The Hackney Terrier 75

The Friends of Hackney Archives Newsletter

Summer 2007

Visions of the future: a new archive for Hackney

Edward Rogers, Archives and Information Services Manager, reports on the latest news relating to Hackney Archives' premises.

It was over a year ago, in *Terrier 71*, that I reported the exciting news that Hackney Archives will be moving to a brand new, purpose-built Archives Centre in Dalston. Since then the plan has evolved - sometimes slowly, sometimes with breathtaking rapidity - until we have reached the stage where the project no longer seems a distant prospect.

The twin catalysts for the project are a desire by the Council to restore prosperity to the centre of Dalston and the coming of the East London Line, which will see a new Transport for London station on the site of the old Dalston Junction, and the development itself is a partnership between Transport for London, the London Development Agency and the London Borough of Hackney. Adjoining the new station will be a public square, transport interchange, shops, offices, housing, and crucially for us, a new Library and Archives Centre. The overall design for the scheme was produced by renowned architects ARUP.

By June this year, the plans were sufficiently advanced to allow Libraries, Archives and Information Services to appoint their own architects to design the interior layout of the building and to ensure the smooth execution of the plans in the complex environment of the grand project. The successful firm were MUF, a local architectural practice with a wide experience of public sector work, and who count amongst their clients the Tate Britain and the Southern Arts Council.

Nicola Baker (Head of Libraries, Archives and Information Services) and I have been working closely with MUF and with our own Planning and Property Services Department on a detailed design, which will only be finalised after further consultation. The new facility will be located at the north east corner of the new public square, with one side on Dalston Lane and one facing the square and the new station. The Library and Archives Centre will occupy the basement and first three floors of a ten storey building, the higher floors being flats.

Within the Centre, the arrangement is essentially a 'library sandwich', so that the public library occupies the ground and first floors, with archival storage being located in the basement and the staff and public facilities on the second floor. This arrangement reserves the most secure part of the building for the storage of archives and the quietest for consultation. The size of the staff and public areas will be twice our present area, that of storage more than three times. More of our local studies library will be on open access and there will be more microfiche readers and public computers. The building will be open for library hours so there will be no necessity for researchers to leave during lunch times, and there will be a café within the Centre. A dedicated lift will link the basement with the second floor to ensure speedy document production. We will also have a multipurpose room seating up to one hundred for lectures, school groups, events and exhibitions.

The Inspection Service of the National Archives has been involved at all stages of the design. Archival storage

in a basement and the sharing of a building with residential accommodation can pose problems, but a series of technical solutions has addressed all of these issues to the satisfaction of the National Archives (TNA).

The Friends, too, have had a big part to play. On July 23 a meeting took place between MUF and various interested parties including neighbouring archives services, MLA London (the government sponsored body with responsibility for promotion and support of archives), Archives for London and many Friends. There was a general discussion of desires and wishes, problems and opportunities and all of which were considered by the architects and some of which has influenced the design. I would like to express my thanks to all who contributed, and to the architects who have been so accommodating of our ideas and suggestions. There will be further events of this nature, to which we intend to extend an invitation to all Friends, and a working group consisting of Friends and Archives staff is under consideration.

As with the design, so the timescale of the project is much clearer now. Building work should start in the new year and we anticipate moving in to our new home early in 2010, the same year that the new station opens.

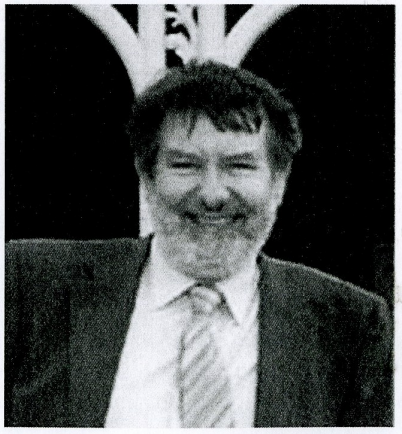
Observant Friends will remember that I mentioned in *Terrier 74* that some work will be taking place on our current building, and visitors will realise that this has not taken place. Clearly, with the advent of the Dalston project, it would be undesirable to spend large quantities of money on existing premises, and rapid progress in that respect has meant a truncation of the scheme at De Beauvoir Road. Nevertheless some spending is inevitable in order to comply with current legislation, and this too will deliver a better service to our customers.

