



Thank you to our readers and shoppers

Thanks to all who came down for our festive book sale on Saturday 6 December! We raised over £1800 for the Local History Library & Archives, which is particularly welcome in our current economic climate. This year we added a second room of independent community stalls which was also very well-received - thanks to all who participated, and to Sanjida Alam and Robert Jones for organising everything at our end.

As the year draws to a close, we reflect on an extremely busy few months for us here on Bancroft Road. During November, over 250 visits were made to Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives and staff responded to 165 email/phone/postal enquiries. Over 800 items from the collections were consulted in the Reading Room or at one of our workshops or events. Nearly 900 people engaged with our service offer, whether visiting an exhibition or chatting to us at an offsite event. We've also been busy hosting KS2 workshops for Tower Hamlets school pupils visiting the [Next Stop](#) exhibition. More information on our schools work will follow in 2026!

Thank you for your ongoing support. This is our last newsletter of the year - scroll down for some key dates to note in the new year. Seasons greetings to all!

Tom Lyddon's East End cityscapes



Art exhibition | until 27 March 2026

First floor landing, Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

Now open on our first floor landing is a small exhibition of local artist **Tom Lyddon's** artworks which he recently deposited here in our collections. Staff have selected a range of his mixed media works which depict a vibrant variety of cityscapes across Tower Hamlets.

Tom Lyddon is a long-time resident of Poplar who was a black cab driver from 1976 until his retirement in 2012. He is also a student of [Idea Store Learning's](#) Visual Arts classes.

A launch event with the artist will be held on Saturday 17 January. Timings to follow in the new year.

Next Stop exhibition and events



[Next Stop](#), our current exhibition showcasing 900 years of public transport history in Tower Hamlets continues to draw the crowds. Check out this great [article in The Slice](#). Here are the final events in the programme....

On the buses of the Isle of Dogs

Thursday 8 January | 6.00-8.00pm

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

We are pleased to welcome the [Friends of Island History Trust](#) (FOIHT) for a talk exploring the history of buses on the Isle of Dogs. Members of the group will share the history of the island's buses, from horse-drawn omnibuses to the first motorised vehicles and their own memories of long-gone bus routes. This event will include a short talk followed by discussion and a chance to explore the Island History Trust image collection. [Book your free place here!](#)

