



Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



January 2016

New volunteering opportunity: History for Everyone

Do you want to get to know our collections better and help people to get the most out of them?

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives is launching **History For Everyone**, a new project designed to assist people with disabilities and any members of the public who would like additional one-on-one help or support in using our collections, whether they want to learn about their own family history or the history of our amazing borough. Key to this project will be a small number of Collections Access Volunteers who will receive training from our librarians and archivists in how to navigate and get the most out of our collections so that they can then support other members of the public on their research journey.

History for Everyone will take the form of a series of open days at which Collections Access Volunteers and staff will be on hand to provide members of the public with supported access to our collections. Volunteers will find out what a researcher is most interested in and assist them in locating that information. We are looking for people with good communication skills, patience and an interest in the history of Tower Hamlets. Ideally you will have previous experience working with people with learning disabilities or physical disabilities.

Volunteers will receive in-depth training in searching and browsing our catalogue, printed guides, classification scheme, and hand-lists for the archives. You will also learn how to carry out genealogical research on Ancestry.com and how to use our electoral registers and trade directories, as well as the best ways to get the most out of our photograph collection.

This will require a commitment of several half-days for collections training, as well as the **History for Everyone** open days and drop-in sessions, which will likely take place on Thursday evenings or Saturdays from Spring and will be scheduled around the majority of volunteers' availability. It is our hope that **History for Everyone** drop-in sessions will be a regular recurring event and will reach people who may not otherwise be able to use our collections or be reticent to try without

support.

We welcome expressions of interest to melanie.strong@towerhamlets.gov.uk by the end of January.

Upcoming events

Current exhibition

The Wapping Dispute: The Workers' Story

Until Thursday 11 February 2016



Marching to Wapping, 22 February 1986. Photo by Andrew Ward

To mark the 30th anniversary of the Wapping Dispute, Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives are currently hosting an exhibition organised by the [News International Dispute Archive](#) which includes dramatic accounts and photographs of the dispute, in addition to objects and items from the time, such as banners, posters, badges, and press articles. The exhibition will be accompanied by two free public events:

Talk: The Wapping Dispute

Thursday 14 January 2016, 6.30-7.30pm - TONIGHT!

Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives

When negotiations broke down and the strike began in January 1986, Rupert Murdoch shifted production of his newspapers, including The Sun and The Times, overnight to the new, non-union print works in Wapping, sacking the existing production and administration workforce of more than 5,500 employees. Join us for this free public event, which will include short talks by former strikers and trade union representatives. Free, no booking required.

30th Anniversary Event

Thursday 21 January 2016, 5.00-7.30pm

Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives

Join the strikers and their supporters for this informal gathering to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Wapping Dispute, which will include a screening of the film [Banging Out: Fleet Street Remembered](#) (52 mins). Free, no booking required.

Both events have been organised by the News International Dispute Archive and supported by Unite the Union, National Union of Journalists, Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom and the Marx Memorial Library. For further information, please call 07831 676587 or email info@wapping-dispute.org.uk

History Hoppers

Wednesday 20 January 2016, 2.30-4.30 pm

Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives

Come along to our monthly drop-in History Hoppers group, where participants will have the chance to explore and discuss a variety of library and archive material relating to the history of the local area, including photographs, newspaper cuttings and maps. Topics change every month and have included music halls, war, housing and protest. Refreshments provided. Free, no booking required. Future History Hoppers dates can be found on our website [here](#).

Wednesday 17 February, 2.30-4.30pm

Wednesday 16 March, 2.30-4.30pm

Talk: The Life & Times of the Music Hall and Marie Lloyd

Saturday 6 February 2016, 2.30-3.30pm

Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives

In the late Victorian age, Music Halls were popular throughout Britain and were where the East End of London found its cultural voice.

Join us for this illustrated talk by Danny Wells, which celebrates the rambunctious nature of this form of entertainment, with characters such as Champagne Charlie, Little Tich, the coster comedian Gus Ellen, George Robey - the 'Prime Minister of Mirth' and Vesta Tilley. It ends with the much-loved Marie Lloyd, both the 'Queen of the Music Hall' and of the double entendre. 'Our Marie' had a turbulent life both on and off the stage.

Free, no booking required



Marie Lloyd

LGBT History in Tower Hamlets

Saturday 20 February 2016, 2.00-4.00pm
Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives

Come along to our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) History workshop, where you'll be able to view a variety of material illustrating the history of LGBT people in Tower Hamlets to coincide with national [LGBT History Month](#).

The collections we hold include books, newspaper cuttings, pamphlets and original archive material. Find out about the Pride Festival held in Victoria Park during 1995, pioneering LGBT organisations and local campaigns against Section 28. There's no need to book, just drop in! Free - refreshments will be provided.

Our Next Exhibition...

The Match Women's Strike 1988: Alison Marchant's 'Wall Paper History' revisited

Tuesday 23 February - Saturday 7 May 2016
Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives

In July 1888, over 1400 women and girls employed at the Bryant & May match factory in Bow successfully went on strike to improve their working conditions. In 1988, East End artist Alison Marchant marked the centenary of this pivotal moment in feminist and labour history with a range of public installations and a national touring exhibition. This creative project, called *Wall Paper History*, repurposed archives from Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives and the Museum of Labour History to bring attention to working class women's continuing economic oppression, illustrated by the imminent redevelopment of the now defunct match factory as private housing.

In 2016, to mark Women's History Month, Alison Marchant and Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives will re-stage her 1988 exhibition, which includes original prints, etchings and collages inspired by archival imagery.

A programme of talks and events will reflect on the history of women's work in the factory and in the home during the Victorian era, and provide a platform to explore and discuss feminist cultural activism in the 1980s and today. More details to follow soon!

World War One Project Launch

Thursday 3 March 2016, 6.00-7.30pm
Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives

Join us to celebrate the launch of our World War One project! This has been somewhat delayed due to issues in completing the digitisation of the Poplar Military Tribunal Register but we are delighted that we will now be able to launch this online resource at the beginning of March, to coincide with the centenary of conscription.

At **6pm** Borough Archivist Malcolm Barr-Hamilton will also demonstrate the Poplar Military Service Tribunal Register which will be launching online via our website and will also be available free of charge on FindMyPast.com. The Register

contains unique information about over 3000 appeals from men living or working in the borough to be exempted from conscription. Thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the efforts of volunteers, the Register has now been digitised and indexed.

Attendees will also have the chance to view our new, pop-up exhibition **World War One in Tower Hamlets**, before it goes on tour throughout the borough, and pick up a copy of our new user guide to the World War One sources in our collection.

This event is **FREE**, no booking required.



Poplar Army Recruiting Office, 1914

Opening Times

Tues: 10am-5pm

Wed: 9am-5pm

Thu: 9am-8pm

Fri: closed

Sat: (1st & 3rd of the month): 9am-5pm

Sun, Mon: closed

Contact Us

Send us your enquiry via email, phone or letter at

Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives
277 Bancroft Road
London E1 4DQ
Phone: 020 7364 1290
Email: localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk

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