Tower Hamlets
Local History Library & Archives

East End
Family History Day

10.30am - 4.00pm
Saturday 17 June 2017
at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

East End Family History Day
Saturday 17 June, 10.30am-4.00pm

Get help researching your family tree and meet other people tracing their East End ancestry at our free drop-in

event! Our Education Room will be filled with stalls from community heritage groups, including: the East of London Family History Society, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain, the East London History Society and the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park. In addition, we've got a programme of talks shaping up as follows, hosted by Malcolm Barr-Hamilton:

<u>11am</u> - **Conserving your own family archives at home** (Emma Harrold, Heritage Officer)
Join archivist Emma Harold for a workshop on how to store and package your old photographs and documents using the correct materials to ensure that they are preserved for future generations.

<u>12 noon</u> - **Researching the Upper North Street School air raid** (Stan Kaye)
During World War One, a century ago on 13th June 1917, the first daylight bombing attack on London by a fixed wing aircraft took place. The gravest of incidents that day occurred at Upper North Street School in Poplar where eighteen children were killed, most of whom were aged between four and six years old. Local historian Stan Kaye has carried out extensive research into the tragedy, much of which was based on tracking down the surviving relatives of the victims and others affected and hearing the family's own stories that were handed down.

<u>2pm</u> - tbc

<u>3pm</u> - **Pre-1834 Poor Law records** (Malcolm Barr-Hamilton, Borough Archivist)
Poor Law records are useful for genealogy as they list the names of individuals who received poor relief from a local authority in a given location and on a specific date. When the earliest poor law systems were in place - from the end of the sixteenth century until the introduction of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 - poor relief was administered by parish overseers locally, and we are fortunate to hold records of certain local parishes, hamlets and other small administrative bodies in present-day Tower Hamlets. These records are not yet searchable online, but they are freely available to access here at the library and could be used to trace distant ancestors who lived in the area between the seventeenth and early nineteenth centuries. Malcolm Barr-Hamilton will introduce and describe these unique sources which will be available to browse.

<u>Plus</u>: our *History for Everyone* volunteers will be on hand to provide personal one-on-one assistance for beginners in tracing your family tree. The Reading Room and exhibition will be open as normal. AND access to Ancestry.com Library Edition is free when you connect to our wifi, so bring your own laptop or tablet!

Please note that the times of the talks are subject to alteration, and more may be added, so check our social media or email/call us for a confirmed programme nearer the time if there is a specific speaker you want to catch. The event is an all-day drop-in event and all family members are welcome.

Mapping the Hamlets
Exhibition extended til 21 September!

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives holds a collection of over 4000 historic maps. This exhibition features more than thirty of these, most of which have never before been displayed. Many are unique to our collection and others will only be found in a select number of libraries.

Maps have been made for many purposes, and we present this in four categories:

- Estate maps - these are unique and often manuscript, depicting land and buildings owned by a particular person, family or company
- Maps showing areas as administered by (usually now defunct) local authorities which preceded the formation of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in 1965
- Maps plotted for a specific theme, eg sociological research, public transport, civil defence
- Printed maps - taking the example of Spitalfields to show cartographic and geographical development from 1676 to 1996

In addition to the maps from our collection on display, the exhibition also features a very large, work-in-progress scale model of London in 1840.

As always, a programme of free events accompanies the exhibition - please see below for details. Please check our opening hours below and if you'd like to see more maps, visit our reading room on the first floor.

This exhibition was curated by Borough Archivist Malcolm Barr-Hamilton, with valuable assistance from volunteer

Anusha Mistry. Framing and installation by Jackie Lyall.

Events programme

Guided walk: St George In The East
Tuesday 13 June, 6.00-8.00pm
Meeting point: Shadwell Overground station
A guided walk exploring the Parish of St. George-in-the-East, led by Borough Archivist Malcolm Barr-Hamilton, using historic maps and other resources from our collections. FULLY BOOKED.

