



The

# HACKNEY TERRIER

THE FRIENDS OF HACKNEY ARCHIVES NEWSLETTER

No. 36

Autumn 1994

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## FOR YOUR DIARY

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The Committee invites Friends to join a modest seasonal celebration in the **Rosemary Branch** tavern, Shepperton Road, near the south-west end of Southgate Road N1, from 8.30 p.m. onwards on **Monday 5th December**. If you think you may not recognise any of us, please ring (071) 241 2886 for an up to date description of the likely suspects!

The tenth **Stanley Tongue** memorial lecture will be given by **Keith Sugden**. His topic will be **Archaeology in Hackney**. The lecture will take place on **Wednesday 3rd May 1995** at Sutton House, following the Friends' annual general meeting at 7.30 p.m.

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## THE 'TERRIER' IN 1995

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Next year will see a shift in the format and focus of the *Terrier*. It will be issued three times during the year, and will keep readers in touch with the month-by-month work of Hackney Archives Department - as it always has done. It will once again become the direct voice of the Department. In place of the fourth newsletter, the Friends will produce a new and substantial annual volume - provisionally called *Hackney History* - into which new research and, we hope, reviews of new books, will be channeled. This will give more flexibility, in particular to include work which does not readily fit the present format, which has had to deal, within a tight compass, with both new research and day-to-day matters. The pieces which recently we have 'serialised' should be accommodated more comfortably.

Membership of the Friends in 1995 (still at £6) will entitle each individual member or household to a year's mailing of both titles. Prospective contributors - whether of news or of researched articles - are invited to get in touch with the Department in the first instance (telephone (071) 241 2886).

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## THE HACKNEY HISTORY PRIZE

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The Friends are sponsoring a prize competition designed to stimulate research and writing about Hackney's history. **Prize money of £150**, funded by a donation, is offered for previously unpublished writing, based on original research, of no more than 3,000 words. The research must be based on material derived from archival or other primary sources, but may feature any topic connected with the history of the present borough (the former boroughs of Hackney, Stoke Newington and Shoreditch). The purpose is to encourage research, so the original material used can be from anywhere - so long as the source is attributed.

Now is the time to get started on answering that nagging question. (Perhaps you have always wondered: why did that happen, or not happen? why is that where it is, or how it is? when? why? for whom?... there are no end to possible questions.) So long as the findings concern Hackney and are previously unpublished, the choice of subject is up to you. There is no obstacle to your writing up research you have already done which is still lurking in your notebooks (though in that case you will of course do well to check out whether new source material has become available).

Copies of the competition rules (which should deter nobody from entering, but which entrants are advised they should read and have to hand) are available from the Friends of Hackney Archives, 43 de Beauvoir Road, London N1 5SQ; please send a stamped addressed envelope marked 'History Prize'. **Entries must be submitted by 31st July 1995**, and may be published in *Hackney History*. The judges will be David Mander (borough archivist), Lilian Gibbens (chair of the Society of Genealogists' books committee), Keith Sugden (writer on history and topography), Maureen Taylor (Vice-Principal of Hackney Community College) and Isobel Watson (chair of the Friends).



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## THE MEMOIRS OF BENING ARNOLD (1824 - 1930)

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*The following extract comes from a text, recorded in 1924, after the author's centenary. A transcription has recently been deposited at Hackney Archives Department.*

When I was a child there was no gas in London or anywhere else. The streets were dismal and dark indeed, only oil lamps in the streets at long intervals. Watchmen, as they were called, paraded the streets at night calling out the last hour and the state of the weather. We had no water closets. All the filth of the house ran into cesspools under the kitchen floors, and when these cesspools got full, men called nightmen came to one's house at night with tubs and took away the filth. Sanitary conditions were shameful and fever always prevalent. When gas was discovered it was considered too dangerous to be brought into our houses. It might do for the streets, but if brought into our houses we should be blown up.

On Sundays the public houses were open except during church hours. As one went to church it was a common thing to see drunken men and women turned out of the public houses just before 11 o'clock, and there they would lie until 1 o'clock when the house would open again. There were no police in those days. Whether drunkenness was a punishable offence, I don't know.

