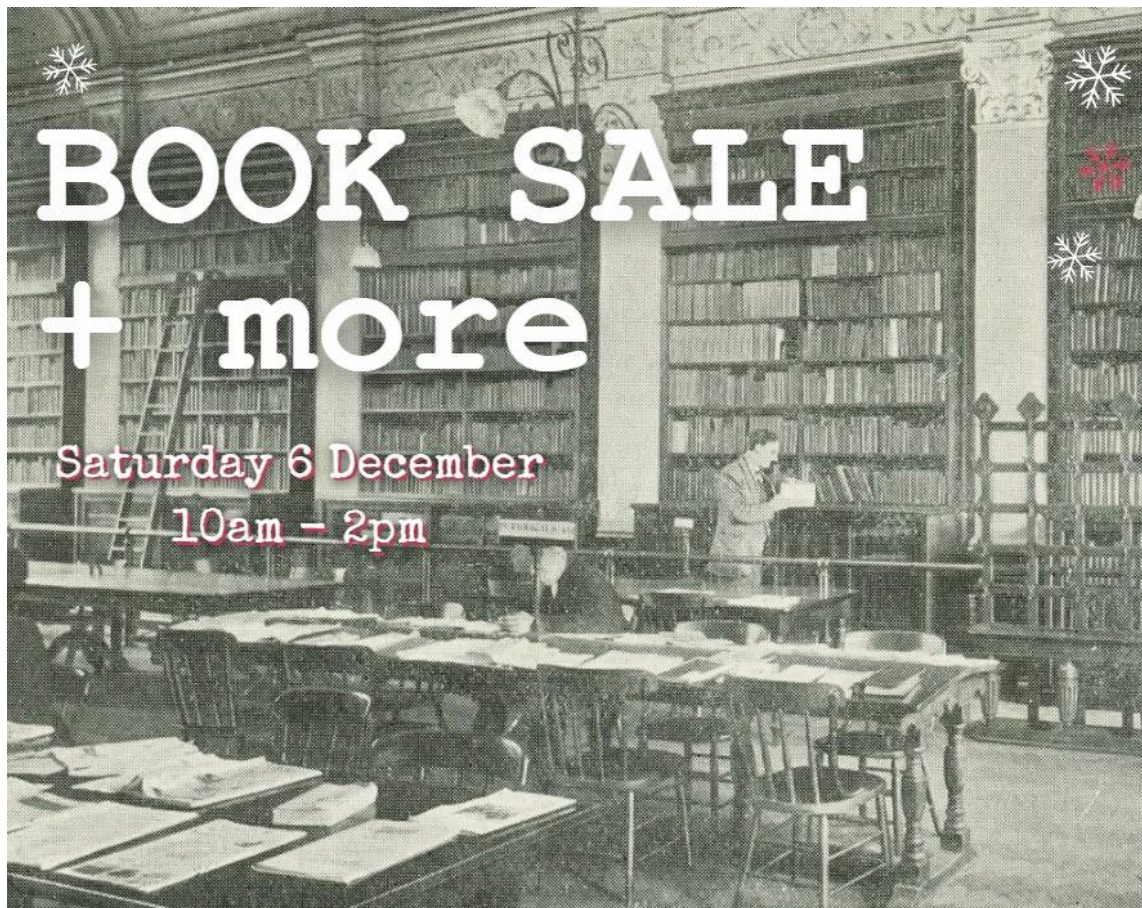


Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



Call out for festive stallholders



On Saturday 6 December, Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives is holding our annual end of year/festive season **book sale**. As usual, there will be a wide range of pre-loved local history books and pamphlets to choose from - all at the bargain price of £2 for paperback and £5 for hardbacks.

This year we are inviting artisans, crafters, zine-makers and booksellers to have a stall to sell their wares - think festive gift-giving with an East End twist. There will be hot chai available from Aberfeldy's Almari cafe and new books for sale from The Common Press, among others.

If you are a local resident or have close affiliation to the borough of Tower Hamlets and would like to join the stallholders at this event, please send through a few words (no more than 100 please) about

- who you are,
- what you make,
- your connection to the borough,
- whether you're happy to share a table (this can be with a maker-friend if you'd like)

There is a quick turnaround, so please email your interest to local.history@towerhamlets.gov.uk by Monday 17 November. This is going to be a cosy affair as our space is very limited, so please don't be deterred if we are unable to accommodate you this time round, if it's a success we'll be running it again next year!

