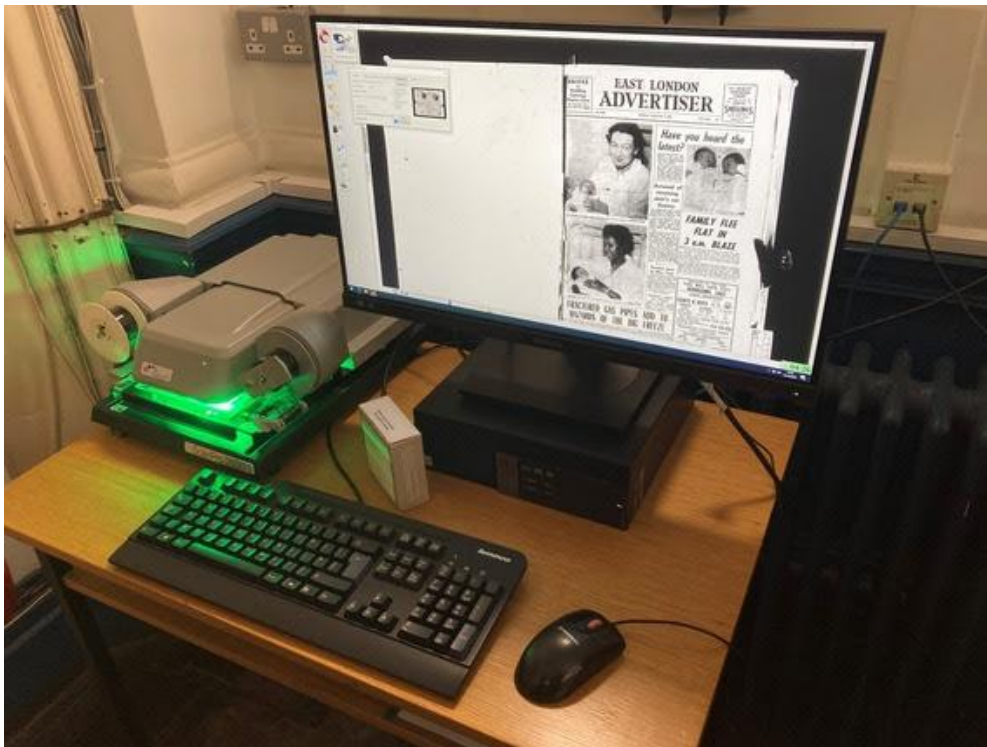


Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



Digitising the Advertiser



If you're interested in researching Tower Hamlets in the 1960s but dread the thought of scrolling through page after page of microfilmed newspapers, you'll be excited to hear that we have begun digitising our 1960s issues of the *East London Advertiser*!

Using our new digital microfilm reader, we've begun scanning these issues using Optical Character Recognition (OCR). This not only creates high quality digitised versions of the original pages but allows you to search across a year's worth of issues for a specific word, name or phrase.

Which decade would you like us to digitise next?

- The 1950s? 
- The 1970s? 
- The 1980s? 

• The 1990s?



• Something else?



Let us know! Our contact details at the bottom of this email.

For more info on our historic newspaper collections, check out our new [Newspapers and periodicals](#) research guide.



Cuttings and leaflets relating to breastfeeding from the THLHLA collections

Exploring infant feeding support in Tower Hamlets

Friday 20 October, 5.30-6.15pm

Online via Zoom | Free

In 1997 the first breastfeeding support group in Tower Hamlets was established at the Eve Armsby Centre. Today regular weekly infant feeding support groups take place in children's centres throughout the borough - but do you know how it all began, almost forty years ago?

Join us on Friday for an online talk which will provide unique insight into the history of infant feeding in Tower Hamlets past and present, with **Joy Hastings**, retired Infant Feeding Manager. We are delighted to have conducted an oral history interview with Joy which will soon be catalogued as part of our collections.

Joy will be in conversation about her pioneering contributions to maternity care in Tower Hamlets, explore archive collections and discuss more recent initiatives with **Genova Messiah** (Heritage Officer) and **Rosa Schling**, oral historian.

This event is held in partnership with the [Grow Your Own](#) childcare oral history project and London Challenge Poverty Week.

Black History Month 2023



Memory reimagined. Artwork by Basil Olton, 2017 (unfired paper clay, screenprint). Image courtesy of the artist

We are pleased to be hosting two events for this year's BHM - details below. Please check out the [Tower Hamlets Black History Month programme](#) for more.

What We Have Become

Thursday 26 October, 6.30-7.30pm

Online via Zoom | Free

Three artists discuss their work at the intersection of history, memory, identity and representation.