We lived in the Kingsland Road, in my earliest days in Shoreditch parish. It was a saying .... a low church, a high steeple, a drunken parson, a bad set of people. Our paper mill was burnt down once, all that part separate from the machinery, where the paper was made up into quires and reams. I saw the outbreak. It was a long room with a furnace at one end, the flames and heat from which led into an iron pipe which ran the whole length of the room. Near the furnace this pipe was red hot. The wet paper was hung on lines filling all the upper part of the room. One of these lines right over the red hot pipe broke and the whole place was in ablaze immediately. I can see my father now gathering his books together. He shouted to me, a little toddlekins of 5 or 6, run in to your mother. I did so, and was at once sent to a house on opposite side of the road, and put to bed. I went to sleep and saw no more of the fire or the mill.

The Mill was in what was named Mail Coach Yard. I suppose before our mill was built Mail coaches were located there, for in my early days hovels ran along two sides of the mill yard which were no doubt formerly stables for horses. There was a tiled roof leaning against an outside wall, and a door in front, with a dwarf wall and window over it, no floor, beaten earth, a piece of bare ground about 8ft. square in front of it. In these hovels costermongers lived, and his donkey lived on the bit of bare ground. Coster wife children and donkey all together. Their rent was 1/6 a week. My grandfather sent me one week to collect the rent. I never felt more

ashamed. Squalour unspeakable. If pigs had lived there it could not be much worse. Remember there were no sewers or drains then. How much better is the present day lot of the poor. Often and often now I want to go and see the old place but cannot. The Salvation Army bought it in the first president Booth's time. He proposed to build a Salvation Hall there and to proclaim salvation for all, but could not raise the funds. The property remains in the hands of the Salvation Army, and I believe is useless.

In my early days there were four Mail Coaches running down the Kingsland Road to the Midlands and the North, even to Scotland, and they always stopped at an inn nearly opposite our house to complete arrangements for the journey northwards, and it was an interesting sight to see the coachman and the Guard with his blunderbus, both in scarlet livery. The coachman or driver would twirl his whip over the ears of the leading horses, not touching them, and then to see the Guard run after the coach, catch hold of a handle and mount to his seat so deftly it was a delight to us boys. My aunt, Sophia Acott, sister of my mother Hannah, used every year to go up to Nottingham by coach to see some cousins, but her coach went through merry Islington, not by the Kingsland Road, a twelve hour journey.

I will tell a little tale of my grandfather, who was one of the managers as they called them of the Tabernacle in Moorfields. He had a paper mill situated between the Hackney Road and Bethnal Green, and he had a horse and chaise. Several other people of the Tabernacle also had like accommodation, and they agreed to drive with their wives one summer day to Epping Forest and have tea there. When they got there tea was ordered, and they all went into the garden. There they found some skittles, which they set up and began to play with. They soon got hot & called for ale. At last tea was ready, and they all much enjoyed it. Then they returned to the skittles, also got tired, and retired to a shed or pavillion to rest, where one named Wilkinson, who led the singing in the Tabernacle, was asked to sing a song, which he did. In due time they paid their bill, had their horses put to, and drove back to London and home. Next day my grandmother saw Matthew Wilks, the minister of the Tabernacle, enter the mill gate and walk towards the house. She met him at the door. He said "Where's Arnold?" "In the mill, sir." "Send for him." "I have sir", and Matthew Wilks took his stand on the hearth rug, looking very angry. Presently my grandfather opened the door and in his usual warm, cordial manner walked towards Mr. Wilks with extended hand. Mr. W. kept his hands behind his back and said "I don't shake hands with men who play skittles! What ....." he said " .... has it come to this, a Manager of the Tabernacle to play skittles?" My grandfather tried to excuse himself, and said "I am sorry if I have done anything which displeases you." "It is not me you have displeased, but your father in heaven ....." And Wilkinson too, singing songs. We shall have him singing songs on Sundays."

