



Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



April 2018

Final weeks!

David Granick: The East End in colour, 1960-1980



Spitalfields Market, 1971

David Granick: The East End in colour
1960-1980



Final David Granick event

Illustrated talk: Images of the East End
Thursday 26 April, 6.30 – 7.45pm

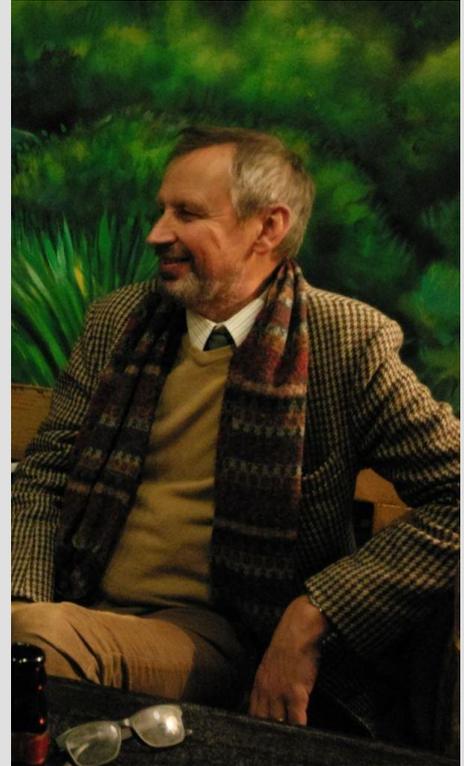
There are over 40,000 photographs in the collections held here. Tower Hamlets Borough Archivist Malcolm Barr-Hamilton will explain the background to and scope of the collection in this profusely illustrated talk.

Malcolm is leaving!

It's with great sadness that we have to inform you that our long-standing Borough Archivist **Malcolm Barr-Hamilton** is leaving next month. Malcolm began this role here at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives in 1995. Among his many achievements has been overseeing the transition from card index and printed catalogues to the digital age; and the many important collections he's made accessible through cataloguing, such as the papers of Edith Ramsay and of St George's German Lutheran Church. He has also looked after many volunteers, some of whom were inspired to go on to become archivists thanks to his example.

Malcolm has helped literally thousands of people with their research over the course of nearly 23 years as Borough Archivist, an ever-friendly face on the enquiry desk. His endless knowledge of the borough's history and entertaining guided walks and talks have been popular with countless residents of Tower Hamlets as well as correspondents and visitors from overseas. We know he will be greatly missed by you as much as we will miss him as his colleagues.

Malcolm will be taking up a part-time role as Archivist at the English Folk Dance and Song Society as part of a gradual transition to retirement. If you would like to come to his leaving party, write a note in his card or contribute to a gift, please email localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk.



Accredited Archive Service

We do have some good news. In December 2017 we submitted our application for the Archive Accreditation Award. Applying for accreditation is a lengthy process requiring top notch policies and procedures as well as evidence of good collections management practices and audience engagement. In February we welcomed a team of assessors from the National Archives for a site visit and Q&A. Thanks to sterling work by Malcolm and the rest of the team, we were thrilled to find out a few weeks ago that we have been successful at our first attempt!

The award is provisional for two years as the assessors had (very legitimate) concerns about our storage facilities. Longtime readers of this newsletter should be aware that we have been trying to increase our collections storage facility onsite for many years, as our archive strongroom ran out of space on its shelves for new boxes more than 10 years ago. Since then we have been forced to store collections in overspill rooms within the building which do not have the requisite temperature and humidity controls required for permanent preservation. Our Heritage Manager Tamsin has been addressing this with senior managers for many years, but finding a solution has not been straightforward and the process is ongoing. The provisional Accreditation award indicates that we are managing this unfortunate situation well, but that progress on actually building an appropriate facility needs to have been made within the next two years if we are to retain it.

On the whole - we are very happy and proud to join the ranks of nationally accredited archive services!

Power Writers exhibition

We have a small exhibition space on our first floor landing, outside the Reading Room, which is used to host temporary exhibitions produced by other heritage organisations. On behalf of the Tony Cheeseman Foundation and Tower Hamlets African and Caribbean Mental Health Organisation, we are hosting **Power Writers**, an exhibition about five African writers who had connections with the East End of London during the 18th century. This will be on for the month of May and will launch with a special event: **Remembering Philip Morgan SPiRiT (1965-2017) and his contribution to African and Caribbean history in Tower Hamlets**
Saturday 5 May, 12 noon – 4pm



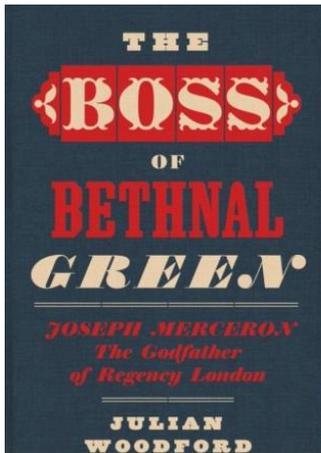
This event is organised by some of Philip Morgan's friends and supported by his family. Come and join us in remembering a Brother, friend, mentor and community activist. Learn of his work with mental health survivor groups and in particular the 'Health through History' initiative which was designed to heal African and Caribbean people experiencing mental health challenges in the borough of Tower Hamlets.

