



Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



March-April 2018

Sensing Place

Mapping Memory in the East End

Do you love the East End? Fancy taking some photos on film of your favourite places?

Sensing Place: Mapping Memory in the East

End is a new crowdsourcing project gathering people's photographs of the Tower Hamlets area which will then be uploaded onto a new community heritage website. The website will be used in a variety of educational (and non-educational) settings by different groups, including schools - investigating and reflecting on how we gather and interpret our community history.



YOU are invited to pop in here to Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives to pick up a disposable single-use camera and then, in your own time, go off and take 24 photos of things and places in Tower Hamlets you find interesting. You must photograph places or spaces (not portraits of people), but it can be anywhere you like - a school, a mural, a road, a pub, a house, a place of worship, a park, lamp-post or seat.... Anywhere you find interesting or meaningful! You will need to sign a consent form and record the places you photograph as you go.

We are acting as pick-up and drop-off point for the disposable cameras - just pop in, ask at ground floor reception and you will be given a pack with containing a camera and some forms to fill in.

If you would like to participate, please come and get your camera as soon as possible, and drop it back to us by Monday 30 April.

For further info on this project, which is being run by the University of

Winchester, please email sensingplace@winchester.ac.uk or [visit the website](#).

Exhibition

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



Quaker Street, 1978

Exhibition on show until Saturday 5 May at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

We have been overwhelmed by the response to our current exhibition of 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.

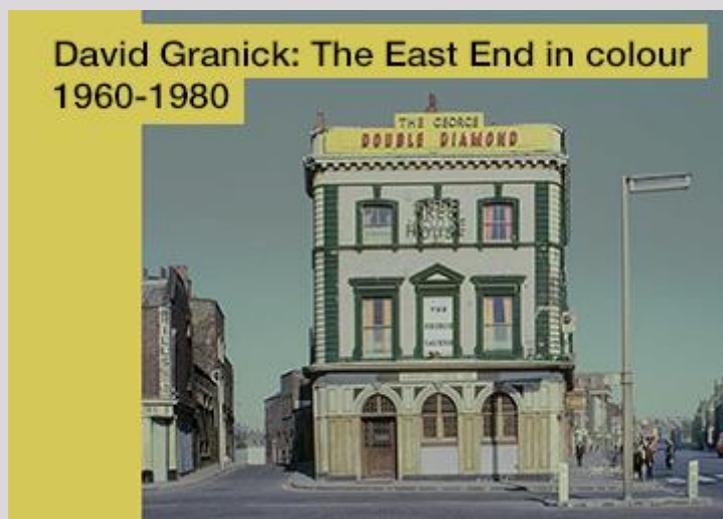
Over 2200 people have been to see the exhibition since it opened six weeks ago, and there have been articles in all the major newspapers as well as BBC radio features.

The prints are mounted simply on plain card and we invite visitors to add their

memories and comments, so as to enable contributions by local residents to the collective memory of the places featured. These will be archived here alongside the exhibited prints at the end of the show. We ran out of space before we could hang a further 40 or so colour slides which we'd printed for the exhibition, so if you're hungry for more Kodachrome East End scenes, please come up to our Reading Room during opening hours and ask to see the additional David Granick photos.

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 images are currently being 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](#). The first edition sold out extremely quickly and a second edition is now being printed. You can buy it in your local bookshop, from the publisher's website, or it can be purchased directly from us at the discounted price of £15. We are currently out of stock but will send a newsletter update when our new copies have arrived.



waiting list is full!

Film Screening:
'Sparrows Can't Sing'
Thursday 22 February, 6.15-7.45pm

We are hosting a free screening of this landmark East End feature film this week, shot in and around David Granick's Stepney. (Unfortunately the planned screening at Genesis Cinema initially advertised was not possible). The screening will be introduced by exhibition curator Chris Dorley Brown.

Events

Please note that there has been a high level of interest in the David Granick events programme. We do not take bookings as there is always a very high proportion of no-shows for free events, so it is *first come, first served*. NB the guided walk is fully booked so is not listed below, as even the

Illustrated talk: East End life through the lens of the camera: From one World War to another
Saturday 7 April, 2.30 – 3.45pm

Historian Danny Wells will examine life and culture in the East End of London as captured on camera from World War 1 to the early 1950s – yet another tumultuous period for the area, rocked by events of national and international significance. Danny lets the camera tell its tale.

