

The Hackney Terrier

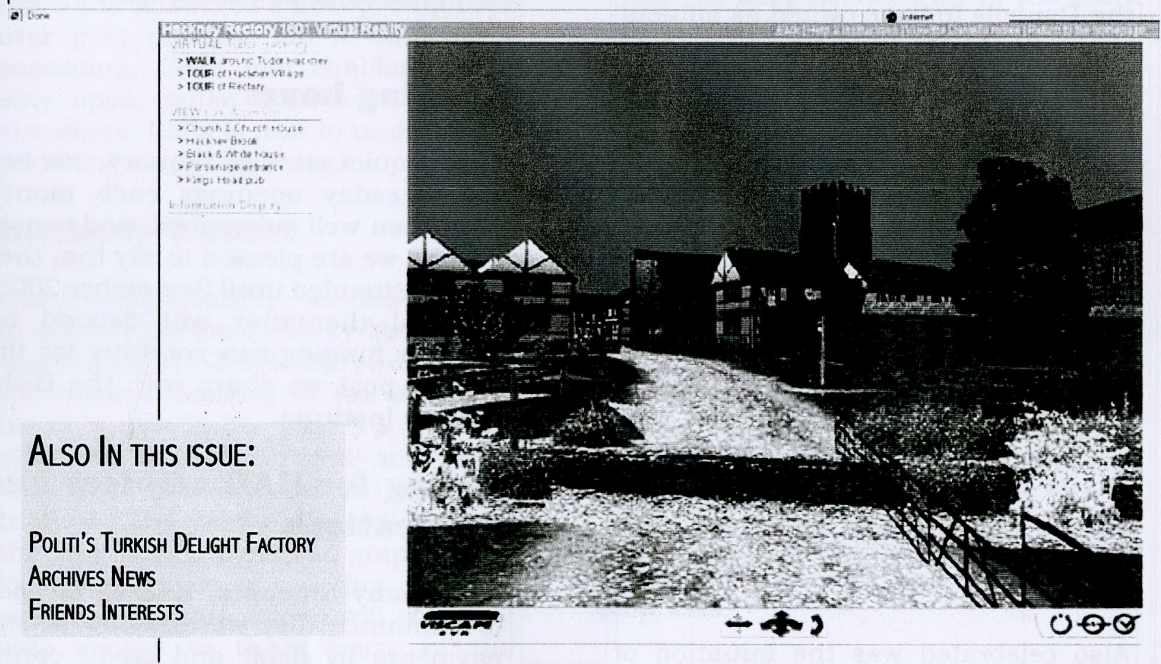
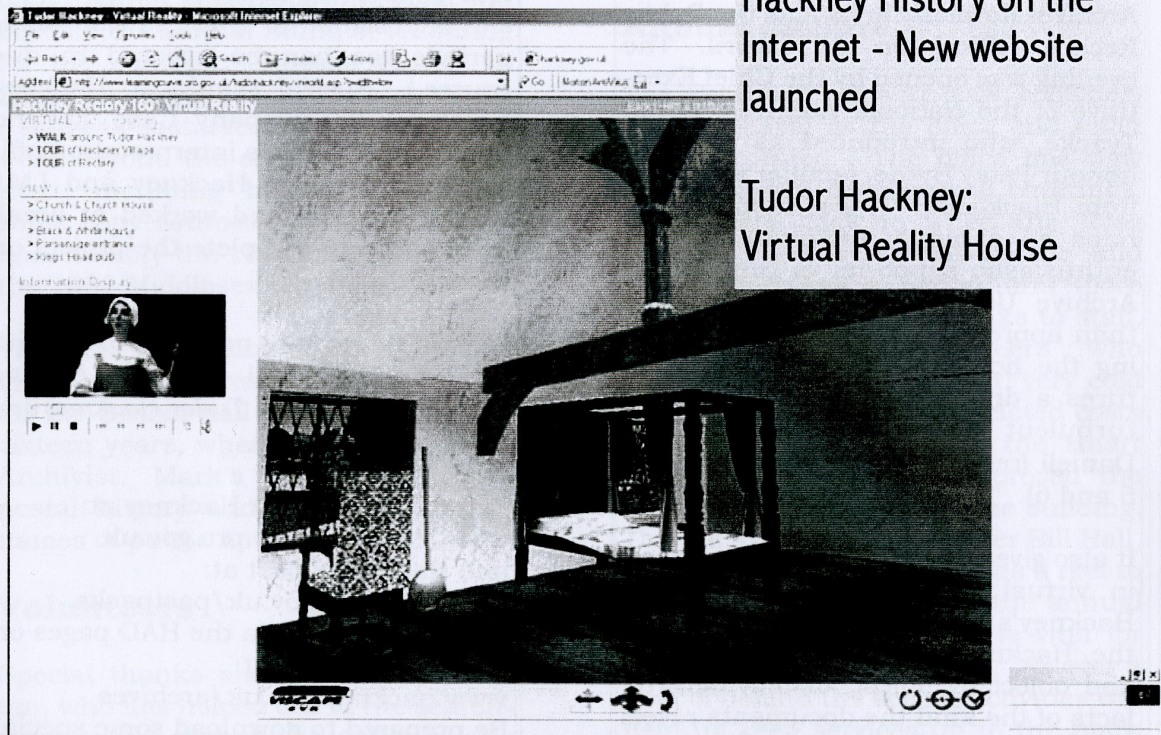