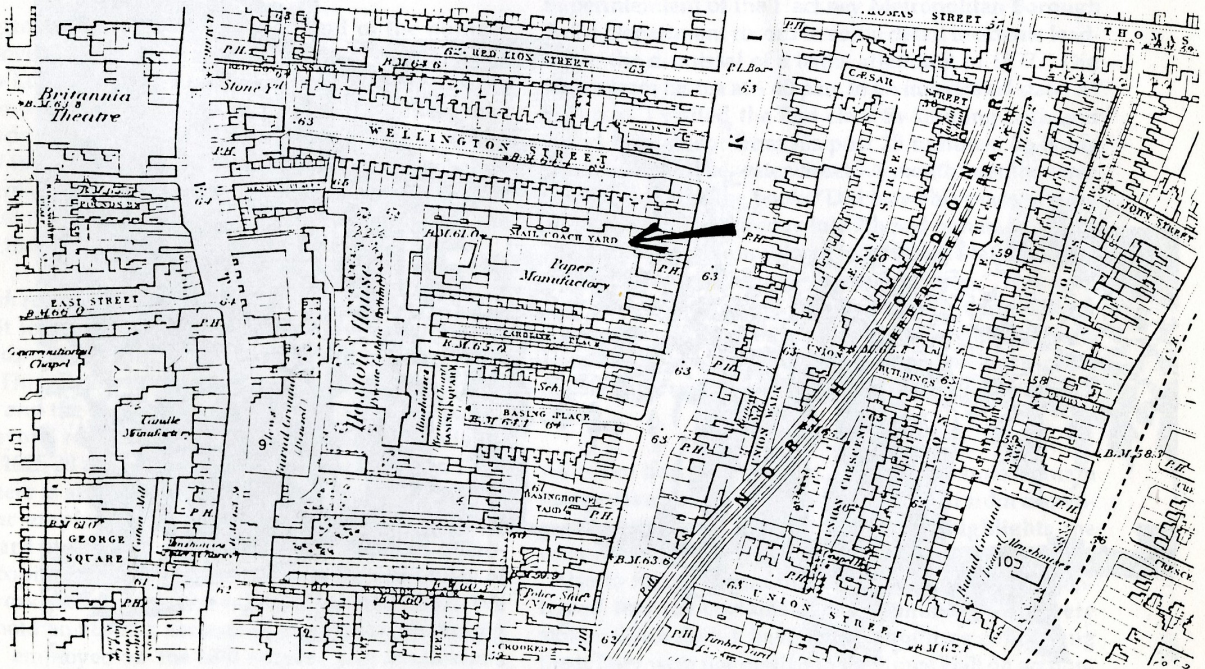


Tears came into my grandfather's eyes. "I am glad to see those tears" Mr. Wilks said. "Good bye, God bless you." And he left the house. They were both true, good men indeed. Both were buried in Bunhill Fields burying ground, where lie many notable men (DeFoe for instance). My grandfather's vault is under the main path, about six or eight yards from the gate in the City Road. The tombstone is on the left as you walk up the path. My grandfather lost £35,000 in the paper mill, because he did not sink his well deep enough to reach the chalk, & there was iron in the water, which affected the pure white required. Both my grandfather and my mother are buried in Bunhill Fields. Soon after this the sanitary authorities closed Bunhill Fields, and all churchyards in London, to Burials, so neither my grandmother nor my father rest there, but in Stoke Newington Cemetery. However I have instructed my solicitor, Mr. Basil Fletcher, to bury me in the same grave as I buried my first wife, nee Miss Thomas, in Kensal Green Cemetery...

