

## Artist Residency: Film London x Brent Archives

### Brent Museum and Archives Overview

#### Moving Image Collection

Brent Archives' small moving image collection consists mainly of films made by Brent Council and its predecessors, including public and staff information films, and records of council events, as well as a few items relating to local events and activities donated by individuals.

The collection consists of 123 titles that were originally on 16mm reel, VHS and CD formats. 27 films have been digitised to MP4 format, and are accessible to view via London Screen Archives, in person at Brent Museum and Archives or at the Film London office.

Some highlights from the collection are:

***Whose Town Is It Anyway?: Brent*** (1984, VHS, Colour, 19:48)

Documentary about being Black British and living in Brent.

<https://www.londonsscreenarchives.org.uk/title/1631/>

***Irish in Brent*** (1991, VHS, Colour, 30:00)

A documentary on the immigration of Irish people to Brent and the difficulties they face

<https://www.londonsscreenarchives.org.uk/title/1629/>



Sinn Fein Kilburn Branch (October 1971), Paddy Fahey collection (ref: ACC/2024/20).

***Brent: A State of Mind*** (1994, VHS, Colour, 12:32)

A portrait of Brent and its strong history of multi-culturalism, with a particular focus on the Caribbean, Polish, Gujarati, Irish, and Japanese communities.

<https://www.londonsscreenarchives.org.uk/title/1628/>

***Coronation Celebrations, Wembley*** (1953, 16mm film, Colour and B&W, 28:59)

A film of coronation celebrations in Wembley on 2 June 1953.

<https://www.londonsscreenarchives.org.uk/title/1114/>

More digitised material from Brent Archives can be consulted on the LSA website:

<https://www.londonsscreenarchives.org.uk/browse/collections/collection/3/>

## Key Collections

[British Empire Exhibition](#) (Ref 19241). The archive has a wealth of primary source material relating to the exhibition, including photographs, postcards, programmes, tickets, maps, plans and sales particulars.

[Department for the Promotion of Racial Equality](#) (Ref A8/1990 or 19908): An important collection related to the borough's attempts to improve the educational opportunities for pupils from ethnic minorities in the 1980s.

[Paddy Fahey collection](#) (Ref: ACC/2024/20): A collection of photographs and negatives which documents the development of the Irish community in London from 1950 to 1980. Paddy Fahey was a press photographer who moved to London from Ireland in 1941.

[Grunwick Strike collection](#) (Ref: 198722): A collection of minutes, correspondence, and publicity material from the Grunwick Strike Committee and Brent Trades Council. Taking place from 1976-1978 at a film processing laboratory in Willesden, the dispute was a significant moment in the history of trade unionism. The strikes were led by women employees of South Asian heritage who had migrated to the UK from East Africa.

## Oral History Collection

Brent's oral history collection is a diverse and fascinating range of audio recordings created as part of community-led projects. Highlights include:

- [Muslim Communities in Brent](#) (ref: OH/10). An oral history project on the religion, daily routines and cultural practices of Muslim people living in Brent (1993-1995).
- [Belonging in Brent](#) (ref: OH/9). Elders Voice, a charity supporting older people in Brent, worked with Brent Museum and Archives to capture the stories of Jewish, Irish and West Indian people in the local community (2008).
- [No Bass Like Home](#) (ref: ACC/2021/03) Commissioned by Metroland Cultures, No Bass Like Home celebrates Brent's contribution to reggae and Black British music in the UK. The collection includes interview with Robbo Ranx, Sabrina Washington, Young Warrior and Raggo Zulu (2020).

## Explore the collection

Brent Archives' full collection can be explored online at the following link:

<https://bma-collections.brent.gov.uk/>

Appointments to visit the archive can be made a week in advance at the following times:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10:30-5:00

Wednesday: 10:30-5:00

Thursday: 10.30-5:00 (open 10:30am - 8pm every alternate Thursday)

Friday: 11:00-4:00 (open to volunteers and project partners only)

Saturday: (open 10:30am - 5pm every alternate Saturday)

Sunday: Closed

To make an appointment, please contact Brent Museum and Archives:

Email: [museum.archives@brent.gov.uk](mailto:museum.archives@brent.gov.uk)

Phone: 020 8937 3600



West African village, British Empire Exhibition, Wembley (1924). British Empire Exhibition collection (ref:19241).