Closing event: Talk by Jim Connor

Thursday 12 February | evening tbc

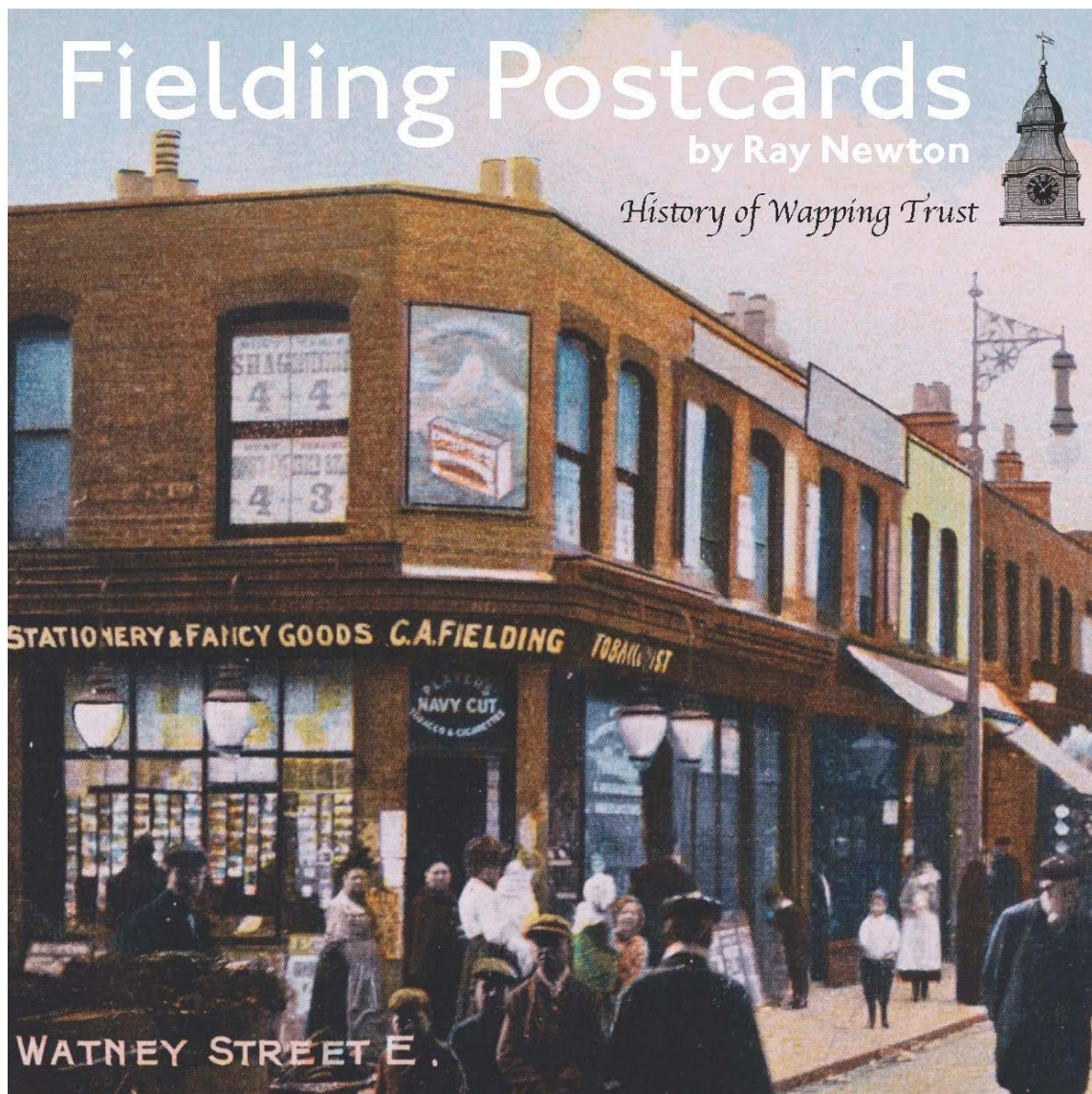
Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives, Education Room

The Next Stop closing event will be a talk from legendary East End transport historian Jim Connor. Bookings will open in the new year - for now, save the date!

Christmas opening times

Our last day of opening before Christmas is Tuesday 23 December. We will reopen on Saturday 3 January.

History of Wapping Trust event



Book Launch | *Fielding Postcards*

Thursday 22 January | 5.30pm - 8pm

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

Fielding Postcards is the latest book from the History of Wapping Trust. Published in memory of local historian Ray Newton, the book presents a unique set of 33 colour picture postcards sold by Watney Street newsagent Charles Fielding in the early 1900s. The postcards celebrate the East End of London and are shown together with a brief history of each scene and a contemporary photograph. Booking info will follow in the new year. **Save the date!**

