

July-August 2014

## World War One Cultural Events Programme



*WW1 events poster on Mile End Road*

As most readers will be aware, coming up on Monday 4 August 2014 is the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. With support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives has put together a commemorative programme of cultural events, including walking tours, talks, archive film screenings and poetry readings, to remember and reflect on this moment.

The programme features over twenty events taking place across Tower Hamlets Idea Stores and libraries this August and September. It provides residents and visitors from further afield multiple opportunities to find out more about the lives of people who a hundred years ago lived through the conflict, and discover what happened to local streets, communities and neighbourhoods.

The festival launches during the afternoon of Saturday 2 August with a special session here called **Explore Our WW1 Archive** in which Borough Archivist Malcolm Barr-Hamilton will highlight interesting aspects from our collections. We are also pleased to welcome Michael Berlin (Birkbeck, University of London) to the launch who will speak on **'Pacifism in the East End during World War One'**. The launch event will also feature stalls from local community heritage groups. Light refreshments will be on offer throughout the day.

A continuing strand of the two month programme is the **WW1 in Tower Hamlets Talk Series**, featuring historians discussing the various impacts of the war on the local people and area. We are particularly looking forward to the surprising story to be revealed by Chris Everett in his talk **Dockers Go To War**. Other highlights include **Fighting for Britain: Accounts of Muslim bravery during the Great War 1914-1918** by the eminent historian Jahan Mahmood at Idea Store Whitechapel and **The Wounded Soldier and the East End of London** by Gary Haines.

Other events include a number of guided viewings of the **Borough War Memorial** at Bethnal Green Library. **Chrip Street Remembers** is a special day at Idea Store Chrip Street featuring film screenings, reminiscence sessions, local history displays, art workshops and much more, focusing on Poplar's World War One heritage. This event is part of Poplar HARCA's Chrip Street Festival taking place across Chrip Street Market that same weekend.

Over at Idea Store Watney Market, **From Cubitt Town to Aldgate East - One Woman's Journey through the First World War** is a talk from novelist Juliet West about her new book 'Before the Fall' for which she extensively researched the role of women in the East End during the First World War (using our collections among others!). Other highlights include a film screening of **'Everything is Possible,' documenting the life of Sylvia Pankhurst** at Idea Store Bow and a number of our ever-popular guided history walks.

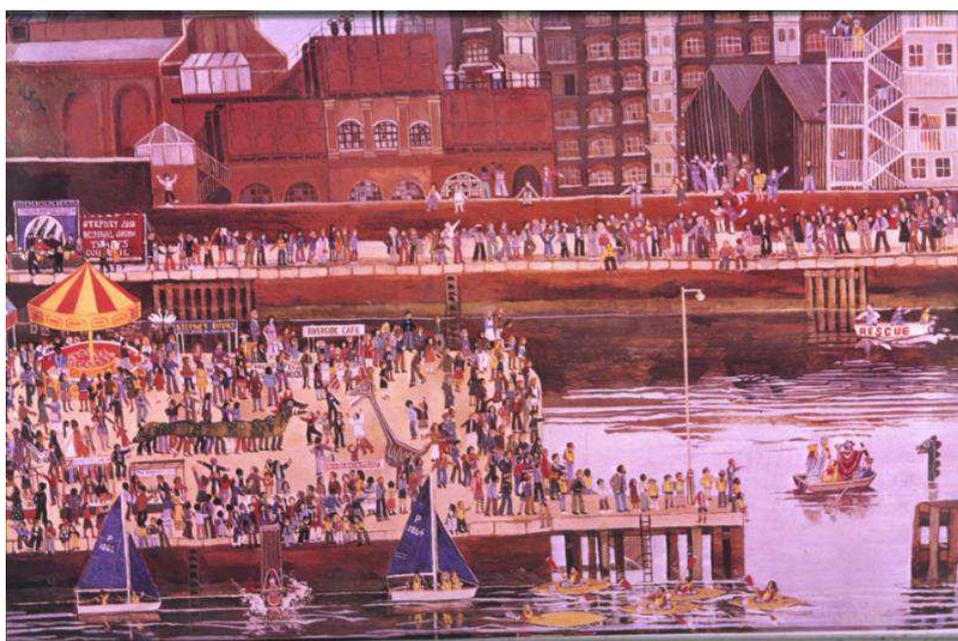
All events are free and no booking is required. You can find details of all of these events and many more on our website [here](#).

This programme is developed in addition to the pop-up exhibition and digital resource currently being created which will be launched later in the year. We are planning further events relating to the centenary to take place over the next four years.

## Dan Jones

### East End Paintings and Prints, 1970-2014

### Saturday 19 July—Saturday 15 November



*Shadwell Basin Festival by Dan Jones*

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives is delighted to present a retrospective of the paintings and prints by prolific Stepney-based artist Dan Jones. Through print-making and painting Dan has captured the heart and soul of Tower Hamlets over more than forty years as a local resident, youth worker and activist. In addition to depictions of contemporary life in the East End primarily focussed on the 1970s, the artist also honours inspirational scenes from local history including the Battle of Cable Street and the Poplar Rates Rebellion.

