

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



Meet the artist: Tom Lyddon



Art exhibition | until 27 March

First floor landing, Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

Currently on display is a small exhibition of local artist **Tom Lyddon**'s paintings and prints which we were grateful to receive recently into our collections. Tom is a long-time resident of Poplar who was a black cab driver from 1976 until his retirement in 2012. He is also a student of [Idea Store Learning](#)'s Visual Arts classes.

Launch event | Saturday 17 January, 2.00-3.30pm

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

We'll be welcoming Tom and his friends for a get together to celebrate his exhibition this coming Saturday. There will be a short Q&A with Tom led by Richard Wiltshire (Archives Manager) at 2.15pm, along with some tea and nibbles. No booking required - just turn up on the day at 2pm sharp.

Next Stop exhibition and events



[Next Stop](#), our current exhibition showcasing 900 years of public transport history in Tower Hamlets, is closing in six weeks. If you haven't seen it yet - you're missing a treat! Come on down before its last day on Saturday 21 February to check out a wide variety of collections on display charting the history of transport in the East End - from omnibuses to Oyster cards.

Talk: East London's Lost Stations with Jim Connor

Thursday 12 February | 6.00-7.30pm

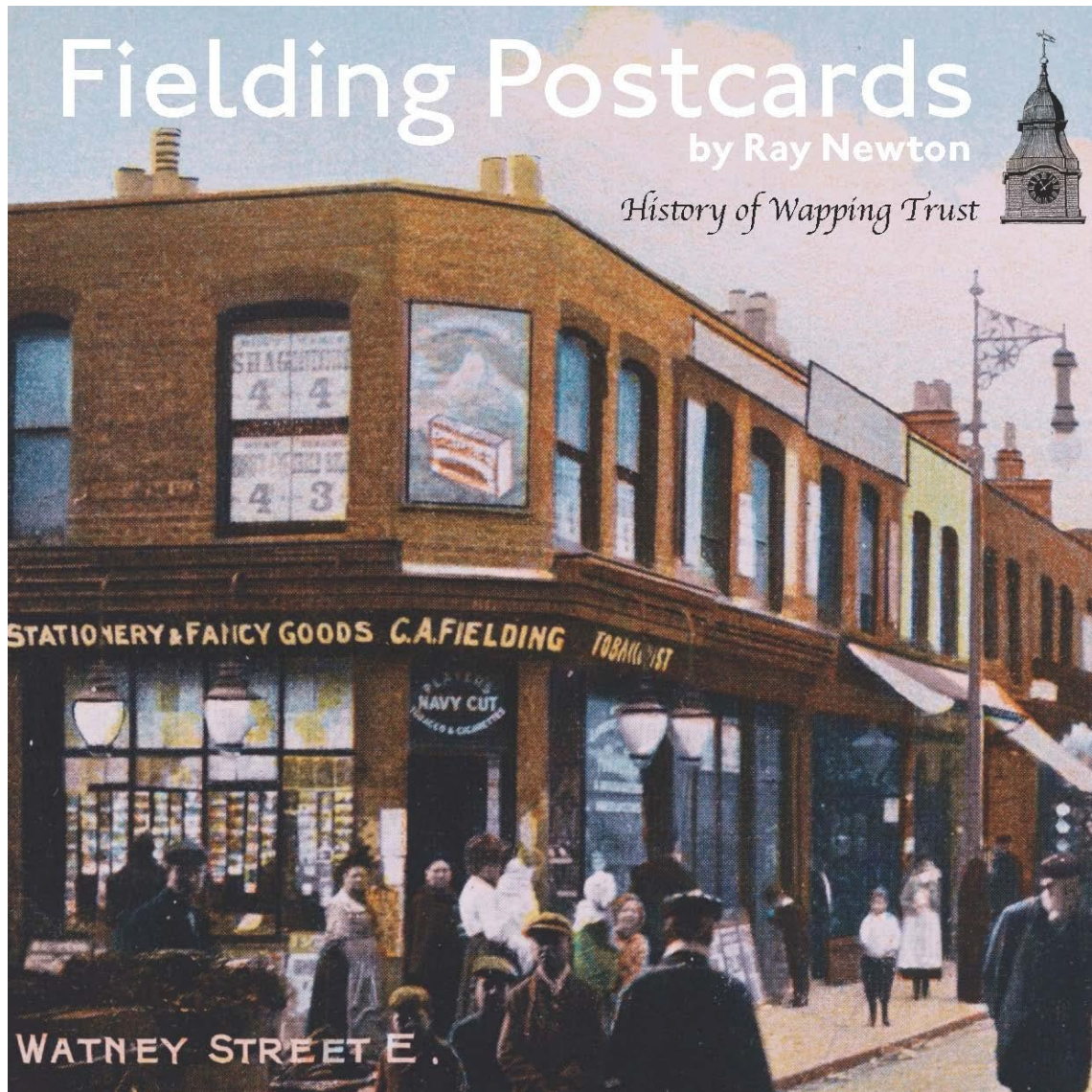
Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives, Education Room