HACKNEY ARCHIVES NEWSLETTER

No.62 SPRING 2003

Hackney History on the Internet - New website launched

Tudor Hackney:
Virtual Reality House



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

POLITI'S TURKISH DELIGHT FACTORY
ARCHIVES NEWS
FRIENDS INTERESTS

New to Hackney Archives

Tudor Hackney and Hackney Pastpacks

After some seven years of planning and project work *Tudor Hackney* has been launched at the National Archives (formerly known as the Public Record Office) on 30th April. The evening was opened by the Chief Executive of the National Archives, Sarah Tyacke, who introduced as guest of honour Patsy Byrne, familiar as Nursie from *Blackadder 2*, less familiar perhaps as a family historian and an enthusiastic supporter of the London Archive Users' Forum. It was more than appropriate to have an actor doing the honours, as the website features a dramatised episode from the turbulent lives of John and Jane Daniell (recounted in *Hackney History* 5 and 6).

It also gives the opportunity to explore, in virtual reality, recreations of Tudor Hackney's streets and the interior of the Hackney Rectory room by room and object by object, displaying artefacts of the kind the documents reveal the Daniells to have owned as affluent courtiers. As David Mander explained to the gathering, the website has been funded by a grant from the lottery-based New Opportunities Fund, and is part of the national 'Learning Curve' programme.

The National Archives' Learning Curve staff will be adding packages of their own to *Tudor Hackney* to help teachers make good use of the model in curriculum work. There may also be some additional material added, as we were not able to include some samples of the extensive document collection on the Daniells held at the National Archives in the current version of the site.

Also celebrated was the initiation of

Hackney Pastpacks, a web-based resource funded by the borough's Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and created by London Metropolitan Archives to Hackney Archives' brief. It takes the form of a set of pages on the Council's website, designed principally for the National Grid for Learning, to enable school pupils at key stage 2-3 to learn more about Hackney's Victorian past through a 'time line' of notable events and supporting digitised images. (The site is designed to grow, so that other periods too can be covered in due course.) Special thanks to Hackney based media company Case TV and Jan Pimblett, LMA's interpretation officer, who drew on Hackney and LMA source material and worked at break neck speed to complete the project on time.

We will have more publicity to do with local and regional users in coming months to promote *Tudor Hackney* and *Hackney Pastpacks*.

You can visit Tudor Hackney at: www.learningcurve.pro.gov.uk and Hackney's past at: www.hackney.gov.uk/pastpacks or both websites via the HAD pages on the Council's site at: www.hackney.gov.uk/archives Be prepared to download some special viewing software.

Opening hours

After a quiet start in January, our two late Tuesday openings each month have been well subscribed, and consequently we are pleased to say that they will be extended until September 2003. Renewal thereafter will depend on whether funding can continue for the archive post we share with the Bishopsgate Institute.