The work falls into three categories. First, a new fire alarm, meeting modern standards, has already been installed. Whilst this will have no immediate impact on service delivery, we can all sleep easier knowing that the collections are secure. Secondly, and most importantly for users, the searchroom and staff offices will be moved upstairs to the ground floor, and into space that is palatial compared to present space. There will be a separate outreach room, more space for customer lockers, a rest area outside the searchroom and improved toilets. This will enable Hackney Archives to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act, whilst at the same time offering a far better service. It will also mean that we will be able to work more closely with Hackney schools, something that we have long hoped to do but have been prevented by a lack of space. Thirdly, there will be an expansion to the strongrooms, enabling us to recommence our active collection policy, which we have been forced to suspend for the last few years. Again, the National Archives have been closely involved, and we hope that following completion of the work we will again be awarded the coveted TNA approved status, which has been suspended since 2005 due to the state of the building. All of this will be achieved on less than a third of the original budget.

I anticipate that the works will be completed here by the beginning of 2008. Libby Adams, the Principal Archivist, and her team will be managing the transition – no mean feat – and this may involve a short period of closure. Friends can rest assured that there will be an event to celebrate the opening of the new facilities, to which all are welcome, and where we can celebrate the dawning of a new age in the annals of Hackney Archives.

Congratulations

To David Mander, Hackney's Borough Archivist 1983-2005, and founding chairman of Archives for London, who was awarded an OBE for services to local government in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.



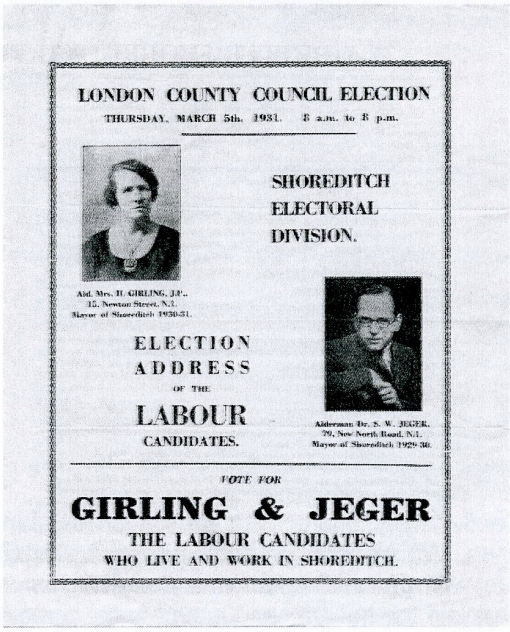
Women in local government in Hackney, 1907 – 2007: Open Day, 2 June 2007

As mentioned in the last edition of the Terrier, Hackney Archives held an Open Day on Saturday 2 June, as part of 'Discover Hackney's Heritage', a week of activities held by many of the organisations concerned with preserving and promoting Hackney's heritage.

CENTRAL HACKNEY
L.C.C. ELECTION—Thursday, March 5th, 1925.
ELECTION ADDRESS
OF THE
PROGRESSIVE CANDIDATES
WHO STAND FOR
HOUSES FIRST!
Miss NETTIE ADLER J.P.
ARTHUR MORTIMER M.P.S., F.C.S.

The focus of the Open Day, apart from the usual opportunities to chat to staff and to browse photographs on the HA2000 database, was an exhibition marking 100 years of the Qualification of Women Act 1907, which entitled women (ratepayers) to be elected to Borough and County Councils. The exhibition – the result of a lot of hard work by Archives staff – is a fascinating glimpse into local politics in Hackney and London more widely during the 20th century, with images of some of the electoral literature we have in our collections. It will be available for viewing in the Archives until late October, but if you miss it, don't worry – we are re-designing our pages on the Council's website and extracts from all our recent exhibitions will be available to view on the website later this year.

