

**Tower Hamlets  
Local History Library  
and Archives**



# Tower Hamlets Local History Library Classification Scheme

5<sup>th</sup> Edition | 2021

**idea**  
Library Learning Information



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**030 Poplar** (*borough boundaries pre-1965*)

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- 052.2 Poplar
- 052.3 Bethnal Green

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221.16	St. Mark, Goodman's Fields
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- |            |   |
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621.37	Bethnal Green Medical Mission
622	Child welfare, maternity ( <i>excluding maternity hospitals</i> )
622.1	Child welfare centres and clinics
622.2	School treatment centres
622.4	Family planning, birth control, abortion
622.5	Child welfare associations and committees
623	Nursing
623.1	Nursing Sisters of St. John the Divine
623.2	East London Nursing Society
623.3	Shoreditch and Bethnal Green Nursing Association
623.4	Tredegar House for Probationers
623.5	British Girls' Nursing Corps
623.6	St. George Ambulance and nursing corps
624	Medical profession and associations
624.1	British Red Cross
624.2	St John's Ambulance
624.3	Hospital Savings Associations, Hospital Savings Fund
624.4	British Empire Cancer campaign
625	Medical missions
625.1	Stepney
625.2	Poplar
625.3	Bethnal Green
626	Convalescent homes
<b>630</b>	<b>Agriculture, horticulture, gardening</b>
630.1	Gardening, allotments, flower shows
630.2	Nursery ground and gardens
631	City farms and domestic animals
631.1	Poultry keeping, cage birds
631.2	Cats and dogs

631.3 Veterinary hospitals

**640 Home economics**

640.1 Food and food supply, meals on wheels,  
rationing  
640.2 Housekeeping  
640.3 Fuel and fuel control  
640.4 Furniture and furnishings  
640.5 Clothes (*see also* 391)  
640.6 Hair

**650 Commerce, business, financial sector**

650.1 Associations and trade organisations  
650.2 Guilds and companies  
650.3 Banks  
650.4 Building societies  
650.5 Investment companies, stock exchanges  
650.6 Insurance companies

**651 Shops and professional trades**

651.1 Professional trades  
651.2 Commercial trades, shops  
651.3 Advertising, shop signs  
651.4 Printing and publishing, booksellers

**652 Markets**

652.1 Petticoat Lane, Wentworth Street  
652.10 Watney Street  
652.11 Spitalfields  
652.12 Whitechapel Hay Market  
652.13 Hutchinson Market, Cutler Street Market,  
Goulston Street  
652.14 Burdett Road  
652.15 Mile End Waste, Whitechapel Road  
652.16 Shadwell Fish Market  
652.17 Rag Fair  
652.18 People's Market/People's Arcade  
652.19 Luna Park  
652.2 Roman Road, Bow  
652.20 Billingsgate, West India Docks  
652.21 Devons Road  
652.22 Chrisp Street/Lansbury Market  
652.23 Randall's Market  
652.24 Market House, Bow  
652.25 Isle of Dogs Market  
652.3 Columbia Market

652.30	Columbia Road
652.31	Club Row, Sclater Street, Hare Street, Cygnet Street, Cheshire Street
652.32	Brick Lane
652.33	Roman Road, Bethnal Green
652.4	Street trading, costermongers
652.40	Shoeblock Brigade
652.41	Chimney sweeping

**653 Inns, taverns, public houses**

653.1	Stepney
653.2	Poplar
653.3	Bethnal Green
654	Hotels
655	Restaurants, take-aways, cafes, coffee houses

**660 Industries (including industrial estates)**

660.1	Inventions
660.2	Training centres, training

**670 Chemical industries**

670.1	Match making
670.10	Chemicals
670.2	Paints and varnishes, inks, tars, asphalt
670.3	Brewing, wines, spirits, vinegar
670.4	Oils, fats, soaps
670.5	Foods, confectionary, flour, starch
670.6	Medicines
670.7	Coal
670.8	Tea
670.9	Sugar

