

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



Limited Reading Room service on Saturday 20 October

Due to major electrical and IT upgrade works at Tower Hamlets Town Hall taking place this weekend, on Saturday this week we will be running a limited reading room service as there will be no access to our networked computer systems or catalogues for either staff or public.

If you are intending to visit us on Saturday - and why wouldn't you, it's the final day of the Women's Hall exhibition before all that beautiful hand painted gold leaf signage gets painted over next week - and you would like to do research in our first floor Reading Room, please note the following restrictions will be in place:

Local History Library

Most library collections, including periodicals on microfilm, photographs, maps, press cuttings and pamphlets as well as books, will still be accessible. It may just take staff longer to find things as we will be relying on our historic hardcopy finding aids!

Archives

We will not be able to produce anything from the archive collections unless it is ordered in advance. Please email or phone us with references for material you would like to view on Saturday by 5pm on Thursday 18 October so staff can retrieve it on Friday while IT systems are still live. Email: localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk or phone 020 7364 1290.

Public PCs

There will be no access to Ancestry. All public PCs will be down and there will be no wifi here or at any Tower Hamlets library or Idea Store.

Photocopying

Photocopying and ordering of digital images will be possible, subject to the usual copyright conditions.

Book, map and gift sales

Please bring cash if you would like to purchase a local history book, map or tote bag from our (newly redesigned) shop area, as our card payment facility will be offline.



The Women's Hall: phase two

This is the final week of our exhibition telling the story of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes (ELFS), led by Sylvia Pankhurst. The programme for Saturday's Finale event is listed below - we hope to see you there! We are sad to say goodbye to the exhibition and the wonderful community that has been fostered in the space thanks to the efforts of Lauren and her amazing team of volunteers who have worked tirelessly helping us to research and build the exhibition, deliver events and cook up a storm in the Cost-Price Restaurant.

We will soon be handing the baton over to our neighbours and Women's Hall project partners, Four Corners, for the upcoming opening of the first ever UK exhibition of the photographs of Norah Smyth (1874-1963), a key member of the East End Suffragettes and close confidante of Sylvia Pankhurst's who lived with her at the Women's Hall on Old Ford Road, Bow. On display at Four Corners' gallery space on Roman Road will be more than 100 original photographs taken by Norah Smyth. These form part of the Sylvia Pankhurst archive and have been loaned from the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam. We are also loaning our original bound volume of the *Woman's Dreadnought* newspaper. This is an unparalleled opportunity to see original photographs taken by a female photographer over 100 years ago which document the activities of the East End Federation of the Suffragettes (and it's also the reason we did not include many of Norah Smyth's photos in our own exhibition!)

The exhibition **East End Suffragettes: the Photography of Norah Smyth** will run from 1 November - 9 February 2019 at Four Corners, admission free. Like our exhibition, it is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

[Click here for more details.](#)



The Women's Hall Finale: programme for the day

We are sending the Women's Hall out with a bang on its final day, Saturday 20 October, 12pm-5pm. All events are free, just drop in!

12.30-2.30pm: Lunch at the Cost Price Restaurant

The final service of our pop-up pay-what-you-can café, delivered by volunteers using recycled supermarket food from Fareshare.

1.00-2.00pm: Dina Begum cookery workshop

We are pleased to welcome author of the new Brick Lane Cookbook to give a talk on 'cooking with what you have'. Dina will be making a dish with ingredients from the Cost Price Restaurant and will be doing a book-signing and Q&A.

2.00-3.00pm: East End Suffrage Speed Histories

Members of Alan Gilbey's troupe of storytellers will share-fast paced suffrage-inspired stories from the East End.

3.00-5.00pm: Suffragette Photo Booth

Dress up in Edwardian suffragette garb and have your photo taken in front of our banners on Sylvia's Scaffold. Fun for all the family!