(He ran away from school in Essex, in disgrace and unable to learn a chapter of *Proverbs* as a punishment. Home was now near grandfather's mill in Elizabeth Street, Hackney Road, Bethnal Green). I entered the back. Heard my father's step coming along the room called the Salle where the paper was made up into reams. I was so overcome that I stood where I was, motionless. My father seeing me said "Ben, what's this?" "Run away," I said. "Go in to your mother," he said, and went into his counting house. I went into the Salle, got in talk with one of the workmen with whom I was a bit of a favourite, and I was telling him my story when, looking out of the window he said "Why, theres

Maconachie come to fetch you." In a few minutes I heard my grandfather's step, he always had creaking shoes, coming in at the other end of the Salle. I ran behind a stack of paper. Just then my father entered the Salle from his counting house and met my grandfather midway, who said to my father "Here's a dreadful thing, Ben has run away from school." "Yes I know. I sent him to his mother .... Tom," to the man ".... have you seen him?" "Yes sir." "Where is he?" .... "Behind that stack." "Fetch him out." My grandfather patted me on the head. "Good boy for coming home," he said. He feared I had gone to sea or worse. He was a large hearted beneficent man, full of sympathy and kindness, loved by everybody. A contrast indeed to his son, my father, from whom I do not remember ever having had a kind word. But my mother, she overflowed with love and kindness to all of us, even the most wayward and perverse. She came to her death through cholera in 1849, I think...

I began my working life, or anyway to get my own living, in a printing office. Was apprenticed to John Haddon of Castle Street, Finsbury. Had 5 shilings a week for two years, then 7/6 for two years, then half of what I could earn percent for two years, and two thirds of my earnings for the last year. I always had good work and the difficult work. One day I met Mr. Haddon on the stairs and he said "Come this way" leading into his counting house. He took a cloth off a table and said "Look there" I did so, then turning to him said "It is music type" "Yes ..." he said "Look at it carefully" When I had done so he said "Could you set that up?" "Yes, I'm sure I could" He said "Finish what you have in hand,



Shoreditch in 1872, showing Mail Coach Yard on the west side of Kingsland Road. In the 1840s the paper mill was no. 138.



then come down here." He put me in a little room by myself and gave me a book of hymn tunes, 400 to set up. He said "What will you do that for per page?" "Cannot say right off. Let me set up half a dozen pages and then I will quote a price." This was agreed and I asked 4/- a page. "That will do" he said. And so I was the first person to set up music type.

Somehow, I hardly know how, I left the printing trade because it was unhealthy, and my health was suffering. I went to Birmingham to see a cousin of my mother, who was a gold and silver pencil case maker. Through my mother's cousin somehow I got into the jewellery trade, of which I knew nothing, heard of a man who had a house and shop in Baker Street, but wanted to give it up because of domestic quarrels. I had saved two or three hundred pounds, and my eldest brother had about the same. We clubbed together, took the house and business, such as it was, but my brother and I could not agree. My father paid him out. The upper part of the house I let to a dressmaker, a Miss Thomas, who had a good connection among the aristocracy. I married her...

**Bening Arnold**

*The complete document comprises much more of interest, not least about the writer's schooldays, and his bereavement through shipwreck in the Channel Islands, as well as anecdotes about local clergy. We are grateful to Peter Arnold for permission to reproduce these extracts.*

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## TAKING A PRIVATE TRAIN, 1843

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Owen Chadwick's book *Victorian Miniature* (1960; Canto edition 1991) gives a fascinating insight - based on diary sources - into relations between a Norfolk squire and the clergyman he tellingly described as 'his' vicar, in the mid-19th century. Incidentally it sheds light on many other matters, including transport hire.

Here is Sir John Boileau, the squire in question, desperate to get back from a day's business in London to his ailing wife at Ketteringham on 15th September 1843.

The last train for Wymondham left at 8.45 p.m. With James, the footman, he reached Shoreditch station at midnight to ask for a special train. The station was closed. He found a porter and another under man, who told him that he could not start for two hours as they would need to bring an engine from Stratford and to telegraph all down the line to ensure safety; that there were five luggage trains upon the line and that he might be delayed or even suffer an accident; and finally that the cost would be £46.

He waited for the morning train.'



*'Dinner hour' at Clarnico's (early 20th century): see opposite page*



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## HACKNEY AT WORK: an outline of employment records at Hackney Archives

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Staffing records of local authorities, businesses and other organisations can be a fruitful source for family historians, those looking for biographical material or studying wider social issues. Wages ledgers, application forms, factory registers and staff magazines can contain useful and sometimes unexpectedly detailed information about an individual employee. Details vary; some wages records only record the employee's name and amount paid.