Be part of the **Power Writers** experience – an exhibition of five African writers who had connections with the area in the 18th century and launches today at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives where it will be on for the month of May. Listen to tributes and contribute to an afternoon of fun, education and reflection. This event is free, no booking required, browse the stalls and the displays. We will be giving everyone who attends a copy of the 2nd edition of The Power Writers book published by Hansib Publications.

Future exhibitions coming up on our first floor landing:

June: a history of **Balfron Tower** by artist James Lander

Check our website for precise dates and details of an accompanying event nearer the time.



Upcoming events

'The Boss of Bethnal Green' with Julian Woodford
Thursday 31 May, 6:00 – 7:30pm

For London History Day, we have invited author Julian Woodford to reveal all about 'The Boss of Bethnal Green' - Joseph Merceron, the corrupt Huguenot magistrate who ruled the East End for half a century from 1790 to 1840, lining his own pockets while creating the conditions that led to Victorian London's worst slums. Julian conducted much of his research here using our collections, and his talk will include practical examples of how he used the archives to uncover Merceron's story.

Julian Woodford has lived in London since the early 1980s and combines a City career with a passion for London's history. Follow him at <http://www.twitter.com/historylondon> and <http://www.historylondon.org/>. 'The Boss of Bethnal Green' is his first book.

East End History Club

A regular drop-in session, every other month

At these regular sessions you get to browse through old photographs, maps, newspapers and archival documents relating to a range of popular subjects, such as housing, health, immigration, work, school, leisure and much more! These sessions are ideal for those who are curious about local history and want to find out more. It's free, there's no need to book, just drop in. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Suitable for adults and children (aged 11+).

Future dates:

Saturday 19 May

Saturday 21 July

Welcome to Mohammed Nayib

Our new Tower Project placement

For the last four years we have hosted a paid annual placement one day a week for a client of [Tower Project](#). Here he is in his own words:

"My name is Mohammed Nayib and I'm a local resident living in Stepney Green. I have just started working at Tower Hamlets Local History and Archives on a one year Tower Project placement. I want to work at the local history and archive service because I am interested in local history and would like to build upon my work experience. I am looking forward to helping out with local history events and learning more about libraries and archives.

I am especially interested in the history of silk weavers in Tower Hamlets and the chance to learn more about this area of local history. I am also interested in photography and old maps and I am looking forward to helping members of the public to find what they are looking for and with their research.

After completing my placement at Tower Hamlets Local History and Archives service I would like to find a job at a library or another archive. I would also like to return to college to do a course in World History."

Welcome Mohammed!



Job vacancies

Archives Manager Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

We are now recruiting for a senior archivist in our team. The vacancy is now [live on the Tower Hamlets website](#). Please note, CVs are not accepted. Closing date: Thursday 3 May. Two other posts - both of which are fixed term appointments (Cataloguing Archivist and Heritage Co-ordinator) are being created thanks to successful fundraising within the council, and these will be advertised soon.

Archivist (part-time) East London Mosque

The East London Mosque recently opened a purpose-built archive strongroom. They are currently advertising [a vacancy for an Archivist](#).

Library & Digital Archives Manager Bishopsgate Institute

Our friends over at Bishopsgate are also recruiting a [Library & Digital Archives Manager](#).



Collection news

We are excited to report that a major cataloguing project is nearing fruition. Former Councillor and Leader of Tower Hamlets Council, **Paul Beasley**, deposited his papers with us over fifteen years ago.

Thanks mainly to work by our dedicated volunteer Anne Connaughton we are now approaching the end of the large project to describe over 1500 files from the 1970s and 1980s, a key period in the history of the borough with the redevelopment of Docklands, perhaps, the predominant issue. We will announce here when they are available for public consultation.

Here Cllr Beasley is pictured diving into a municipal swimming pool of unknown identity.

Sensing Place

Sensing Place: Mapping Memory in the East End is a new crowdsourcing project gathering people's photographs of the Tower Hamlets area which will then be uploaded onto a new community heritage website. The website will be used in a variety of educational (and non-educational) settings by different groups, including schools - investigating and reflecting on how we gather and interpret our community history.



Thank you to everyone who has picked up a disposable camera and taken photographs of Tower Hamlets as part of the project. We have now given away all that we had! If you were one of the people that picked one up, please return the completed film (with the forms) to the ground floor reception by Monday 30 April.

For further info on this project, which is being run by the University of Winchester, please email sensingplace@winchester.ac.uk or [visit the website](#).



