



Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



January 2018

Presenting our next exhibition

David Granick: The East End in colour, 1960-1980



The Stifford Estate, Stepney, 1961

Saturday 3 February – Saturday 5 May
Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

We are delighted to announce a new exhibition of previously unseen photographs by David Granick which

depict Stepney, Mile End, Whitechapel, Spitalfields, Limehouse and the Thames riverside in the warm hues of Kodachrome film. In the decades following the end of the Second World War, the East End was a place usually captured in black and white, so these photographs present a rare chance to see views of these neighbourhoods in the 1960s and 1970s - some still familiar, many since vanished - in colour for the first time.

David Granick was born in 1912 and lived his whole life in Stepney. A Jew, a keen photographer and a long-serving member of the [East London History Society](#), he gave lectures on various local history themes illustrated with colour slides taken by himself or his fellow members of the Stepney Camera Club. Bequeathed to Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives after his death in 1980, where they have been preserved ever since, these photographs show the East End on the cusp of social change.

These amazing photographs are now to be exhibited for the first time at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives, from Saturday 3 February to Saturday 5 May. To coincide, selections from the David Granick collection are also to be published in a beautiful hardback book, **The East End In Colour, 1960-1980**, by [Hoxton Mini Press](#). This book can be purchased directly from us at the discounted price of £15 during the exhibition.

The book and exhibition have been curated by local photographer [Chris Dorley-Brown](#). A few years ago, volunteers began gradually to scan the slide collections we hold, and a few were posted on our social media. Chris, a collaborator of ours on a number of recent projects, immediately recognised the special quality of those taken by David Granick and volunteered to digitise them all himself in a higher quality, removing any dust and scratches.

For this exhibition, our staff have worked with Chris to present the images as Granick originally showed them during his lifetime – using a carousel slide projector. Visitors are invited to take a seat in a darkened area in the centre of our exhibition space and watch eighty of Granick's slides appear on screen in rotation. In addition to this, copies more than 200 images will be hung on the walls of the exhibition hall with a blank space beneath ready for you to add your memories of the people or buildings pictured.

The exhibition is free of charge. The first few events we have scheduled to tie in with this exhibition are listed below. Please keep an eye on our social media, website and future issues of this newsletter for more events to be added in March and April! Visit www.ideastore.co.uk/granick for further info.

David Granick: The East End in colour 1960-1980



during the period illustrated in the exhibition. Check our website for details of the films we will be screening a bit nearer the time.

More events to be programmed - watch this space! All our events are free and no booking is required.

Events

Exhibition launch
Thursday 8 February, 6.15-7.45pm

Photographer and exhibition curator Chris Dorley-Brown will discuss the work of David Granick which he has digitised and researched.

ALSO, weeks before its main release on 22 February, visit the exhibition to purchase the book from us directly for the discounted price of £15!

Film screening: 'Portrait of East London'
Thursday 1 March, 6.15-7.45pm

A selection of documentary films, arranged and hosted by [Bea Moyes](#), showing East End lives

Upcoming events

Archive workshop: Walk into History
Friday 19 January, 9.30am-12.30pm
Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

As part of [Bow Church's](#) current community history project, a free workshops on how to use our collections is being held this week, led by Borough Archivist Malcolm Barr-Hamilton. Attendees will be expected to return following the workshop to do their own independent research on the history of Bow. Participants' research may then be used for a new website about the history of Bow Church and the Parish of St Mary's Bow. Book your free place online [here](#).

LGBT History Month launch
Thursday 1 February, 6.30-7.45pm
Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

An evening of poetry provided by Trudy Howson - LGBT Poet Laureate - & an opportunity to share your memories of LGBT events in Tower Hamlets over the years. If you have any physical material of these events please bring them with you. This event is organised and hosted by ELOP on behalf of the [Tower Hamlets LGBT Community Forum](#).

East End History Club
Saturday 3 February, 2.00-4.00pm
Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

Are you interested in the history of London's East End? If so, come along to one of our FREE drop-in sessions. You'll have the chance to browse through old photographs, maps, newspapers and archival documents relating to a range of popular subjects, such as housing, health, immigration, work, school, leisure and much more! These sessions are ideal for those who are curious about local history and want to find out more. It's free, there's no need to book, just drop in. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Suitable for adults and children (aged 11+). If you can't make this one, please note the next date is Saturday 17 March at the same time.

Pamphlet launch: George Lansbury, Minnie Lansbury and modern feminism
Thursday 15 February, 6.00-7.30pm
Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

Historian Janine Booth welcomes you to the launch of the pamphlet of her 2016 George Lansbury Memorial Lecture. There will be speakers, refreshments, and copies of the pamphlet available for just £2.50 per copy. The event is sponsored by the George Lansbury Memorial Trust, the East End Women's Museum, Tower Hamlets Labour Party, The Clarion Magazine, Hackney South and Shoreditch Labour Party, and the Jewish Socialists' Group. Facebook event [here](#). Free.

Finale event: Coming here, being here
Saturday 17 February, afternoon (time tbc)
Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

[Numbi Arts](#) present the final exhibition and other creative outputs resulting from their current project to archive British Somali presence in the East End. Free, all welcome. Following this event, the exhibition will be hosted on our first floor landing.