Records of employees are sparse before the middle of the 19th century. The average size of a business in the 1850s was 20 to 30 people. Employers usually knew the work-force personally and there was less need for detailed record-keeping. Items of information such as names, addresses, skills and background were easily remembered and not necessarily committed to paper. As a result, the bulk of staffing records are modern. There are, however, always exceptions, and Hackney has some notable ones. The staff records of Bryant and May the match manufacturers and Nicholsons the distillers date from the 1850s. 'Merger mania' of the 1880s-90s, following legislation facilitating the formation of limited companies, meant that the average business tripled in size. The introduction in the twentieth century of legislation affecting pay, conditions, pensions and national insurance necessitated the keeping of more detailed records.

The growth both of population and of the number employed in local government is reflected in the records of the London Borough of Hackney and its predecessors - from watchmen's books in the 1800s to microfiche records of thousands of council employees in the 1970s. What follows is by no means an exhaustive guide to mentions of individual employees amongst the records held at the Department. I have simply highlighted the most important and useful sources.

### *Parish records*

For St John-at-Hackney there are a few early records including a register of workhouse apprentices 1767-1797. This records the name and age of the child apprenticed and the trades they entered. We also hold: parish surveyors' records 1734-1804, watchmen's' attendance book 1825-28 and a day book of poor rate collectors 1746-7. There is also the Turnpike Trust's weekly record of labour employed digging gravel, 1797-1802. For St Leonard Shoreditch we have recently acquired microfilm copies from the Greater London Record Office of the workhouse apprentice registers for 1802-1842. We also hold an abstract account of population (including those employed on the 1831 census), and watchmen's books 1812-1830. For St Mary, Stoke Newington we have the National Parochial School contracts of employ-

ment 1899-1910, records of the paupers employed by the overseers of the poor, 1831, and wages books for the vestry clerks (1894-1901) and the Surveyor's Department (1899-1900).

### *Local authority records*

From 1855-1894 most functions in Hackney were administered by the Hackney District Board of Works. Hackney Archives holds a list of officials for the district, and the wages records of the Surveyors Department comprising those of the later Borough; they run from 1867-1914. Among the most comprehensive staff records are those of the Hackney Metropolitan Borough Civil Defence personnel during the Second World War. They include lists of ARP wardens with their addresses and occupations as well as rolls of honour of Civil Defence personnel killed on duty, and council staff killed on active duty. Compulsory registration for civil defence duties was introduced in 1941. The Hackney records include registration cards, some with applications attached. They give the name, age, address and employer, and details of exemption where appropriate. There is a similar register for the Stoke Newington Metropolitan Borough. The Shoreditch Metropolitan Borough Civil Defence records include a registration index of wardens with personal details and an ARP staff magazine. The staff records of the Engineers and Surveyors Department of Stoke Newington Metropolitan Borough cover the Second World War period and deal with volunteering and training as well as routine wages matters.

It is not all names and dates. The report books of the Superintendent of the Hackney Metropolitan Borough Baths Department record in some detail incidents leading to the dismissal of a baths attendant in 1897. "Did return from his tea at 4.40 p.m. in an intoxicated state. At 5.30 p.m. I visited the 2nd class Swimming bath and found him absent from his post 25 minutes; he being found asleep in the water closet." A month later the same name appears in the book: "Did leave his place of duty at 7.30 a.m. on Wednesday July 7th and remained absent 20 minutes. Was found in an intoxicated state, fell into the swimming baths, had to be sent home." There are also reports of a female employee being cautioned for washing her dirty aprons in the first class bath. The same attendant was also prone to vacating her post in the female baths and was often found in the 2nd class male baths.

All is not however so grim. The report books contain numerous accounts of bathers being saved from drowning by attendants. An entry for 1920 highlights the resourceful approach of an anonymous member of staff: "Also to report to you that at our last meeting I mentioned that the curtains of the swimming bath were stolen. Since then I have made enquiries concerning them. They were not needed in the Kings Hall on account of the War, so being short of bathing drawers the curtains were made into them".



