The Hackney Terrier 91

The Friends of Hackney Archives Newsletter

Winter 2014

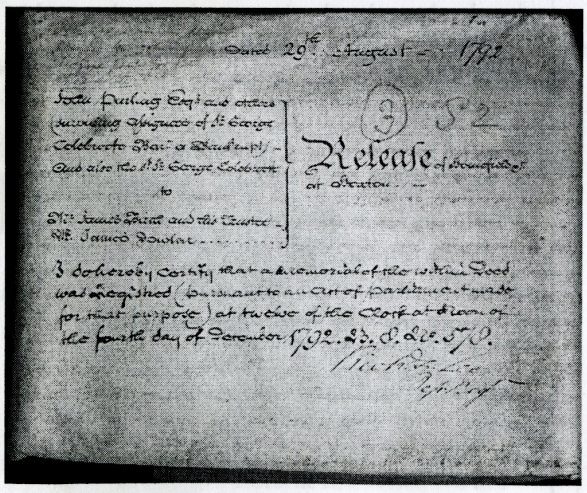
New Accessions

Bacchus Pub, Hoxton

In April we were given several documents relating to the Bacchus Pub in Hoxton and the surrounding area. The property had once been in the hands of the donor's family, and they had preserved the records very well. The collection, which dates from the early 18th to the mid-20th centuries will be catalogued this year. (Accession no. 2013/06)

Rectory Road United Reformed Church

An addition was recently made to one of our existing collections. We hold records for a number of churches in the Hackney/Shoreditch/Stoke Newington area, particularly non-conformist churches. These include records for Rectory Road United Reformed Church. In August the church's minister added to the collection in the form of a large quantity of minute books, old financial records and correspondence, dating from 1880. These were delivered in the two large old metal chests in which they had been stored. (Accession no. 2013/19)


Dated 29th August — 1792

Release of boundfulde or Abeaton

I do hereby Certify that a Memorial of this Indenture was Registred (pursuant to an Act of Parliament made for that purpose) at twelve of the Clock at Noon of the fourth day of December 1792.

A deed from the Bacchus public house collection

Redevelopment of Trowbridge Estate

Just a few weeks ago we were handed the tenants' copy of the Agreement for the Redevelopment of the Trowbridge Estate, dating from March 2000. The donor no longer had space to keep it and chose to give it to us rather than just throwing it away. This is a very useful record of a piece of Hackney's recent development, and we were delighted to take it in. (Accession no. 2013/27)

A Taste of Hackney App

An even more modern acquisition is *A Taste of Hackney*, a smartphone app produced by A Different Drum Productions. It consists of oral history interviews on the history of Ridley Road Market. The Archives provided some images and hosted visits from schoolchildren working on the project (see *Terrier* 88). We are thinking about ways of preserving this and the other electronic records we are increasingly taking in, to ensure they still remain accessible despite changes in hardware and software. (Accession no. 2013/17)

Siân Mogridge, Archivist

A fun resolution you'll want to keep!
Discover more about London in 2014

At Bishopsgate Institute we have a range of courses that explore areas of London's history and culture you might not have encountered before. Experience the East End in the 17th and 18th centuries, delve into the history of London's squares, witness the transformation of the docklands and meet eight individuals who helped change the East End for the better. Discover why Ghandi visited Bow or hear the stories behind London's many museums. You can also uncover radical movements in London since the 1930s or rediscover the city's lost buildings.

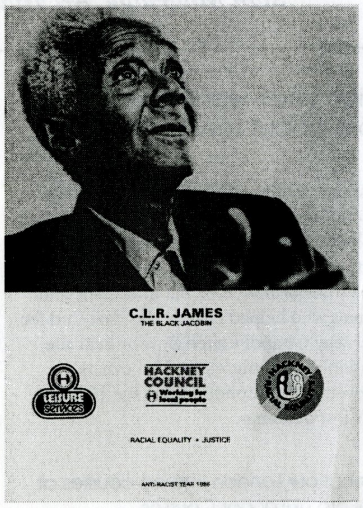
Find out more about our London interest courses at
www.bishopsgate.org.uk/LondonCourses

Outreach & Volunteers

The Archives has hosted five school visits since May: from St John and St James Primary School, two classes from Holy Trinity (our closest school), Stormont House School and Our Lady's School. Archives staff also contributed to two sessions at Jubilee School as part of the *Our Museum* project.

Group introductory sessions to the Archives were delivered to a range of different organisations including the Building Exploratory Senior Bees; a St Augustine's Tower project; a group of young people working on Geffrye Museum's centenary celebrations; two family history groups; and Open School East, the new non fee-paying art school, which has opened in the Archives' old home in the Rose Lipman building in De Beauvoir Road.

As part of Black History Month, we presented a series of workshops on how to research a particular theme in October and November. Staff selected key documents that told the story of how the renaming of Dalston Library after CLR James, the celebrated Caribbean writer, historian and pan-Africanist, was the culmination of Hackney Council's anti-racist year 1984-85. Drawn from a range of sources, from Council minutes to local newspapers and publicity material, the documents revealed the context of, and local attitudes to the campaign. The discussion around these key documents was followed by a behind-the-scenes tour of our basement storage areas. The last session was particularly well attended, with many participants indicating they would like to see more of this type of event in the future.



