

Now recruiting a Heritage Trainee!

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Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



Job vacancy: Heritage Trainee

Based at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

Scale 5: £24,618 - £26,658

Full-time, fixed term until March 2021

Closing date: Sunday 7 April

This is a great (and extremely rare) opportunity for someone inexperienced in this field to develop their skills by working with a large and unique collection documenting the histories of London's East End and its communities. This is an entry-level post aimed at someone interested in pursuing a career in the archives, library or heritage sector. We do not recommend applying if you are already qualified and/or have significant paid work experience in this area already. It is intended that the postholder will complete the new Level 3 Apprenticeship in Library, Archive & Information Services Assistant during their employment.

The postholder will gain hands-on experience and on-the-job training in assisting members of the public in using our library and archive collections, helping to preserve and catalogue them, and developing outreach activities and events inspired by them.

We particularly encourage applicants from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds who are substantially underrepresented in the UK heritage sector workforce.

For more information, please check out the vacancy details and apply online via the Tower Hamlets Council website [here](#).

New project: Home machinists (Seamstresses)

The untold stories of first-generation Bangladeshi women in the East End (1970-2000)

A Stepney Community Trust Project

Are you interested in learning about the experiences of Bangladeshi women home seamstresses in East London during 1970-2000? Do you want to be involved in researching and documenting the lives of these women? Are you interested in sharing findings and the stories of these women with the wider community? Do you want to be involved in writing an incredible piece of East End history?

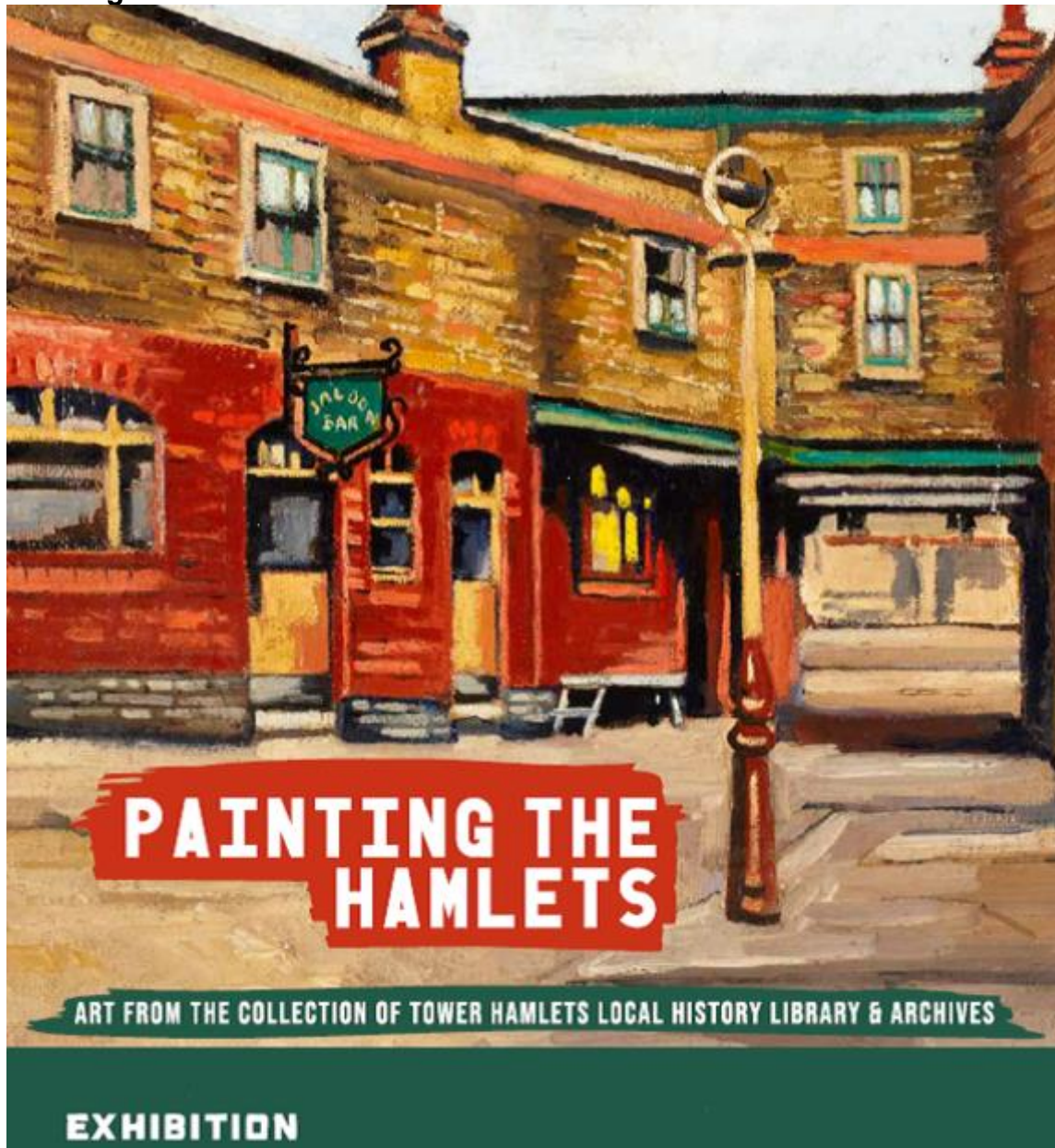
If the answers are yes, then please [come to the project launch](#) to find out more about the initiative and how you can get involved.