There are also council committees to consider for reports of discussions on staff matters in general as well as for references to individuals. There are joint staff committee minutes and local joint works committee minutes for Stoke Newington in the 1930s, Hackney from 1934, and the Shoreditch establishment committee 1900-65, among others.

#### *Business records*

Hackney Archives holds staff records of a wide range of businesses, including match-making, paint manufacture, undertakers, engineering and boot and shoe manufacture. The staff records of Bryant and May are detailed and extensive. They include a valuable section of material relating to 19th century working conditions and disputes, including the match girls' strike of 1888 and the debate over phosphorous necrosis and the subsequent banning of white and yellow phosphorous. The minute books of the Fairfield and Glasgow Works Committees provide useful material for the study of the development of employee relations. The records of Bryant and May also incorporate records from their subsidiary companies abroad, including photographs of workers in Brazil, Argentina, Australia, South Africa and Sweden.

The records of **A. Sindall and Co**, trimmings manufacturers of Middleton Road, Dalston contain a large number of photographs of staff outings and parties from the 1920s to the 1980s, including a visit to the Empire Exhibition at Wembley in the 1920s and centenary celebrations in 1964. A series of factory registers dating from 1902 to 1938 contains names and addresses of employees under 18. The earliest register also includes the names of parents. The records of **A. Norman & Sons Ltd.**, footwear manufacturers of Shoreditch High Street include wages sheets, and a petition to the directors drawn up during the General Strike in 1926 and signed by 41 employees ("We, the undersigned members of the staff, express our appreciation of the splendid offer made to us during the present crisis, and can only hope to repay in some measure, by our most loyal service in the near future".)

Employee records of **Nicholsons** the distillers include two time books that record the arrival and departure times of each employee in the early 1850s. According to these records the average working day was from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., with a later start on Sundays. Applications for posts and subsequent agreements of employment (1859-1913) survive with the added bonus of biographical notes presumably made at the time of interview.

The following firms also feature in the collection: **John Carter and Sons** (1887), **CF Casella and Co** (1914-1915), **Dottridge Bros** (undertakers), **W. T Beale and Sons** (1961-1970), **Richard Pye and Co** (1949-1953), **Victory Engineers** (1967-1978).

It is worth considering other possible sources that have not been included above. Registers of members may hold information on those employees who were shareholders. Board minutes will usually record senior staff appointments and may also record discussion of staff misconduct. Chairmen's statements may contain reference to individual staff. Business histories can also be useful, especially for references to senior staff.

#### *Trade Unions*

The membership records of trade unions can also contain detailed information that gives a fascinating insight into the lives of individual workers as well as the issues facing trade unions over the last hundred years. The 'Particulars of Membership Book 1898-1905' of the Amalgamated Union of Upholsterers contains names and ages of individuals with detailed histories of origin, employment and often reasons for exclusion from the union (usually for non-payment of subscriptions or blacklegging). There is a list of blacklisted men from different areas at the back of the volume.

We also hold membership records of varying dates from local branches of the Amalgamated Union of Upholsterers; the Electrical Trades Union the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, and the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers.

#### *School records*

Hackney Archives has the records of four schools (Clapton County School; Hackney Downs School; North Hackney Central School and Kingsland School) and their predecessors). They include staff registers as well as numerous references to individual members of staff in log books, school magazines and photographs.

Sue McKenzie



*A workman at Berger's paintworks (late 19th century)*



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## NEWS FROM HACKNEY ARCHIVES

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### *Staffing*

The job description for the Searchroom supervisor is now with Central Personnel, but there is still no date when the vacancy can be advertised. Sue McKenzie will, alas, shortly be leaving the Department to share the post of archivist at Lambeth with Jon Newman; there will be some risk to full coverage of opening hours until Sue's post can be filled. HAD is to be included in the Library Services Review that is scheduled to report early in the coming year. This will not be a wholesale review of the Department but will examine the work and duties of HAD in relation to existing staffing and should therefore identify the gaps in provision.

