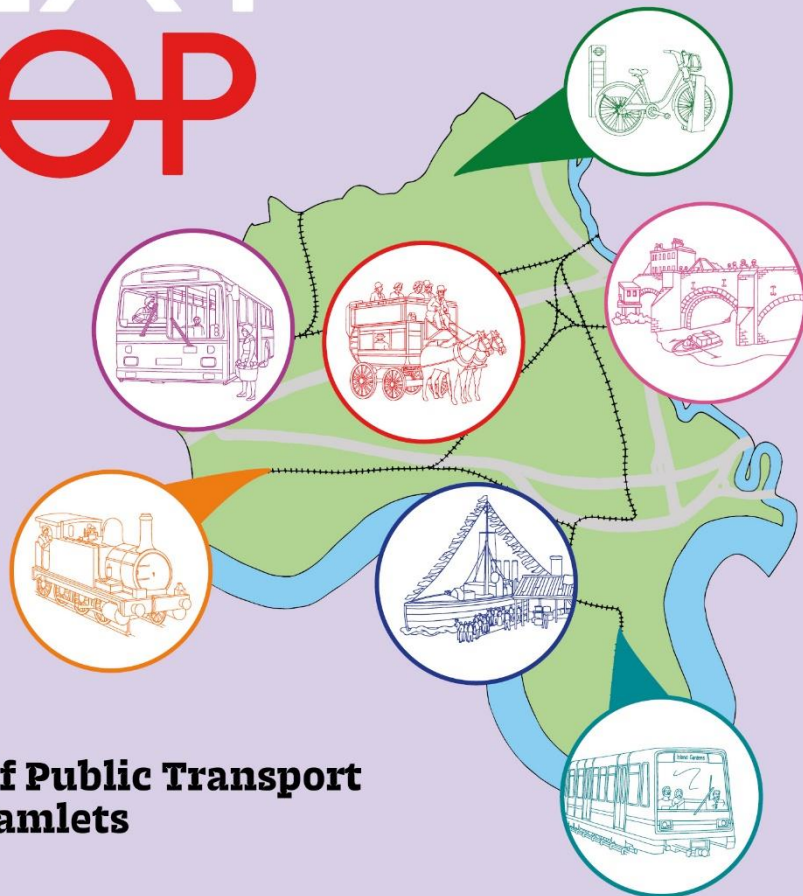


# Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



**New exhibition launching on Saturday!**

## NEXT STOP



**900 Years of Public Transport  
in Tower Hamlets**

**Next Stop: 900 Years of Public Transport in Tower Hamlets**  
Exhibition | 19 July - 21 February 2026  
Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

Our brand new 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 12<sup>th</sup> century, the opening of the Elizabeth Line in the 21<sup>st</sup>, 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.

