

# Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



## Events bulletin

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We have a flurry of new events to announce, so here is an interim events bulletin ahead of our main November newsletter which will be out in a couple of weeks.

## Film screening: E1 Festival

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Thursday 27 November | 6.00 - 7.30pm

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

Come along for an exclusive screening of the 1972 Man Alive documentary *Alright, We'll Do It Ourselves*, which explores the origins of Stepney's E1 Festival. Directed by Jenny Barraclough, this 50-minute film is a fascinating snapshot of Stepney in the early 1970s, and includes oral histories from local people, plus music from East End artists and footage of community events and activism.

This screening is a collaboration with [Four Corners](#) gallery, as part of their current exhibition [A World Apart: Photographing Change in London's East End, 1970-76](#). The event will also feature a Q&A, plus a chance to view rare photographs of the 1972-73 festivals from our image collection, such as the one above of the 1973 festival by George Hubert-Jones (ref P18582). The event will be hosted by our Local History Librarian, Robert Jones, and Carla Mitchell from Four Corners.

**Note:** Our copy of the film was digitised from a VHS tape which unfortunately had an intermittent buzzing on the audio track. We hope this does not detract from your enjoyment of the film.

[Book your free place here!](#)

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## History Day @ Senate House

**Tuesday 4 November | 11.00am-4.00pm**

Venue: Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU

We will have a stall at the annual [History Day](#) fair at the Institute of Historical Research. History Day is a day for students, researchers & history enthusiasts to explore library, museum, archive and history collections across the UK & beyond. Over 70 organisations will be present, with many activities and talks on offer. This event is free, but please [book in advance](#).

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## Wartime in Bethnal Green

**Talk | Local history sources for the impact of WW1 and WW2**



**Monday 10 November | 11.00am - 12 noon**

Venue: Bethnal Green Library - drop in, no booking required

Join our **Archives Manager, Richard Wiltshire** for a talk during Remembrance Week exploring the impact of two world wars on Bethnal Green as well as wider Tower Hamlets. Richard will share some of our incredible sources, including the photo above of Cyprus Street (Ref: L/BGM/F/6/1/30) which document the impact of these devastating wars on the East End's home front. The talk will take place at Bethnal Green Library where the municipal borough's war memorial is located.

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## New to research?

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**Introduction to researching the history of communities | Thu 13 Nov, Sat 15 Nov**

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

We have two new sessions coming up intended to showcase the incredible breadth of our collections and support you to get the most out of researching here. Each event is free to attend and identical: a 30 minute introduction to a wide range of sources held here which can be used to research the **histories of Tower Hamlets' communities**, followed by a tour of the Reading Room, including some highlights from the collections. Then you'll be encouraged to stay on and continue your own personal research. Whichever of our borough's varied communities interests you, we're sure to have something about their experience in our holdings, and we'll share our tactics for identifying possible sources beyond a free-text search of the catalogue.

Places are strictly limited - please book here:

[Thursday 13 November, 5.30-6.30pm](#) - limited availability

[Saturday 15 November, 2.30-3.30pm](#) - fully booked, keep an eye out for returns

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## Talk: London's Strangest Railway