### *Budget*

Cuts for next year have already been announced and HAD is set to lose £6,200. The Department is expected to make up £3100 of this from income generation. This sets us a tough target and any failure to meet it will result in more than £3100 being cut from the budget.

Against this we have a growth bid in for expansion for records management, new record office and extra staff. If any of these come off then the cuts may be eased. However if there is no remission then cuts are likely to affect those areas of HAD's work covering publicity and public relations - leaflets and exhibitions - at a time when these will be needed most.

### *The Tyssen sermons and religious writings*

After advertisement Philip Plumb has been appointed as the contractor for the cataloguing part of the work. Philip was formerly the local history Librarian for Hertfordshire, a library school lecturer and has an interest in local religious writings. As a first stage, he has helped move the books into one place in the strong room and has now begun cataloguing. Sara Archard has worked her way through over half the collection, carrying out thorough cleaning work. Binding and paper repair will take place later. The project is on target to be completed by the end of the financial year.

### *'Hackney on disc'*

Early signs indicate that funding for the pilot Hackney on Disc project proposed in collaboration with Sutton House is likely to be forthcoming. This is a project for combining visual and map information on computer as an educational tool; it will focus on the rich material available for the area of Hackney and Homerton of which Sutton House is the centre. Confirmation is awaited before detailed planning and preliminary work takes place later this year.

### *Records management*

The records management consultancy exercise is proceeding apace, with consultant Richard Bennett inter-

viewing a wide range of staff, both those at the sharp end of records control and policy makers in the various directorates, including the Chief Executive. The final report will be joint with Management Services and should identify problems and potential solutions, although implementation will depend on senior council officers and realistic internal pricing if directorates are to use the service. A fully effective service would substantially change the way the Department is perceived inside the Council; and from the user perspective would ultimately lead to improved record services as more council records come within the scope of the system.

### *New equipment and (perhaps) new premises*

Humidification equipment is to be installed in the searchroom shortly. This will lead to the loss of one row of shelving in the directories shelving near the door, but it is hoped that minor rearrangements will not lead to loss of direct access of any of the books. Nor should noise levels from equipment in the searchroom go up. In turn the low humidity levels experienced in winter should diminish.

News on premises is mixed. It looks as if the other interests on the Annexe site at Lansdowne Drive may triumph, but nothing is confirmed. To provide a degree of insurance, HAD have asked architects to produce a theoretical study of needs not linked to a specific site. In the interval the Head of Administration has been asked to identify possible vacant sites so that the option of a purpose-built repository can be considered and costed.

### *Forthcoming publications*

HAD has now agreed to meet the costs of Keith Sugden's time to revise the *Archaeology in Hackney* booklet, to be re-issued by the Hackney Society. In collaboration with Alan Sutton, HAD has also commissioned Jenny Golden to produce a history of Hackney in World War II, to be released in time for the fiftieth anniversary of VE Day in 1995 and will form the basis of an exhibition on the same subject at Hackney Museum. Both book and exhibition will be called *Hackney at War*.

The Hackney section of the Victoria County History of Inner Middlesex is scheduled for publication in May 1995. It will be a single volume, and will therefore have more illustrations than if it had been combined with another area, as in the existing Stoke Newington volume.

### *Acquisition and listing*

New microfilm includes the Kelly directories for Hackney, Homerton, Old Ford and Bow for 1887-9 and the directory of Stoke Newington for 1866. The first batch of film of Greater London Record Office records has also arrived - the extensive apprenticeship, admission, discharge, birth and death registers for Shoreditch Workhouse from 1788-1872 (full details in the microfilm lists and the card indexes). The order for the copy parish



registers for St John at Hackney to 1900 has now been placed. Further filming of GLRO sources is under discussion.

Archives: Three small deposits are: a settlement of 1846 which gives considerable detail concerning a house in Woodberry Down; two deeds for property in Median Road, Lower Clapton 1868-70, (which the GLRO has had since 1983 and has now chosen to transfer to us as a donation) and the fascinating edited memoir by Bening Arnold, extracts of which are reproduced in this issue.