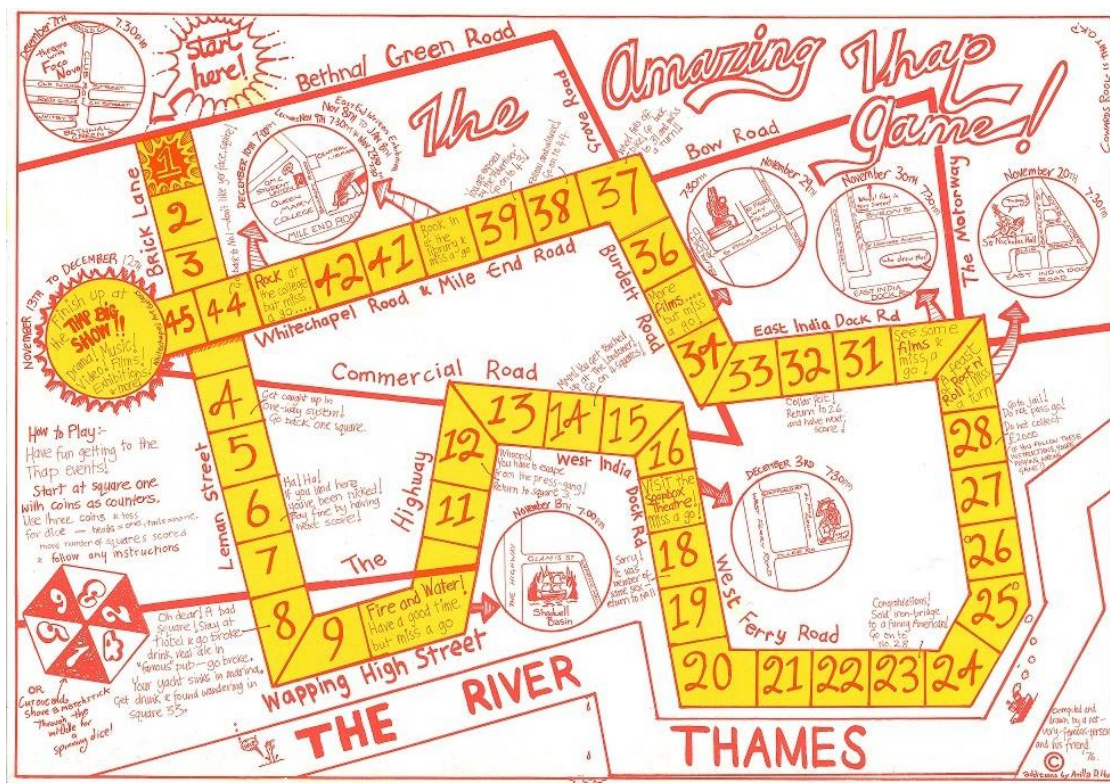
The lead curator of this exhibition is **Genova Messiah, Engagement and Learning Officer**. Thanks to staff and community partners who have supported her to bring this epic feat together.

## Next Stop events programme

**Launch event | Saturday 19 July | 2.00-4.00pm**  
Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

[Book your free place here](#) for the family friendly launch event coming up THIS SATURDAY! Be the first to see the exhibition, and expect arts and crafts, snacks and speeches!

There are more family events coming up over the summer holidays....



**Create A Board Game! Family Workshop | Thursday 31 July | 2.30-4.00pm**  
Venue: Idea Store Whitechapel

Next Stop takes a trip to Whitechapel as we host a creative workshop for families! Turn your everyday public transport journeys into a board game adventure. Together, you'll



design game boards, create, invent and come up with playful challenges inspired by your travel journeys and experiences on buses, trains, or any way you get around the borough. A great way to get creative, share stories, and take home your very own game. Adults must be accompanied by a child.

[Book your place here!](#)

**Summer Family Fun Day | Saturday 16 August | 1.00-4.00pm**

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

Join us for our first ever summer family fun day! We will have activities for all the family, including badge-making, poster designing, board game creations and stalls from local community organisations - watch this space for further details. This indoor festival style event is also a chance to see the Next Stop exhibition. Free to attend, but booking is required. Children must be supervised by an adult.

[Book your place here!](#)

---

## Artist residency continues

---

# Archive of

# Weird Memories

an evolving display of works by artist Tan Wang-Ward

**Archive of Weird Memories**

Exhibition | until 22 August

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

Now on display is an evolving display by artist [Tan Wang-Ward](#). Drawing on materials from the collections, Tan amplifies echoes of everyday life in and around historic Limehouse. Using generative AI and interactive installations, the space outside the Reading Room transforms into a living "memory lane," where past and present collide, overlap, and reshape each other. The exhibition reflects on how we remember — and what we forget — and asks what it takes to keep imagining alternative futures.

As part of Tan's residency, we present a special event next month:

## "Come Hell or High Water": Looking Back to the Future

Artist event | Thursday 21 August | 6.00-8.00pm

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

Join us for an evening with artist **Anne Bean** as she revisits *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, artist-in-residence at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives. [Book your place here!](#)



---

## South Asian Heritage Month

---





**South Asian Heritage Month** takes place between 18 July and 17 August and has been celebrated in the UK since 2019. This year Tower Hamlets Council is proud to present a programme of events exploring the history and culture of our South Asian community. The theme for 2025 is "Roots to Routes".

