

Petticoat Lane and surrounds

Petticoat Lane Market and the surrounding area have a rich and fascinating history. Many communities have moved to, passed through, and contributed to the area over the centuries. Many people are passionate about it; many have studied it, and there are a lot of experts who present themselves in different ways. These experts include local residents, market traders, small and large businesses, community groups, organisations, museums and societies. The area is a rich tapestry of people, communities and voices who are all interested in it and contribute to it in different ways.

A rich history

We don't have the space to explore the history of the area, or its relationship with textiles, here; and we don't want to, as so many people have put a lot of time, energy and work into doing this already. We want to use this as an opportunity to share some of their work through a list of websites and books which you can find on **page 4**.



Textiles and Petticoat Lane

Fabric and textiles have always been part of life around Petticoat Lane Market. People have come to the area from all over the world, and their cultures have become vital to it. Huguenots, Jewish refugees and immigrants came to the area around Petticoat Lane in the 17th century, for example; and brought skills such as silk weaving, dying and tailoring, making the area an epicentre of the textile trade. This is reflected in some of the street names such as Petticoat Lane, Weavers Fields and Tenterground (Tenterhooks were used to hang up dyed fabric!)

Since then, many other communities have arrived and made the area their home. This includes large numbers of Bangladeshi people in the 1970s, bringing vibrant textile traditions with them. Petticoat Lane Market remains close to its traditions with its clothing stalls and the shops selling Dutch wax fabrics prints popular in West Africa. **We want to celebrate the communities around Petticoat Lane with your designs. We want to collate your reactions to Petticoat Lane and its fabrics; and the patterns we wear and see around us, sometimes without noticing.**

The Petticoat Lane project

The City of London and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets are now working together to rejuvenate Petticoat Lane Market and the adjacent area. The aim is to improve the operations and layout of the market, introduce better facilities, enhance the public realm and introduce a new brand for the market. Community banners forms part of the engagement activities which underpin the **Petticoat Lane project** developments.