Paying for HAD services and publications

After many attempts, HAD is pleased to announce that we can now accept payments by debit and credit cards.

We hope that the new facility will prove popular and will make it much easier for our overseas customers to do business with us. We will explore on-line arrangements for making credit card payments.

Search Service

After twelve years as our contracted record searcher, Lilian Gibbens left us on 31 March 2003, following what will become the annual round of tendering for the contract. Special thanks to Lilian for many years of searching for a range of customers and for a range of work beyond the confines of her contract, including helping us obtain some copy sources for family historians, notably the 1881 names index to the 1881 Middlesex census.

The new contractor is Mark Pardoe. Prior to his retirement Mark worked for the British Rail Records Centre for sixteen years, where he became Chief Archivist. Mark's interests include postal history and the origin of the names of public houses.

Volunteers

Special thanks also to Celia Pilkington, who has helped out in the search-room and answered a host of enquiries over past months. On a number of occasions, Celia has enabled us to stay open, when staff were needed elsewhere. Celia is now to undertake a period of supply teaching.

Hackney Webcat

Our Heritage Lottery funded project to convert the local history library catalogues on to ADLIB and to deal with the historic backlog of uncatalogued items is now under way. As the first stage we have advertised and interviewed for the key post of Project Librarian. The postholder will manage the 18 month project and grapple with the complexities of creating our new on-line catalogue, which will also provide access to those parts of the

archive catalogues that have been retro-converted through the Access to Archives project, or formed part of work undertaken earlier at HAD.

At the time of going to press we have offered the post and the successful candidate has accepted. Final appointment and the announcement of the Webcat Librarian will follow normal pre-appointment checks.

Annual closure

The February closure saw considerable upheaval as the office and toilet were decorated. The office has now lost its brown hessian wall coverings, which date back to when the Rose Lipman building opened in the mid 1970s, and has a lighter and more spacious feel. Special thanks to staff, conservator and volunteers who painted the ramp railings in very cold conditions. Paint and associated costs were met by the Friends, the smart blue paint has greatly improved the appearance of the front of the building. Thanks to committee member Bill Hall, who has stepped in to lend us a reel to reel tape recorder, so that the annual playing of all tapes which is vital for their survival, has resumed. As ever a host of behind the scenes activities will help us keep services up to the mark in the coming year.

Premises and inspection

A visit from staff of the Historic Manuscripts Commission (HMC) in February, has confirmed that Hackney Archives Dept will keep our provisional recognition by the Commission. HMC merged with the Public Record Office to become part of the National Archives (TNA) on 1 April 2003, and TNA will inherit the commitment to review our status in eighteen months. Full recognition will depend on improvements to our storage, and a report will be prepared by HAD to go to Hackney Council's Cabinet on future options.

Car Parking

From 1 April 2003 De Beauvoir Town became part of Hackney's 'H' Controlled Parking Zone. There is now no unregulated car parking in the vicinity of HAD, as the car park at the rear of the building is controlled by Kingsland Neighbourhood Offices and is for council tenants and other badged users only (other users will be clamped).

There are pay spaces on Downham Road, but visitors should be aware that parking is at the rate of £2 per hour. Parking in any given space is limited to four hours. People who are registered as disabled can park in these bays without charge, providing that their car displays the appropriate badge.

An area just to the east of the entrance to the car park on our side of the road up a single yellow line and can be used by any vehicle loading or unloading. We will be seeking to have the railing removed here to make deliveries of all kinds to HAD easier.

Equipment

To help with promoting *Hackney Past-packs*, HAD now has its own projector for Powerpoint displays, and this will feature in publicity and promotional activity, enabling us to make direct use of our growing collection of digitised sources in talks and displays.

HAD has been part of the national Newsplan project. Under the London and SE Newsplan programme, a number of special periodicals have been microfilmed to help preserve them and make the copies more accessible. The Newsplan project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, has also budgeted for the purchase of microprinter readers, which will go in the first instance to those local authority services who have had newspapers filmed by the project. So HAD is in line for an additional microprinter reader, which

should be delivered later in the autumn. The Newsplan project has yet to go to tender, so we won't know what model will be selected, nor whether the reader will have a fiche deck facility - though HAD will seek to add this if it does not come supplied. The new microprinter reader should make it easier for all customers to take prints from microfilm.