Writer and Pan-Africanist CLR James

The Archives has two new volunteers. Claudia Jessop started in September and Jessica Goodison-Burgess in November. They are both working on transcribing 19th-century minute books from the Refuge for the Destitute, based in Dalston for many years. From slightly further afield, Leonidas Xylouris, from Belgium, came in at the end of October to work on a box-list of the records of the Kemble piano company, donated in 2009.

Elizabeth Green, Access and Outreach Officer

The View from a Volunteer

My love affair with Hackney Archives started 15 months ago. As expected, like all relationships, the journey has been unpredictable, a rollercoaster, with moments of profound sadness as well as carefully muffled laughter at more delightful snippets.

Looking through the newspapers, the journals, the photographs is addictive. It's so hard to close the pages that seem to spring to life. The love affair continues.

Last year, Hackney Archives worked with Fifth Word Theatre, Hackney Museum and the Jewish Military Museum. The project involved two local primary schools along with community volunteers and researchers, like myself, curating an exhibition exploring the First World War and how it influenced the lives of local people a century ago.

It was brilliant to see how these primary school pupils made the documents come to life by re-telling the story in the *Hackney Remembers* exhibition held at Hackney Museum last summer – see http://bit.ly/1cMkIXb.

Hackney Archives is preparing for the WWI centenary and needs more volunteers. Come and join in! The rollercoaster awaits…

Donna Knights

Hackney's new Heritage manager introduces herself...

As the new Heritage Manager for Hackney I am fortunate to be leading professional, dedicated teams to deliver the value of heritage. Our primary objective is to establish the borough's first Heritage Strategy and to reach more people and new audiences. At a time when heritage and cultural services across the country are under threat we will be looking to not only sustain our historic collections but to develop them through creative and effective community engagement.

With over 10 years' experience of delivering and leading heritage services, working across museums, archives, local studies services and historic houses, I am passionate about heritage that supports learning, self-awareness and confidence. I am driven by the knowledge that we can all benefit from the valuable social outcomes of improved aspiration and community pride.

The readers of the *Terrier* will be kept up to date on the progress of the Heritage Strategy, as important and valued supporters of the Archives and the local history of Hackney.

Tahlia Coombs

(Above) The Mayor of Hackney, Sir Stanley Johnson, with Cllr Marpole at Stormont House with convalescent soldiers and staff. (Below left) Three uniformed soldiers c1915, from the Knowle family collection.

World War One Centenary

Along with many other organisations across London and nationally, Hackney Archives is developing plans for activities to commemorate the centenary of the First World War over the next few years. We will be looking specifically at the effect of the war on Hackney and the people who lived and worked here at the time. We are also building partnerships with other organisations both within and outside Hackney and will be supporting other projects where appropriate, as far as they relate to Hackney, as well as developing our own activities. See the box below for more on one of the external projects we will be supporting.

The one thing that will enable us to undertake any projects on this subject is original research in our collections, to uncover the many different stories of how Hackney was affected by the war.

Are you interested in getting involved with researching the collections held at Hackney Archives to support our commemoration of this centenary? We anticipate that this research will inform a range of different activities such as education sessions, public events, exhibitions etc.

If you are interested in getting involved, please email archives@hackney.gov.uk.

Conscientious Objector Project

Two thousand London men were conscientious objectors during World War One. Do you have any memories of conscientious objectors amongst your family or friends? Would you be interested in finding out more about this forgotten local history? Could you help us track down the men who stood up against the war and the women who supported them?

If you are interested in this Heritage Lottery funded project, being run by the Peace Pledge Union, please contact Ben at londoncos@ppu.org.uk, Peace Pledge Union, 1 Peace Passage, London N7 0BT.

Can you help?

Tom Long would like to find out more about this photograph of LCC Hackney War Damage Department staff, from 1943. The young lady at the far left of the front row is his mother, Lilian Renée Hibberd, who would have been aged 17 or 18. The 'R' badges presumably denote Rescue Men, though the rest of the group look as if they were more involved in the clerical and managerial side of operations.

Mr Leslie Cary is looking for any photographs of St Peter's Way, near De Beauvoir Square, which might show his grandfather EJ Cary's shoe repairer's shop, which he thinks was located at number 1A between 1900 and 1950.

Please get in touch if you have any information that might help with either of these queries.

Recent articles in HackneyToday

Hackney Archives contributes a regular history page to the Council's fortnightly free newspaper *HackneyToday*. The page looks at stories and events both past and present using material from the Archive collections and Local Studies Library.