A fitting finale for the exhibition, for our last event in the *Next Stop* programme we're thrilled to welcome the esteemed London railway historian **Jim Connor** to give a talk. Jim was born in the East End and lived in Stepney Green. He began to be fascinated by disused stations at an early age, when he first saw the street level building of the original Aldgate East whilst passing on a bus en-route to Gamages in Holborn (a department store noted for its model railway section). Jim also became familiar with the two derelict stations between Fenchurch Street and Stepney East (now Limehouse), which he often saw when travelling by train. With their blackened brickwork and broken windows they looked forbidding to his young eyes, but they nevertheless engendered a curiosity, which eventually resulted in him making detailed studies of all the disused passenger stations in Greater London.

A prolific local history author and publisher, in 1994 Jim co-founded the magazine London Railway Record with his late partner Barbara and subsequently published two bestsellers on disused London Underground stations. Join Jim and exhibition curator Genova Messiah for a talk about the East End's lost stations, followed by a Q&A.

Jim is a proper legend, so this will be popular! [Book your free ticket here.](#)

History of Wapping Trust event



Book Launch | *Fielding Postcards*

Thursday 22 January | 5.30pm - 8pm

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives, Education Room

Fielding Postcards is the latest book from the History of Wapping Trust. Published in memory of local historian Ray Newton, the book presents a unique set of 33 colour picture postcards sold by Watney Street newsagent Charles Fielding in the early 1900s. The postcards celebrate the East End of London and are shown together with a brief history of each scene and a contemporary photograph.

The evening will start with a presentation on 'The History of Colour Postcards' by Steve Kentfield, followed by a slide show of the 33 Fielding postcards by John Tarby. The book will be on sale as we celebrate its publication.

[Book your free place here!](#) Doors open at 5.30pm with the presentation starting at 6pm sharp.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2026

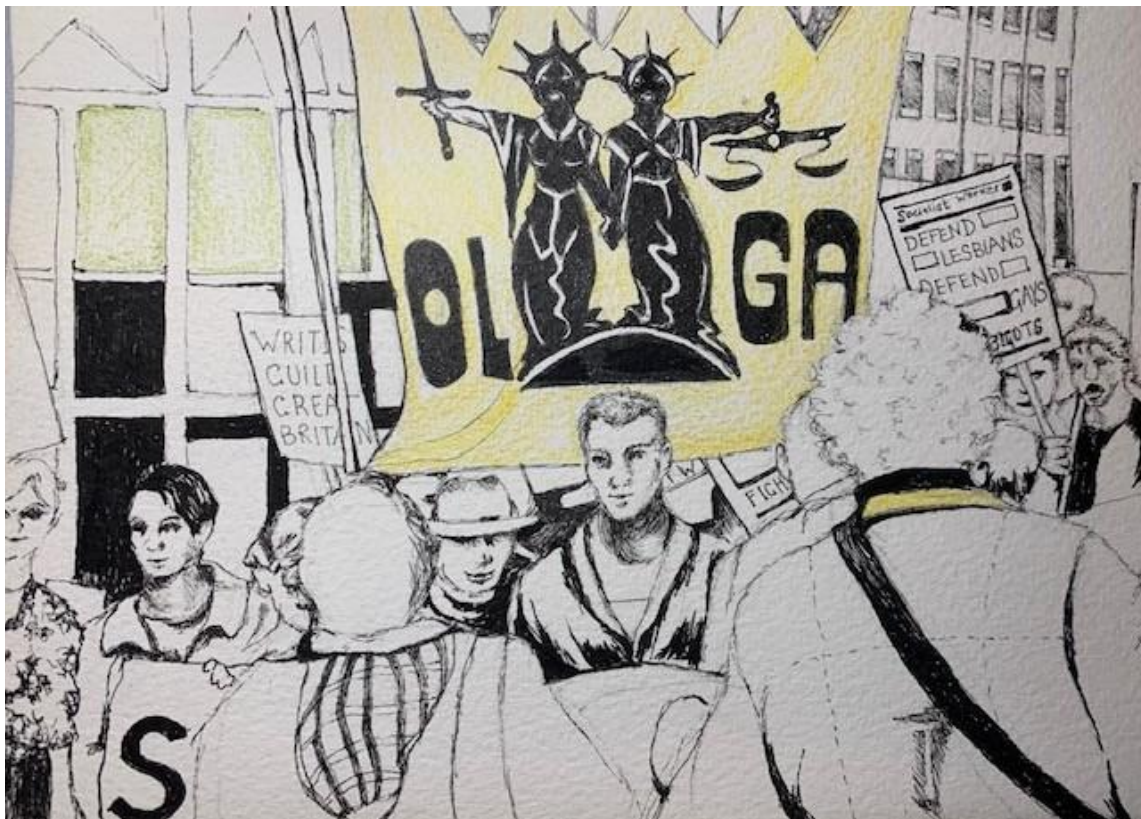
[Holocaust Memorial Day](#) takes place on 27 January each year.