Archives Awareness Month and Discover Hackney

September 2003 will see a number of national and regional events under the banner of the National Council on Archives' Archive Awareness Month. This will involve open days, and national promotion of archives on the theme of 'love and hate'.

HAD will be putting up a selection of documents related to the national theme on our part of the Hackney Council web site, and will be applying to the London Archives Regional Council and London Museums, Archives and Libraries for grant aid for a special Saturday opening. The day is intended to include a guided De Beauvoir Town Walk, using the 'Discover Hackney' FOHA publication.

In advance of this the Friends have obtained grant funding from *Discover Hackney*, a local scheme to explore Hackney through a series of events and activities borough wide from 19-26 May 2003. This funding has been used to prepare a walk starting and finishing at HAD, and taking in parts of De Beauvoir Town, the Regents Canal and the Albion Square area of Dalston. The walk, written and researched by Mike Gray and Isobel Watson, has a map produced by Graham Reed, who drew the maps for *More Light More Power* and illustrations for the *Tudor Hackney* website.

A copy of the walk is included with this *Terrier* and it will be available as a free product to callers in the *Discover Hackney* week. The Friends will prepare a

version of the walk as a publication for sale. We hope that it will help users to explore the environs of HAD during their lunch hours or at the end of a research visit.

Out and about

HAD and the Friends jointly took on a stall at the Family Record Centre's Meet the Neighbours event on 9 April. Celia Pilkington, Ted Rogers and Isobel Watson found the day quieter than anticipated, but did secure at least one new Friend.

HAD and the Friends have also been invited to a one day fair at the Museum of London's Mortimer Wheeler House at 46 Eagle Wharf Road on Saturday 7th June 2003. We intend that our display will include a computer terminal with internet connections, allowing us to publicise *Tudor Hackney*, *Hackney Pastpacks* and other web delights.

Acquisition and listing

Recent acquisitions include the modern records of Hackney Labour Party - which is very good news as we have spent some years trying to locate them. Dr Andrea Tanner, who was part of a Centre for Metropolitan History team working on a comparative study of 19th century public health provision in Hackney and Kensington, has also kindly deposited her extensive research notes and data based on Hackney's medical officer of health reports from c1860-1920. As the research may yet be used in a publication, any user will need to sign a special register to gain access to the databases - once we have completed listing the accession. Andrea's work was drawn on by Jan Pimblett for the *Hackney Pastpacks* project.

Once again we are grateful to the Chair of the Friends for spotting two further deeds on the market that had come from an auction of part of the collection of Dr William Harvey and

relate to property in Homerton in 1711.

Finally we are in the course of arranging the transfer to HAD of the remaining drainage records for Shoreditch and Stoke Newington still held by the Council's Building Control Service. These constitute the principal record of when properties were built and are the bedrock of house history research for property built after the record series started in 1856. Long term users will know that we were able to persuade the former Technical Services to meet the costs of microfilming the Hackney drainage records from 1856 to the mid 1980s. An index of the Hackney records to the mid 1950s, and the originals of filmed drainage records were then transferred to HAD. Subsequently we have taken on the building plans for South Hornsey (up to 1900) and Stoke Newington's drainage plans from 1856-1894, but attempts to secure the remaining records foundered on the lack of funding for microfilming.

Now we will be able to take the remaining registers for Stoke Newington (1894-1965) and for Shoreditch (c1870-1965). To ensure access to these registers, and to allow Building Control to provide a service for the microfilm of registers they hold, we are in the course of copying the combined index to all registers. This extensive four volume work consists of many pages of A5 sized index sheets, and once again we are grateful to the Friends, notably Isobel Watson and Joan Potter, for undertaking the labourious job of photocopying each sheet so that we can make up duplicate indexes. Only when this has been completed will we be able to move the registers.

Publications

Contrary to the information on the Amazon web site, David Mander's forthcoming book, *The Highways of Hackney*, has yet to be published.