The Open Day itself was a great success, with many of our visitors on the day having never visited us before. We have now begun planning for a range of events next year to celebrate our expanded premises, which we expect to be moving into during December and January, and look forward to having more space to accommodate more people and a wider range of activities than has hitherto been possible.


LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION
THURSDAY, MARCH 5th, 1931. 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
SHOREDITCH ELECTORAL DIVISION.
Ald. Mrs. H. GIRLING, J.P., 12, Newton Street, N.1. Mayor of Shoreditch 1930-31.
ELECTION ADDRESS OF THE LABOUR CANDIDATES.
Alderman Dr. S. W. JEGER, 79, New North Road, N.1. Mayor of Shoreditch 1929-30.
VOTE FOR
GIRLING & JEGER
THE LABOUR CANDIDATES
WHO LIVE AND WORK IN SHOREDITCH.

Abolition : the Hackney story

The Autumn exhibition at Hackney Archives will commemorate the work of local people leading up to and following the 1807 Act to abolish the slave trade.

This will tie in with the current Archives Awareness Campaign, which this year commemorates the history of human rights with the theme 'Freedom and Liberty'. It follows on from and complements Hackney Museum's acclaimed 'Abolition 07' exhibition, which examined the history and horror of slavery and the slave trade and marked the bicentenary of its abolition.

As a long-standing centre for radical and non-conformist thinking, 18th-century Hackney (and Stoke Newington in particular) was home to many important names associated with the fight to achieve abolition. The exhibition will look at the life and works of some of these people, using resources and original material held by the Archives.

The anti-slavery efforts of figures such as James Stephen, William Allen and Anna Lætitia Barbauld (above) will be celebrated, and the exhibition will also explain the national and international context of the 1807 Act as well as illustrating local life of the period.

In two related projects, Hackney Archives will be working with Stoke Newington School to produce a resource pack for students on slavery and abolition, and also with the Tapestry project for local young people.

Hackney Scouts

This year is the hundredth anniversary of the Scout Movement. During the summer you may have seen items on the news about the World Scout Jamboree held near Chelmsford or about the world-wide celebrations on 1st August, the Movement's official birthday. A lot of emphasis has been put on Scouting as a major international organisation. But while it's true that there are only eight countries in the world which do not have Scouts, the organisation started at a local level, initiated by the boys themselves, and that's always where it has been most important.

In Hackney scouting caught on very quickly. The first troop formed itself in about 1909 and by 1918 there were 32 troops in the District. In 1931 Hackney Scouts had 57 groups and more than 3000 members. Over the last century thousands of children in Hackney have taken part in hundreds of camps, hikes, day trips and activities and have lent a hand at numerous local events. Scouts and Cubs helped out during the Second World War by putting up shelters, acting as messengers at police stations, and by collecting scrap paper and other materials for the war effort.

Scouting numbers in Hackney might not be as high now as they were in the 1930s, but there are still plenty of Scout groups, including some rather old ones such as the 14th Hackney, which has been going for 96 years.

Later on this year (building work allowing!) we are hoping to put on a small exhibition to celebrate the centenary. We already have some records of various dates from the following groups: the 1st Shoreditch, 17th Shoreditch (St. Augustine's), 10th Hackney and 51st Hackney, but we'd like to collect more. We'd love to hear from any Friends who have memorabilia or photographs of Hackney Scouts which they are willing either to donate or to let us scan or photograph. We would also really like to hear from anyone who has memories of being a Cub, Scout or Rover in Hackney (or a Brownie or Guide), and who would "be prepared" to contribute some recollections to our exhibition!

Siân Mogridge
Archivist

Annual general meeting

The annual general meeting of the Friends will take place at Hackney Archives Department on Monday 12th November 2007 at 6 p.m. This will be an opportunity to hear about the most up to date developments in the Department's plans for the new premises at Dalston, and the new searchroom within the present building.

If you plan to come, it would help the Department to know in advance (contact details at the end of this issue).

Friends visit St Augustine's Church Tower

In May, 16 Friends gathered at the foot of St Augustine's tower. They were guided by Laurie Elks through its history, then inspected the famous clock and the remarkable view from the roof. Those who couldn't manage the steps were nonetheless impressed by the audio-visual recreation of the tower in its original context which is on display in the ground floor chamber.

If you couldn't be there on the day, then all is not lost. The Tower is open every last Sunday of the month, December excepted, from 2.00 to 4.30 p.m. More information is on the Hackney Historic Buildings Trust's website at www.hhbt.org.uk, or contact Laurie Elks on 020 8985 2971.

Competition

Hackney Archives has a selection of photographs relating to a pig club based in Landfield Road during the 1920s. Do any Friends remember pig clubs? The Archives would be delighted to hear of any porcine memories.

In the meantime, here's your chance to win a prize! Please send your witty captions for the photograph below to 'Caption Competition HT75' at the Archives below for a chance to win a copy of David Mander's book *Late extra! Hackney in the news* along with a selection pack of historic postcards. The editor's decision is final.

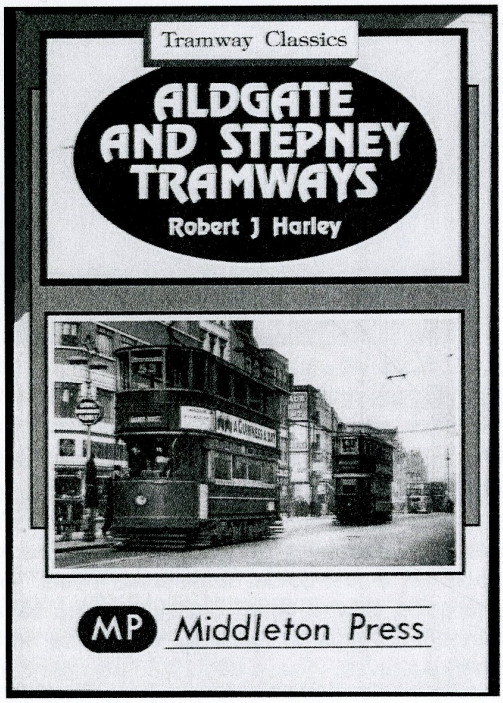
Out-of-print books offer

During routine housekeeping at the C.L.R. James library in Dalston, a number of copies of out-of-print sale publications have come to light. These are now available to members of the Friends of Hackney Archives on a first-come, first-served basis. When they're gone, they're gone! Cheques made payable to London Borough of Hackney should be sent to Hackney Archives. Please add £2.50 p&p per item.

Hackney, Homerton and Dalston by David Mander £9.99 (20 copies available)
Clissold Park by David Solomon £2.95 (1 copy available)
Glimpses of old Hackney by Benjamin Clark £5.00 (4 copies available)
Hackney at war by Jennifer Golden £.7.99 (1 copy available)
More light, more power: an illustrated history of Shoreditch by David Mander £9.99 (4 copies available)

Book donations

The Friends have recently donated a number of new books to the local studies library. These are – in no particular order – *London's Lea Valley: more secrets revealed*, by Dr Jim Lewis, which expands on the same author's *London's Lea Valley: Britain's best-kept secret*, which is already in the collection. Among Hackney subjects covered are the firm of Carless, Capel and Leonard, and the life of the industrialist Harper Twelvetrees, a Hackney resident (more about him in *Hackney History 13* when it comes out in November). Robert J Harley's *Aldgate and Stepney Tramways* doesn't sound as if it's about Hackney at all, on the face of it, but in fact nearly half the book concerns routes from Grove Road to Hackney,



through Clapton and from Hackney to Shoreditch. The images of tickets and the technical details are for the enthusiast, but the incidental street scenes of mid-20th century Hackney are of wider interest, and not often seen in other material so far at HAD. Not so directly connected with Hackney is L. T. C Rolt's *The Balloonists*, but we think it will be useful to anyone wishing to explore the background to the Hackney balloon ascents by the professional aeronaut James Sadler, whose career is discussed. Also of general interest – and some relevance to Abney Park – is Catharine Arnold's *Necropolis: London and its dead*, which is a good starting point for information about the plague, and the 19th century cemetery and cremation movements, inter alia. Finally, we owe thanks to Dr Melvyn Brooks for drawing our attention to *Stanley Ince: Boy Scout*, by Ince's daughter Enid-Mary Marsh. Stanley Ince, who was closely involved with the early Scouting, was a long-term resident of South Hackney, and the biography with its pictures of the Ince family at Groombridge Road complements his *Hackney Scout Song Book*, already in the collection.

Isobel Watson
Chair, Friends of Hackney Archives

Other recent additions to the local studies library

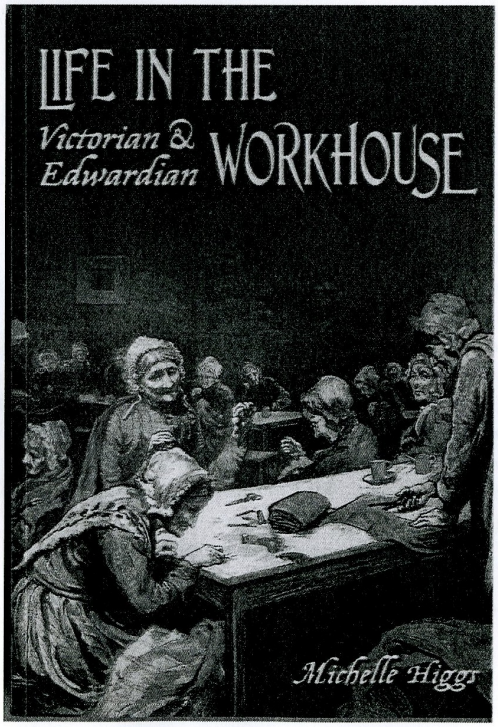
Volume one of Steven Harris' **Legalised mischief:** a history **of the Scout movement from a grassroots perspective** includes references to Scouting in Hackney and offers a highly-illustrated account of the movement's early years.

Shelved at 379.5 SR/OS. ISBN 0951316818, £11.00, Lewarne Publishing, PO Box 26946, London SE21 8XG
www.lewarnepublishing.co.uk

The de Beauvoir family of Hackney & Downham: a brief outline of its history grew out of author Ron White's research into the Benyon family. It examines the de Beauvoirs' origins in Guernsey, accumulation of wealth, influence upon the Benyons, and discovers traces left by the life and work of family members.
Shelved at 920 DEB SR/OS
No further copies available at present, though the author is happy to answer any queries – contact the Archives for details.

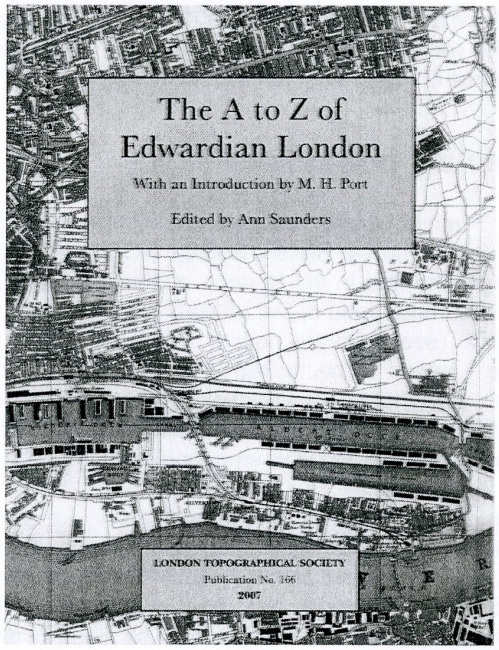
Life in the Victorian and Edwardian workhouse by Michelle Higgs uses records, photographs, case histories and personal testimonies of workhouse staff and inmates to illustrate different aspects of how workhouses functioned.
Shelved at 00.3614 AS
ISBN 9780752442143, £16.99, Tempus

Many thanks to Friends member Robert Thompson for donating an offprint copy of his article **Daniel Defoe, son of a token-maker** published in the British Numismatic Journal v.76 (2006). This is a most useful addition to the library's collection of material relating to Defoe, and also in regard to the study of tokens.
Shelved at 920 DEF P.