Talk: The LCC Bomb Damage Maps
Thursday 15 June, 6:30-7:30pm
Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives
Join Laurence Ward, Head of Digital Services at the London Metropolitan Archives, for an illustrated talk on how the terrible damage caused by World War Two air raids was recorded by the London County Council's bomb damage maps. Free, no booking required.

Talks: 18th and 19th century London, by map and model
Thursday 22 June, 6.15-7.30pm
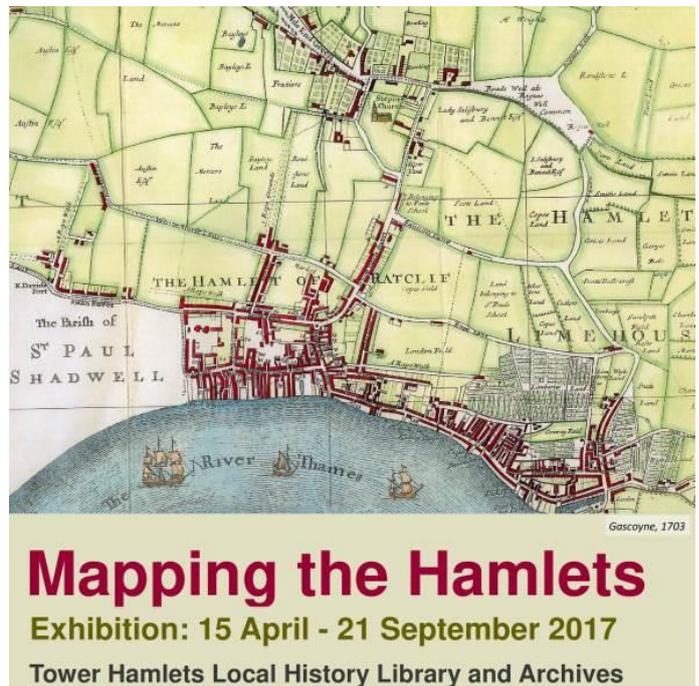**Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives**
Borough Archivist Malcolm Barr-Hamilton discusses Gascoyne's 1703 map of Stepney, the most significant map ever produced in terms of Tower Hamlets' history; Andrew Byrne talks about his work-in-progress model of 1840 London also displayed in our exhibition. Free, no booking required.

New! **Creative workshop: Print-making**
Saturday 5 August, time tbc
Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives
Make map-inspired linocuts or other types of print with Idea Store Learning visual arts tutor Ginny Hawke. Look out for more details in our next newsletter, or email for further details and to book your free place. This workshop uses sharp objects and is therefore suitable for ages 16+.

LGBT Tower Hamlets
Exhibition & Events

In partnership with East London charity ELOP, we will be hosting an exhibition of photographs of LGBT life in Tower Hamlets over the summer - the winning entries from our previously advertised competition to capture a record of contemporary experience for the archives. The exhibition will be on display in our first floor lobby area from 6 July to 16 September 2017. The following events are also being held here as part of Pride week:

Exhibition Launch
Thursday 6 July, 6.15-7.30pm
Join us for the exhibition launch in our Education Room, featuring a poetry reading by Sophia Walker. Former BBC Slam Champion Sophia has represented the UK at three World Queer Slam Championships and her debut collection, 'Opposite the Tour Bus' was shortlisted for the reader's choice section of The Guardian's First Book Award. Refreshments provided. Free, no booking required.
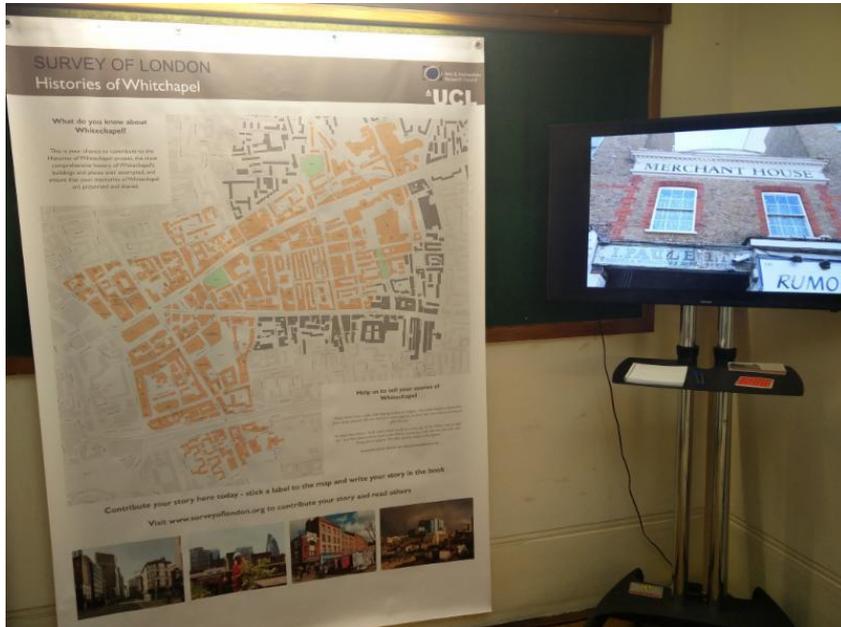
Film Shorts for Pride: A celebration of older LGBT women
Thursday 13 July, 6.15-7.45pm
The Women Over 50 Film Festival (WOFFF) has curated an evening of five short films. All films feature a woman

over 50 either in front of or behind the camera. Nuala O'Sullivan, the director of [WOFFF](#), has curated the programme and will host the event. Free, no booking required.

Survey of London: Whitechapel

The Survey of London provides essential reading for anyone wishing to find out about the capital's built environment. It is the leading reference work on the history of London and its buildings, internationally acknowledged for its authority and accessibility.

In 2016, The Survey of London launched an in-depth study of Whitechapel, a district with a long and rich history in the heart of London's East End. The Survey's exploration of Whitechapel's history is being rooted in a collaborative map-based website ([www. surveyoflondon.org](#)). On the map, you'll find information about every building in Whitechapel in 2016, including photographs, stories, research, film clips and audio recordings added by historians, local people and others with an interest in the area. It is designed to involve the public in compiling information about the area's sites, to accommodate the many voices of many varied histories. The aim is to bring together individual stories and knowledge about housing, commerce, religion and entertainment, wealth and poverty, dissent, reform and conflict, and more besides.

From now until Saturday 1 July, you can view a small display on the Survey of London's Whitechapel project on the first floor landing at Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives, where you will also have the opportunity to contribute to the project by sharing your own memories and knowledge of the streets, buildings and neighbourhoods which make up Whitechapel.

History Hoppers
Tuesday 27 June, 11.30am-1.30pm

Our final History Hoppers session will be taking place later on this month. If you're curious about archive collections and enjoy looking through old pictures and newspapers, drop in any time between 11.30am-1.30pm to explore original historical library and archive sources which help to tell the story of Tower Hamlets. Tea / coffee and biscuits will be provided! FREE, no booking required.

Saturdays

We are open 9am-5pm on the first and third Saturdays of every month, for research in the reading room and exhibition viewing. That's the following Saturdays coming up:

- 17 June
- 1 and 15 July
- 5 and 19 August

Opening hours

Monday: 9am-5pm (exhibition only)
Tuesday: 10am-5pm
Wednesday: 9am-5pm
Thursday: 9am-8pm
Friday: 9am-5pm (exhibition only)
Saturday*: 9am-5pm (*first and third Saturdays of the month only)
Sunday: closed

Contact us

Send us your enquiry via email, phone or letter at

Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives
277 Bancroft Road
London E1 4DQ
Phone: 020 7364 1290
Email:localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Visit our website
www.ideastore.co.uk

Search our online catalogue
www.THcatalogue.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter @LBTHarchives