Work progresses slowly on this encyclopaedic work on Hackney's present and past streets and courts, which will be published by Breedon Books. David has completed a revision and a new index for Sutton Publishing of a new paperback edition of the three history volumes and after considerable debate the final title is the encompassing 'A history of Hackney, Shoreditch and Stoke Newington'. This title recognises that each of the books is a history of one of the three component parts of the present London borough, rather than a history concerned principally with events after 1965. Hopefully the revised work should appear in the autumn.

Recent sales have seen the departure of some titles from our book lists. Jack Whitehead's *The Growth of Stoke Newington* has now sold out and the author and publisher has no plans to re-print it. Stock of *Black Londoners* has also sold out after the price was discounted.

Structural matters

Hackney Council's Community and Environment directorate has been divided into its component parts, with HAD, the Museum, Libraries and Sport continuing to form part of a Cultural Services division within the new Community Directorate. The acting assistant director for Cultural Services, Ian Cooper, who as a self employed consultant was covering the service pending the appointment of a permanent assistant director, left on 31 March 2003. Recruitment for a permanent successor is still in progress. The Director of Community Services, Iain Hook has announced he will taking early retirement from July 2003.

Obituary Peter Jackson (1922-2003)

Friends will be sad to learn of the death of Peter Jackson on 2 May 2003.

Peter was well known in London local history circles as an illustrator, ephemera collector and author. He began his career drawing historical cartoons for the London *Evening News* and had a historical strip in the early issues of the *Eagle* children's magazine in the 1960s. Through trawling auction rooms and second hand bookshops, Peter built up what must be the most extensive collection of prints, handbills and ephemera on London in private hands. His collection featured in a number of exhibitions, including the Museum of London's *London Pride, a history of the capital's gardens*, of 1990, which also drew on sources at HAD. More recently in 1998, Peter's drawings of birds-eye views of historic London views, *Old London Reconstructed*, featured in an exhibition at Guildhall Library. Peter Jackson was one of the founders of the Ephemera Society, chairman of the London Topographical Society from 1974 and was a patron of the London Archive Users Forum.

Peter's collection also included a small but significant cache of Hackney material. Much of this consisted of material which had been sent to a local resident, John Bullock, who was living at the Triangle, Mare Street in the 1850s, but there are also items from the early 18th century, including a summary of a legal dispute over the Bowling Green house, near the modern Chatham Place, in 1727. The 19th century material includes notices of sermons, open air services and charity meetings which have not survived elsewhere in the HAD collections. Peter mentioned this collection to me many years ago, but eventually we got round to making arrangements to have it loaned to HAD for copying. Those copies now forms part of our collections as Z 49, a small remembrance of a jovial and knowledgeable man who will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

David Mander

Features

Politi's Turkish Delight

At one time Politi's Turkish Delight Factory 10 Manor Road, Stoke Newington N16, had stationary steam engines, probably to stir Turkish-delight mix. Steam would also have been used for process purposes and there were boilers and a square-cross-section brick chimney built at the back of the works, to the north east. The chimney remains with the white lettering Politi running vertically downwards clearly visible. The grid reference is TQ 335 870. Looking across the railway a fairly good view of the chimney can be had from the Safeway supermarket to the east in Stamford Hill (the A 10)

The yellow brick building which fronts Manor Road is two storey, of two bays with double pitch roofs. The gables are decorated with the Star of David and on the eastern gable is the date 1911. In the centre of the facade at first floor level there is a loading loophole with a cathead. This loophole may be a fairly recent addition. The brick chimney is immediately behind this building and has iron bands and a lightning conductor.

According to the article by David Perrett in London's Industrial Archaeology number one (p8), Politi's had a 1901 horizontal single-cylinder steam engine by Marshall Sons & Co Ltd of Gainsborough still at work c1978. There was also on standby an inverted vertical single-cylinder enclosed engine made about 1950 by W Sisson and Co Ltd of Gloucester. It is understood that a GLIAS member visited Politi's about 25 years ago. They probably ceased to use steam engines in the early 1980s.