The project will explore the experiences of Bangladeshi women home seamstresses in East London. Many such women are in their 60s and 70s now and represent a very little known, but highly significant, East End heritage. They have incredible stories to share as being the first-generation Bangladeshi women in East London who worked from home as seamstresses to support their families and contributed so much to society and economy while making many sacrifices of their own health and dreams.

The project will be delivered through engaging community participants in a voluntary capacity and equipping them with a range of relevant training provided by Oral History professionals, Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives and London Metropolitan Archives. Outcomes of the project include a collection of oral history, a book, an exhibition and a drama performance. The oral history, photographs and documents generated will be deposited at the Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives.

Stepney Community Trust (SCT) thanks The National Lottery Heritage Fund for their grant support and the National Lottery players that fund Britain's diverse heritage.

Painting the Hamlets



Our current main exhibition **Painting the Hamlets** has been extended through til the beginning of June. The display showcases works 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: 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.

Newly available archive collection!



Promotional items produced by the SMUT (Spitalfields Market Under Threat) campaign, circa 2002. Ref no: SCA/3/2/9

Spitalfields Community Association (S/SCA)

By Medha Chotai, Cataloguing Archivist

We are pleased to report that the records of the Spitalfields Community Association are now accessible in the reading room. The collection itself is a rich resource of information about the local area and particularly Spitalfields Market and the changes that took place from the late 80s to the mid-2000s.

The collection itself is records of a local community group that launched a strong campaign against the redevelopment of the market and managed to delay the redevelopment for 15 years! Through petitions, protests and judicial reviews using all and very means they were a vocal group that stood against the redevelopment. They not only successfully roused the local people to join them in their campaign but had the support of artists such as Tracy Emin and Lucinda Rogers and architect Will Alsop who produced alternative designs for the redevelopment.

The campaign, or rather that should be campaigns, began life in 1989 as the Campaign to Save Spitalfields from Developers or also known as the Save Spitalfields Campaign, who used the parliamentary forum of a Select Committee hearing against the changes to the Spitalfields Market Bill. While they were unsuccessful in stopping the Bill being passed, they did get an increase in planning gain for the local community. These records can found in reference S/SCA/1/3.

The Spitalfields Community Association was formed in April 1998 by local residents, tenants associations, small businesses and other organisations. They campaigned against various developments which included the Horner Buildings (S/SCA/2/3) and the development of Bishops Square (S/SCA/2/5) where the headquarters of the firm Allen and Overy is based.

In March 2000 the Spitalfields Market Under Threat (SMUT) was formed. They continued the campaign against the redevelopment, successfully launching a Judicial Review against the 2000 proposals submitted by Foster and Partners which had an increased amount of floorspace that was not consented for in the 1997 permissions by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Council.

The records range from plans and drawings from various architects and development groups, photographs of the development and protests by the campaign, publicity material created by the campaign which include ladies underwear, and press about the campaign itself. These records weave an interesting and informative narrative of the development from the perspective of the objectors to the redevelopments. They are available to the public to come in and browse in our reading room - check our opening hours below!

East End History Club

Saturday 6 April and Saturday 15 June

2.00-4.00pm

Would you like to have a good old browse of our collections but don't know where to start? Come along to our regular 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 that we get out changes each time.

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

Sarah Chapman exhibition extended

Our exhibition on Sarah Chapman, one of the lesser known leaders of the Matchgirls' Strike, has been extended and its last day of opening will now be Thursday 26 April. This display, on our first floor landing, was produced in partnership with Sarah Chapman's descendants who are campaigning for a plaque to be erected and her grave to be saved. Visit us to find out more!

Opening hours and contact details

NB we are closed over the Easter weekend (Friday 19 April- Monday 22 April).

Please remember to 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 (NB not Easter Saturday)

Feel free to contact us with any enquiries:

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