration of Bangladeshi culture through the traditional dance form of Dhamail. Experience the vibrant colours, rhythms, and energy of this cultural extravaganza.

Dhamail is a traditional musical dance form deeply rooted in British Bangladeshi culture. Originating in Bengal centuries ago, this vibrant heritage combines song, dance, and storytelling to portray the joys and struggles of life. Traditionally performed by women during celebrations, Dhamail is woven into the British Bangladeshi diaspora's cultural fabric, connecting the present with its storied past.

Further information about the programme for the day can be [found here](#).

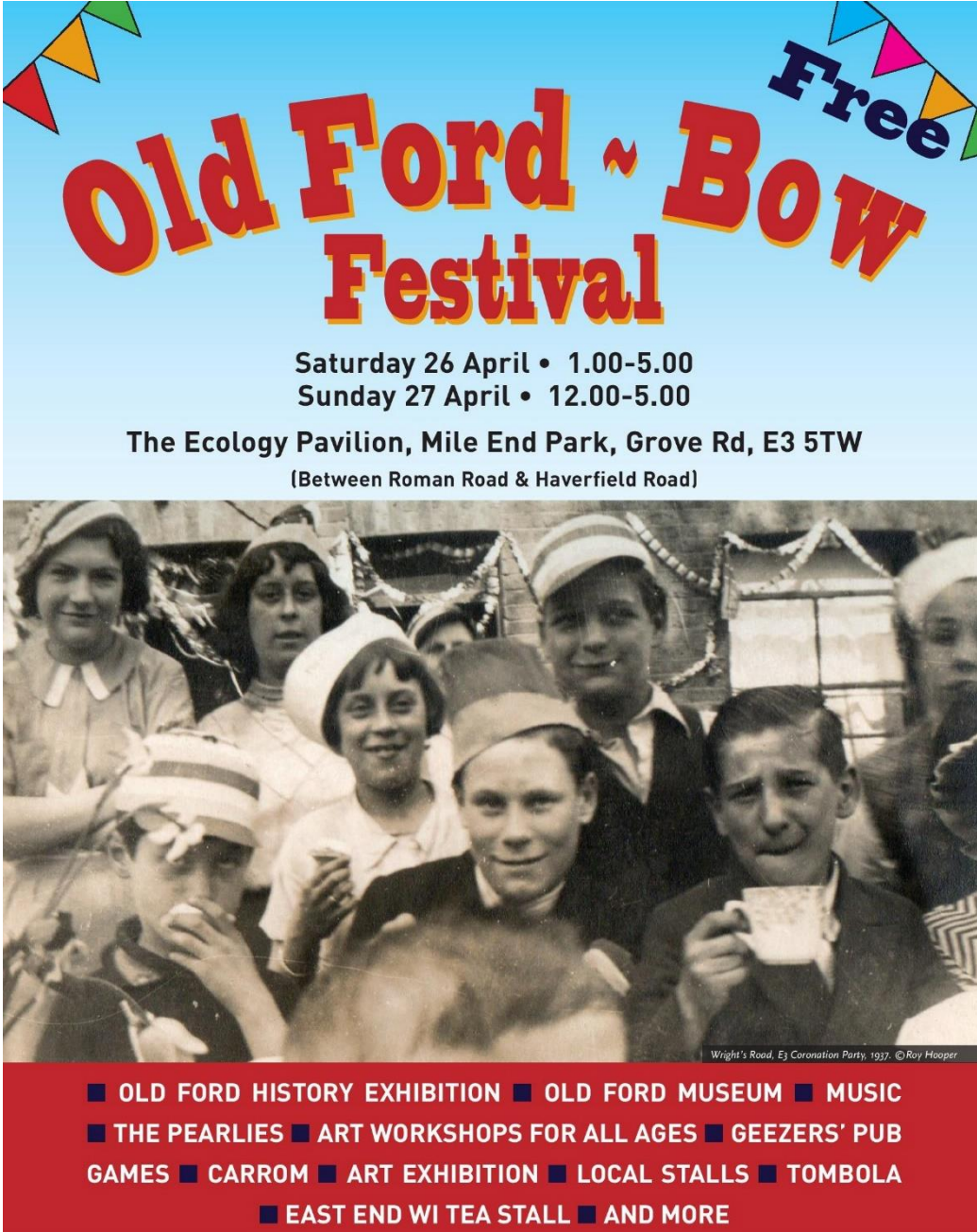
Old Ford ~ Bow Festival

Sunday 27 April | 12.00-5.00pm

Venue: Ecology Pavilion, Mile End, E3 5TW

Staff from Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives will have a stall on the Sunday of the **Old Ford ~ Bow Festival** which takes place over the last weekend of April at the Ecology Pavilion in Mile End.

This is the finale of the latest [Bow Geezers](#) project which has been developed over the last year, funded by Clarion Futures and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Over 60 oral histories have been captured and included in an exhibition which will be on show at the festival, along with a free book and map. See the flyer below for more details and [reserve your spot](#).




Old Ford ~ Bow Festival

Free

Saturday 26 April • 1.00-5.00
 Sunday 27 April • 12.00-5.00

The Ecology Pavilion, Mile End Park, Grove Rd, E3 5TW
 (Between Roman Road & Haverfield Road)



Wright's Road, E3 Coronation Party, 1937. © Roy Hooper

■ OLD FORD HISTORY EXHIBITION ■ OLD FORD MUSEUM ■ MUSIC
 ■ THE PEARLIES ■ ART WORKSHOPS FOR ALL AGES ■ GEEZERS' PUB
 GAMES ■ CARROM ■ ART EXHIBITION ■ LOCAL STALLS ■ TOMBOLA
 ■ EAST END WI TEA STALL ■ AND MORE

Parent/Carer & Under 5s Session

Friday 2 May | 10.00-11.30am | Drop in, no booking required

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

Come along to our regular Parent/Carers & Under 5's version of East End History Club, where those looking after small children get together and explore historical records on the famous East End. May's event will have a VE Day theme.

These regular monthly sessions are a chance to meet other parents, enjoy a cuppa and look through our unique collection of maps, photographs, newspapers, pamphlets and much more with your little ones. Toys will be available for children ages 0-5 with a mini kiddies' brunch and refreshments including tea & coffee.

It takes place on the first Friday of the month during term-time.

East End History Club: Parent & Under 5's



Term Time Only
Fri/2 May
Fri/6 Jun.
Fri/4 Jul.
Fri/ 5 Sep.
Fri/3 Oct.
10am-11:30am

Tower Hamlets Image Collection
P23734 Abbott Road, 1954

 
Library Learning Information

Closed on Easter weekend

Please be aware that Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives is closed on Saturday 19 April, reopening as usual on Tuesday 22 April. The next Saturday we are open will be Saturday 3 May.

New mural opens in Sidney Street

We were delighted to witness the unveiling of the new mural in Sidney Street last weekend. It has been a pleasure to support the [Whitechapel](#)

[Stories](#) project over the last few years, starting from when we were initially approached by the John's Place Tenants' and Residents' Association to help them make their dream of a new mural come to life. Congratulations to all involved!

We are here to offer advice and guidance if you have a community heritage or archive project in Tower Hamlets that you want to develop - drop us a line.



Get in touch with 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 (late opening)

First and third Saturdays of every month:

- Saturday 10.00am-5.00pm

That's the following Saturdays coming up:

- Saturday 5 April
- Saturday 3 May
- Saturday 17 May
- Saturday 7 June

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.