



We're increasing our opening hours

No appointment needed!

We are pleased to announce an increase to our opening hours and the return of drop-in visits. From the week commencing 19 July we will be open three days a week for visitors to our Reading Room.

- **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursdays**
10.30am – 4.00pm

You are welcome to drop-in without an appointment but if all tables are in use, you will be asked to queue or return later.

If you want to ensure you are not turned away (for example, if you are travelling some distance to use our collections) we invite you to email us at least two working days in advance, and we can reserve you a table. Request a morning (10.30am-1pm) and/or afternoon (1pm-4pm) appointment on one of the days above.

There will be a reduced Reading Room capacity with some tables reserved for walk-ins and other tables reserved for booked appointments. Please visit our [Visitor Information page](#) for more information, including on our health & safety procedures.

You will not need to order documents in advance, however we encourage you to plan your research visit before you come. Consult our online catalogue THcatalogue.org.uk and refer to our [User Guides](#) to get a head start. On arrival, you will need to provide reference numbers for the items you would like to see.

Later in the year, assuming the relaxation of restrictions continues to ease, we plan to open on one Saturday per month and also extend our opening hours into the evening on at least one of the weekdays.

For further information and to book an appointment, please email localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk or call 020 6364 1290. The telephone is answered during our opening hours only, and the inbox is monitored Monday-Friday.

New donation to the archives: East End family life



We are delighted that one of our researchers has donated their family papers to Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives for us to preserve permanently as part of our collections. The records date from 1910s–2004 and are of the Redgrave family (Ref: TH/9899).

John Albert Redgrave (born 1928 in Stepney) worked at Watney's Brewery, Commercial Road before taking up a position at Heseltine, Powell and Company, stockbrokers. He married Eileen (née Butcher) in 1951 and they went on to have three children.

Eileen was the daughter of William Butcher and Florence (née Hayday) and was brought up at Searle House, Ocean Estate. John and Eileen Redgrave lived in Poplar during the 1950s before moving out of Tower Hamlets - first to Deptford and then to Romford.

The collection includes John Albert Redgrave's baptism certificate and photographs of him including as a boy (pictured seated with his teddy bear!); a rent book for 176 Grosvenor Buildings, Manisty Street, Poplar (1951-1953); and a menu and seating plan for the Centenary Dinner of Heseltine, Powell and Company, stockbrokers (1951). Photographs

include holidays like many East End families made in the 1950s to Clacton-on-Sea and Ramsgate. Also included in the collection is research on William Butcher, 'My Wounded Grandfather: Butcher or Jackson' by his great-grandson Martin Wright which relates to his service in the First World War.

Do you have family papers or records of a business or charity relating to Tower Hamlets you would like our advice on? Explore our [guidance](#) and feel free to contact us.

Cemetery Park explores the history of care

We are pleased to be working with the lovely folks at the Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park on their Ecologies of Care project.

Queer Ecologies of Care: skill share, zine making & collaborations

From social care; to litter picking; repairing; cleaning; maintaining; forming mutual aid networks, care webs and triangles; improving access; making medicines; attending to needs; building personal resilience and challenging injustice... care can be *so many things*.



What does care mean to you? What have you learnt about care lately that you would like to share with others? How can care for land and people be integrated, better supported and resourced in Tower Hamlets and beyond? What are the different forms care can take in your experience? And would you like to make a zine* about it?

This exploratory workshop is open to all humans and non-humans with experience of giving and receiving care. It is a space to connect with others, learn, build local networks, share strategies, look through a microscope, imagine and craft future care ecologies together. If you would like to collaborate further on making this happen please get in touch as there is some budget to support this.

Following this workshop there will be an opportunity to get involved in some local archive digging, to learn together about the histories of care in and around Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park. There will also be a chance to collaborate on co-creating an offering / monument / or tool installed in the park, to honour caretakers of the past, present and future.

We recognise that it can be almost impossible for those giving and receiving care in a full or part-time capacity to attend events like this. If this is you, but you are still keen to join, please do write to hari@compost-mentis.com or call 07941696070 and we can explore options for creating a zoom link, making a recording or covering costs.

*A zine is a DIY publication which looks like a small homemade magazine. It can be a good way to share and circulate ideas, strategies, and writings.

Skill share & zine making - Saturday 17th July, 1-4pm,

Archive Digging - date tbc

Offering - date tbc

Ticket booking will be available through Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park's event page: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/thefriendsoftowerhamletscemeterypark/>

Globe Town artwork to showcase local history



As part of the Roman Road West (Globe Town) Regeneration programme, a new mural is being planned for the flank wall of Clyne's House, facing towards Globe Town market square.

In 2020 the High Streets team consulted locally on the proposals for the mural received by three artists. The winning design was by artist Shiraz Bayjoo (pictured).

New opportunity to participate!

Tower Hamlets Council's High Streets Team is now inviting residents, businesses, and traders to join the artist Shiraz in discussion groups to help develop the design. The final artwork will be a ceramic mural that uses images from the archive to represent local stories and histories.

Shiraz will be working with us at THLHLA to research the history of Tower Hamlets and Globe Town, sourcing images to share in the discussion groups. The three discussion sessions will also explore the history of Stepney and East London, including the history of refuge and grassroots social activism that helped shaped London and the UK, and the area's industrial importance through the London docks and other industries such as the textile mills.

The sessions:

You are invited to join one of three x 2 hour sessions to discuss the archival material from the Local History Library and Archives and other national archival collections facilitated by Shiraz Bayjoo who will lead the sessions.

When: July 15th, 28th and 29th. You only need to attend one session.

Why join?

We value your time and the stories you have to share and will pay participants £11/hour in the form of shopping vouchers

- An increased awareness/appreciation of the local area, its history and its arts activity
- The chance to be part of the research process of making a public artwork
- An understanding of your fellow participants' personal stories that are connected to the area

If you are interested in participating, please contact: TownCentres@towerhamlets.gov.uk

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