Film screening: BFI National Archive: 'Just One Kid' (1974)
Thursday 12 April, 6.30 - 7.45pm

A highlight of the BFI's *Jewish Britain on Film* project, this moving drama-documentary follows Jewish tailor-turned-actor Alfred Maron, once a resident of London's East End, as he reminisces about his childhood in the 1930s and the rapidly changing neighbourhood. Presented by BFI curator Simon McCallum.

Illustrated talk: Images of the East End
Thursday 26 April, 6.30 – 7.45pm

There are over 40,000 photographs in our collections held here. Tower Hamlets Borough Archivist Malcolm Barr-Hamilton will explain the background to and scope of the collection in this profusely illustrated talk.

Chinese Labour Corps exhibition

We have a smaller exhibition space on our first floor landing, outside the Reading Room, which is used to host temporary exhibitions produced by other heritage organisations. Opening this week is:

British Chinese Armed Forces Heritage Project: the Chinese Labour Corps
Tuesday 20 March - Wednesday 5 April

We are pleased to be hosting this pop-up exhibition on our first floor landing, produced by the Ming-Ai (London) Institute with Heritage Lottery Funding. The Chinese Labour Corps of World War One was a labour corps of Chinese men who were brought over from mainland China to serve on the Western and Eastern fronts. Their stories are relatively unknown and has led people to call them the "forgotten of the forgotten". There will be a talk held here to tie in with the exhibition:

Ethnic Chinese-British Subjects in the British Armed Forces, 1857-1919
Thursday 29 March, 6.00 – 7.00pm

The part played by ethnic Chinese men in support of the Allied Forces in World War One is a complex one. Many non-British ethnic Chinese were recruited in China and moved to Europe to serve in the British and French Labour Corps. Many ethnic Chinese men, British by accident of birth in a British territory,

served in locally-recruited British units both overseas and in Europe. But it seems that very few British born and domiciled Chinese enlisted in UK-based units – with the exception of the Royal Navy and Mercantile Marine – and served in World War One. Author Alistair Kennedy will discuss this. To attend, [please register here](#).

Future exhibitions coming up on our first floor landing:

May: **Power Writers**: five Africans who had a connection with Tower Hamlets in the eighteenth century

June: a history of **Balfron Tower** by artist James Lander

Check our website for precise dates nearer the time.

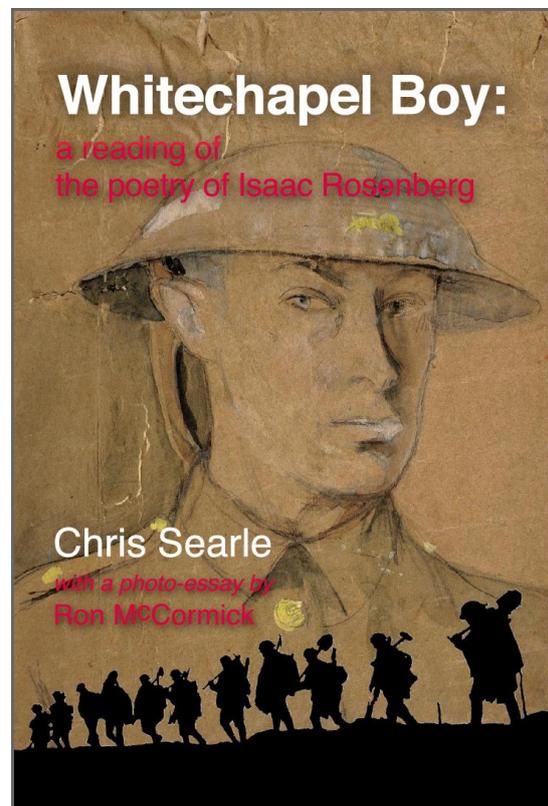
Upcoming events

Book launch: "Whitechapel Boy"
Chris Searle and Ron McCormick
present their new book on Isaac Rosenberg
Thursday 5 April, 6.15 – 7.45pm

April 2018 is the centenary of the death of the East London poet, Isaac Rosenberg, born in 1890 to a working class family of Yiddish-speaking immigrant Lithuanian Jews. His death in the French trenches during the final weeks of 'the war to end all wars' which took 'the half used life' of millions - all Rosenberg's 'brothers dear' - left English poetry with some of its most brilliant and moving poems of human conflict and aspiration.

