

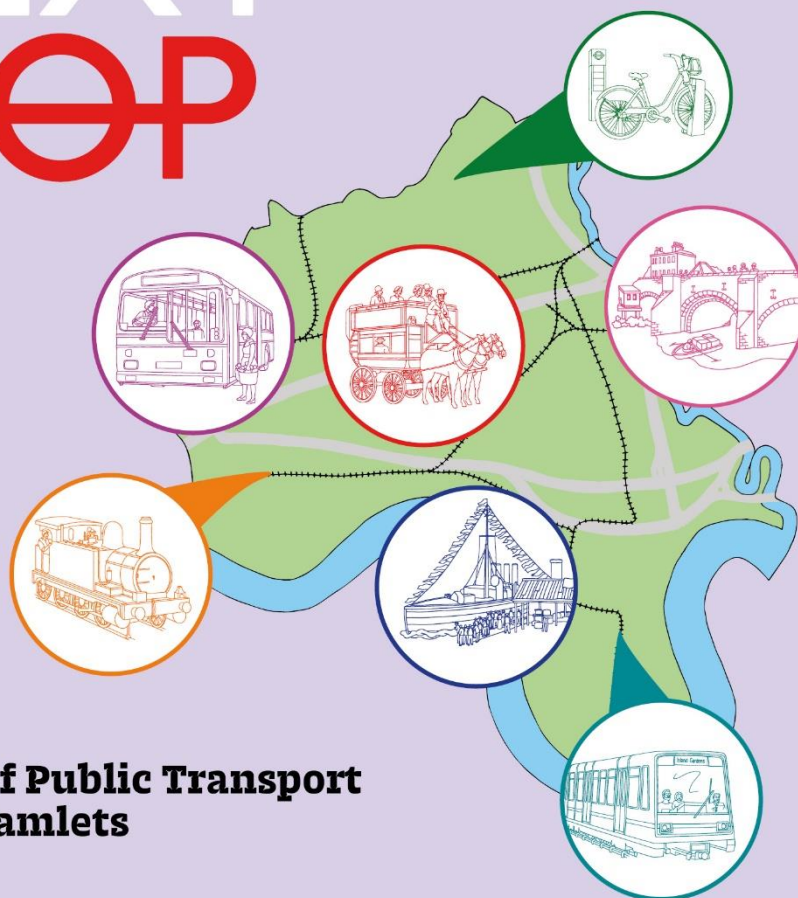
August-September 2025

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



All aboard for Next Stop!

NEXT STOP



900 Years of Public Transport in Tower Hamlets

Exhibition | until 21 February 2026

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

Our latest exhibition **Next Stop** explores the fascinating history of public transport in the East End over nine centuries. Learn about the building of Bow Bridge in the 12th century, the opening of the Elizabeth Line in the 21st, and the Victorian innovations in steam and underground travel in between.

Showcasing over 100 unique items from the collections of Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives, the exhibition documents many changes and evolutions in public transport - tollgates, trolleybuses and trams included! The exhibition also features first-hand testimonies of people who have used or worked on different forms of public transport, past and present. Through newspaper cuttings, photographs, maps, oral history recordings and creative work, **Next Stop** aims to share both personal and archival knowledge about the history of public transport in the East End.

This is the first exhibition we have curated that is designed for both adults and children. An illustrated timeline, interactive games and artwork by local school pupils are all included in the exhibition, so the whole family can be entertained on their visit. Huge thanks to our colleague Genova Messiah, Engagement and Learning Officer, who curated the exhibition.

Below, check out a great video review by YouTube transport blogger [Jago Hazzard!](#)



Next Stop events programme

Disused stations: guided walk | Saturday 6 September | 11.00am-1.00pm

Join exhibition curator **Genova Messiah** for a guided walk around some of the lost stations of the East End. Starting in Tower Hill and ending at Whitechapel station, follow the construction and abandonment of some of the oldest train stations in the borough. With some fascinating transport facts between stations, this walk explores aspects of historical railway infrastructure and its legacy within stations we still use today.

You can get a sneak peek of the histories to be revealed by picking up a free copy of the Disused Stations illustrated map which accompanies the exhibition.

Due to the popularity of our guided walks, the limited capacity and the fact that free events typically result in a lot of no-shows, we are releasing tickets for this event *a week beforehand*. Please only book a place if you can definitely attend, and if you can no longer go, please cancel your ticket. We appreciate your consideration!

[Set a reminder for 30 August!](#)



East End Speed Histories: Tales from the underground | Saturday 15 November

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

Eight storytellers. An audience divided into small groups. A bell rings and every five minutes you move to the next table to hear another true story. East End Speed History borrows from speed dating to present multiple miniature talks about Tower Hamlets, often with a theatrical twist.

From The Blitz to trolley buses, a trip on the DLR to the Eighth Wonder of the World - let an eclectic selection of local writers and performers transport you on a magical history tour! Part of the Next Stop exhibition programme. Curated by Alan Gilbey and friends!

Please note – due to the nature of this event, audience numbers are strictly limited. Booking is essential. The event will run twice. Choose from one of two showtimes at 4.30pm and 7.00pm. Tickets will be released nearer the time.

Save the date!

