

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



March events bulletin

A full newsletter will follow in the last week of March. Meanwhile, please scroll down to read about the packed events programme we've got going on for the next couple of weeks!



Exhibition | Now until Saturday 29 March | Free entry

Venue: Tower Hamlets Town Hall, 160 Whitechapel Road, E1 4BJ

Thanks to the over 115 people who joined us at the launch event for this fantastic exhibition last week. [Communities of Liberation](#) is a new public exhibition bringing to light Black experiences in Tower Hamlets during the transatlantic Slave Trade.

The exhibition is based on the research and creative work of six local residents who have used Tower Hamlets' archive collections to tell stories of the lives of Africans who lived in the East End between 1567 and 1802. These include...

- o Sabinah, transported from Jamaica, who found refuge in Whitechapel
- o Pompey, a trumpet player in Bethnal Green
- o Ann, a "Negro maid" in Limehouse who escaped from her captor

The exhibition features artwork, poetry, podcasts, and creative writing, as well as the archival sources which inspired the Co-Producers.

Researched and created by the Communities of Liberation team in collaboration with Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives. Supported by Historic England and Tower Hamlets Council.

The exhibition will be on show between 1 - 29 March in the new Tower Hamlets Town Hall, located between reception and the Grocers Wing. It's open to the public Monday to Friday, 9am to 6.30pm and Thursdays until 8pm.

[Find out more](#)

Events programme

Collage and the Archive

Thursday 20 March | 6.00-8.00pm

Venue: Tower Hamlets Town Hall, 160 Whitechapel Road, E1 1BJ

This collage workshop, led by artist Holly Graham, will explore creative visual approaches to responding to archival material; drawing upon strategies such as Christina Sharpe's 'wake work' and Saidiya Hartman's 'critical fabulation'. Holly will share reflections arising from working with Tower Hamlets Library & Archive research material with the Communities of Liberation Co-Producers, and in her previous work with archives documenting individuals from the African diaspora. Together we'll use collage to explore visual approaches to amplify quiet histories and fill in gaps in collections.

[Book your place](#)

Book Launch and Closing Night

Thursday 27 March | 6.00-8.00pm

Venue: Tower Hamlets Town Hall, 160 Whitechapel Road, E1 1BJ

At this closing event for the exhibition, join the Communities of Liberation steering group and archive staff at Tower Hamlets Town Hall as we launch an A4, full colour, expanded book version of the exhibition.

Guest speaker Montaz Marché will lead attendees through some of the stories and histories of African people rediscovered through the Communities of Liberation project, highlight the rich and more intimate understanding we can gauge of African presence in Tower Hamlets and their relationship to their environments throughout the early modern period.

[Book your place](#)

Launching tonight at Bancroft Road

The Brady Clubs

A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE



Exhibition | Friday 14 March - Saturday 21 June | Free

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

The Brady Boys' Club opened in 1896 in the heart of London's former Jewish East End and by 1925 the Brady Girls' Club was established, moving to purpose-built facilities in Hanbury Street E1 in 1935. Together, the Brady Clubs provided youth facilities and expanded the horizons of largely underprivileged young people for over 80 years.

The Brady Clubs: A Legacy for the Future is an immersive exhibition that explores the immense impact of youth provision on both the individuals concerned and society at large. The Brady Club's legacy stands as testament to the profound impact such initiatives can have and serves as an appeal to government, policymakers, community leaders, and the public to recognise the indispensable role of youth services in shaping positive life trajectories.

Throughout the exhibition, visitors will be given the opportunity to engage with the Brady Club experience: through digital links to podcasts and stories, by listening to music, playing games, dressing up, and sitting in

the canteen environment to read youth-generated Club magazines and examine Brady Club Holiday albums.

Film event: The Legacy of the Brady Boys and Girls

Thursday 27 March | 6.30-8.30pm | Free

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

Join us for a screening of short films based on the videoed oral histories of former Brady Club members. These films highlight the importance of youth work for the development and life chances of young people and offer vital lessons for how society provides opportunities for young people today.

Screenings will be followed by a Q&A with film-maker Susan Andrews, Emeritus Reader in Photography at London Metropolitan University, researcher Anna Perceval, Trustee of the Bradians Trust and a guest speaker to be confirmed.

Tickets for this event are free, but strictly limited, so please book in advance. Only ticket holders will be admitted. You may be asked for ID, and bags may be checked in line with many other museums and exhibitions.

[Book your place](#)

Fully booked

500 Years of Irish Women in Tower Hamlets

Saturday 15 March | 2.00-4.00pm | Free

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

The extraordinary demand for events about Irish women's history has been noted!! This event has been fully booked for ages. If you have a ticket and can no longer attend, please release your ticket to the waiting list.

If you're coming, please be prepared to stand, or give up your seat to someone who needs it more than you.

The event will be recorded and uploaded to our YouTube channel so no-one will miss out!

Narratives of Time

ন্যারাটিভস অফ টাইম

Narratives of Time is a new project seeking to capture the rich evolutionary history of Bangla Natok in East London through oral history and research. It will explore theatre, storytelling, playwriting, and community progression in East London from 1963 to 2013.

Narratives of Time will help reveal how a small group of people first kept Bengali drama alive when they first migrated to London. It will also explore experiences such as racism, decline of local industries, the closure of the docks, resistance, and rising unemployment.

The project will begin in April 2025 and will be completed by November 2026. The research outcomes will include an online book, an exhibition and a theatre production (part of A Season of Bangla Drama 2026).

Voluntary community participant role

We aim to recruit 12 community participants, who will receive a range of training and support to deliver the project. They will undertake background archival research, oral history recordings and collect past drama scripts and publicity materials. The research will be undertaken in the three headings below.

- Oral history - interviewing playwrights, actors, producers and directors; collecting stories/scripts/posters/photos from past drama performances
- Archival research - looking at overall developments of Bangla drama during each of the five decades and contextualise that within changes in East London, both drama and non-drama related developments
- Researching developments in Bengal/Bangladesh: How during the 19th Century Bangla drama developed in Kolkata (Calcutta) due to British influence and synthesising with local traditions. How Bangla drama developed in East

Pakistan after the partition of India and in Bangladesh after independence in 1971.

This is a voluntary role with an opportunity to discover and share a significant heritage, mostly unknown to the wider public. The community participants will receive the following support to deliver the project.

- Travel and volunteers' expenses – up to £375 per person for the duration of the project to cover refreshment, lunch, journeys, etc.
- Respond to needs, if possible, as and when required
- Create opportunities for networking and sharing and access to experts in the field.

Application Deadline: 15 April, 12 noon.

Please read project details carefully and the commitments involved before submitting your application. For more information, please email seasonofbangladrama@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Further info and application form: forms.office.com

Call for public transport memories

Did you, or do you know someone that used to work on public transport in Tower Hamlets? Whether on the buses, trains, DLR or in any public transport role in the mid to late C20th.... If you are comfortable being recorded, we'd love to hear from you. We're collecting oral histories, memories and recollections to be preserved in our collections and featured in an upcoming exhibition and educational workshops. Please get in touch! If you're not sure your story fits the criteria, please still get in touch via email and we will be happy to chat!

Email us: localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Make sure to include 'TRANSPORT ORAL HISTORY' in the subject heading.

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

First and third Saturdays of every month:

- Saturday 10.00am-5.00pm

That's the following Saturdays coming up:

- Saturday 15 March
- Saturday 5 April
- Saturday 19 April

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.



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Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives, 277 Bancroft Road,
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