## Reading and resources

### History of Brent

Read a short history of Brent by Brent Museum and Archives, including a list of further resources: <https://www.brent.gov.uk/libraries-arts-and-heritage/brent-museum-and-archives/your-local-area/history-of-brent>

### The British Empire Exhibition

Read a piece on The British Empire Exhibition by Dr Katherine Howells (Principal Records Specialist – Visual Collections, The National Archives): <https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20speople-a-vast-window-display-the-british-empire-exhibition-of-1924-5/>

### *The Year of the Beaver* (1985)

Directed by Steve Sprung, Dave Fox and Sylvia Stevens, *The Year of the Beaver* is a documentary that looks back on the Grunwick dispute and other workers' struggles in the UK in the late 1970s: <https://en.labournet.tv/video/6528/year-beaver>

### By the Cut of Their Cloth, The Mixed Museum

Curated by Brent artist and designer Warren Reilly and The Mixed Museum, *By The Cut of Their Cloth* is a digital exhibition that explores Brent's rich multicultural and mixed race histories: <https://mixedmuseum.org.uk/btcotc>

### History of the British Empire Exhibition

The British Empire Exhibition was a colonial exhibition held in 1924-1925 at Wembley Park, London. The exhibition was designed as a celebration of the colonial project and an attempt to assert British dominance on the world stage.

Costing around £10 million and covering 216 acres of grounds, the exhibition featured pavilions for each of the empire's territories and halls dedicated to industry and engineering. From April to October of 1924, it is estimated that the exhibition attracted between 25 and 30 million visitors to Wembley.

The British Empire Exhibition collection is a valuable resource for understanding both Britain's colonial past and the social development of Wembley and the wider area of Brent.

## Organisations

### Film London

Film London is the capital's screen industries agency. We connect ideas, talent and finance to develop a pioneering creative culture in the city that delivers success in film, television, animation, games and beyond. We work to sustain, promote and develop London as a global content production hub, support the development of the city's new and emerging filmmaking talent and invest in a diverse and rich film culture. Funded by the Mayor of London and the National Lottery through the BFI, we also receive support from Arts Council England, ScreenSkills and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

[www.filmlondon.org.uk](http://www.filmlondon.org.uk)

### London's Screen Archives

London's Screen Archives is a unique network of over 70 organisations with a collective vision – to preserve and share London's history on film. The network is managed by Film London and encompasses organisations that hold heritage film collections across London, including local and borough archives, museums, galleries, public sector bodies, community groups, and national charities. We work with our members to digitise their films and ensure the long-term sustainability of their moving image collections, as well as offering opportunities for public engagement through screenings and events, volunteering programmes, training and education. London's Screen Archives is supported by the BFI, awarding funds from the National Lottery.

<https://www.londonsscreenarchives.org.uk/>

### Film London Artists' Moving Image Network (FLAMIN)

Film London, with funding from Arts Council England (ACE), is a major supporter of artists' filmmaking, through the Film London Artists' Moving Image Network (FLAMIN). FLAMIN was launched by Film London in 2005 as a one-stop resource to provide London-based artists working in the moving image with access to funding, guidance and development opportunities. Through unique commissioning funds, FLAMIN has commissioned over 250 productions, and supported the careers of countless other artists with programmes of one-to-one advice sessions, residencies and workshops.

@FL\_FLAMIN

[www.filmlondon.org.uk/FLAMIN](http://www.filmlondon.org.uk/FLAMIN)

*A partnership between Brent Museum & Archives, assisted by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, and Film London through Film London Artists' Moving Image Network (FLAMIN) with the support of Arts Council England, and London's Screen Archives (LSA).*



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