D Politi and Sons Ltd were well-known for the manufacture of Rahat Lacoum,

British Manufacture Turkish Delight which was marketed in wooden drums with paper seals. The red labelled boxes were a popular luxury at Christmas about 45 years ago. On opening the drum one came to a white paper lining and on disturbing this clouds of fine white powder would be created which could make quite a mess. The powder, used to pack the Turkish Delight, was a mixture of cornflour and icing sugar. The Turkish Delight itself was of several flavours indicated by colour and the powder packing was to stop it fusing together into one great lump.

This is the traditional way of retailing Turkish Delight and in more recent years it has been possible to buy it like this loose, weighing out into paper bags in the shop. This Turkish Delight was probably made by people in London who were of Cypriot origin and was generally sold in Cypriot shops.

More recently still it has been possible to buy Turkish Delight in Hackney and thereabouts which is made and packed in Turkey. This is generally sold in primed cardboard boxes. Very recently supermarkets have started to stock a range of Turkish Delights made in Turkey but packed in the UK. Those are displayed on the shelves in transparent plastic boxes. Turkish Delight is a common accompaniment to a small cup of Turkish coffee - finely ground coffee in suspension, which settles as a sludge at the bottom of the cup.

An example of a Politi wooden Rahat Lacoum drum measures just over five and a quarter inches in diameter across the lid and is overall about two and a quarter inches deep. It is marked one and a quarter pounds nett and cost nine shillings including purchase tax. The address London N16 is given on the lid of the drum. It is probably the order of 25 years old. This method of presenting luxury Turkish Delight by Politi's was in

marked contrast to the cheaper mass-produced Turkish Delight made by the big sweet manufacturers which in some cases could be chocolate coated and just bought like a chocolate bar.

Politi's Turkish Delight was eaten with orange sticks or a wooden fork. From memory there used to be one on top of the Turkish Delight when the drum was opened. Even removing the fork spread about a good deal of white powder, the mixture of cornflour and icing sugar used for packing. The fork was rather like the disposable ones still in use by some traditional fish and chip shops.

According to the internet David Politi was a persecuted Greek Jew who moved to England and started the manufacture of British Turkish Delight in 1872. Politi's seem to have gone out of business before 1987. According to a steam engine website both their steam engines were removed for preservation. Does anyone know where?

Politi's occupied quite small premises. Looking at the site now it is hard to believe that all that Turkish Delight was made there.

Bob Carr

GLIAS Newsletter number 201
August 2002

Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Hackney Archives

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 24th June at 6.30p.m. at Hackney Archives.

Following the meeting there will be a demonstration of the new 'Tudor Hackney' website, and refreshments will be available.

As well as electing the committee and

officers for the forthcoming year, the meeting will be invited to discuss the impact of the new parking restrictions on Archives users.

If you intend to be there, please let the Archives know on 020 7241 2886 or archives@hackney.gov.uk, so that we can plan the refreshments.

Friends' Interests

Laraine Hake, Tollgate Cottage, Bunwell, Norwich NR16 1SR
Larainehake@nasuwt.net

The **Alabaster** family moved from Suffolk to East London at end of 18th century. 4 x gt grandfather, Robert Alabaster (1757-1821), born in Baylham, Suffolk, married in St Botolph's, Bishopsgate in 1781. Lived in King Street, Shoreditch, then to Queen Street, off Worship Street. Also in Bethnal Green, grandmother Adeline Bertha Alabaster, born 1881. Has plenty of info. to share. Other names are: **Oram, Hake, Parrish, Jolly.**

Credits & Contacts

The Hackney Terrier was produced by Michael Kirkland and David Mander. The Terrier: Hackney Archives Newsletter, is distributed free to members of the Friends of Hackney Archives. Membership of the Friends is open to all. The subscription is £10 for each calendar year, (plus £2 for each additional member at the same address) or £20 (in sterling) for overseas members. Membership also includes a free copy of the annual journal, Hackney History.

London Borough of Hackney Archives Department
43 De Beauvoir Road, London N1 5SQ
Tel: 020 7241 2886 Fax: 020 7241 6688
e-mail: archives@hackney.gov.uk
www.hackney.gov.uk/archives