**680 Manufacturing**

680.1	Glass, china, porcelain, pottery
680.10	Toys, models
680.11	Leather goods, boots, shoes
680.12	Whalebone
680.13	Slate, bricks, industrial pottery
680.14	Rubber
680.15	Other materials
680.2	Textile printing, scarlet dying, weaving
680.3	Rope making, jute
680.4	Tin and metal, bell manufacture, guns
680.5	Wood, furniture ( <i>see also 690.3</i> )

680.6	Musical instruments
680.7	Cooperage, kegs and drums
680.8	Clothing
680.9	Paper, wallpaper

**690 Engineering and building trades**

690.1	Engineering, iron and steel
690.2	Building, painting and decorating
690.3	Timber ( <i>see also 680.5</i> )
690.4	Roads and public works ( <i>see also 387.2</i> )

**700 Town planning and improvements, development**

700.1	Stepney
700.2	Poplar ( <i>see also 015.1</i> )
700.3	Bethnal Green

**710 Parks, playgrounds, open spaces**

710.1	Stepney
710.2	Poplar
710.3	Bethnal Green
711	Cemeteries and churchyards
711.1	Stepney
711.2	Poplar
711.3	Bethnal Green
712	Monuments, statues, plaques etc
712.1	Stepney
712.2	Poplar
712.3	Bethnal Green

**720 Land and estates, property sales**

720.1	Stepney
720.2	Poplar
720.3	Bethnal Green
720.4	Common land, poor's land
721	Residences, houses of historical or architectural interest, conservation areas
721.1	Stepney
721.2	Poplar
721.3	Bethnal Green
722	Municipal and public buildings
722.1	Stepney
722.2	Poplar



	722.3	Bethnal Green
<b>730</b>	<b>Fine arts, crafts</b>	
	730.1	Sculpture
	730.2	Carvings
	730.3	Coins, medals, tokens
	730.4	Brasses, bronzes, jewellery
	731	Arts festivals, societies, centres, and groups
	731.1	Stepney
	731.2	Poplar
	731.3	Bethnal Green
<b>740</b>	<b>Drawing, decoration, design</b>	
	740.1	Coats of arms, heraldic design
	740.2	Embroidery, samplers
<b>750</b>	<b>Painting</b>	
	750.1	Art galleries
	751	Collage, applique
<b>760</b>	<b>Etching, engraving, lithography</b>	
<b>770</b>	<b>Photography, films</b> ( <i>photographs and film and video collection shelved separately</i> )	
	770.1	Film groups and camera clubs
	770.2	Films with local settings
<b>780</b>	<b>Music</b>	
	780.1	Songs with local settings, street songs and cries
	780.2	Bands, orchestras, pop groups, street musicians
	780.3	Choirs, choral and operatic societies
	780.4	Music concerts, festivals, concert halls
	780.6	Associations, harmonic societies, music societies
	781	Religious music
<b>790</b>	<b>Recreation</b>	
	790.1	Tourism

791	Municipal entertainment
791.1	Variety shows, concerts
791.2	Plays, operas
791.3	Other municipal entertainment, including quizzes
792	Public entertainments
792.1	Variety shows
792.2	Plays, operas
792.3	Other public entertainments including children's outings, parties, fireworks, circuses etc.
793	Dancing
793.1	Ballroom, square dances
793.2	Ballet
793.3	Folk dancing
794	Cinemas
794.1	Stepney
794.2	Poplar
794.3	Bethnal Green
795	Theatres, theatre groups, music halls
795.1	Stepney
795.2	Poplar
795.3	Bethnal Green
796	Radio, television, broadcasts
796.48	Olympic games
797	Sports ( <i>see also 390.8</i> )
797.1	Football, rugby
797.10	Cycling, motoring
797.11	Fishing
797.12	Shooting
797.13	Hockey
797.14	Other sports
797.2	Cricket
797.3	Boxing, judo, karate, martial arts
797.4	Rowing, boating, canoeing
797.5	Swimming, diving
797.6	Bowls, bowling
797.7	Athletics
797.8	Model yachting
797.9	Flying, ballooning
798	Indoor activities
798.1	Billiards, snooker
798.2	Darts