More Next Stop events will follow - details in the next newsletter!

Archive of Weird Memories extended

Exhibition by artist Tan Wang-Ward | Extended until 31 October

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives, first floor landing

We are thrilled to announce that our artist-in-residence display has been extended! Drawing from the collections of Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives, Tan

Wang-Ward explores the layered histories of Limehouse. The project's title is taken from a 1934 tabloid that called Limehouse Causeway the 'Street of Weird Memories'.

During her residency, Tan consulted photographs, clippings, ephemera, maps, and directories documenting the communities that gathered in Limehouse in the early 20th century. Collaborating with locally run AI models (SDXL and Flux) and guided by extensive archival research, she created speculative “forgeries” of lost buildings and sites—interweaving AI interpretation, historical material, and her own creative perspective. She placed them back at their original addresses, where they now converse with and unsettle the Limehouse of today. Tan's methods blur the line between archival research and fiction-ing, bringing multiple practices together in dialogue through experimentation with emerging technologies.

Come talk with the artist and see her behind-the-scenes research processes by attending one of these small group artist-led tours - [book here](#):

Thursday 21 August: 15:30 - 16:30

Thursday 4 September: 14:00 - 15:00

Saturday 6 September: 15:30 - 16:30

More tours in September and October will be announced in due course.



As part of Tan's residency, a special event is taking place tomorrow:

Artist talk and screening | Thursday 21 August | FULLY BOOKED

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

On Thursday **Anne Bean** will revisit *Come Hell or High Water*, a year-long series of gatherings, performances and activations held at low tide along the Thames foreshore near Limehouse and Canary Wharf, between the 2019 and 2020 winter solstices. These ephemeral acts, involving over 100 participants, activated a space that existed between water and land, public and private, wealth and poverty, the past and present, and an unknowable future.

Anne Bean is a London-based artist working with sculpture, installation, sound, photography, painting and drawing, whose artistic practice has been pivotal in the development of live and performance art in the UK.

This event is curated by **Tan Wang-Ward**, (@twwsnakey), artist-in-residence at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives. Tickets are fully booked.

Welcoming new school archives



School's out for summer! Archives Manager Richard Wiltshire has been working closely with local schools to ensure their key records are preserved and made accessible for future generations.

Children's House Nursery School, Bromley-by-Bow

We are grateful to have recently received some important archives from Children's House Nursery School, Bruce Road, Bromley-by-Bow. These span the period 1923-2025 and include headteacher's files on the history of the school, children's display scrapbooks on themes and events 1990s-2020s, printed material and photographs (accession reference TH/10675).

The school [has a fascinating history](#) - it was purpose built by Doris and Muriel Lester in 1923, social reformers who also founded Kingsley Hall (visited by Mahatma Gandhi in 1931). In Children's House, the Lesters wanted to create a school for the children of Bow which was designed specifically for their educational and physical needs, prioritising outdoor activities and opportunities.

A highlight of the archives acquired is one of its founding documents - an illuminated manuscript on parchment featuring the school prayers and the dedication for the stone laying ceremony which took place on 11 April 1923.

The collection is not yet described on our online catalogue; therefore access is by appointment - please contact us to arrange this. A big thank you to Becky Dolamore, Executive Head Teacher for arranging the first deposit. More records held at the school to come in due course.



Harry Gosling Primary School, Whitechapel

We collected 8 volumes of admission and discharge registers for children at the school, 1962-2011, accession reference TH/10672. The registers contain brief entries relating to pupils' admissions giving name address and date of admission and leaving.

The volumes contain personal information protected by data protection, but individual pupils are welcome to apply to obtain their own entry information - [download and submit a Subject Access Request form here](#). These records join the photograph album, 1972-

1997 compiled by Headteacher, Miss Myrtle Hurrell, Head Teacher and photograph of the school, catalogue references I/HGS/1/1-2.

Drop in to order and view these photographs in our Reading Room. We will be working with the school later in the year to transfer further admission registers from 1942 and 2011-2012 and other series of records. We would like to thank staff at the school and especially Amina Singh, former school administrator, who kept these registers and notified us about them.

Do you work at a school? [Explore our school records](#) and check out [national guidance on what to keep](#) - this refers to academy schools but categories of records apply to most schools.

Summer of Fun Reading Challenge

There is so much going on this summer in Tower Hamlets for children and families. Teens and youngsters are invited to go along to an Idea Store and pick up a free Summer of Fun booklet, and take it along to the many events and activities happening over the summer - get a stamp in your booklet for each activity you attend. Pro tip - you'll get a stamp for visiting Next Stop! The Reading Challenge is now open, too - read six books by 14th September and you will be entered into a prize draw!

Find out more [at Idea Stores](#) and [across Tower Hamlets](#), and visit [this page for more details on the Reading Challenge](#).

Essex that supplies fresh produce to the borough — the festival offers something for everyone.

When: 18-28 September

Where: Across Tower Hamlets

More information & tickets: <http://justfact.co.uk/festival>

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 6 September
- Saturday 20 September
- Saturday 4 October
- Saturday 18 October

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.



TOWER HAMLETS



Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives, 277 Bancroft Road,
London E1 4DQ

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