

Our book sale is back!

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## Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



**This weekend! Free local history talks galore**



Come to  
East London's  
**FREE**  
Reading  
Festival

15-17 November 2019 at Idea Store Whitechapel

# The Writeidea Festival 2019

Over 40 events with speakers  
covering a range of  
themes including:

- East End History
- Music
- Crime
- Films and Poetry
- Windrush

For full programme and FREE tickets go to  
[www.ideastore.co.uk/writeidea](http://www.ideastore.co.uk/writeidea)



Write Idea, Idea Store's annual FREE festival of reading and books launches TONIGHT at Idea Store Whitechapel with "Voices of the Windrush Generation", a talk by Colin Grant on his new book. [Book your place here!](#) The festival runs over the whole weekend and there is a wide range of fiction, music and young adult as well as the ever popular local history strand.

On Saturday, we at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives will be open as usual for research in our Reading Room over at Bancroft Road 9am to 5pm, but more of us are coming out of the woodwork to host a book stall and information stand. This will be located on the first floor of Idea Store Whitechapel throughout the day and we will be introducing some of the

day's talks on local history themes. Tickets to all events are free and still available - [check out the full Write Idea programme here](#) or check out the local history ones which we have provided direct Eventbrite links for below:

[Punk icon Poly Styrene's little known Somali East End heritage](#) will be discussed in a talk on the new book by her daughter Celeste Bell with co-author Zoe Howe and Kinsi from Numbi Arts. Anne Kershen presents her new book of essays in tribute to [Bill Fishman and his impact on the study of migration to the East End](#). The histories of the ordinary East Enders who make up the bones of [Cockney history will be under discussion by the ever popular Melanie McGrath and Kate Thompson](#), and Janine Booth will present her original research on [Poplar councillor, suffragette and labour activist Minnie Lansbury](#).

We are delighted that historian Hallie Rubenhold will conclude Saturday night with a talk on "The Five", her bestselling book which reclaims the real life stories of the victims of the Whitechapel murders. This is fully booked I'm afraid.

On Sunday we won't be there but there is plenty more local history content at the festival, all FREE, including David Laird on [125 years of Tower Bridge](#), and a screening of the highly recommended new short film by Mile End Community Project on [South Asian restaurants in and around Brick Lane and how they are evolving](#).

Ruth Badley discusses her [personal memoir relating the story of a particular Jewish East End family throughout the twentieth century](#) and the festival will conclude with a performance from Klezmer Klub following Vivi Lachs sharing her recent study of [the abundant sounds and music of Yiddish Whitechapel](#).

There is some service disruption at Whitechapel Station on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 November and a bus replacement service will run.

However, Shadwell Overground station is roughly a fifteen minute walk to Idea Store Whitechapel.

It is also a 10 minute walk from Bethnal Green tube Station and fifteen from Mile End, which are on the Central line.

Bus routes: 25, 106, 205, 254

Hope to see you there!

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## Next upcoming events here on Bancroft Road...

All events are free and take place at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives.

Our current exhibition **Unite & Resist: Activism in Tower Hamlets 1970-2000** features material drawn from recently catalogued archive collections held here, and is on show in our entrance hall until February 2020 with a range of related events happening throughout the run. For exhibition opening hours please check our website or see below before visiting.

### **Talk: Remembering Blair Peach**

**Thursday 21 November, 6.00-7.45pm**

A teacher at Phoenix School, Bow, Blair Peach died after an anti-racism demonstration in Southall in April 1979. Although his life was cut short, Blair's work activism in Tower Hamlets is remembered and celebrated and this year marks 40 years since his death.

This evening is organised with the National Education Union (Tower Hamlets). The evening will bring together Suresh Grover (The Monitoring Group), Alex Kenny (NEU), Chris Searle (Poet & Activist) and others to remember Blair's work and explore his legacy.

### **Film Screening: 'Island Race'**

**Thursday 28 November, 6:00-7:45pm**

*Island Race* (1996) was filmed partly on the Isle of Dogs during an election campaign involving BNP candidate Derek Beackon. The film maker, artist William Raban had been a

resident of the East End for many years at the time of this resurgence of racism as documented in our exhibition. His film records local residents, streets and neighbourhoods on the island at this time. Using just picture and sound, with no voiceover or narrative commentary, the audience is given the space to interpret how racial tensions, class and identity are evoked in this unique record of the mid-1990s East End.

We are delighted to welcome William Raban to introduce the film and host a Q&A afterwards. We are presenting this film screening as part of Explore Your Archive, the national archive awareness campaign, and we will have out on display a selection from our collections relating to the issues addressed in the film and the Isle of Dogs at the time.

### **Guided tour: Behind the scenes**

**Saturday 7 December, 10.00-10.45am**

Join us for a tour of our Grade II listed building led by archivist Natasha Luck. The building, former Vestry Hall of the Hamlet of Mile End Old Town, has been the home of Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives since 1965. Please email [localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk) to book your free place!