Events include theatre, music and dance as well as heritage walks, film screenings and a celebration of South Asian food traditions. All are welcome. Many events are free.

[Check out the events and book tickets here!](#)

---

## Summer of Fun Reading Challenge

---



There is so much going on this summer in Tower Hamlets for children and families, and this year teens and youngsters might win prizes for joining in! You just need to go along to an Idea Store and pick up your free Summer of Fun booklet.

When you pick up your booklet we would love you to join in with our Summer of Fun Reading Challenge. Read 6 books over the summer holidays and record them in your booklet. Visit Idea Stores to tell us what you have read, and you can win prizes and stickers along the way. Whether you like mysteries, or love a book that makes you laugh, we have something for everyone.

Take your Summer of Fun booklet along to the many events and activities happening over the summer. Look for events where you can pick up a stamp, go along, have fun and get a stamp in your booklet. There are events happening in Idea Stores and libraries, parks, youth centres and family hubs. Pro tip: you will get a stamp for visiting the Next Stop exhibition! Once you have got your stamps, register them at an Idea Store and be entered into our prize draw. There are load of cool prizes to be won.

The Reading Challenge starts on 12 July, and finishes on 14 September. The prize draw will be drawn following the end of the challenge.

Find out more about the Summer of Fun events [at Idea Stores](#) and [across Tower Hamlets](#).

And visit [this page](#) for more details on the Reading Challenge.

# Summer break: Parent & Under 5s Session

---

**There will be no session in August!** Our regular monthly collections sessions for parents and under 5s will resume on Friday 5 September, 10.00-11.30am, and the first Fridays of the month thereafter.

---

## Book of Remembrance digitised

---

The Book of Remembrance for the Metropolitan Borough of Bethnal Green, recording the names of residents who served and died in World War One, is now fully transcribed thanks to volunteer **Anne Connaughton**. The transcript is now available online, alongside digitised images of each page, [on our website](#).

The names included, and other details related to each entry, are also searchable on our online catalogue under reference numbers L/BGM/A/28/3 and 4.

Anne has shared the following notes with us which may be of interest. These relate to L/BGM/A/28/4.

"There are several entries under the heading 'place of burial' which suggest that remains were returned to family members for burial. Take EYRE Herbert, page 9, where the information states 'T. Eyre, 25 Burnside Street'. Likewise with GALINSKY Abraham and GALINSKY Hyman, page 10, where the information records 'H. Galinsky'. There's a similar entry for five members of the Goring family on page 12—under this heading is noted 'Mrs. H. Goring'. Brothers, perhaps, with Mrs. Goring arranging the burials of her sons. The entry of LEE Robert George on page 16 suggests that his brother William Lee took the body for burial."

"There are places of burial recorded in Iraq; Palestine; Egypt and South Africa."

"MANNING H. G., page 17, was a member of the Queen's Bays. The regiment has its origins in the 17th century having fought in many campaigns since, including the First World War, when it was deployed from India to the Western Front, Ypres, and the Somme, returning to India in 1917. Come 1959, the Queen's Bays, which by then had become known as the 2nd Dragoon Guards, merged with the First King's Dragoon Guards, to form the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards.

\*MAYNARD Alfred, page 18, served in the 41st Company of the Machine Gun Corps, which was a bona fide regiment in WW1, and often took very young recruits."

The original Roll of Honour can be viewed at Bethnal Green Library during opening hours. Thank you very much to Anne for her work on completing the transcription during 2024-2025. If you spot any amendments or updates, please contact us.





## Get in touch with us!

- Email us: [localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto: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 19 July
- Saturday 2 August
- Saturday 16 August
- Saturday 6 September

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

You can update your subscription preferences at any time. [Update your details](#) or [change your subscription preferences](#)