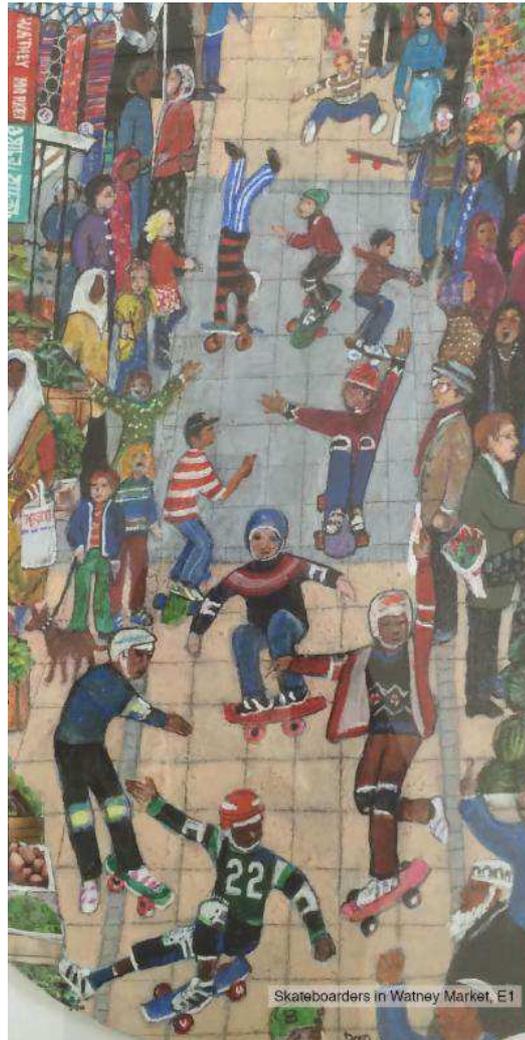


July-August 2014

Upcoming Exhibition: Dan Jones East End Paintings & Prints, 1970-2014



**DAN
JONES**
Artist

East End
Paintings
and Prints
1970-2014

**19 JULY-15
NOVEMBER 2014**

For our next exhibition, Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives is delighted to present a retrospective of paintings and prints by Stepney-based artist Dan Jones. Through prolific print-making and painting, Dan has captured the heart and soul of Tower Hamlets over more than forty years as a local resident, youth worker and activist. In addition to depictions of contemporary life in the East End (primarily captured during the 1970s), the artist also honours inspirational scenes from local history.

Look out for another newsletter bulletin coming soon with details of a free public events programme, featuring film screenings and art workshops.

The exhibition will run from 19 July to 15 November. Please remember to check our opening times before visiting.

World War One in Tower Hamlets

A free cultural events programme

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives has developed a cultural programme commemorating the beginning of the World War One centenary taking place across the borough's Idea Store and library network throughout August and September.



Thanks to generous support from the Heritage Lottery Fund we will host a series of free, public events over the summer exploring the impact of the Great War on the local social and economic environment in the East End at the time. The programme features a range of local history walks, film screenings, author events, remembrance opportunities and family events, and will take place both across the borough's Idea Store and library network and at other community venues.

Programme highlights include the official launch of the festival at Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives during the afternoon of Saturday 2 August; discussion of the new book 'Walter Tull: Footballer, Soldier, Hero', hosted by author Dan Lyndon at Bethnal Green Library on Saturday 13 September; and, naturally, several traditional knees-ups with entertainment on offer for all ages, offering a more light-hearted opportunity to reflect on and mark the contributions of local residents during wartime.

The full programme of events will be launched in mid-July so look out for a bulletin from us nearer the time or visit our website. We will be developing further activities and events as the nationwide centenary programme progresses over the next four years.

Bethnal Green Tube Shelter Disaster

New Exhibition



Air-raid shelter within Bethnal Green Underground Station c.1942

During the first two weeks of July Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives will be hosting a temporary exhibition on the first floor landing, created by the Bethnal Green Memorial Project. The exhibition commemorates the worst civilian disaster of the Second World War when 173 people were killed on 3rd March 1943 as they attempted to get into Bethnal Green tube station which had been adapted as an air raid shelter for up to 10,000 people.

For more details of the exhibition and many other events being held to commemorate the tragedy visit the Bethnal Green Memorial Project website.

Upcoming Events

Huguenots in the East End

Saturday 19 July, 2-4pm

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

Free, booking recommended

Heritage and conservation expert Will Palin gives a talk exploring the lives and homes of Huguenot settlers to London's East End, and notably their architectural legacy in Spitalfields. This talk is part of the 'Huguenot Threads' festival. For more information, please visit the website.

Out of the Box

Friday 4 July, 11am-3pm

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

No Booking Required

This is the last chance for disabled residents of Tower Hamlets invited to visit us to explore our collections and learn more about 'Out of the Box', our new project that offers a chance to creatively explore the collections of Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives and be part of a collaborative exhibition later this year.

Tower Hamlets at Street Level

A weekend of guided walks

This August Bank Holiday Weekend (23-25 August), there will be a series of local tours offered by the Walkie Talkie guiding group. These tours will open up areas of Tower Hamlets to residents and visitors alike, revealing their stories and interpreting their landscape. Details are to be confirmed, but will be available from David Charnick on his website.

The East End Preservation Society is supporting this venture, which is intended to make people aware of the borough's rich heritage and its importance to today's East End.