Printmaking workshop: Portraits of Inspirational East End Women
Saturday 3 March, 1pm-4pm
Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

A wide range of events for Women's History Month will be taking place across the Idea Store network and the full programme will be announced shortly. Here, we are hosting a creative workshop for participants to produce linocut portraits of inspirational women from the East End. Some of the resulting images may be kept for a future exhibition. Participants will create a one- or two-colour lino portrait by tracing images from your own photographs or those supplied from our collections onto lino. Cutting tools, lino and inks will be supplied. Open to all over the age of 12. This event is free of charge but booking is essential due to limited capacity - email localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk or call 020 7634 1290 to book your place.

Oxford House

Archive volunteer opportunity

"Oxford House in Bethnal Green is where East London comes together to work, learn, explore and create. We celebrate arts, community and our heritage.

Established in 1884, over the years Oxford House has adapted to the changes in both the local community and the wider world.

We are currently recruiting volunteers to assist in a Heritage project to tell its story. If you are interested, check out the website: <http://www.oxfordhouse.org.uk/heritage-volunteers-call-out/> (ignore the date!) or contact Carol directly for a chat on 07590237215 or email cbudd100@gmail.com "

Last chance to see:
Basil Olton's exhibition *A necessary fiction*

Now in its final few days, our current exhibition *A necessary fiction* displays new artwork by ceramicist **Basil Olton**. Thanks to funding from the Arts Council, Canary Wharf Group, the RMT and other trade unions, the exhibition responds to the untold history of anti-imperialist black activism in interwar London. The artist was inspired by Chris Braithwaite, also known as Chris Jones, a resident of Stepney, trade unionist and founder of the Colonial Seamen's Association who worked and organised in the East End during the 1930s and 1940s.

Various talks and workshops have been held throughout the project. A booklet, podcast and 1 minute trailer made by Mile End Community Project for the exhibition featuring spoken word by local Black and Asian young people can now be seen [online](#).

There are two final events before the exhibition comes to an end.

Thursday 16 January, 6.00-7.30pm
Artist's talk and tour

In the exhibition's final week, all are welcome to join a free tour of the exhibition with its artist Basil Olton. The tour will begin at 6.30pm. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and network with others interested in researching and representing Black hidden histories in arts and archives.

Saturday 20 January, 2.30-4.30pm
Finale event: I am Chris Jones

Come along on the last day of the exhibition for a presentation of the contribution of local young people to the project. Mile End Community Project will present spoken word audio and video responses to the exhibition which they curated, and Basil Olton will present clay collages produced by Year 12+13 Art & Design students from St Paul's Way Trust school.



Holocaust Memorial Day 2018

Tower Hamlets Council in partnership with Jewish Care is hosting a range of free events to mark Holocaust Memorial Day in the borough. Please click [this link](#) to access the full programme.



East London Federation of Suffragettes march past Bow bus garage. Photograph by Norah Smyth

The Women's Hall 2018

Celebrating the East London Suffragettes

We are delighted to reveal we will be doing a very special exhibition and wider outreach project this summer in collaboration with Four Corners, East End Women's Museum and Alternative Arts, thanks to a large grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. We can't say very much about it just now but please save the date of Thursday 15 March, 6.00-7.30pm for an event previewing what's to come this summer and to hear about the many opportunities for you to participate!

Discover your family history online

Has the miserable weather scuppered your plans to visit Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives this month? Despair not, for today there are more places than ever where you can track down your East End ancestors online.

Below are seven great Tower Hamlets-specific genealogy resources you may not know are accessible from the comfort of your desktop. Don't forget we provide free access to Ancestry onsite here and at any Idea Store or library!

1. Tower Hamlets Cemetery Registers, 1841-1966 (Ancestry, £)

Only added to Ancestry within the past year, this fantastic new resource is essential for anyone who suspects their ancestors may have met their end within the old parishes of Stepney or Bromley-by-Bow after 1841.

2. London Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812 (Ancestry, £)

Another essential collection available through Ancestry, this near-complete set of digitised Church of England parish registers includes records from twelve historic local churches.

3. London Electoral Registers, 1832-1965 (Ancestry, £)

A digitised, fully-searchable version of one of our reading room's most popular resources, which allows you to look up your ancestors by name or address.

4. London Poor Law Removal and Settlement Records, 1698-1930 (Ancestry, £)

Includes a wealth of information for anyone whose pauper ancestors passed through the parishes of Bethnal Green, Hackney, Poplar, Shoreditch or Stepney.

5. Poplar Military Tribunal Register, 1916-1918 (Findmypast, £)

A unique resource from our own archives made available through Findmypast, which contains details of over 3000 applications for exemption from military service during World War I. This is also available as a free download [on our website](#).

6. National School Admission Registers & Log-Books, 1870-1914 (Findmypast, £)

Another excellent collection from Findmypast which includes virtually all our archives' pre-1911 school records, including those from Bonner Street and Central Foundation Girls' Schools.

7. East London Observer (British Newspaper Archive, £)

While not nearly as comprehensive as our microfilmed newspaper collection, the British Newspaper Archive features a number of useful titles for family historians with an interest in Tower Hamlets, including digitised issues of the East London Observer from 1857 to 1928.

Closure for stocktake

Don't forget we are CLOSED for a stocktake next week - Monday 22 January to Friday 27 January inclusive - and we will not be answering the phone or emails during this time. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

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

Saturday opening

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:

Saturday 20 January
Saturday 3 February
Saturday 17 February
Saturday 3 March
Saturday 17 March

Contact Us

Send us your enquiry via email, phone or letter:
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Email: localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Visit our website
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