Basil Olton is a ceramics artist whose practice explores the ways in which cultural identity is both formed and ruptured through the impact of colonialism on institutional memory. He is interested in the creative use of archives as a mode of expression and held a solo exhibition *A necessary fiction* at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives in 2017.

Kelly Wu is a queer artist from Essex whose practice encompasses performance, sculpture, and installation, fixating on found and at times, stolen, objects. She is interested in Chineseness, family, memory, and the inner self. Her works depict the small within the big.

Diensen Pamben will be showing some work that critiques the portrayal of the Black community through the photographic lens, particularly images of protest and surveillance and the resultant effect this has on community and identity.

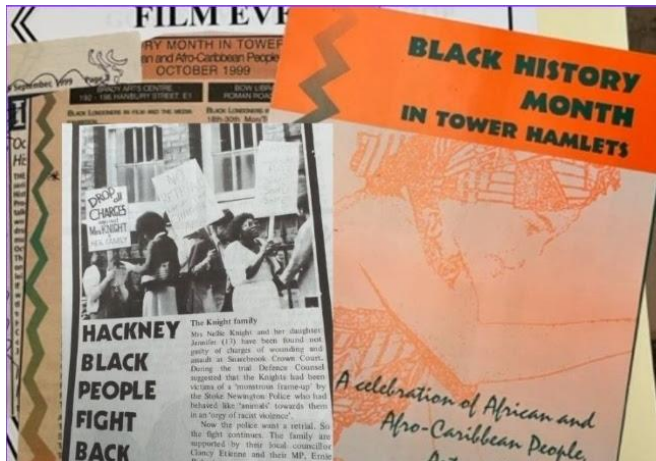
No booking needed - [check our What's On page](#) for the Zoom link on the day.

Basil is also leading a ceramics workshop at the Shadwell Centre on Saturday 28 October - click here to find out more details about this event, [Constructing Memory](#).

Exploring East End African and Caribbean archive collections

Saturday 4 November, 10.30am-4pm

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives | Free | [Book online](#)



How are the East London borough archives caring for African & Caribbean history? Come and find out at this community event taking place at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives featuring guest speakers from Hackney.

We will hear from both archivists and community members about the process of depositing their collections at borough archives, and the ways in which the histories of African & Caribbean communities in the East End are being preserved and celebrated. Find out how to care for your own records at home too in an interactive workshop.

11am-12.30pm

• Singer, Songwriter and Activist, **Janice Knight** explores her archive collection with **Dr Etienne Joseph**, Archives Manager, [Hackney Archives](#)

12.30-1.30pm

• Light refreshments – provided courtesy of Patty Heaven, Roman Road

1.30-2.30pm

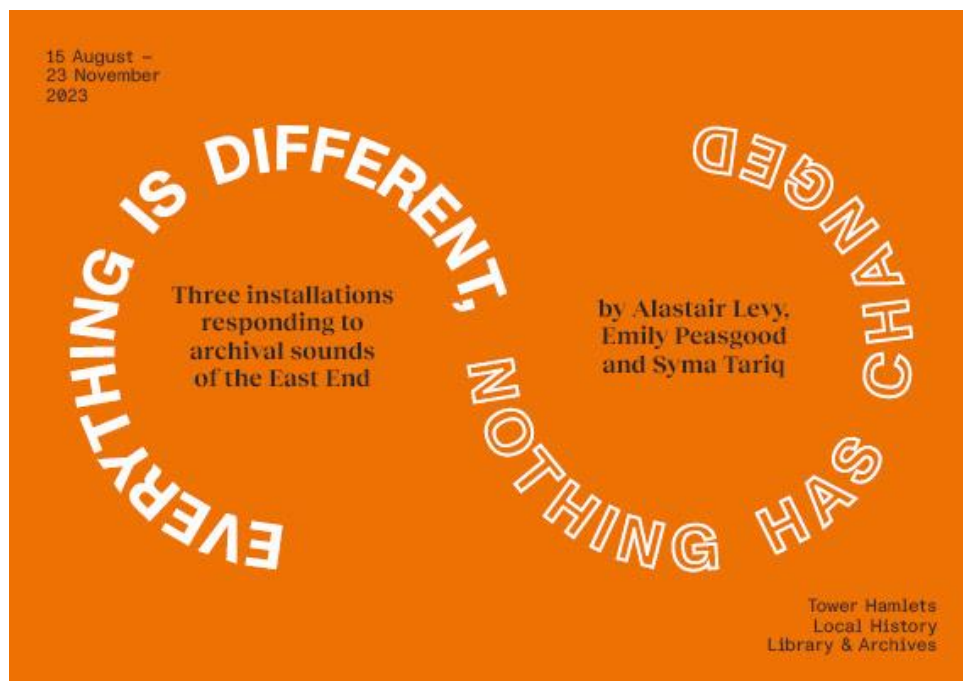
• **Harry Cumberbatch MBE**, Community Worker, talks about depositing his archive at Tower Hamlets in conversation with Richard Wiltshire, Archives Manager, Tower Hamlets Council

2.30pm-4pm

• Interactive 'DIY collections care' workshop with Genova Messiah and Richard Wiltshire from Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives. Bring examples or stories from your own records at home and find out how to keep them safe!