Recent Events

'Best Days of Our Lives' project visit

On Thursday 5 June, a team of eager volunteers from the 'Best Days of Our Lives' project visited Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives. The heritage project is run by Raise Up Heritage and focuses on the childhood experiences of various communities living in east London today. The project aims to identify, record and engage with children's games, puzzles, toys, rhymes, songs, literature, and clothing from 1950 to 1990.

During their visit, the project volunteers were able to access a wide range of resources, including photographs, newspaper cuttings and the yearbooks of various youth organisations from within the borough, including material relating to the Brady Club and the Bow Bridge Estate.

Further information about both the visit and the project itself can be found on the project blog.

Archives Cataloguing Update

The Records of J. J. & S. W. Chalk, Timber Merchants and Importers (Accession ref: TH/8780)



Image Ref: P23479
Photograph of J.J. & S.W. Chalk premises,
32 Commercial Road, c.1986.
© Mrs M. R. Davis

The business records of the Limehouse timber merchants, JJ & SW Chalk were about to be disposed of in July 1997 when we were alerted to their existence and imminent fate by local historian and campaigner Tom Ridge and the Ragged School Museum. Thanks to their timely actions we were able to save these business records from destruction and transfer them to our archives.

The records, dating from the 1820s-1980s, form one of our largest business archive collections but due to the size and scale of the collection it was not possible for us to begin the necessary work of sorting the records until last year. However, we are happy to report that work is now underway on this project, with a full initial sorting and box listing already completed. Our next step will be to catalogue this important business archive and in due course make the records accessible to visitors in our reading room.

A lot of the collection consists of financial records, a core part of any business archive, however it is evident from the initial sort and box listing that what

is missing is the kind of material which would shed some light on the personal side of this family-run business.

With this in mind we would like to appeal to anyone who has other types of records relating to Chalks' which would help us to flesh out the full story of the family business. We are particularly interested in hearing from anyone who was a previous employee of the firm that would be willing to provide us with more information about the family and share their experiences with us about working for Chalks' in the form of an oral history interview. If you are able to assist us with this please contact Natasha Luck by email or phone (natasha.luck@towerhamlets.gov.uk; 020 7364 1290).

Picture of the Month



We have recently acquired this World War I photographic postcard showing a group of eight soldiers of the 17th London Regiment (Stepney and Poplar Rifles) informally posed in front of bell tents. The date, location and names of the soldiers are unknown. Can any reader help with these?

World War I related books for sale

Coinciding with the centenary, Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives have several books about World War I that are available for purchase. These books look at the general history of the war, the history of 'the Poplars' regiment as well as the impact of the war on the people who stayed in East London.

The Trench: Life and Death on the Western Front 1914 - 1918 by Trevor Yorke (2014) £7.99

This richly illustrated book gives a straightforward account of what life was like for many soldiers during the war. Author Trevor Yorke explains the architecture of the trenches, with their command posts, sally points, tunnels, machine gun nests, duck boards, and sleeping billets. There are chapters to explain tactics, weaponry, and daily life. There are special features on the introduction of new weapons of war, such as tanks, early aeroplanes, and the first use of poison gas. The political events throughout the war are kept simple and basic, but there is a chapter on the legacy of the war's aftermath. There are outlines of the major battles and there are details of special places to visit in France and Belgium including key museums, battle sites and memorials. These can give a real understanding of the unique inhumanity of the trenches, and why the dates 1914 - 1918 require all generations of today to remember and learn from them.

The Poplars by Ron Wilcox (2005) £7.50

What life was like on the Western Front in the First World War as experienced by the 1/17th London (Poplar and Stepney) Battalion, the East End Regiment. Based on the diaries of one of the members of the regiment this book gives a detailed account of the East End soldiers experience during the war. The book starts by giving a short account of the social background of the soldiers before the war breaks, then focuses on their battles throughout the war. It includes many eyewitness accounts as well as an overview of the regiment's history, as well as photographs and an index.

The East End at War by Rosemary Taylor and Christopher Lloyd (2012) £9.99

Rosemary Taylor and Christopher Lloyd recall the effect of wartime on the lives of the inhabitants of the East End. The book focuses primarily on the events of the Second World War; however the book also covers the Boer War and the First World War. This lavishly illustrated book features many photographs from Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives.

Volunteer Opportunities

East London Mosque Archives

East London Mosque Archives is looking for volunteers to help provide the public with access to the Mosque Archive for the very first time. Volunteers will work with researchers and those interested in learning about the East London Mosque Archives on site in their reading room at the London Muslim Centre. Volunteers will also be involved in caring for the Archive collections.

They are looking for volunteers who are willing to commit themselves to one half day a month for a minimum period of 12 months beginning in October 2014. Volunteers will also be required to attend training with the Mosque Archivist during August and September. Volunteer travel expenses will be reimbursed where possible.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like some more information please contact Eilis McCarthy, Project Archivist at East London Mosque, on eilis@londonmuslimcentre.org.uk or call 020 7650 3046.

Fusilier Museum

The Fusilier Museum is recruiting Volunteer Exhibition Researchers to help develop a community-curated exhibition as part of the World War One centenary.

'Voices from the Front, a Personal Account of The Great War' will explore the fascinating diaries, letters, sketches and poems held within the museum's collection and will tell the wartime experiences of men serving with the Royal Fusilier regiment.

The museum is looking to put together a team of volunteers who can commit to at least 0.5 days per week and can meet at the museum once a week from July to October 2014.

For further information, please visit their [website](#)

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