

We're ready to welcome you back!

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



We're back! From Tuesday 29 September

We're happy to announce that the collections at Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives will once again be available for you to use from **Tuesday 29 September**. This follows our temporary lockdown closure.

In the first instance our Reading Room will be open for two days a week, and there will be some new procedures in place to ensure everyone's safety:

- You'll need to pre-book an appointment to visit us. Slots will be available on **Tuesdays** and **Fridays** at the following times:

Morning: 11am - 1.30pm

Afternoon: 2pm - 4.30pm

- You will need to **pre-order** items from the collection that you'd like to look at. The full range of our resources, including periodicals on microfilm, will be available. Not sure what we've got? [Search our collections catalogue](#).
- Free access to Ancestry.com will also be available onsite, using a PC or on your own device.
- We will be taking bookings for appointments **via email** from Monday 21 September. Full details of the new procedure and how to book will be added to our website very shortly so keep an eye on www.ideastore.co.uk/local-history for the nitty gritty!
- Our events programme will remain online - no public gatherings will be taking place in the building for the time being.
- We're very excited to see you all, but please **don't drop in** - you must have a confirmed appointment to enter the building, and we hate to turn people away!

East End History Club: online events



The Strike Committee of the Matchmakers' Union, with Sarah Chapman ringed in red

The Match Girls' Strike: the Perspective of Sarah Chapman, a Local Girl

TONIGHT! Thursday 17 September, 5.00-6.30pm

The famous Match Girls' Strike of 1888 brought a group of female factory workers in Bow to national attention. The pioneering strike led to improved employment conditions but little is known about the individual women and girls who participated. We're delighted to welcome back Sam Johnson, who will discuss how she discovered the involvement of her great-grandmother **Sarah Chapman** and the role she played in the action. Join us for this inspirational tale of researching your family history and bringing an unsung heroine to light.

East End Housing Estates

Thursday 24 September, 5.00-6.30pm

Join our outreach team Halima Khanom (Heritage Officer (Learning & Participation) and Genova Messiah (Heritage Trainee) for an informal session discussing the borough's estates. We will explore historic images and stories from the East End's rich history of social housing, but with an added personal focus on some of the lesser known estates that we're familiar with ourselves having grown up there. Come along with your own stories and reflections of estate life in the borough!

All events are free and will take place online until further notice. To book your space please email localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk and we will pass on the info you'll need to join.

More online events are in the pipeline for Black History Month and beyond - look out for our next newsletter with full details.

Citizen Researchers wanted!



Are you interested in Bangladeshi community history in the East End and the impact of the 1971 Liberation War? A new artist-led project commemorating the 50th anniversary of Independence needs local people to get involved by exploring these histories with Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives and the National Portrait Gallery. Bangladesh 50 and Citizen UK are part of the National Portrait Gallery's Inspiring People project.

Please get in touch if you:

- Are of Bangladeshi heritage
- Live in Tower Hamlets or have a strong connection and familiarity with the borough
- Can attend online events or be supported to get online at home
- Are keen to do historical research or already have some experience
- Can commit your time to the project from October until March 2021

What do you get out of it?

- Collaborate with others to develop the Bangladesh 50 Festival exhibition + event programme
- In-depth training in archival research and support from heritage experts
- You will be compensated for your participation, this will be explained further during selection

You'll be expected to:

- Attend a series of online collections workshops + guided history walks (subject to health & safety risk assessment)
- Participate in group work and share your experience throughout the project
- Commitment: approx. 8 half days
- Take responsibility for completing the tasks assigned to you

Sound good? Apply to be a Citizen Researcher

- Email us explaining why you fit the bill and want to be involved
- If easier, you can email a video or voicenote instead
- Find an image that you feel captures an aspect of British Bangladeshi identity and attach it to your email with a brief explanation
- Elders supported by younger family members are particularly welcome

Email: localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Deadline: Thursday 1 October 2020

Creating a covid-19 archive for Tower Hamlets

Our COVID-19 collecting project, **Making History: documenting coronavirus in the East End** is live!

Share with us your experience and submit digital items which reflect or illustrate your experience during lockdown, so we can create an archive that will help future generations understand our lives and the environment we are currently living in and help them meet challenges they may face.

For more information and to submit your records through our new digital platform, please head over to <https://talk.towerhamlets.gov.uk/coronavirus-collection>

We've already received some fantastic submissions and will be displaying a selection of them in our entrance hall soon - another reason to book your Reading Room appointment!

Contact us

Contact Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

- localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk
- <http://www.ideastore.co.uk/local-history>