798.3	Chess, tabletop games
798.4	Table tennis
798.5	Weightlifting
798.6	Bingo
798.7	Video games
799	Hobbies
799.1	Stamp collecting
799.10	Other collecting hobbies
799.2	Pigeon racing, hawking
799.3	Aquatics
799.4	Observation hobbies, birdwatching, trainspotting

**800 Education**

800.1	History of education
800.2	Authorities
800.3	School care communities, managers, governors
800.4	Teachers' associations, parents' unions, strikes
800.5	Exhibitions, educational weeks
800.6	Teacher training centres
810	Methods of education
810.1	Cinema, radio and television in education
810.2	Music, dancing, festivals
810.3	Gardening
810.4	Art and art festivals
810.5	Speech and drama festivals
810.6	Online learning
820	Schools
820.1	Stepney
820.2	Poplar
820.3	Bethnal Green
820.4	Schools outside the borough
821	Art and technical schools, nautical colleges
821.1	Stepney
821.2	Poplar
821.3	Bethnal Green
822	Evening and commercial institutes, further education
822.1	Stepney
822.2	Poplar
822.3	Bethnal Green

823	Special schools and centres, toy libraries
823.1	For people with physical disabilities
823.2	For people with learning disabilities
823.3	Open air schools
823.4	Kindergarten and nursery schools
823.5	Truancy centres
824	Play centres and recreational institutes
824.1	Stepney
824.2	Poplar
824.3	Bethnal Green
825	Sports in schools
830	Adult education
830.1	Stepney
830.2	Poplar
830.3	Bethnal Green

**840 Library and information science**

841	Librarians
841.1	Library staff
842	Legislation, hours
843	Community outreach
843.1	Lectures and talks
843.2	Films, plays, concerts
843.3	Story hours, children's' activities
843.4	Exhibitions and displays
843.5	Quizzes and competitions
844	Other library services
845	Publicity, carnival floats, book weeks, etc.
846	Accessioning
847	Departments, staff manuals
848	Publications, printed catalogues
849	Other
850	Libraries
850.1	Bancroft Library, Central Library
850.10	Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives
850.11	Whitechapel Library
850.12	Limehouse Library
850.13	Watney Market Idea Store, formerly Watney Market Library, St. George's Library
850.14	Stepney Library, formerly Sidney Street Library
850.15	Wapping Library
850.16	Royal Mint Street
850.17	Limehouse Fields
850.18	Mobile Library

- 850.19 Information office
- 850.2 Poplar Library, Brunswick Road
- 850.20 Poplar Library, Poplar High Street
- 850.21 Bow Idea Store, formerly Bow Library
- 850.22 Cubitt Town Idea Store, formerly Cubitt Town Library
- 850.23 Chrisp Street Idea Store, formerly Chrisp Street Library
- 850.24 Fairfoot Library
- 850.25 Wick Lane (North Bow Branch)
- 850.3 Bethnal Green Library
- 850.31 Dorset Library
- 850.32 Roman Road Library
- 850.33 Music Library
- 850.34 Tube Shelter Library
- 850.35 St. Mathew's Row (Church Row)
- 850.36 Free Library, London Street
  
- 851 Museums** (*see also 900.6*)
  
- 852 East London History Society**
  
- 860 Language, glossaries, dialects**
  
- 870 Literature and local authors** (*shelved separately*)
  - 870.1 Criticism of literature relating to the East End
  - 870.2 Children's literature
  
- 880 Archives, family history**
  - 880.1 Genealogy
  
- 890 Periodicals, newspapers** (*mostly shelved separately*)
  
- 900 Shipping**
  - 900.1 Directories, registers of shipping
  - 900.2 Calendars and almanacs
  - 900.4 Societies, institutions
  - 900.5 Unions, guilds, associations
  - 900.6 Museums, exhibitions
  
  - 901 Shipbuilding and repairs
    - 901.1 Thames shipbuilding and marine engineering
    - 901.2 Local shipbuilding and marine engineering
    - 901.3 Shipbuilding and marine engineering in other locations (*no longer used*)