In this tribute to his poetry, Chris Searle seeks to consider Rosenberg's words as a narrative of his times, his world and his unique imaginative outreach. Searle's account is followed by a photographic essay by the English photographer Ron McCormick, who lived and worked in Rosenberg's streets and documented the passing of the 'Old Jewish' Whitechapel during the early 1970s, portraying the street scenes and atmosphere that would have been familiar to the 'Whitechapel Boys'.

Celebration event:
Remembering Philip Morgan SPiRiT (1965-2017) and his contribution to African and Caribbean history in Tower Hamlets
Saturday 5 May, 12 noon – 4pm



This event is organised by some of Philip Morgan's friends and supported by his family. Come and join us in remembering a Brother, friend, mentor and community activist. Learn of his work with mental health survivor groups and in particular the 'Health through History' initiative which was designed to heal African and Caribbean people experiencing mental health challenges in the borough of Tower Hamlets.

Be part of the **Power Writers** experience – an exhibition of five African writers who had connections with the area in the 18th century and launches today at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives where it will be on for the month of May. Listen to tributes and contribute to an afternoon of fun, education and reflection. This event is free, no booking required, browse the stalls and the displays. We will be giving everyone who attends a copy of the 2nd edition of The Power Writers book published by Hansib Publications.

East End History Club

A regular drop-in session, every other month

At these regular sessions you get 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+).

Future dates:

Saturday 19 May

Saturday 21 July

Welcome to Siobhan Brown

Our newest team member

"Hello, I'm Siobhan, the new Heritage Officer (Learning and Participation) for Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives.

I started here at the end of February and I'm enjoying getting to know the collections, visitors and other staff here. It's already been a busy couple of weeks with lots going on and several school visits lined up!

I've worked in heritage learning for 8 years, working with children, young people and community groups across London. I've had a varied career to date: from guiding visitors in disused underground spaces to supporting young people to deliver storytelling festivals.

Most recently I worked as part of the Learning team at the Horniman Museum in Forest Hill, sharing the fantastic collection there with the many school groups and families who come through the door. My passion is for opening up collections to those who might not otherwise get the opportunity to experience them – and I am looking forward to the chance to do that at THLHLA too."

Top of the Topics

Have you ever wondered what the most popular research topics are at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives? Of course you have! And so have we. For a long time staff here have been collecting data on how many books, pamphlets and other library resources we produce for our readers each day, but last month we also began recording each item's subject class. This has enabled us to compile, for the first time, a Top Five list of our most popular research topics, and these are the results for last month:

- Biography
- World Wars
- Ethnic Groups, immigrants and race relations
- Politics, Political Parties and associations
- Associations, Institutions, social and youth clubs and community centres

Within these broad subject categories, some of the more heavily researched areas included the lives of famous women like Sylvia Pankhurst (especially in the lead up to International Women's Day), WW2 air raids, the East End's Jewish population, far-right political organisations, and Oxford House in Bethnal Green. Further down the list places of worship, schools, and housing were also popular. In the future we hope to use this information when selecting new books and developing our events programme.

Easter closure

Please note that we will be closed on the following dates:

ALL of Easter weekend, Friday 30 March - Monday 2 April inclusive

Monday 6 May and Monday 28 May (Bank Holidays)

We are open every Thursday until 8pm and on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of every month. See below for a list of dates.



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 now have zillions of keen volunteers enlisted to help on this forthcoming project - to recreate the East London Federation of Suffragettes headquarters through an immersive heritage exhibition and series of events. We are still looking for catering help to support the running of the 'cost price restaurant' so if you are a chef, restaurateur, food producer, supermarket manager, cook, maitre d', waiter or any other catering professional with spare time or spare food, please email lauren.sweeney@towerhamlets.gov.uk to offer your services!

Opening Hours

Monday: 9am-5pm (exhibition only, shut Bank Holidays)

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 7 April
Saturday 21 April
Saturday 5 May (last day of David Granick exhibition)
Saturday 19 May
Saturday 2 June
Saturday 16 June
and so on.

Contact Us

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

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