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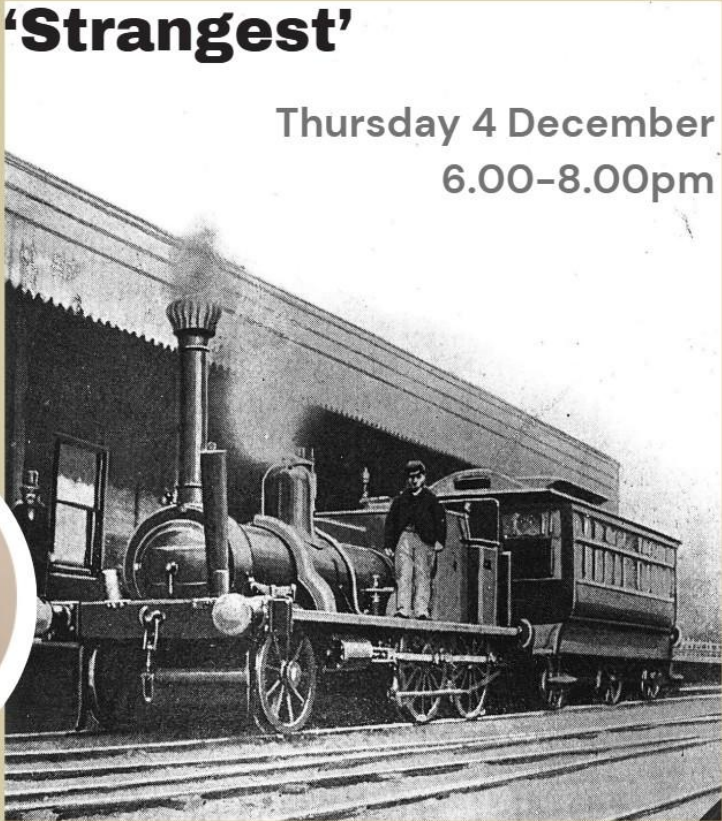
**The London & Blackwall Line**

**London's 'Strangest' Railway**

**Thursday 4 December**  
**6.00-8.00pm**

**...with Jago Hazzard**

NEXT  
STOP



Ariel's Girdle, Millwall Station, 1872

**Thursday 4 December, 6.00-8.00pm**

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

Join us for a talk about the long-lost London & Blackwall Railway with very special guest speaker [Jago Hazzard](#). Jago is a YouTuber with over 250k subscribers and nearly 1000 videos documenting the curious, the weird and the very interesting complexities of UK transport. This talk is part of the events programme for [Next Stop](#), our current exhibition about the history of public transport in the East End.

Booking required - the link will be posted in next newsletter. Save the date!

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## A Season of Bangla Drama

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Tower Hamlets Council's unique and acclaimed theatre festival returns this November and this year's theme is 'Kindness'. The festival showcases eleven new productions examining what kindness means from different perspectives. Themes include:

- kindness seen through the eyes of migrants
- the kindness of caring for our own wellbeing
- how kindness and empathy can have a positive impact in our communities, in both quiet unseen gestures as well as in rebellious acts.

The programme includes drama and comedy, conversation, music and songs. **A Season of Bangla Drama** champions new writing and provides a platform for debut performances which resonate with East London audiences. Performances are in a mixture of Bangla, Sylheti and English. The festival takes place 1 to 30 November with performances taking place at the Brady Arts Centre and Pinter Studios, QMUL. There is also a fringe programme of events including art workshops, exhibitions, talks and walks.

[Check out the programme and book tickets here!](#)

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## Writeidea Festival 2025



**Writeidea**, Idea Store's annual FREE festival of reading is back - taking place between 21-23 November at Tower Hamlets Town Hall, with many excellent authors reading their work

along with a pop-up gazebo full of East End Speed Histories. We will have a stall selling books and maps on both the Saturday and the Sunday. [The full programme is live!](#)

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## Parent & Under 5s Session

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**Friday 5 December | 10am-11.30am**

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

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 of our local history collections. November's session has been cancelled due to staff training, so the next session will be on the first Friday of December.

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## Events from our friends

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Tower Hamlets Council is installing a plaque to [Ayub Ali 'Master'](#). The unveiling will take place at Drewett House, Christian Street E1 on Sunday 2 November at 2pm (*rescheduled from last week*). This was the former location of the Indian Seamen's Welfare League which he co-founded.

The **Old Ford ~ Bow** heritage project is holding a History Roadshow at [Idea Store Bow](#) on Saturday 8 November, 11am-4pm.

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, its influence on his pacifism and the applicability of his approach today. [Book your free place here.](#)

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## Get in touch with us!

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- Email us: [localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto: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 1 November
- Saturday 15 November
- Saturday 6 December
- Saturday 20 December

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,  
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