- 902 Biographies of shipbuilders, shipowners, marine engineers, mariners (*no longer used, see 100*)
- 903 Shipping lines and companies
- 904 Individual ships
- 905 Merchant ships
- 906 Sailing ships
- 907 Steamboats
- 908 Types of ships and boats
- 909 Yachts and sailing barges, fishing craft (*no longer used*)
- 910 The Sea
- 911 Sea voyages
- 912 Sea-life and adventure, piracy and privateering, seamen's strikes
- 913 Catastrophes, including shipwrecks, fires, storms (*no longer used*)
  
- 914 Lifeboats and lighthouses
- 914.1 Trinity House and Wharf
- 914.2 Royal National Lifeboat Institution
- 914.3 Pilots (sea and river)
  
- 915 Seaman's missions
- 916 Logbooks and journals (*no longer used*)
  
- 920 Shipbuilding and naval architecture (*no longer used*)
- 921 Marine engineering (*no longer used*)
- 922 Models and model-making (*no longer used*)
- 923 Figureheads and bow decorations (*no longer used*)
  
- 930 Naval history (*no longer used*)
- 931 Naval biographies (*no longer used, see 100*)
- 932 Naval development (*no longer used*)
- 933 Warships and naval craft (*no longer used*)
- 934 Royal Navy and branches (*no longer used*)
- 935 Merchant navy (*no longer used*)
  
- 940 Navigation (*no longer used*)
- 941 Sails and rigging (*no longer used*)
- 942 Knots and splices (*no longer used*)
- 943 Houseflags, funnels, signals (*no longer used*)
  
- 950 Sea literature (*no longer used, see 870*)
- 950.1 Slang, sea terms, naval terms (*no longer used*)
- 950.2 Customs, traditions, superstitions (*no longer used*)

951	Sea songs and shanties ( <i>no longer used, see 780.1</i> )
<b>960</b>	<b>Docks</b>
960.1	Port of London Authority acts and orders
961	PLA Police, Dock Police
962	Port Transport Industry ( <i>no longer used</i> )
963	Port of London and docks
964	Local docks
964.1	Early docks and dock schemes
964.2	East India Docks
964.3	West India Docks, Poplar Docks
964.4	Millwall Docks
964.5	London Docks
964.6	St. Katharine's Docks
964.7	Regent's Canal Dock (Limehouse Basin)
965	Docks outside Tower Hamlets
965.1	King George V Dock
965.2	Royal Albert Dock and Royal Victoria Dock
965.3	Greenland Dock and Surrey Commercial Docks
965.4	Tilbury Docks
966	Wharves, quays, warehouses, piers, stairs
966.1	Local wharves and piers
966.2	Local warehouses
967	Dock labour and conditions
967.1	Dock workers, lightermen, pay and conditions
967.2	Strikes and disputes
967.3	Unions and associations
967.5	Social and welfare institutions
<b>970</b>	<b>River Thames</b>
970.1	Acts and orders
970.2	Maps ( <i>no longer used, see plan chests for sheet maps</i> )
971	History and description of the Thames
972	Bridges ( <i>see also 388</i> )
973	Tunnels ( <i>see also 389</i> )
974	Thames police
975	River services
975.1	Waterbus, hydrofoil, steam boats ( <i>no longer used</i> )

975.2	Ferries ( <i>no longer used</i> )
975.3	Hovercraft, others ( <i>no longer used</i> )
976	Thames livery companies
976.1	Acts and orders
977	River Thames, physical
977.1	Floods, tides, barrage schemes
977.2	Frosts
977.3	Drainage
977.4	Geography
977.5	Pollution ( <i>see also 610.3</i> )
978	Literature and songs ( <i>no longer used, see 780, 870</i> )
<b>980</b>	<b>River Lee</b>
980.1	Acts and orders
<b>981</b>	<b>Canals</b>
981.1	Acts and orders
<b>982</b>	<b>Lost rivers</b>
<b>990</b>	<b>East India Company</b>
990.1	Acts and orders
990.2	Court minute books, letters
990.3	Registers, directories
990.4	Funds, pensions
991	History
991.1	East India Company in Poplar
992	Military history ( <i>no longer used</i> )
993	East India Company in South Asia ( <i>no longer used</i> )
993.1	Administration ( <i>no longer used</i> )
993.2	History ( <i>no longer used</i> )
994	Trade and commerce
994.1	Coinage ( <i>no longer used</i> )
995	Biographies ( <i>no longer used, see 100</i> )
996	India Office, East India Office
997	Ships and shipping



