

# Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



## Local History book sale

**Saturday 4 May, 9.30am- 2pm**

**Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives**

**Free Entry | Paperbacks £2 | Hardbacks £5 | CASH ONLY**

It's back! The return of our popular book sale, featuring duplicate books and pamphlets withdrawn from our collections. There'll be many rare and out-of-print titles for sale, illustrating different aspects of the East End's social, political and maritime history, as well as fiction and biographies of local people.

For the first time we will also be offering duplicate material from recently catalogued archive collections, such as T-shirts and posters from the 'Spitalfields Market Under Threat' campaign, in exchange for a donation. All proceeds from the day will go towards purchasing new stock for our collections.

Happy bargain hunting!

## New collections now available for research



*Armband of Tower Hamlets CND, c. 1980. Ref no: S/THC/8/7*

**By Medha Chotai, Cataloguing Archivist**

### **Tower Hamlets Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (S/THC)**

We are pleased to report that the Tower Hamlets CND collection has been catalogued and it is now available to view in our reading room. The collection consists of administration records and campaign material such as flyers and posters.

Tower Hamlets Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (THCND) started off as the 'CND Stepney and Poplar Group' in 1959 originating in the campaign group 'Stepney & Poplar Against The Bomb'. There was a resurgence in its popularity in the 1980s due to the Cruise Missiles. These records predominantly focus on the 1980s and 1990s. They relate to their campaigns, activities and relationships with other organisations such as London Borough of Tower Hamlets Council and Tower Hamlets Youth Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (THYCND).

The records having been deposited by THCND member Paul Barlow, do reflect his own role within the group but also demonstrate the wide reaching activities and campaigns undertaken by the Campaign.

### **Lesbian and Gay Campaign Group (S/LGG)**

The Tower Hamlets Lesbian and Gay Group collection has also been catalogued and can be accessed in our reading room. The group was born in response to Section 28 (formerly known as Clause 28) of the Local Government Act. The Act stated that a Local Authority "shall not intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality" or "promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship".

The collection consists largely of press cuttings and promotional material created by the

group, who campaigned against its introduction and lobbied the local council not to enforce it. The press cuttings not only provide a view of the group's actions but also the homophobia that they encountered.

### Films about the Somali community in Tower Hamlets (M/SCT)

The latest new accession to be catalogued is a small collection of videos about the Somali community in Tower Hamlets, recently donated by Maggie Hewitt, which we have had digitised. The films date from the 1980s and 1990s, and explore the culture and identity for Somali residents in Britain, with a focus on Tower Hamlets and the Somali community's activities at Oxford House in Bethnal Green. The topics covered in these recordings range from an oral history project conducted by local primary school children to a locally produced public health documentary about the dangers of female circumcision. You can watch these films in our reading room on a laptop and we hope to arrange a public screening event soon.

### Upcoming temporary closures

Please note that we are closed over Easter weekend, from Friday 19 April to Monday 22 April inclusive. This includes Saturday 20 April. We reopen on Tuesday 23 April at 10am.

#### Advance notice:

We will also be closed for a week from Monday 22 - Friday 27 July 2019, for a stocktake.

### New Perspectives exhibition



**Private view: Thursday 2 May, 4pm-6pm**

**Exhibition on display: Friday 3 May - Saturday 1 June**

*New Perspectives* is a very special exhibition which will shortly be installed on our first floor landing. It features artworks created during our East End Urban Sketching Club which took place between January and March 2019 as part of the events programme for our current entrance hall exhibition *Painting the Hamlets*. The sessions were led by Idea Store Learning

tutor Virginia Hawke.

Artists from the local community who attended the workshops delved into our historic photos of East End street scenes and created renewed perspectives of Tower Hamlets using watercolours, Indian inks and acrylics. To RSVP for the private view please email: [localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

## Painting the Hamlets

Our current main exhibition **Painting the Hamlets** has been extended until Saturday 15 June. The display showcases works from our art collection which depict landscapes, river views and street scenes in Tower Hamlets. Most of the paintings featured are from the twentieth century and the artists involved include the former Mayor of Bethnal Green and member of the East London Group of artists, Albert Turpin. Works by Doreen Fletcher, Ronald Morgan, Noel Gibson, Rose Henriques, and Geoffrey Scowcroft Fletcher also feature. For the accompanying exhibition programme we have been hosting a series of free events exploring *Art and the East End*.

## Sarah Chapman exhibition - final week!

Our exhibition on Sarah Chapman, one of the lesser known leaders of the Matchgirls' Strike, has been extended and its last day of opening will now be Thursday 26 April. This display, on our first floor landing, was produced in partnership with Sarah Chapman's descendants who are campaigning for a plaque to be erected and her grave to be saved. Visit us to find out more!

## Opening hours and contact details

NB we are closed over the Easter weekend (Friday 19 April- Monday 22 April).

Please remember to check our opening hours before visiting. They are:

**Monday:** 9am-5pm for exhibition only

**Tuesday:** 10am-5pm for exhibition and Reading Room

**Wednesday:** 9am-5pm for exhibition and Reading Room

**Thursday:** 9am-8pm for exhibition and Reading Room

**Friday:** 9am-5pm for exhibition only

**First and third Saturdays of every month:** 9am-5pm for exhibition and Reading Room (NB not Easter Saturday)

Feel free to contact us with any enquiries:

- [localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk)
- 020 7364 1290
- <http://www.ideastore.co.uk/local-history>