

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



Covid forces early Christmas closure



Due to the rapid transmission of the covid-19 Omicron variant in London and its impact on staff availability, Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives will be **closing its Reading Room for the Christmas break earlier than planned.**

Your last chance to use our collections for research or to purchase items from our shop is **TODAY (Thursday) until 7pm.** We are sorry for the inconvenience caused by this unexpected early closure.

We will reopen on Tuesday 4 January subject to government guidance.

Please note however that **the Vanished East End exhibition will remain open for visitors** at the previously advertised times. These are detailed below.

Our final Bangladesh 50 event: now on Zoom

On **Saturday 18 December, 2pm-3.30pm** we are hosting a Zoom Q&A with artist **Ruhul Abdin** about his work on the Bangladesh 50 fabric clad sculpture at Idea Store Whitechapel. We at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives co-produced in partnership with the National Portrait Gallery. This is the final event in our Bangladesh 50 programme.

Please book your free place here: [BANGLA - a conversation with Ruhul Abdin & Lamyia Sadiq Tickets, Sat 18 Dec 2021 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#)

If you are planning a visit to Idea Store Whitechapel to see [this hugely popular exhibition and installation](#), please note that the lights switch on at around 4pm.



BANGLA

with Ruhul Abdin & Lamya Sadiq

Sat 18 Dec / 14:00 - 15:30 BST / FREE

In this talk Ruhul Abdin will discuss the collaborative process behind the project and the many themes that were explored around Bengali identity, language, nationhood, and activism that has formed the British Bangladeshi community in Tower Hamlets.

Abdin, an artist and co-founder of Paraa, a participatory design and architecture studio practice based in Dhaka, will be joined by Citizen Researcher Lamya Sadiq, a community worker and researcher from Dhaka, based in London.

Images courtesy of Ruhul Abdin

National
Portrait
Gallery

CITIZEN
UK

idea

TOWER
HAMLETS

Bangladesh
50

Bangladesh 50 Years is part of Citizen UK, a partnership project led by National Portrait Gallery in collaboration with local archives, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Art Fund.

What's on: The Vanished East End

Our current exhibition, organised by the East End Archive at London Metropolitan University, continues to draw in the crowds. **The Vanished East End** comprises the work of six photographers documenting visions long gone from the 1970s and 1980s.

The exhibition will be open at the following times before our Christmas closure. Please note that in accordance with new government restrictions brought in on 10 December, it is now mandatory to wear a face covering inside library buildings, unless you are exempt.

- Friday 17 December - Saturday 18 December, 10am-5pm
- Monday 20 December - Wednesday 22 December, 10am-5pm



(c) Diane Bush, 1970s. One of many amazing photographs on show at The Vanished East End exhibition, on show at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives until 4 February 2022.

Last chance to upload to Covid archive portal

Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives is creating a lasting collective memory of our community's response to the COVID-19 crisis. As an archive 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. In summer 2020 we set up an online portal for residents, workers and visitors to the borough to upload their digital materials, and we have received many informative and moving submissions. The portal, "Making History: documenting coronavirus in the East End" will be closing on 31st December 2021.

This is an opportunity for anybody living or working in the borough to share with us your experiences of living through the pandemic.

By collecting your individual testimonies and documents, we can create an archive that will help future generations understand our lives and the environment we have been living in and help them meet the challenges they may face.

There is still time to send us your materials so please check out the portal here: <https://talk.towerhamlets.gov.uk/coronavirus-collection>

Genealogist job vacancy

Our colleagues in Tower Hamlets Register Office are currently recruiting for a permanent, full-time genealogist. This post is primarily responsible for providing certified copies of historic Birth, Marriage and Death certificates for applicants.

The salary range is £26,544 - £28,005 and the post is based at St George's Town Hall. [For more details and to apply, click here.](#)

Christmas opening times

The building will be closing over the Christmas period as follows:

Last days of opening in December - Vanished East End exhibition only

- Friday 17 December - Saturday 18 December, 10am-5pm
- Monday 20 December - Wednesday 22 December, 10am-5pm

CLOSED: Thursday 23 December - Monday 3 January inclusive

First days of opening in January

- Tuesday 4 January, 10.30am-4pm
- Wednesday 5 January, 10.30am-4pm
- Thursday 6 January, 10.30am-7pm

We are usually open every first and third Saturdays of every month but due to the New Year's Day Bank Holiday, in January we will be open on **Saturday 15 January** only. Don't forget we are now **open til 7pm every Thursday**.

Contact us

Contact Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

- Email us: localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk
- Visit our website: <http://www.ideastore.co.uk/local-history>
- Phone (during opening hours only): 020 7364 1290

Reading Room Opening hours

- Tuesday 10.30am-4pm
- Wednesday 10.30am-4pm
- Thursday 10.30am-7pm

First and third Saturdays of every month (except January and April):

- Saturday 10am-5pm

Additionally, our exhibition hall is open 10am-5pm Monday-Friday, plus the Saturdays above, for anyone wanting to see **The Vanished East End** which is on until 5 February.

Stay Connected with Idea Store on social media:

