



*A Christmas scene at Shadwell Children's Hospital, 1954. (c) Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives. Ref: P/MIS/292/1*

## Reading Room reopening news

As we close for the Christmas break, London is in Tier 4 and we are all hunkering down for the festive period as safely and cheerily as we can... but in a spirit of hopeful optimism, here are the details of our reopening procedure which will be effective if London is placed into a lower tier (including Tier 3) in time for the dates in question.

We are accepting provisional bookings via email to consult collections in our Reading Room on Tuesdays or Fridays only, for the period **12 January to 26 February 2021**.

If you'd like to make an appointment on this basis, here's what to do.....

We will ask you to suggest up to three preferred slots on Tuesdays or Fridays at the following times:

- **Morning:** 11am - 1.30pm
- **Afternoon:** 2pm - 4.30pm

Before we confirm your appointment, you'll need to identify and pre-order items from the

collection that you would like to look at. Not sure what we've got? Have a look at our [online catalogue](#). You may book two slots in the same day but no more than two per month.

If you have any queries please email us at [localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk) and we'll be happy to help. Please note that the inbox will not be monitored until 4 January.

To reiterate: We will be able to open the Reading Room on the date of your proposed appointment only if London has come out of Tier 4 by the date you are requesting.

Once we have confirmed your appointment, we will update you promptly if it needs to be rescheduled due to changes in government restrictions.

Finally, please note that there is no access to the building without a confirmed appointment. Please do not attempt to visit without one, and please do not attend your booked appointment if you develop COVID-19 symptoms (or live with someone who does). For the latest information about coronavirus, please [consult Government guidance](#).

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## Holocaust Memorial Day 2021

### Film screening: *La Boheme to Gardiners*

**Thursday 28 January | 5.00-6.30pm | Free | Online event**

As part of the borough's 2021 [Holocaust Memorial Day](#) programme we will be hosting a free online screening of a rare documentary from 1989 focussing on the Jewish community in the postwar borough.

*La Boheme to Gardiners: the Sights and Sounds of the Jewish East End* (49 mins) by director Aumie Shapiro showcases long-lost locations (many of which are still images from our collections) alongside the reminiscences of local residents. The journey meanders east from Gardiners Corner, a flashpoint in the anti-fascist uprising of 1936 better known as the Battle of Cable Street - down the road to Mile End, where the La Boheme cinema and ballrooms once stood.

This free screening will conclude with a discussion and Q&A led by Halima Khanom (Learning & Participation Officer) and Genova Messiah (Heritage Trainee). All are welcome!

To reserve your place please email: [localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk) or book via Eventbrite on our Facebook page <https://m.facebook.com/THLHA/events/>

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## New books for the library

Some of the new titles we've added to our library collection this year...

- *Migrant city: a new history of London* by Panikos Panayi (2020)
- *East End born & bred: the remarkable story of London boxing* by Jeff Jones (2020)
- *The splendid Mrs McCheyne and the East London Federation of Suffragettes* by Jane McChrystal (2020)
- *Female husbands: a trans history* by Jen Manion (2020)
- *111 places in London's East End that you shouldn't miss* by Ed Glinert (2020)

We were delighted to receive a donation of the excellent new book *Women activists of East London: radical women in Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Waltham Forest 1880-present* by its author Esther Freeman.

Don't forget you can search all our newly-catalogued collections [via our online catalogue](#) and make an appointment to come and have a browse in the new year!

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## Things to watch and read online

If you've missed any of our recent online events, we're delighted to report that you can now watch recordings of them on [our YouTube channel](#) at your convenience!

Subjects of our 2020 online events programme (to name but a few!) include

- The Matchgirls' Strike of 1888
- Black presence in the East End
- An introduction to our huge and complex collection of historic building plans

[Click here](#) to check out these talks and everything else that's on offer on our YouTube channel, including digitised films and videos from our collections which have been uploaded this year.

[Our website](#) has also been updated regularly throughout lockdown with additional content including a range of new user guides to our collections - these have been arranged by theme. [Click the links in the red box on the right to expand the list.](#)

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## Collecting Covid at Christmas



We are still collecting submissions for our COVID collecting project: "Making History: documenting coronavirus in the East End" and we want to hear from *you*!

With your help we're creating a lasting collective memory of our community's response to the COVID-19 crisis. As an archive service it is our responsibility to not only preserve historic records from the past but collect and preserve the history of today to inform many generations to come.

This is an opportunity for anybody living or working in the borough to share their experiences of living through the pandemic with us. This Christmas period will be like none other and we'd love to ensure that residents' experiences of it are preserved within our collections for posterity.

If you want to get involved and upload your digital files via our online portal, head over to the [website](#) for more information.

*Image: Lockdown Dog, Ref: P/COV/18/3*

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## Contact us

### Contact Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

- Email us: [localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk)
- Visit our website: <http://www.ideastore.co.uk/local-history>