Tower Hamlets Council marks Holocaust Memorial Day annually with a programme of events. Our readers may be interested in these two events on Sunday 25 January, led by friend of the archives Prof. Nadia Valman (Queen Mary, University of London).

Events are free to attend but advance booking is required. More info here:

[Guided Walk: Remembering the Jewish East End before and after the Holocaust](#)
[Tower Hamlets Holocaust Memorial Day Interfaith Memorial Event](#)

LGBTQ+ History Month



Never Going Underground | Exhibition

Friday 6 February - Saturday 28 February

Venue: Brady Centre, 192-196 Hanbury Street, London E1 5HU

A new exhibition is being staged at the Brady Centre in Whitechapel to commemorate LGBTQ+ presence and resistance over the years. The artwork on display is by a range of artists and will include photography, drawing and electronic and video art. It is situated in the cosy café at Brady Arts with fresh handmade meals. All are welcome! The image above gives its name to the exhibition - 'Never Going Underground' by Atalanta Kernick, artist and curator, depicts a Stop Clause 28 march.

Film Screenings

Throughout February

Venues: Idea Stores and libraries

During February there will be a series of free screenings of LGBTQ+ films across Tower Hamlets libraries and Idea Stores. The films have been selected by staff from the wide range of titles available on [Kanopy](#), a streaming platform which is free to access for Idea Store members.

To find out what films are being screened and where, please keep an eye on [the website](#) or visit your local library.

Parent and Baby East End History Club

Friday 6 February | 10.00am-11.30am

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives, Education Room

Come along to our regular monthly Parent/Carers & Under 5s meet up, and explore historical records on the famous East End. A chance to meet other parents, enjoy a cuppa and look through our unique collection of maps, photographs, newspapers, pamphlets and much more. A range of toys available for children ages 0-5 with a mini brunch and refreshments including tea & coffee. No booking required. Just drop-in!

A Season of Bangla Drama 2026

The annual Bengali drama festival organised by Tower Hamlets Arts & Events will take place 6-29 November 2026, and this year's theme is CURIOSITY. Submissions are now open. The deadline is on Tuesday 24 February at 10am.

To submit a proposal for the **theatre** programme, please [complete the Expression of Interest form](#). NB submissions from overseas companies are not eligible.

Advance notice of stocktaking closure

Our annual closure for stocktaking will take place between Monday 23 February and Friday 6 March inclusive. There will be no public access to the building at this time. Staff will be onsite every day undertaking collections management tasks which we can't ordinarily do while operating the Reading Room. During the closure we will provide a limited email enquiry service and apologise for any inconvenience.

The last day of opening prior to the closure will be Saturday 21 February (final day of [the Next Stop exhibition](#)). We will reopen on Saturday 7 March.

News from our friends

The East London Mosque Archives are the subject of a [new video podcast](#), 'Preserving Muslim History', on YouTube. We get a shout out! Thank you to Dr Jamil Sherif, Chair of the East London Mosque Archives Steering Group, of which our manager Tamsin Bookey is a member.

Oxford House in Bethnal Green is hosting some brilliant events - including an East End [Speed History night](#) with Alan Gilbey and friends.

Alan is running also running a Speed Histories short course in February at Oxford House. Ever wanted to perform stories from East End history? [Check it out](#).

Congratulations to our pals at Hackney Archives with whom we celebrated the [award of Archive Accreditation](#) last night at a lovely do at Hackney Town Hall. Only 8% of UK archives have been awarded accredited status - an amazing achievement!

Get in touch with us!

- Email us: localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk
- Visit our website: <http://www.ideastore.co.uk/local-history>
- Phone (answered during Reading Room opening hours only): 020 7364 1290

Reading Room opening hours

- Tuesday 10.00am-4.30pm
- Wednesday 10.00am-4.30pm
- Thursday 10.00am-7.00pm (late opening)

First and third Saturdays of every month:

- Saturday 10.00am-5.00pm

That's the following Saturdays coming up:

- Saturday 17 January
- Saturday 7 February
- Saturday 21 February
- Saturday 7 March
- Saturday 21 March

Exhibition opening times are: 10am-5pm Monday-Friday, plus the Saturdays and Thursday evenings noted above. On Monday and Friday lunchtimes, the exhibition will be closed for lunch between 1 and 2pm.