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- 997.1 Voyages and travels (*no longer used, see 991*)
- 998 Literature (*no longer used, see 870*)
- 999 East India Association (*no longer used*)

## Appendix 1. How to use this classification scheme

Tower Hamlets Local History Library covers a wide range of popular East End subjects, ranging from biographies of local people to migration, local industries, and political movements. The library collects published material in a variety of formats, including:

- Books and pamphlets
- Cuttings and ephemera
- Photographs and illustrations
- Maps
- Newspapers and periodicals
- Films and videos

Library materials<sup>1</sup> are organised according to a bespoke classification system based on **Dewey Decimal Classification** but modified to suit the unique requirements of our collection. You may already be familiar with the Dewey system as it is used widely in public libraries (including Tower Hamlets Idea Stores), and our classification scheme is structured in a similar hierarchical way designed for ease of navigation.

This *Classification Scheme* and our related *Subject Guide* can be used to help you find relevant material for your research when browsing books on our open shelves, when requesting boxed material from staff (such as pamphlets, cuttings, or photographs), and when searching our online catalogue at [www.thcatalogue.org.uk](http://www.thcatalogue.org.uk).<sup>2</sup>

Our archive collections are not organised according to this classification scheme but can be searched and browsed via our online catalogue.

### ***A note on numbering***

The numbering sequence in this scheme should be largely intuitive, as items are filed in numerical order and decimal points work the same way they do in mathematics and in the Dewey system. For example, **081.1** comes after **081** but before **081.2**, and **221.19** precedes **221.2**.

Unlike in Dewey or mathematics however, some of our unique class numbers end in a zero *after* the decimal point. For example, the class number for Danish churches in Stepney is **222.10**, which is different from **222.1**, the class number for Stepney Church of England churches.

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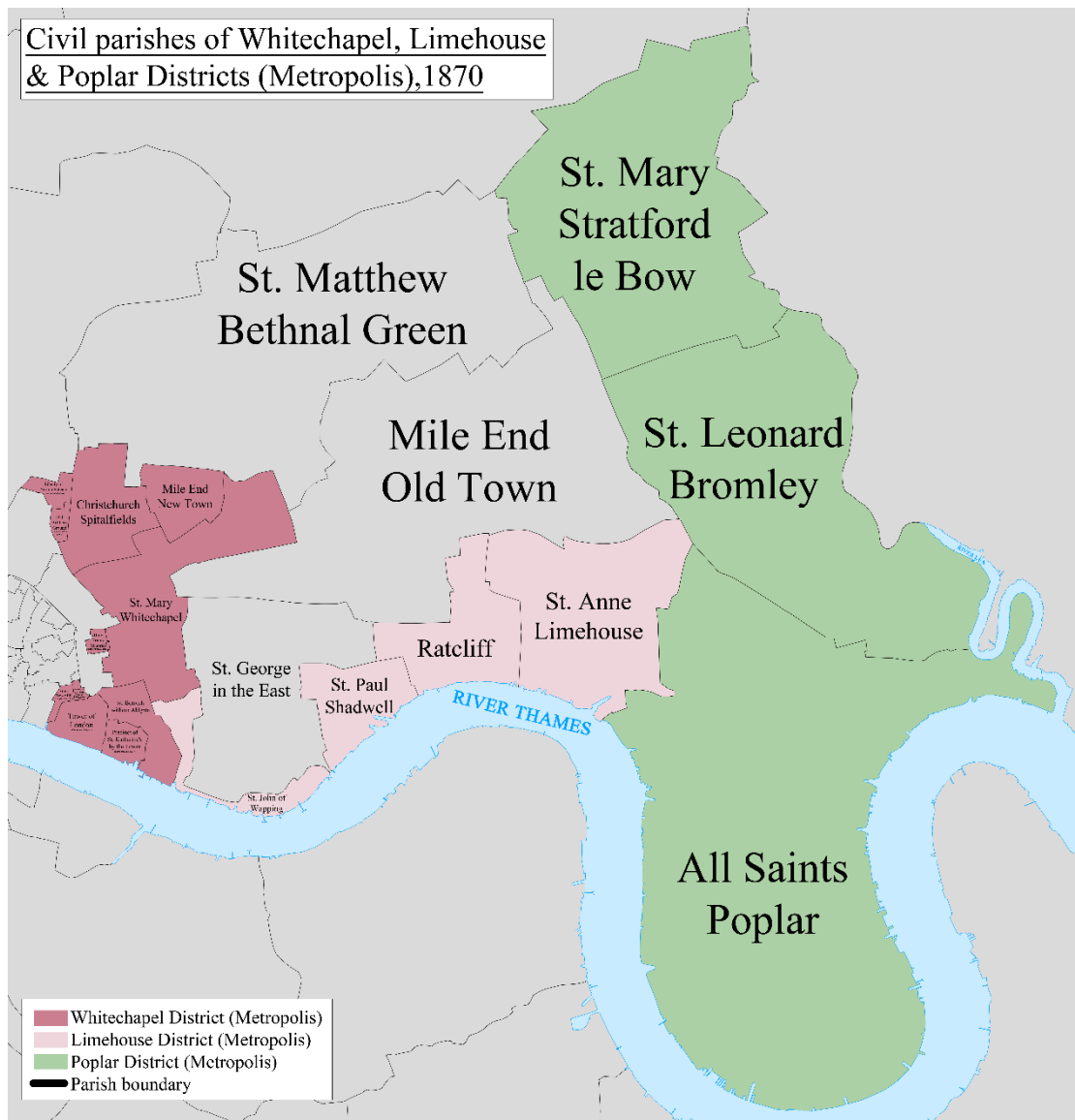
<sup>1</sup> Excluding electoral registers, directories, maps and plans, films and videos, some named image collections, and most newspapers and periodicals.