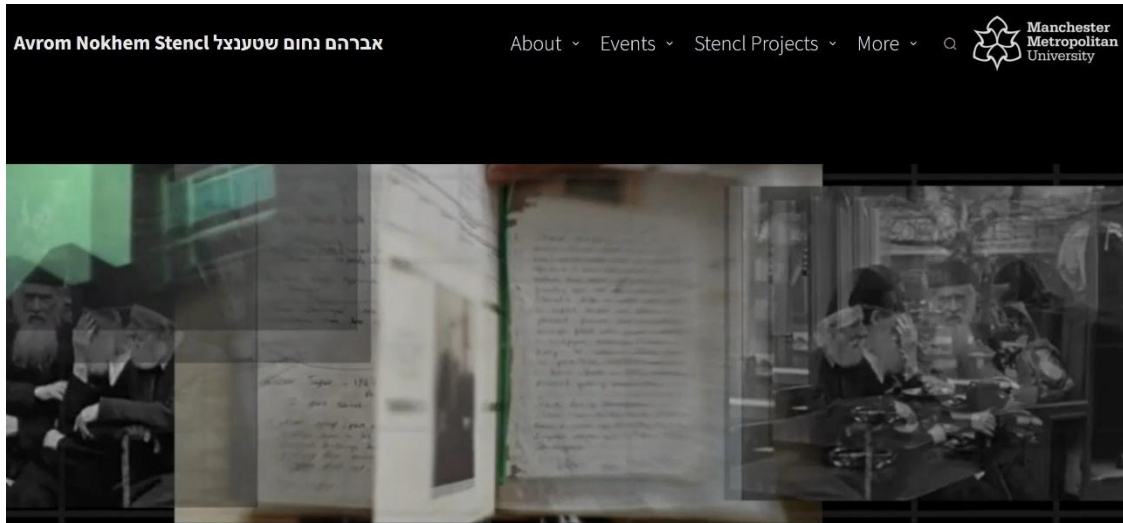
Yiddish digital archive launched

We are delighted to report the launch of a [new online resource](#) which presents an almost complete collection of the Yiddish literary journal ***Loshn un lebn*** (*Language and Life*) by influential Yiddish poet **A.N. Stencl**. This celebrated Yiddish literary magazine ran from 1940-1981 and was created and edited by poet Avrom Nokhem Stencl (1897-1983), also known as A.N. Stencl. It became the longest running foreign language journal in the UK.

Stencl was a native Yiddish speaker from Poland, who settled in London's East End in 1936 and became an activist and campaigner for the continuation of Yiddish culture. His extraordinary life spanned the height and demise of contemporary Yiddish culture and language, and he wrote about his experiences in his magazine. ***Loshn un lebn*** featured Stencl's own poems, essays and memoirs alongside an array of work by other Yiddish writers and poets exploring political, social and literary topics of the time.

The digital resource is the culmination of a two-year project, funded by British Academy Leverhulme Small Grant, where researchers tracked down and digitised copies of these long out-of-print Yiddish journals to create the largest publicly available collection worldwide with an index of content pages translated into English for non-Yiddish speakers.

We were very happy to be a partner on this project, working closely with Prof. Rachel Lichtenstein and Dr. Paul Darby to facilitate the digitisation of the 285 original copies of ***Loshn un lebn*** held here at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives. [Explore the online Stencl archive here.](#)



Bangladesh Heritage Week

Events | 20-21 December

Various Tower Hamlets venues

The Bangladeshi High Commission in London and Tower Hamlets Council are proud to present [Bangladeshi Heritage Week 2025](#), taking place across two weekends in December. On 13 and 14 December events took place at Tower Hamlets Town Hall, and

on 20 and 21 December more are planned at Brady Arts Centre in Whitechapel.

There will be literature and photography displays, an art exhibition, film screenings, cultural performance and great workshops on different artistic forms including calligraphy a Sylheti Nagri Script, Rickshaw Art & Henna Design. Children can take part in the the British Bangladeshi Kids Quiz Competition. It promises to be a fantastic event! Don't miss it! Keep an eye out on Tower Hamlets Council residents and arts newsletters for further information.

Bangla Beats!

Tuesday 16 December | 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Venue: QMUL ArtsOne, Mile End Road

Join Swadhinata Trust for [a night filled with Bangla music and celebration](#) at QMUL ArtsOne, celebrating Bangladesh Victory Day in a special way. Get ready to immerse yourself in the rich culture and vibrant beats of Bangladesh. Mark your calendars and don't miss out on this unforgettable evening! Supported by the Queen Mary Centre for Public Engagement.

Advance notice of stocktaking closure

Our annual closure for stocktaking will take place between Monday 23 February and Friday 6 March inclusive. There will be no public access to the building at this time. Staff will be onsite every day undertaking collections management tasks which we can't ordinarily do while operating the Reading Room. During the closure we will provide a limited email enquiry service and apologise for any inconvenience.

The last day of opening prior to the closure will be Saturday 21 February (final day of [the Next Stop exhibition](#)). We will reopen on Saturday 7 March.

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 20 December
- Saturday 3 January
- Saturday 17 January
- Saturday 7 February
- Saturday 21 February

Our last day of opening before Christmas is Tuesday 23 December. We will reopen on Saturday 3 January.

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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