

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



Happy new year! From all of us at THLHLA



Visit our stall in Whitechapel

Friday 5 January | 10am-4pm

Venue: Tower Hamlets Town Hall

Come and find out about all things Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives on Friday this week. Join staff members Genova Messiah and Richard Wiltshire at our stall in the Main Lobby of the new Town Hall on Whitechapel Road - the refurbished former Royal London Hospital building. We will be sharing information for council staff and public about our collections, our services and events. Drop in and say hi!

This is our History

Family event | Saturday 20 January | 2.00-4.00pm

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

Join us for the long-awaited FREE launch event of the new exhibition on our first-floor landing.

'[This is Our History](#)' created a new series of local history resources for Tower Hamlets schools. This project was delivered in partnership with Tower Hamlets Schools Library Service, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Teachers and pupils are now using workbooks featuring materials researched here, on topics including the Match Girls Strike, the Somali East End, the Blitz, the Docklands and East London Bengalis.

Launching on 20 January is an exhibition featuring artwork produced by some of the local school children who attended workshops at Tower Hamlets Local history Library & Archives as part of the process of devising the resources.

At this launch event suitable for the whole family, you can expect a fun-packed afternoon including badge-making, collage map activities and tote bag printing. We will also have some surprises to bring to life some of the unknown stories of the East End.

Free event but booking is essential.



Holocaust Memorial Day 2024

Talk | Wednesday 24 January | 6.00-7.30pm

Venue: tbc

Join us for an inter-generational conversation on remembrance and memorialisation of the Jewish Holocaust. How do Jews of different generations commemorate the Holocaust today? How effective are national memorialisation initiatives in the UK and Europe? In the decades that followed World War Two, what was the response of the East End's Jewish

community to the genocide? Can Holocaust remembrance ever be non-political? Join **Barnaby Raine**, **David Rosenberg** and **Nadia Valman** as they discuss these questions and more, from a personal, national and local perspective.

About the speakers

Barnaby Raine is an intellectual historian writing his PhD at Columbia University. His doctoral research seeks to explain the decline of thinking about the end of capitalism from Marx through to debates in twentieth century Britain, amid the end of formal empire. Raine is also Associate Faculty at the Brooklyn Institute for Social Research, an editor of *Salvage* journal, and a contributor to *The Guardian*, *n+1*, *Jacobin*, *Red Pepper* and others.

David Rosenberg is an educator, writer and tour guide specialising in London's radical history. He is an anti-fascist activist and educator. He was the convenor of Cable Street 80 and is the author of *Battle for the East End*. He has helped to organise educational trips to Auschwitz and Krakow for trade unionists and anti-racist campaigners. He teaches a course at the City Literary Institute called 'Ghetto Uprising 1943, Jewish Life and death in Warsaw'.

Nadia Valman is Professor of Urban Literature at Queen Mary, University of London. She has authored or co-edited eight books on British Jewish history and culture and has recently worked with Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives on a project on the Jewish East End. At Queen Mary, where she has been a member of staff for 16 years, her teaching has a focus on literatures of migration to London, including Irish, Jewish, Caribbean and Bangladeshi migrations.

Free event but booking is essential.

Brick Lane 1978: The Turning Point

BRICK LANE 1978 THE TURNING POINT



02/DECEMBER/2023
TO 16/MARCH/2024

Photograph (c) Paul Trevor of an anti-racist protest in Brick Lane, 1978.

Exhibition and events | until 16 March

The new exhibition at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives reveals the dramatic events in 1978 which were sparked by the racist murder of Altab Ali, a 24-year-old Bengali leather garments worker, and pays tribute to the activists who mobilised around the rallying cry of justice that followed.

Local photographer **Paul Trevor** documented how members of the local Bengali community endured racial abuse as a constant factor of everyday life, and the moment at which they mobilised against racist violence and institutional police racism. The exhibition – **Brick Lane 1978: The Turning Point** - brings together seventy of Trevor's photographs as well as original archival materials and first person testimony.

The exhibition is now on show until Saturday 16 March 2024. More events will follow, keep an eye on our website and newsletter as details are confirmed!

The display was originally created in 2022 as part of a major heritage project led by Four Corners and [Swadhinata Trust](#), in partnership with [Paul Trevor](#) and supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. With the help of volunteers and original activists, the project created a record of this watershed moment as told by local people.

Talk: Summer of protest, 1978

Wed 17 January | 6.00-7.30pm

Venue: **ONLINE**

It is said that the brutal murder of Altab Ali on 4 May 1978 was a turning point that led to the mobilisation of an anti-racist movement by the Bengali community in the East End. This period marked a political awakening amongst Bengalis who had been long suffering violent racist attacks and housing discrimination in the locality. Join **Ansar Ahmed Ullah** as he explores what led to the summer of protests in East London, how the Bengali community forged alliances with other community and political groups, and how the movement developed in the following decade. This event aims to provide a wider historical and political context to Paul Trevor's photographs in the current exhibition.

Ansar Ahmed Ullah is a post-doctoral student at Queen Mary, University of London. His research is titled *The Bengali Anti-Racist Movement: Explaining Mobilisation in East London*, which is a collaborative study with the Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives and the Bishopsgate Institute. He also worked with Paul Trevor on the Brick Lane 1978: Turning Point project.

