

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



Representing the Holocaust on screen



Children arriving at customs via the Kindertransport (c) Wiener Library

A special event for Holocaust Memorial Day

Thursday 24 January, 6.30pm-7.45pm

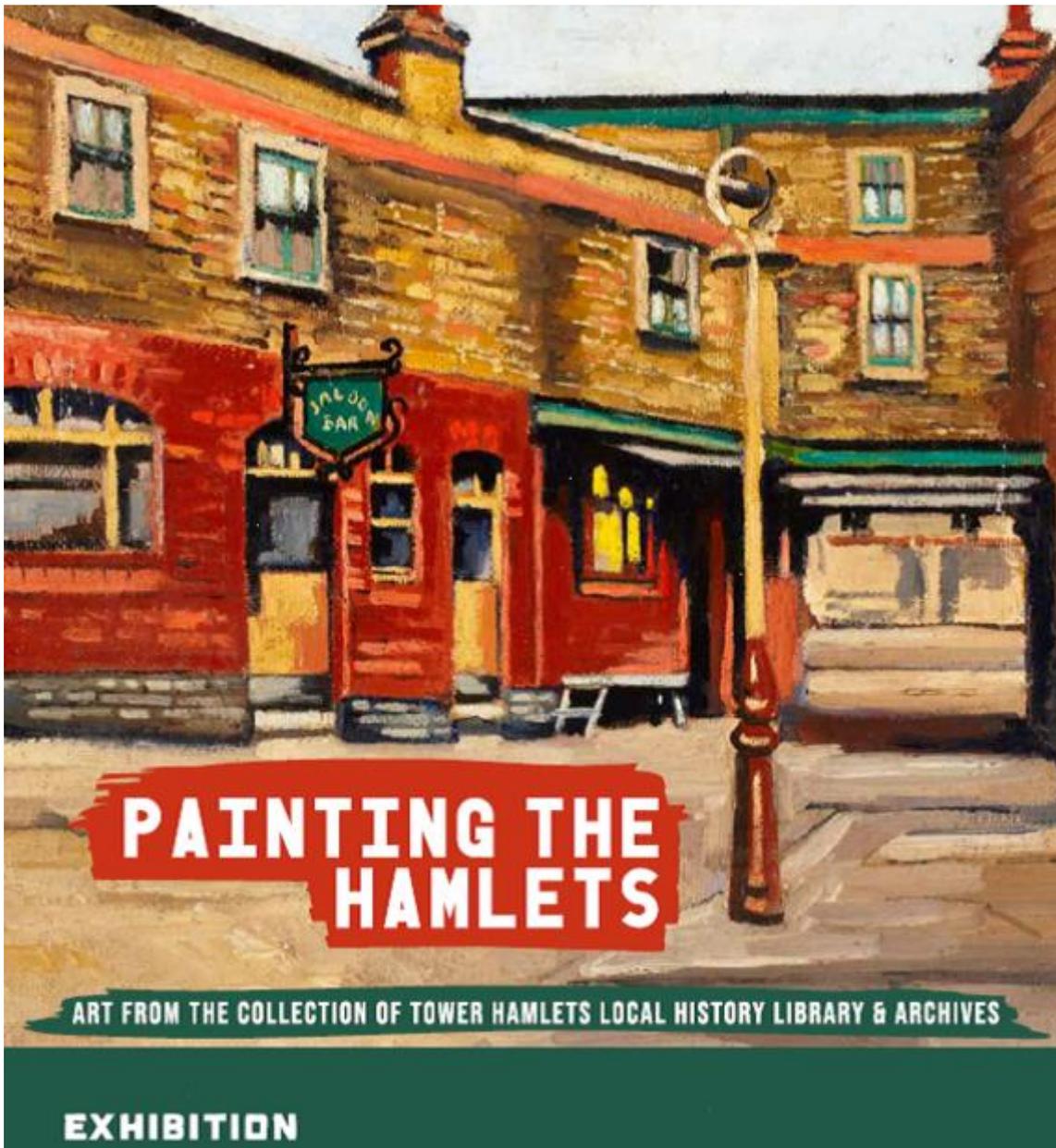
Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

In partnership with UK Jewish Film, we at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives are hosting a free participatory film archive workshop. The event will explore the purpose, significance and representation of Holocaust narratives, showing clips from a range of feature films and documentaries as well as archival footage. There will also be a display of materials from our collections illustrating the proud history of anti-fascist resistance in the East End of London.