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## **Return of our second hand book sale!**

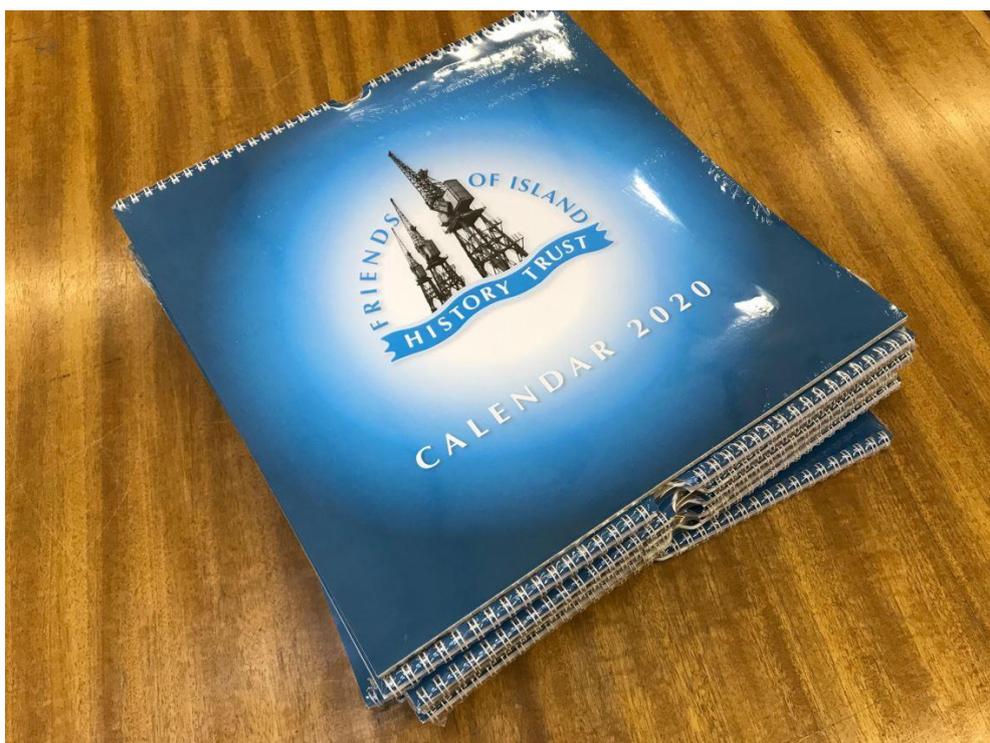
**Christmas Book Sale**  
**Saturday 7 December**  
**9:30am-2:00pm**

Free Entry | Paperbacks £2 | Hardbacks £5 | CASH ONLY

It's back! The return of our popular book sale, featuring duplicate books and pamphlets withdrawn from our collections. There'll be many rare and out-of-print titles for sale, illustrating different aspects of the East End's social, political and maritime history, as well as fiction and biographies of local people. Buy a unique Christmas gift this year!

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## **Christmas gifts for sale**



Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for the local history lover in your life? As ever, we have a wide range of books, maps and rare local history publications that would make ideal stocking fillers.

Freshest among our new additions is the **Friends of Island History Trust 2020 calendar** (£6). Featuring lovely rare old photographs of the Isle of Dogs, this one's always a bestseller, so grab your copy while stocks last! We also have a limited number of signed copies of **Paintings** by Doreen Fletcher (£20), whose wonderful East End street scenes from the 1970s and 1980s were featured heavily in our *Painting the Hamlets* exhibition earlier this year.

If our current *Unite and Resist!* exhibition has left you wanting to learn more about the East End's radical heritage, why not pick up David Rosenberg's **Rebel Footprints** (£12.99), a collection of radical history walks around London, or Janine Booth's biography **Minnie Lansbury: Suffragette, Socialist, Rebel Councillor** (£12.99). And of course we have our usual selection of family history guides, historic OS maps of East End neighbourhoods, postcards, tote bags and more, so come along and browse the selection on our first floor landing and see what you can find!

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## Stocktake and Christmas closures

### Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

Please note the Reading Room and Exhibiton will be **closed for a stocktake w/c 9-13 December**, but the library doors will be thrown open again for all your research and Christmas gift-buying needs as follows:

#### Christmas Opening Hours

Tuesday 17 December	10am-5pm
Wednesday 18 December	9am-5pm
Thursday 19 December	9am- <u>8pm</u>
Saturday 21 December	9am-5pm
Thursday 2 January	9am- <u>8pm</u>
Saturday 4 January	9am-5pm

We are closed Monday 23 December - Wednesday 1 January inclusive.

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## Map cataloguing update



Our historic maps are among the most useful and widely consulted resources in our reading room, but until recently only a handful were actually catalogued. Now following a year-long project we're pleased to announce that our **Chronological Map Series** (i.e. the bulk of our non-Ordnance Survey maps) is now fully catalogued and available to browse online. This collection provides a unique insight into how the Borough has changed over time from the Roman era to

the present day, via the railway boom, the Blitz, and more recently the redevelopment of London Docklands.

To browse the entire collection, go to <http://www.thcatalogue.org.uk/>, select 'Map' from the 'Type' field hit Search. You can then re-order the results by date and click on a record to find out more about it. To narrow down your results to maps of a specific place or on a particular theme, you can add a keyword to the 'Any text' field (e.g. "*Bethnal Green*", "*Air raids*"), and to search within a date range (e.g. 1700-1850) just include this to the 'Date' field.

Over the coming months we'll be cataloguing more maps from our **Special Series** and **Building Plans** collections, so keep checking back to see the latest additions.

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