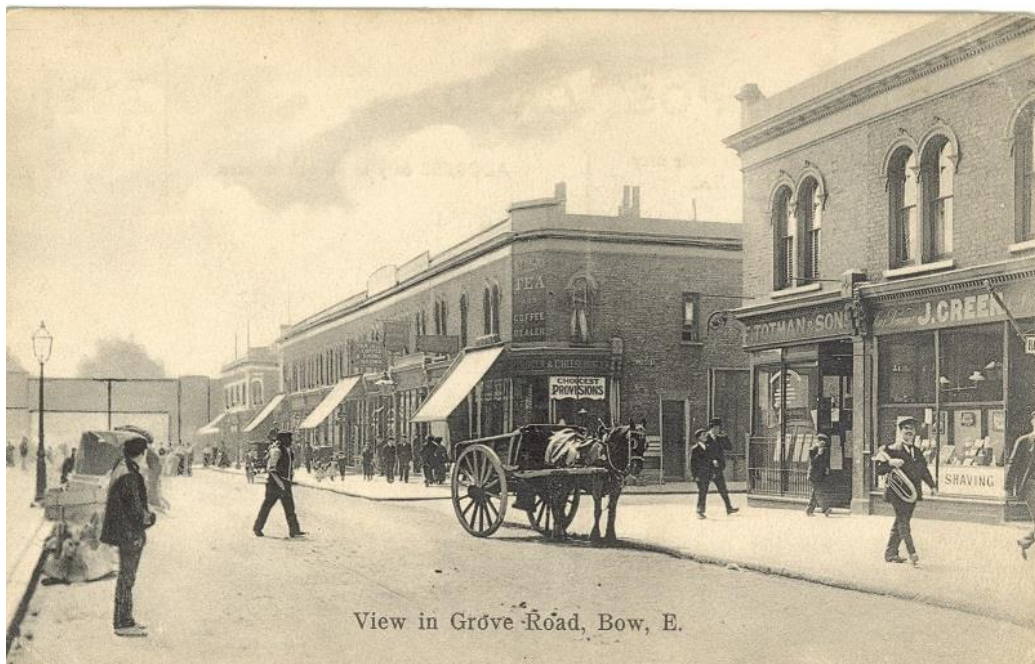


Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



The streets where we live and work



We are delighted to launch a new series of introductory sessions designed to help people gain detailed knowledge of how to use our collections. The first two sessions in the series are focussed on house history.

Are you curious about the history of your home or of other buildings in the borough of Tower Hamlets? Join Archives Manager **Richard Wiltshire** and Local History Officer **Debbie Smith** for a free, in-depth exploration to help you get up and running researching the history of your home or another local landmark.

Each free, 40 minute session comprises:

- An introduction to sources for researching key buildings and places in Tower Hamlets

- A tour of the Reading Room, with highlights of relevant original documents on display for you to browse
- Stay on in the Reading Room to make a start on your own research (until 7pm on Thursday 19th and until 5pm on Saturday 21st)

This is a small group event, limited to 6 places per session.

[Book here](#) for **Thursday 19 June, 5.30pm**

[Book here](#) for **Saturday 21 June, 2.30pm**

Please [register to use the Reading Room](#) before you visit and bring proof of your address.

Curators' tour of current exhibition



Thursday 29 May | 5.30pm-7.00pm | Free - [book your place here](#)

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives, Exhibition hall

Join us for an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at our current exhibition [The Brady Clubs: A Legacy for the Future](#). Curators **Susan Andrews** and **Anna Perceval** will guide you through the history and significance of the Brady Clubs, offering insights and stories that you won't find anywhere else. Don't miss this

unique opportunity to delve into the past and discover a legacy that continues to shape the future.

What is Cockney Yiddish?



Thursday 5 June | 6.00pm-7.30pm | Free, booking required

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

Discover the world of Cockney Yiddish, when immigrant Jews encountered Cockney Londoners and a new culture emerged. Expect to hear stories and songs dealing with universal immigrant experiences - such as the tension between the traditions of their old countries and modern urban London. You want laughs? You want pathos? You got it. Bring your own Cockney mix and throw it into the pot! This event showcases [The Cockney Yiddish Podcast](#) and launches the brand new book [East End Jews](#). Presented by **Vivi Lachs** and **Nadia Valman**, historians of the Jewish East End.

[Book your place here!](#)

Archive of Weird Memories



Exhibition | 29 May - 22 August 2025

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives, first floor landing

Archive of Weird Memories is an evolving display on the landing of Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives by artist **Tan Wang-Ward**. Drawing on materials from the collections, Tan amplifies echoes of everyday life in and around historic Limehouse. Using generative AI and interactive installations, the space outside the Reading Room transforms into a living "memory lane," where past and present collide, overlap, and reshape each other. The exhibition reflects on how we remember — and what we forget — and asks what it takes to keep imagining alternative futures. Launching soon!

East End History Club: Youth Services

Saturday 7 June | 1.00pm-4.00pm | Free - drop in

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

Join us in exploring the rich history of youth clubs and youth provision in the borough. This is an opportunity to browse not only the history of youth services but also archives documenting issues that matter to young people, activities they undertook and different community spaces available to them. Themes we will explore include activism, music, magazines and community building. This is the last public event in the programme for our current exhibition **The Brady Clubs: A Legacy for the Future** - more info on that below.