The details are:

- Date: Saturday 6 December
- Time: 10am-2pm (get-in from 9.15am)
- Table size: 27" x 71.5" (free but bring tablecloth!)
- Location: Education Room, Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives, 277 Bancroft Road, E1 4DQ

A World Apart... exhibition launch

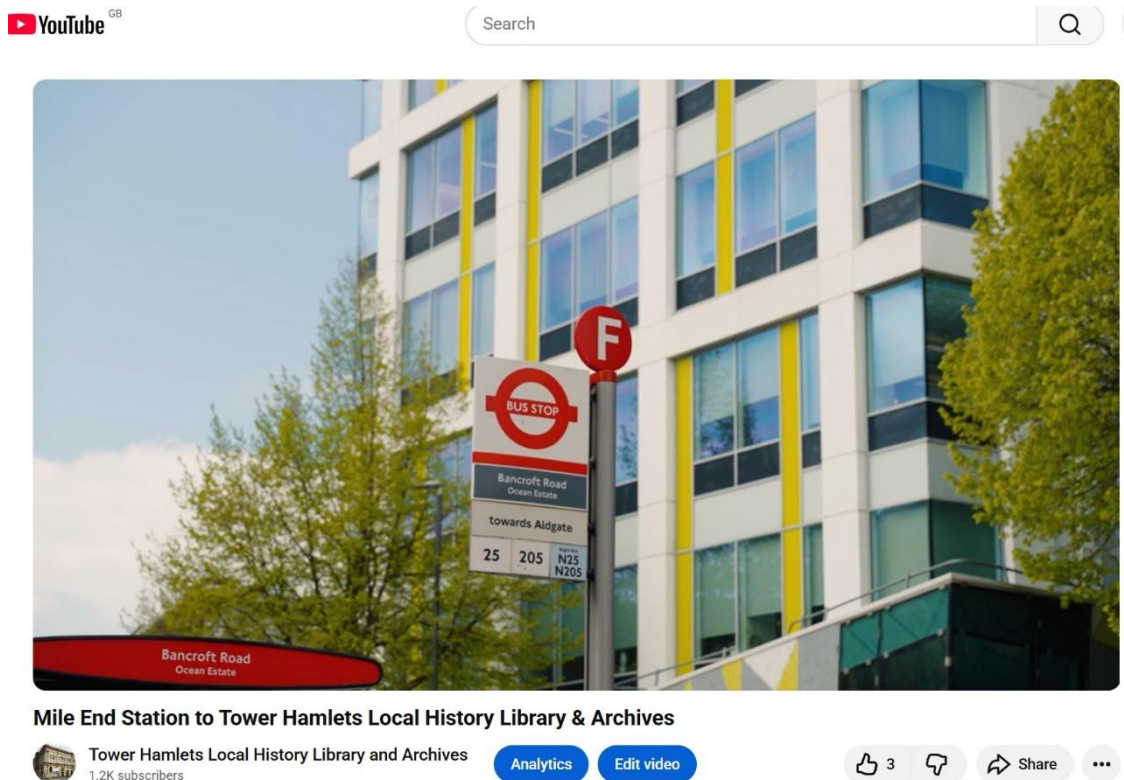


We were very pleased attend the launch of [A World Apart: Photographing Change in the East End, 1970-1976](#) at Four Corners in Bethnal Green on 23 October.

This exhibition features superb photography of the East End during the early 1970s, including a range of images from our collections which have travelled 10 minutes up the road on loan.

Pictured above is a selection from our [Down Wapping collection](#) of photos by the Exit Photography Group. Be sure to visit the exhibition before it closes on Saturday 6 December!

Wayfinding videos now live



A series of wayfinding videos are now live on our YouTube channel. If you've never visited Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives in person before or would like to be able to visualise the route here from our nearest tube stations - Stepney Green and Mile End - these videos are for you!

There are [sped-up versions](#) designed for phones and [longer versions](#) featuring information about landmarks along the route.