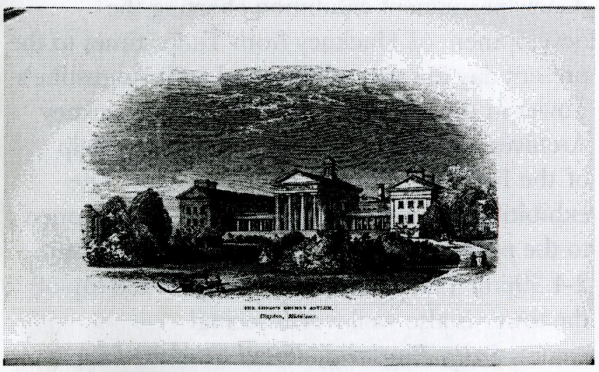
If you live outside the borough and don't receive *HackneyToday*, you may be interested to know that an electronic copy (in PDF format) of the latest issue of the paper is available online at hackney.gov.uk/w-hackneytoday.htm. You can also find back issues from the same page.

Some of the articles you can find are:

Issue 304: the history of the Ironmongers' Almshouses on Kingsland Road which eventually became the Geffrye Museum.

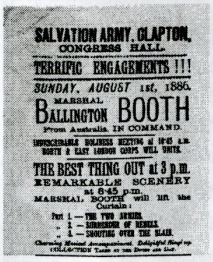
Issue 305: the story of Newcome's School in Clapton, a famous seat of learning in the 18th century.

Issue 320: a look at the history of maternity care in the borough and the Model Welfare Maternity Centre in Kingsland Road.



Issues 306 and 307 the work of Andrew Reed and the London Orphan Asylum which took over the school site.

Issue 310: the work of Andrew Reed's son and Hackney's first MP, Sir Charles Reed.


SALVATION ARMY, CLAPTON,
CONGRESS HALL.
TERRIFIC ENGAGEMENTS !!!
SUNDAY, AUGUST 1st, 1886.
BALLINGTON BOOTH

Issue 308: the Salvation Army's Congress Hall which followed the Asylum.

Sally England, Local Studies Librarian

Online Resources

Dr Jane Platt, Hon research associate in history at Lancaster University, has written a useful article on London Anglican parish magazines from 1860 to 1918, available on the London Metropolitan Archives website bit.ly/1mC2CPT.

The Wellcome Library has recently launched *London's Pulse: Medical Officer of Health reports 1848-1972*, a free online resource for the history of public health containing over 5500 digitised reports, at wellcomelibrary.org/moh/.

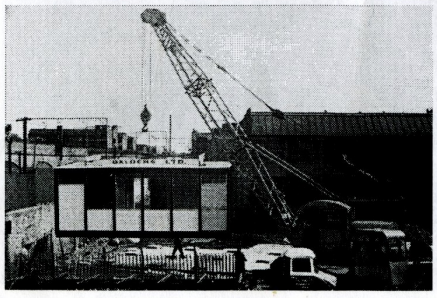
Professor Ian Christie of the Centre for Film and Media Research at the School of History of Art, Film and Visual Media, Birkbeck College, is leading The London Project, which aims to map, analyse and disseminate how, in its early years, the new medium of film impacted upon the social and economic life of London. This has led to the creation of a searchable database of London cinemas and film businesses from 1894 to 1914 which can be found at londonfilm.bbk.ac.uk/search.

The National Library of Scotland website not only provides online resources for Scotland, but also historic Ordnance Survey mapping for the whole of Britain. Especially useful to researchers in Hackney is the detailed five-foot-to-a-mile 1893-6 London Survey. This can be found at maps.nls.uk/os/london-1890s/index.html.

Please let us know of any websites or online resources you feel might be of interest to members of the Friends.

Prefabs

Someone recently asked me in passing what information we had in the Archives on post-war pre-fabricated housing. I was rather curious myself and had a bit of a dig around, only to find that the answer is very little – just a handful of photographs. I know there was quite a lot of prefab housing in Hackney, because it stands out clearly on post-war OS maps, often filling in the gaps caused by bomb damage.



The photograph below was taken by Bill Hall, a member of the Friends, in 1963. It shows a prefab being set down on the site of the church of St Michael and All Angels, London Fields, which was destroyed during the Blitz. We also have pictures from 1981 of prefab housing of an identical design that was still in use.

If anyone has more information, photographs or records, we'd love to hear from you.

Siân Mogridge, Archivist

Sad News

Friends will be saddened to learn of the death of Bill Hall's wife Jeanne. We send our condolences to Bill and his family.

From Tudors to Today

A new permanent exhibition charting the development of Hackney from Tudor times to the present day has recently opened at St Augustine's Tower in the Narrow Way, curated by Hackney Archives and Hackney Museum with the help of the Hackney Historic Building Trust. The exhibition can be viewed when the tower is open to the public on the last Sunday of every month, 2-4.30pm. The panoramic view from the top of the tower is also well worth seeing!

Sally England, Local Studies Librarian

The Hackney Terrier is published by the Friends of Hackney Archives, Dalston CLR James Library and Hackney Archives, Dalston Square, London E8 3BQ 020 8356 8925, archives@hackney.gov.uk

Contributions to future issues should be sent to Sally England at the above address.