Mystery photo competition

A free copy of "The East End in Colour 1960-1980" (rrp £16.95) is on offer to the first person correctly to identify the location of this photograph by David Granick. Clue: it was taken somewhere in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Send your answers, with supporting evidence, to localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk by midday on Friday 11 May.

(This is Malcolm's last feature in the newsletter - Ed.)

The Women's Hall 2018 Celebrating the East London Suffragettes

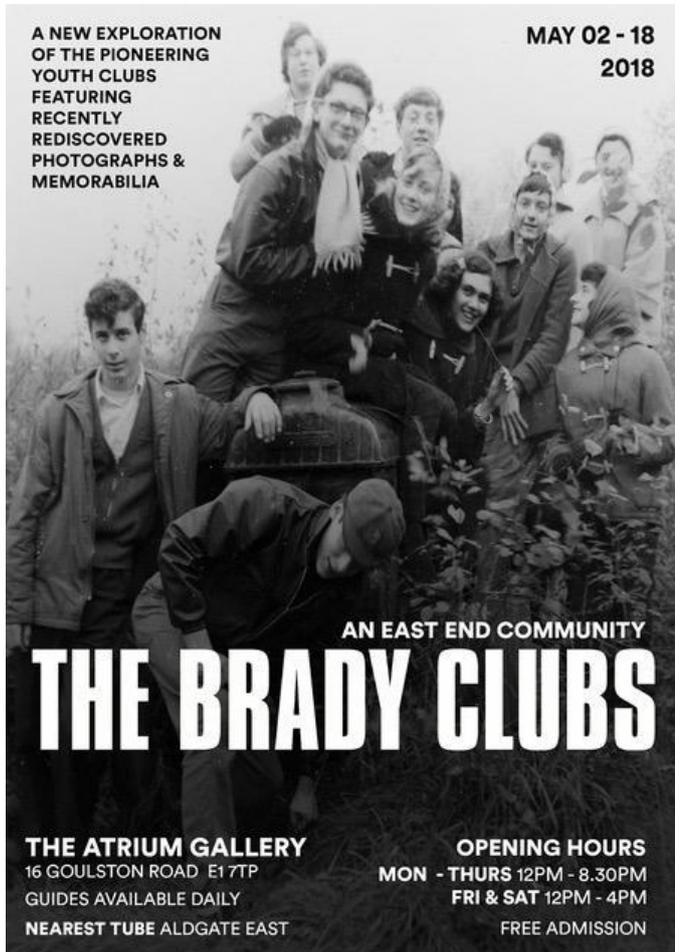
Our next exhibition is the ambitious recreation of the East London Federation of Suffragettes' headquarters through an immersive heritage exhibition and series of events, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

We are still looking for catering help to support the running of the 'cost price restaurant' so if you are a chef, restaurateur, food producer, supermarket manager, cook, maitre d', waiter or any other catering professional with spare time or spare food, please email lauren.sweeney@towerhamlets.gov.uk to offer your services!

More information about the exhibition and details of the launch will be in our next newsletter.

The Brady Clubs

New exhibition in Aldgate East



This free exhibition about the Brady Boys and Girls Clubs is opening soon at the **London Metropolitan University's** Atrium Gallery. The address is 16 Goulston Street, E1 7TP.

The Brady Club was a pioneering youth club for Jewish boys and young men in the Whitechapel area, initially founded in 1896 by Jewish philanthropists.

Following the Second World War, a Girls' Club was also established and the clubs took over a new base, the Brady Centre on Hanbury Street. This exhibition features photographs from the club members who met, socialised and went on organised trips in the decades following the Second World War until a new centre for the Brady Clubs was built in Edgware in the 1990s.

The Brady Centre building in Whitechapel was sold to Tower Hamlets Council and is now occupied by our colleagues in the Arts & Events team. We hold the archives of the Brady Clubs here but the subject of this exhibition is a separate collection of mainly visual materials recently donated to London Metropolitan University.

Opening Hours

Monday: 9am-5pm (exhibition only, shut Bank Holidays)
Tuesday: 10am-5pm
Wednesday: 9am-5pm
Thursday: 9am-8pm
Friday: 9am-5pm (exhibition only)
Saturday*: 9am-5pm (*first and third Saturdays of the month only)
Sunday: closed

Saturday opening

We are open 9am-5pm on the first and third Saturdays of every month, for research in the reading room and exhibition viewing. That's the following Saturdays coming up:

Saturday 21 April
Saturday 5 May (last day of David Granick exhibition)
Saturday 19 May
Saturday 2 June
Saturday 16 June
and so on.

Bank holiday closures

Please note that the exhibition and Reading Room will be closed on the following dates:

Monday 7 May and Monday 28 May (Bank Holidays)

Contact Us

Send us your enquiry via email, phone or letter:
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Email: localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk

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