Doors open from 6.00pm. All are welcome but spaces are limited. Please email localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk to reserve your place. This event is part of Tower Hamlets Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations, which also features a Jewish heritage walk and an interfaith memorial service at East London Central Synagogue on Sunday 27

January. Please [click here for further information.](#)

Painting the Hamlets



Our current exhibition **Painting the Hamlets** displays highlights from our art collection which depict landscapes, river views and street scenes in Tower Hamlets. Most of the paintings featured are from the twentieth century and the artists involved include the former Mayor of Bethnal Green and member of the East London Group of artists, Albert Turpin. Works by Doreen Fletcher, Ronald Morgan, Noel Gibson, Rose Henriques, and Geoffrey Scowcroft Fletcher also feature. For the accompanying exhibition programme we have been hosting a series of free events exploring *art and the East End*.

A number of new events have recently been added to the programme, please read on for the full list:

Talk: Art & the East End with Danny Wells

Saturday 2 February, 2.30-4.00

We're pleased to welcome back the ever popular Danny Wells, this time to share some stories associated with the history of the East End of London through exploring art, primarily paintings. These include the phenomenon of the East India Company; the effects of Empire on the area and the significance of the Docks. We will also consider poverty and social reformers of the 19th century, immigration and emigrations; and the impact of the two

world wars in the 20th century. Free, no booking required.

Half-term creative workshop: East End Street Party

Saturday 16 February, 11.00-1.00

Get your little one to celebrate half term by creating their own East End party street scene, real or imagined. They will be using historic street scene photos from our collections and an array of creative materials. Join us to cut, colour, stick and create! Suitable for ages 6-12 years. All materials provided, limited spaces, FREE but booking essential:

localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Talk: Artists Who Painted London's East End: Doreen Fletcher

Thursday 28 February, 6.00-7.30

Join the Gentle Author (Spitalfields Life) in conversation with artist Doreen Fletcher whose work features in the exhibition and has been collected into a new retrospective book. We have signed copies available to purchase. Free, no booking required.

Talk: Jewish Artists in East London

Thursday 4 April, 6.00-7.30

Sarah MacDougall from the Ben Uri Gallery joins us to talk about Jewish artists from 1900-1945 who were living, working or inspired by the East End.

The talk will explore the lives of Isaac Rosenberg, Rose Henriques, Pearl Binder and more. Free, no booking required.

Exhibition tour: *Painting the Hamlets* Curator's Tour

Saturday 6 April, 1.30-2.30

Join Atalanta Kernick, Curator of the 'Painting the Hamlets' exhibition for a guided tour exploring the artists behind the street scenes, and the streets within the paintings. Free, no booking required

Artists' talk: Socially-engaged art practice in Tower Hamlets

Thursday 18 April, 6.30-7.45pm

Visual artists Kinsi Abdulleh and Saif Osmani will explore their socially engaged art practice over many years of working with the Somali and Bangladeshi communities in Tower Hamlets. Through their work, both artists have explored a wide range of issues including race and identity, gender and social justice, space and the public realm, language and cultural heritage. Free, no booking required.

In addition to the above events, we have organised **East End Urban Sketching Club**, a series of three free painting and drawing workshops led by Idea Store Learning visual arts tutor Ginny Hawke, in which participants will be taught different methods of creating their own street scenes. These are fully booked.

LGBTQ+ History Month



An exhibition of prints and poems
by Cornelius McCarthy & Peter Dobson

Shared Visions

LGBTQ+ History Month

February is LGBTQ+ History Month and we are delighted to mark the occasion with a display of artwork by Stepney based artist Cornelius McCarthy (1935-2009) whose sketchbooks and a number of paintings we hold in our collections. Regular readers may recall we hosted a retrospective of his paintings in 2015 which had been organised by the late artist's friend and biographer Peter Dobson. Sadly, Peter died last year, leaving behind a number of poems inspired by his appreciation for Cornelius's artwork and their nearly 50 years' long friendship. We are honoured to have been asked by Peter's partner to host a display of rarely seen prints by Cornelius McCarthy alongside some of Peter's poetry in commemoration of both artists. The exhibition, **Shared Visions**, will be on our landing from 2-28 February.

Cornelius and Peter lived through a period of considerable social change and a gradual relaxation, at least by many, in attitudes towards homosexuality. In their lives and in their work both strove to reach out to others, to share their ideas and values. They both drew on a considerable knowledge of art and literary history as well as their lived experience, and both expressed their feelings about the beauty of the male body in their art.

There will be an evening wine reception on **Thursday 21 February**, 6.00-8.00pm featuring a short speech by Stewart Hardman of Adonis Art, and a short poetry reading by Stan Lloyd. If you would like to attend this event, please email localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk to aid us in planning the catering.

On the same evening, our Education Room will host a special event organised by [Tower Hamlets LGBT Community Forum](#), featuring comedian Rosie Wilby performing parts of her stand-up show *Is Monogamy Dead?* along with audience discussion. The timescales for each event will be published on our website nearer the time and will allow attendees to attend both events if they so wish.