#### Miscellaneous

The Customer Charter report is now scheduled for early next year. As part of the wider customer care initiative of the Council, HAD staff now have name badges, and so does our contract conservator, Sara Archard.

As this goes to press we are suddenly experiencing problems with postal collections; we understand there is industrial action in the north and north-western postal districts. Our apologies if this affects correspondence with readers, who might in any event like to note down the Department's new fax number: 071 241 6688.

David Mander  
Borough archivist

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### NEW BOOKS IN THE ARCHIVES

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A very mixed bag, and in no particular order: *Sir James Pennethorne and the Making of Victorian London*, by Geoffrey Tyack deals with the life and works of the designer of Victoria Park. E. R. Oakley's *London County Council Tramways* is a mine of information about the tramway system. Alan Cox, *Public Housing* is the invaluable starting point for any work on council or other publicly-funded housing provision, and the Corporation of London's *Introduction to the Corporation of London Record Office* is the starting point for the Corporation's own corporate records (separate from the Guildhall collections). Lionel Munby's *Reading Tudor and Stuart Handwriting* is a well-regarded handbook produced by the British Association for Local History. F. Grace, *The Late Victorian Town* is aimed primarily at those guiding school projects. A solid account of *The British Brewing Industry 1830-1930* comes from T. R. Gornish and R. G. Wilson. Monographs on *Epidemic Disease in London* and *A Medieval Capital and its grain supply (c. 1300)* are the fruit of recent work at the Centre for Metropolitan History. Donald E. Ginter's *A Measure of Wealth: the English land tax - a historical analysis* evaluates the land tax records as a source. Simon Fowler of the PRO has written *Sources for Labour History* for the Labour History Society. The uses and limitations of court records are revealed in Jane Cox's *Hatred Pursued beyond the Grave*, which exploits the historical and entertainment value of the records of the church courts. Finally, *Strike Back* is the autobiography of the late Ernie Roberts MP.

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### FROM READER TO READER

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Marjie Manley has written in appreciation of the Friends' donation of theatrical material, especially the playscript of *The Merry Men of Hoxton*, in memory of her brother Bill. Bill and Marjie's grandparents came from Hoxton, making the presentation more appropriate than we knew. Bill, says Marjie, would have been "tickled pink"!

Cliff Gully has written seeking to publicise his availability to give a talk on Major John Andre (1751-1780). Andre was the British army officer hanged on the orders of General Washington for spying during the American war of independence. Andre's family residence was Beecholme House, which was situated just north-east of Clapton Pond. The illustrated slide talk focuses on Andre's early years as well as his military career. Anyone wishing to make arrangements for this talk to be given can telephone Cliff Gully on (071) 249 6323 after 6 p.m. "I will only charge a nominal fee for my time and expertise", he writes.

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### LONDON PARKS AND GARDENS

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Sources for studying gardens and open spaces provides the theme for this year's conference of the London Archive Users' Forum. This will take place at the Institute of Historical Research on Saturday 5th November 1994, from 10.30 to 4 p.m. The speakers are Christine Lalumia of the Geffrye Museum, whose talk is called 'Digging for facts: researching an historic herb garden'; Neil Burton (co-author of *Life in the Georgian City*) on the Georgian town garden; Hazel Conway (author of *People's Parks*) on public parks, and Christopher Thacker of English Heritage talking about the Register of Parks and Gardens for Greater London. The conference is open to all, but the fee (which includes lunch and refreshments) is £16 for non-members and £14 for members of LAUF. Cheques (payable to LAUF) should be sent to Christine Pittman, Flat 1, 97 Devonshire Road, SW19 2EQ, by 2nd November; please enclose a SAE for confirmation of booking.

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### 'LONDON LOCAL ARCHIVES'

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The new edition is now available. £3.75 from Hackney Archives Department - address below. £4.20 by post: cheques to London borough of Hackney, please.

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