The Brady Clubs exhibition

The Brady Clubs

A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE



Exhibition | FREE | Until Saturday 21 June

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

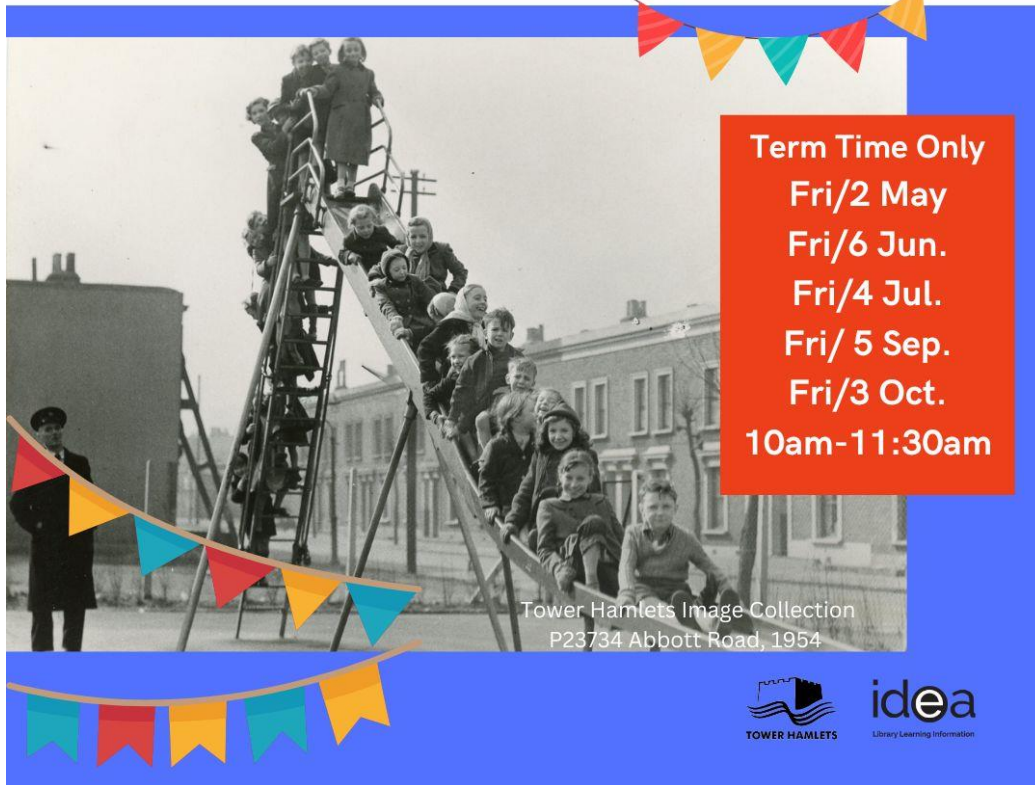
The Brady Boys' Club opened in 1896 in the heart of London's former Jewish East End and by 1925 the Brady Girls' Club was established, moving to purpose-built facilities in Hanbury Street E1 in 1935. Together, the Brady Clubs provided youth facilities and expanded the horizons of largely underprivileged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

Check out our opening hours below before visiting. We look forward to welcoming you!

East End History Club: Parent & Under 5's



Parent/Carer & Under 5s Session

Friday 6 June | 10.00-11.30am | Drop in, no booking required

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

Come along to our regular Parent & Under 5's version of East End History Club, where those looking after small children get together and explore historical records on the famous East End.

These regular monthly sessions are a chance to meet other parents, enjoy a cuppa and look through our unique collection of maps, photographs, newspapers, pamphlets and much more with your little ones. Toys will be available for children ages 0-5 with a mini kiddies' brunch and refreshments including tea & coffee.

It takes place on the first Friday of the month during term-time.

VE Day 80 round-up

On Thursday 8 May Tower Hamlets Council hosted a range of events to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Over at Bethnal Green Library, author Duncan Barratt shared stories from his book 'Blitz Kids', which features the testimony of children who survived the bombing during World War Two. During the afternoon at Mile End Art Pavilion a tea dance was held, with over 100 revellers dancing to a live big band playing 40s swing music. And here on Bancroft Road, archivists Andrew Lewis and Richard Wiltshire got out a wide range of WW2 materials for people to browse - mostly items that were created or collected by the former Metropolitan Borough Councils of Stepney, Poplar and Bethnal Green, which were the local authorities at the time of World War Two.

We hold a wide range of press cuttings, photographs and council minutes reflecting activities and experiences on the home front during the six years of war, and the long period of reconstruction afterwards. Highlights on display included a register of injured civilians seen by St Andrews Hospital in Poplar, with their names, addresses and type of injury recorded; a bomb damage map of Bethnal Green; and personal papers of the Veltman family, two of whom died in the V2 rocket strike on Hughes Mansions, Vallance Road in March 1945.

We were pleased to welcome to the event Unmesh Desai, London Assembly Member for City and East, as well as local councillors and residents. To conduct your own research into how the Second World War affected the people and places of Tower Hamlets, visit our Reading Room!



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 7 June
- Saturday 21 June
- Saturday 5 July

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

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