

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



Radical Roots: Saturday 18 January

Before we sign off for Christmas, we wanted to quickly let you know about an exciting family history day which is taking place here Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives in January. Part of the programme for our current exhibition **Unite & Resist: Protest and Activism in the East End, 1970-2000** we have lined up a fantastic array of talks by historians and genealogists. Spanning the broad heritage of East Enders past and present, the histories to be revealed range from Jamaican slaves to striking Match Girls and Somali seamen. There will also be activities for children by way of an artist-led zine-making workshop. For the full programme, see below, and don't forget to save the date!

- **Radical Roots: Researching rebels in your family history**
- **Saturday 18 January, 11am-4pm**

The event is free, and you don't have to book - just turn up and drop in for the talks that interest you.



Radical Roots: Event programme

11.00 | A Beginner's Guide to Family History & Researching Rebellious Ancestors

Want to explore your family's radical roots but unsure where to begin? This talk will cover everything you need to get started. Topics covered will include interviewing relatives, finding clues in family documents and photographs, tracking down and interpreting birth, marriage, death and census records, plus an introduction to sources for researching rebellious ancestors.

Led by Robert Jones, from Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

11.00 - 13.00 | Family zine-making workshop

Join Celeste Bell, daughter of punk icon Poly-Styrene to capture your family history in a zine and learn more about artist Celeste's own journey of finding out about her Somali East End roots. Suitable for ages 8+.

12.00 | Researching your Somali Family History

Do you want to find out more information about Somali ancestors but not sure where to start? Join Kinsi Abdulleh from Numbi Arts who has supported many such enquiries, using her knowledge of extended family networks in the East End and other dockland areas in the UK in which the first generation of Somali seamen working on British ships came to settle.

13.00 | The Matchgirls Strike of 1888: Perspective of a Local Girl, Sarah Chapman

The Match Girls Strike of 1888 brought the women and girls working in a factory Bow to national attention. Sam Johnson will discuss how she discovered the involvement of her great-grandmother Sarah Chapman, one of the workers at the factory and a resident of Stepney. Join us for this inspirational tale of bringing an unsung heroine to light.

14.00 | A Black & British History: Jamaican Slaves Who Abolished Slavery

In this talk, Paul Crooks will implicate his ancestors in Jamaica's Baptist War - which ultimately brought the British system of slavery to its knees. Paul will reveal what he researched about the forgotten history of 'The Jamaican slaves who abolished slavery'.

Led by Paul Crooks, Author of Ancestors and A Tree Without Roots

15.00 | Writing your Family History

Based around a couple of examples of privately published family histories, this session will encourage people to be ambitious with the results of their research – don't just research your family history, write it too! Almost all families have interesting stories waiting to be uncovered: protesters, strikers, ne'er do wells – you just need to find an angle and you can create a readable piece of work that is so much more than a list of names and dates.

Led by Andy Lewis, Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

PLUS! Stalls from the East of London Family History Society, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain, and Friends of Island History Trust.

Christmas closure

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

Our final day of opening before Christmas is tomorrow - it's your last chance to get some unique stocking fillers or look up that pesky reference again!

We are closed from Monday 23 December - Wednesday 1 January inclusive. We will be open on these dates:

Saturday 21 December 9am-5pm

Thursday 2 January 9am-8pm

Saturday 4 January 9am-5pm

Wishing all our readers a peaceful festive break. Look out for a full newsletter from us early in 2020!

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