

NEWS INTERNATIONAL WAPPING DISPUTE THIRTY YEARS ON

TALK & DISCUSSION

Thursday, January 14, 2016 – 6.30 pm

**Tower Hamlets Local History Library &
Archives, Bancroft Road, London E1 4DQ**

(5 minutes' walk from Stepney Green
or Mile End underground stations)

2016 marks the 30th anniversary of the most traumatic upheaval in the history of the British media. On January 24 1986 Rupert Murdoch's News International group, publisher of The Times and The Sun, sacked nearly 6,000 staff as it switched production overnight to a new non-union factory in Wapping, East London.

The workers fought a bitter year-long battle but failed to win back their jobs. It was a crucial dispute of the Thatcher era that threatened to break the resolve of the trade union movement, leaving workers unable to resist the commercial pressures of the giant corporations. And it marked the start of the age of Big Media companies controlling all our main media, debasing editorial standards and treating readers and audiences simply as consumers.

The News International Dispute Archive (NIDA) was set up by former strikers and supporters to create an exhibition to present the workers' side of the story. Opening in 2011 to mark the 25th anniversary the exhibition was shown country-wide and a website was also launched.

The exhibition has been updated for the 30th anniversary. It is showing at the Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives in Stepney, east London, not far from the fateful Wapping site from 1st December until 11th February, Monday to Friday and the first and third Saturday in the month. Group visits are welcome.

Speakers:

John Hendy,
leading employment law barrister

John Lang,
former sacked News
International striker;

Louisa Bull and
Pete Kavanagh, Unite London &
Eastern Region



The Marx Memorial Library