This year's subscription publication from the London Topographical Society is **The A to Z of Edwardian London** edited by Ann Saunders. A facsimile reprint of Bacon's large-scale ordnance atlas of London and the suburbs, the atlas includes extremely useful additional maps showing the Home Counties, London utilities, and administrative areas.
Shelved at 912 AS/OS
ISBN 0903541505, £30.00, Harry Margary

Sally England
Local Studies Librarian



Thank you and farewell!

To Ivy Davies, Hackney Archives' cleaner, who retired in July. Friends will no doubt have fond memories of the splendid catering services Ivy provided for many functions over the years.

Awards

In June, *Hackney History* received a publishing award from the British Association for Local History. This was given to Isobel Watson for her article 'The first generation of flats' in *HH11*, and follows Isobel's receipt of one of the Association's awards for personal achievement, given in 2006. The publishing award is HH's fourth. Dick Hunter's article 'The poor law in Hackney a century ago' in *HH9* received the Association's premier award for 2004, and was reprinted for national distribution in *The Local Historian*. In the previous two years, awards were given to Elaine Murphy for 'The madhouse keepers of Hackney' in *HH8*, and in 2002 Warren Roe kicked off this remarkable run with an award for his article on athletics at the White Lion, Hackney Wick, in *HH7*.

Friends' bookstalls

The Friends usually have a bookstall at the East of London Family History Society AGM early in the year, at the fete in the St John at Hackney Gardens in the summer, and at the LAMAS Conference in the autumn (see separate notice). In May this year we were pleased to be invited to participate in a new event, a fair held by the Shakespeare Neighbourhood Residents' Association at Butterfield Green in Stoke Newington. The day was an overwhelming success.

These events are not only about raising funds (the Friends' own and the Department's), nice though that is. They enable us take local history publications to people who might not otherwise know of their existence, or of the Department's. The Godfrey maps of the local area are always a particular draw, at the local summer events especially.

Recently I was given a rag bag of oddments of books, pamphlets and journals to dispose of to a good cause, which seemed to point to the Friends. These found their way into a 'bargain box' at Butterfierld Green and virtually walked off the stall. So, if anybody reading this is clearing out, downsizing, or whatever, please bear the Friends in mind – we may be able to dispose of unwanted material to appreciative readers and make a modest contribution to funds at the same time.

Isobel Watson

LAMAS Conference 2007

This year's conference – as usual, an interesting programme promising to be good value for money – takes place on Saturday 17 November, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. The theme is 'They came to London: 1,000 years of migration', with talks about the medieval Jewish community, Hanseatic Germans, the black presence in the 18th century and Little Italy in the 19th, the 19th century German community and more recent patterns of migration.

Tickets are £10, the event will be at the City of London Girls' School in the Barbican, and the Friends hope to have a bookstall there on the day. Cheques (payable to LAMAS) and SAE to Miss Anne Hignell, 24 Orchard Close, Ruislip, Middx, HA4 7LS.

Carole Mills

We were shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Carole Mills after a short illness.

Carole was the pioneering property manager at Sutton House, was proud of her Hackney roots, and gave a great deal to Hackney, including supporting David Mander in developing the HA2000 system of digitised visual material. Her contribution to *Hackney History* last year came out of her taking up a university course after retiring from the National Trust.

Our sympathy goes to her family, her partner Mike Gray and her many friends.

Credits & Contacts

The Hackney Terrier, which appears at least three times a year, is published by the Friends of Hackney Archives and produced by Sally England. The Friends constitute an independent charity (no. 1074493) and membership is open to all: the subscription is £10 in the UK (plus £2 for each additional member at the same address) and £20 sterling overseas. The subscription runs for a calendar year and includes a copy of the journal Hackney History. Contact details are: c/o London Borough of Hackney Archives Department, 43 De Beauvoir Road, London N1 5SQ. Tel 020 7241 2886 . Fax 020 7241 6688

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