[Book your place here](#)

Everything is different, nothing has changed



Exhibition and events | until 23 November

There are six weeks left to catch our current exhibition - the first ever sound art installation here at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives. Inspired by the amazing collections of oral history and archival audio held in our collections, the entrance hall hosts work by three sound artists - **Alastair Levy**, **Emily Peasgood** and **Syma Tariq**.

Produced in collaboration with researchers at Queen Mary, University of London, *Everything is different, nothing has changed* uses archival audio to offer new interpretations of Tower Hamlets' past, focussing particularly on the experiences of Jewish and Bengali/Bangladeshi migrants living here during the twentieth century.

Each artist in this show takes a different approach to the archive, but recurring themes of home, memory, dislocation and protest resonate across their work. Surprising, playful and reflective, they make magic with recorded sound, bringing the past and the present up close to one other.

Thursday 16 November, 6.30-8pm

The last event in the programme will feature the artists in discussion with curators and historians Nadia Valman, Tamsin Bookey, Rehana Ahmed and Alan Dein, focussing on the context of the East End's social and public history. This event is part of the [Being Human Festival](#).

[Book your place here - Re-sounding the East End](#)

Writeidea Festival 2023

The Idea Store's annual festival of books and reading takes place at Bethnal Green Library on the weekend 4-5 November.

The local history team will have a stall selling some of our second hand and duplicate book stock and will also be chairing some of the talks.

With 27 separate events taking place over the weekend there is a fantastic lineup of writers whose work spans history, housing, politics, art and food!

Do [check out the programme and book your free tickets now](#).



Guides to our collections - and yours

Staff have been working on an ever-expanding set of online [user guides](#) to our collections. Topics covered include family history, health and welfare, schools and maps. Our newest guide is on our collection of [Newspapers and periodicals](#) - check it out now!

We have also recently published [Caring for your collections](#) - a guide to help you think about future actions you can take for your own records to help safeguard them for generations to come. We all have documents we keep at home or as part of an organisation, and some hold historical value. This guide explores common scenarios for best practice on caring for your own records. We have also included three case studies.

Poplar in the C18th century

Did you know we have some of the oldest local authority records in London? Our holdings include C16th records created by the Inhabitants of the Hamlet of Poplar and Blackwall, and C18th records from the parish of All Saints Poplar.

As these volumes can be hard to read, our volunteers have been set to work indexing the names and information in some of the key volumes. For Poplar this includes the churchwarden and overseer account book, 1744-1767 ([L/ASP/F/2/2](#)) and workhouse registers, 1773-1833 ([L/ASP/F/3](#)).T

The first completed workhouse register volume is [L/ASP/F/3/1](#) with more to follow in the coming months.

Clicking on the link above, you should see the full names and ages of everyone admitted to the workhouse between 1773 and 1776, and to "the factory" in 1778-1779 and 1781.

The volumes are not yet digitised so if searching the catalogue yields interesting results, drop in to see the volumes in person in the Reading Room.

Date	Description	Amount
May 31	P ^d W ^m Reynolds & Children	2
	P ^d J ^m Poole	1
June 7	P ^d a Woman for catching a Hedgehog	4
	P ^d W ^m Reynolds & Children	2
	P ^d W ^m Crawford for One Month	1
	P ^d W ^m Willoughby by Order of the Committee	2.6
	P ^d W ^m Horsman sick	1
	P ^d J ^m Pooley poor	6
	Expences upon the Hamlet Affairs	2.3
14	P ^d W ^m Reynolds & Children	2
	P ^d Elizth Hughes sick	1
	P ^d W ^m Horsman sick	

The image above is of a great entry which was found by volunteer Anne Connaughton in the churchwarden and overseer account book, 1744-1767, [L/ASP/F/2/2](#)

It shows that in 1744 an unnamed woman was paid a four pence bounty by the local authority for 'catching a hedgehog'. At the time many wild mammals were considered vermin by local parish authorities. This hedgehog was living in Poplar when it was a mostly rural riverside hamlet.

Churchwardens' accounts are invaluable resource to paint a picture of life in the C18th borough, including contemporary wildlife! A big thank you to Anne and all our volunteers.

Contact 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 21 October
- Saturday 4 November
- Saturday 18 November
- Saturday 2 December
- Saturday 16 December

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.