A number of free public events suitable for all ages have been programmed to tie in with the exhibition - see below for more details!

## Drawing Street Life with Dan Jones Tuesday 12 August, 2-4pm, THLHLA

Inspired by Dan Jones' pictures of bustling 1970s street life, join us for a special workshop to create collaborative street scenes with the artist himself. Suitable for all ages. This workshop will be repeated in September at Idea Store Watney Market - check [www.ideastore.co.uk](http://www.ideastore.co.uk) for more details.

## Make a Campaign Poster with Dan Jones Saturday 6 September, 2-4pm, THLHLA

The exhibition features a number of striking posters made by Dan Jones during the 1970s and 1980s. At this workshop, you will make your own poster promoting a campaign from the East End's past or present that is important to you, with the help of our archival collections and some simple printing techniques. Suitable for all ages.

## Film screening: 'Vince, Paul, Lawrence and Richard' Thursday 11 September, 6-8pm, THLHLA

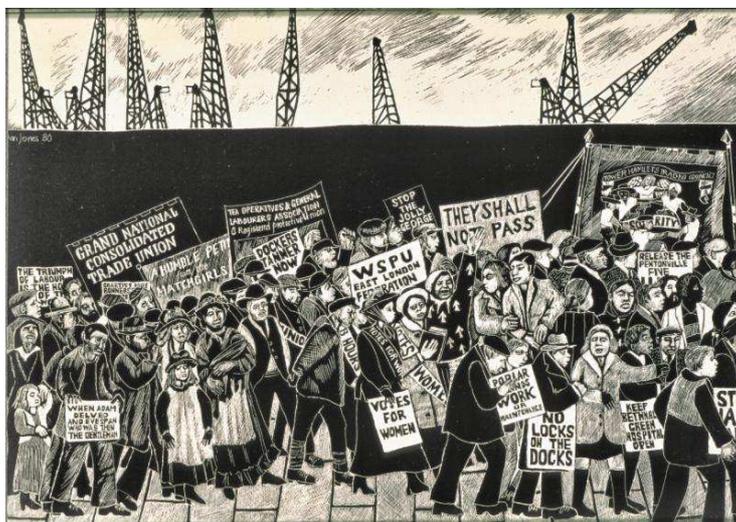
Another screening of this BAFTA-winning documentary from 1971 which was received so well at last year's Cockney Heritage Festival. Four Stepney boys roam derelict dockland looking for fun and adventure under the watchful eye of youth worker Dan Jones, but are they really destined for borstal as the narrator suggests? Introduced by artist Chris Dorley-Brown.

## Poetry workshop with Dan Jones Wednesday 17 September, 6.30-8pm, Idea Store Whitechapel

Dan has been collecting children's playground games and rhymes from the East End and across the world for years. In this workshop, organised with the help of Dan's writer friends, you are challenged to write and perform an original piece of work reflecting on some aspect of your life in the borough that makes you laugh, cheer or weep.

## Film screening: 'Alright, We'll Do It Ourselves' Thursday 25 September, 6-8pm, THLHLA

A rare chance to see this documentary made for the BBC in 1973 about the E1 Festival, the subject of several works in the exhibition. The E1 Festival took place on vacant land in Stepney for many years during the 1970s and was organised by local residents. The film stars Dan and many others from the community and is a fantastic record of this feat of community organising. Maybe you can spot yourself



*March of Labour by Dan Jones*

in the pram race or tug of war.... We are very pleased to welcome the film's director Jenny Barraclough for the screening who will be in conversation with Dan.

All events are free and no booking is required. Plus many more are currently being programmed for later in the year. Please visit our website for further information.

# Empty Streets: Noel Gibson's East London (1967-75)

1 August to 21 September  
Nunnery Gallery, 181 Bow Road

Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives is very pleased to have its collection of Noel Gibson paintings on display once more in this exhibition curated by Gary Haines a long-time supporter of our service.

*Hessel Street by Noel Gibson*



Born in Glasgow in 1928, Gibson was a classic Londoner with an upbringing outside London and a social life and a lifestyle that mirrors the variety of life one could enjoy in the mid-twentieth century metropolis. Noel had several careers, or paid jobs, which facilitated his passion for painting. Unlike many artists he also found some notable success in his lifetime with his work being sold inter-

nationally in the United States, Italy and in his adopted home London.

Noel Gibson was an Everyman, exemplifying the new generation of post-war artists, obsessively recording the streets around them. Notably Noel Gibson's paintings are almost entirely unpopulated. Standing amongst Noel Gibson's large empty streets gives one a sense of the peace of an early morning street before the crowds descend.

For further information visit the Bow Arts website

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