<sup>2</sup> To search for all material under a specific classmark, visit our online catalogue, click on 'Advanced search' and enter your desired classmark in the 'Class' field. You can use the 'wildcard' asterisk (\*) character to expand your search to include multiple related subject classes. For example, searching **081\*** will retrieve not just items classed under **081** but **081.1**, **081.2** and **081.3** as well, or a search for **7\*** will retrieve everything classed in the 700s (our 'Arts and recreation' section).

This unusual feature has the potential to cause confusion when browsing the shelves, as **222.10** is numerically the same as **222.1** but comes after it in our system. If in doubt, the sequence below shows how our numbering system works in practice:

**XXX**  
**XXX.0**  
**XXX.00**  
**XXX.01**  
**XXX.02**  
**XXX.03**  
**XXX.04**  
**XXX.05**  
**XXX.06**  
**XXX.07**  
**XXX.08**  
**XXX.09**  
**XXX.1**  
**XXX.10**  
**XXX.11**  
**XXX.12**  
**XXX.13**  
**XXX.14**  
**XXX.15**  
**XXX.16**  
**XXX.17**  
**XXX.18**  
**XXX.19**  
**XXX.2**  
**XXX.20**  
**XXX.21**

## Appendix 2. Map of parish and borough boundaries



Source: En.wikipedia.org. 2021. Mile End New Town. [online] Available at: <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mile\\_End\\_New\\_Town#/media/File:Stepney\\_Civil\\_Parish\\_Map\\_1870.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mile_End_New_Town#/media/File:Stepney_Civil_Parish_Map_1870.png)> [Accessed 10 March 2021].

Many subjects in this classification scheme are subdivided geographically by historic metropolitan borough (Stepney, Poplar, Bethnal Green) or parish (e.g. Christ Church, Spitalfields). This map shows the boundaries, locations and extent of parishes in Tower Hamlets circa 1870 and can be used to help identify relevant reference numbers.

All parishes within the former Metropolitan Borough of Poplar are coloured green, the Metropolitan Borough of Bethnal Green shared its boundaries with the parish of St. Matthew, and all other parishes shown above were part of the Metropolitan Borough of Stepney.