Free event but booking is essential.



New opportunity for 18–24-year-old East Enders

THE NEW CURATORS PROJECT

- Discover career paths in museums, galleries and libraries
- Meet new people
- Learn from friendly professionals
- Work together to create an exhibition for Newham Heritage Month!

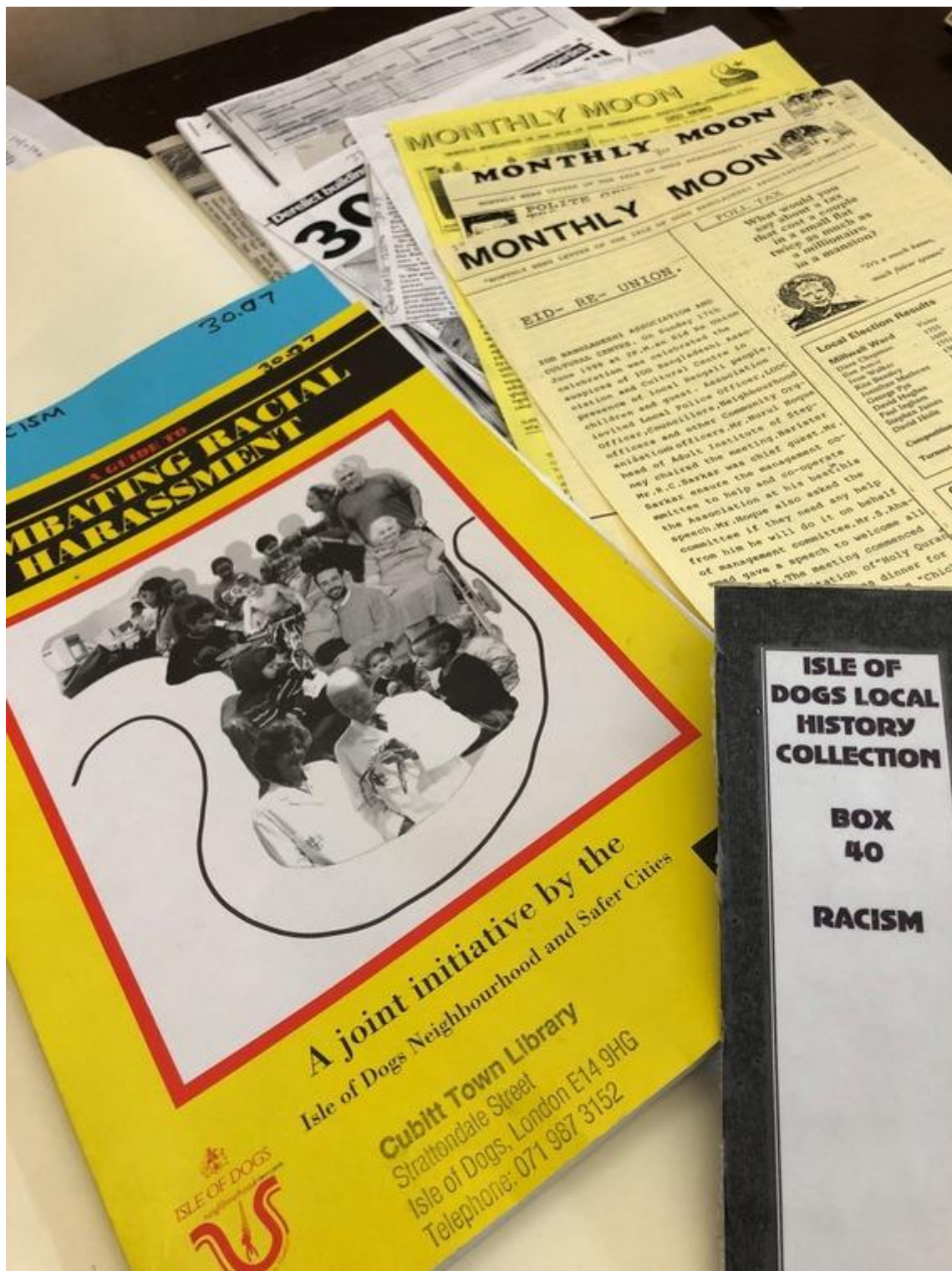
[The New Curators Project 2024](#) is open for applications. It aims to open the cultural heritage sector to young adults in east London who do not have a degree or previous experience in the sector.

We are hoping to reach people who are:

- aged 18 to 24
- Living, working or studying in Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest
- have an interest in working in galleries, museums, libraries or archives
- not a graduate and not at university
- have less than six weeks' paid experience in the cultural heritage sector

The deadline for applications is February 17th 2024, 8p.m. We have ten places funded at the equivalent of London Living Wage. Please [see the website for info](#), including application form and who to contact if you have any questions.

Spotlight on: Isle of Dogs Local History collection



Assorted newsletters from the file on Racism, ref: L/THL/H/10/5/29

Contact 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

First and third Saturdays of every month:

- Saturday 10.00am-5.00pm

That's the following Saturdays coming up:

- Saturday 6 January
- Saturday 20 January
- Saturday 3 February
- Saturday 17 February

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.