The films were made for us by videographer [Sophia Olaniyan](#). We are very grateful to Sophia for her work, and to our Engagement & Learning Officer Genova Messiah for being game to be our TV presenter for the day.

Tom Lyddon's East End cityscapes



Art exhibition | 1 December - 27 March

First floor landing, Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

We're delighted to be hosting a small exhibition of local artist **Tom Lyddon**'s artworks which he recently deposited here with us at the archive. Staff have selected a range of his mixed media works which depict a vibrant variety of cityscapes across Tower Hamlets.

Tom Lyddon 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.

An official launch event will be held in January; however the exhibition will be available to view on our first floor landing from 1 December.

Upcoming events

We are pleased to announce that our remaining two evening events for 2025 - the London & Blackwall Railway talk with Jago Hazzard, and the E1 Festival film screening - are fully booked! To the extent that we are having to borrow additional chairs from other council buildings!

Thank you for supporting Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives. More events for January will be announced in our December newsletter, out in a few weeks.

Local history for all ages

Friday 5 December | 10am-11.30am

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

Looking after young children need not prevent you from exploring our collections! Parents or carers of under 5s are invited to join our monthly 'stay and play' sessions - bring your little one, meet other parents over a cuppa, and browse some local history materials selected in advance by our Engagement & Learning Officer from the archive. Drop in - no booking required.



EAST END HISTORY CLUB: Parent/Carer & Under 5s



TERM TIME ONLY

**FRIDAY 5 DEC
FRIDAY 6 FEB
FRIDAY 6 MAR**

10AM-11:30AM

Other events coming up...

Idea Store's annual [Writeidea Festival](#) takes place at Tower Hamlets Town Hall in Whitechapel on 21-23 November. The programme of authors and activities is excellent, and we will have a stall on the Saturday and Sunday. Swing by, say hi, and buy some local history books or a 2026 Friends of Island History Trust calendar. Pleasingly, we will be able to take card payments for the first time ever!

Swadhinata Trust are holding a [Bengali East End history walk on Thursday 13 November](#) for those interested in Bengali migration and settlement in the East End of London. It's an opportunity to learn about the Bengali community's heritage and the legacy of the British Empire.

[A Season of Bangla Drama](#) continues until the end of November.

The annual lecture of the **George Lansbury Memorial Trust** takes place on Thursday 20 November, held at LSE Library. This year's speaker, John Cooper of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, focusses on George Lansbury's faith and its influence on his pacifism. [Book your free place here.](#)

Next Stop exhibition continues

The poster features a stylized map of Tower Hamlets in green, with a blue river winding through it. Seven circular callouts of different colors (green, purple, red, orange, blue, teal, and light blue) are connected to the map by lines, each containing a line drawing of a different mode of public transport: a bicycle, a bus, a horse-drawn carriage, a bridge, a train, a boat, and a tram. In the top right corner, there is a green circle with the text 'FREE ENTRY' in white. The title 'NEXT STOP' is written in large, bold letters, with 'NEXT' in white and 'STOP' in red. Below the title, the text '900 Years of Public Transport in Tower Hamlets' is written in bold black. At the bottom left, the exhibition dates '19 July 2025 - 21 February 2026' are written in green, and the location 'Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives' is written in black.

**NEXT
STOP**

**900 Years of
Public Transport
in Tower Hamlets**

**Exhibition
19 July 2025 - 21 February 2026**

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

Our current exhibition [Next Stop: the history of public transport in Tower Hamlets](#) continues to draw the crowds! Over 600 people came to see it in October alone. It's our first ever family-friendly exhibition, with content and games for children as well as a wide range of archival items for those interested in the local history of the borough's roads, trains, boats, bridges and buses.

If you're looking for kids' holiday activities, pay us a visit before we close our doors for Christmas. We'll be shut from 24 December - 2 January inclusive.

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 15 November
- Saturday 6 December
- Saturday 20 December
- Saturday 3 January
- Saturday 17 January

Our last day of opening before Christmas is Tuesday 23 December. We will reopen on Saturday 3 January.

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.



TOWER HAMLETS



Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives, 277 Bancroft Road,
London E1 4DQ

You can update your subscription preferences at any time. [Update your details](#) or [change your subscription preferences](#)