Women's History Month



Sarah Chapman in her later years. Picture courtesy Sam Johnson

New exhibition: Sarah Chapman, Matchgirl - Story of a Strike Leader

March is Women's History Month! And we've got a great programme lined up. First up is a brand new exhibition on our first floor landing bringing a new personal slant to the famous Match Girls' Strike of 1888, this time from the perspective of local, working class girl Sarah Chapman of Mile End. Sarah was among the factory workers who met with the Directors of Bryant and May and courageously argued for better terms

and working conditions. Sarah's legacy continues today, but her role has been largely unnoticed until now.

This display, on show from 8 - 29 March on our first floor landing, illustrates the life of this lesser-known political leader and TUC delegate, and how often history may remember the brave acts of one person and forget the actions of another. It has been curated by volunteer Gaby Morris with the support of Sarah Chapman's descendants Sam Johnson and family.

Exhibition Launch

Friday 8 March, 6.00-7.30pm

All are welcome to join us the preview of our new Sarah Chapman exhibition with a welcome from her great-grand-daughter Sam Johnson, a poetry reading by [Anne Cooper](#) and storytelling by Sinead O'Brien. Please email localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk if you intend to come.

Talk: Discovering Sarah Chapman

Thursday 21 March, 6.30-7.45

Sam Johnson, the great-grand daughter of the 1888 Match Strike leader Sarah Chapman and Anna Robinson, Senior Lecturer at University of East London will share their journeys in discovering the vital but largely unnoticed story of political activist Sarah Chapman.

More Women's History Month events

Talk: An evening with Cate Tuitt

Thursday 14 March, 6.30-7.30

Join us for what is bound to be a fantastic discussion of reflection and insight from the first Black female councillor in Tower Hamlets. Cate Tuitt started out as an activist in the 1980s, campaigning to investigate racial discrimination and deaths in police custody. Cate became interested in law when she became a trustee at CAPA (Community Action Police Accountability). At the age of 16 she was the youngest trustee on the board. Witness to many racially motivated attacks and crimes, and noticing that the law did not always bring justice to these crimes, she was inspired to go into local politics, becoming the first female black councillor in Tower Hamlets in 1996. Free, no booking required.

Film Screening: Kathleen Warsama

Thursday 28 March, 6.00-7.45pm

A participatory session hosted by Numbi Arts, exploring rare film archive and library materials to piece together the incredible story of Kathleen Warsama who came from Ethiopia via Yorkshire to set up one of the first lodging houses for Somali seamen in the East End and, in the 1950s, helped to establish the so-called Stepney Coloured People's Association.

Doors open at 6pm with the opportunity to have a look at relevant materials from the collections, including the archive of Stepney social activist Edith Ramsay. The documentary screening will begin at 6.30 followed by a Q&A and creative response activity. Free, no booking required.

East End History Club

Saturday 16 February and Saturday 6 April

2.00-4.00

Would you like to have a good old browse of our collections but don't know where to start? Come along to our free bi-monthly drop-in sessions. You'll have the chance to look through old photographs, maps, newspapers and archival documents relating to a range of popular

subjects, such as housing, health, immigration, work, school, leisure, parks and places and much more! The selection of material changes each time.

Teas and coffees provided, suitable for adults and children (11+). Free, no booking required.

Welcome to new staff



Andrew Lewis

“I’ve recently joined the THLHLA team as a Heritage Officer (Archives); I work Thursdays and Fridays, job-sharing with my colleague Natasha Luck. I will be working in the Reading Room and also behind the scenes, helping with the innumerable tasks – including cataloguing collections – that keep the service running.

My background is in historical research, having studied for a PhD just around the corner from Bancroft Road in the History Department at Queen Mary University of London. Since then I have worked for the Historical Manuscripts Commission, dabbled in probate genealogy and worked as an Information Assistant in the Library at Queen Mary (again!). I also work as a freelance researcher, copy-editor and proofreader, all of which keeps me busy Mondays to Wednesdays.

Tower Hamlets is without doubt one of the richest of the London boroughs in terms of its history: I have used the collections at THLHLA for various research projects I have been involved with over the years, and I can't wait to get to know more about what's down in that strong-room and make it known to our users – hidden riches surely await!"

Welcome Andy!

Opening hours and contact details

Please do check our opening hours before visiting. They are:

Monday: 9am-5pm for exhibition only

Tuesday: 10am-5pm for exhibition and Reading Room

Wednesday: 9am-5pm for exhibition and Reading Room

Thursday: 9am-8pm for exhibition and Reading Room

Friday: 9am-5pm for exhibition only

First and third Saturdays of every month: 9am-5pm for exhibition and Reading Room

Feel free to contact us with any enquiries:

- localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk
- 020 7364 1290
- <http://www.ideastore.co.uk/local-history>