

THE HACKNEY TERRIER



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NEWSLETTER FROM THE HACKNEY ARCHIVES



A seasonal scene from the images collection. Etching by W E Mackaness. c 1890

Staff, Contractors and Volunteers

Welcome to Jane Gotts who joined us on 7 September as the new Library IT Support Assistant, the post funded with considerable support by LB Hackney's Core Property, IT & Corporate Commissioning service. Jane is working as a member of the searchroom team, adding to the books on ADLIB.

Michele Vincent will be leaving her post as Searchroom Supervisor on 18 December. We would like to thank Michele for her work in the search room over the last two and a half years, and wish her every success in the future.

There will be some alterations to the job description to take into account the advances we have made in new technology, and we anticipate recruiting

Michele's replacement in late January or early February 1999.

Health problems compelled Joan Potter to temporarily discontinue the data inputting work she was doing to support *Hackney on Disk*. However Joan has been able to continue with indexing and support work in the interval, and has now been given clearance to resume some of her computer work.

Magda Byland, who had been working as a volunteer on inputting visual data, has also left us for a job teaching English in France, but Manuela Toporowska has joined us recently and is working two days a week on scanning images for *Hackney on Disk*. We would like to thank all three for their sterling work in the last year. We could not achieve all we do without their help.

Jonathan Oates has finished his period of cataloguing, but Richard Bowden has now commenced work on a short term contract on archive ADLIB cataloguing, and has begun the editing and digitisation of the Hackney civil parish lists. To date Richard has edited and inputted the pre 1855 lists for Hackney, Shoreditch and Stoke Newington. Hackney Board of Works and Vestry records have also been added to the database, and South Hornsey lists are on the verge of completion. A micro-filming company wishing to film part of our Workers Circle collection has also agreed to meet the costs of placing the list of the records onto ADLIB. Richard will also complete this task before the end of the calendar year.

We were sorry to learn of that Godfrey New, our contracted photographer for many years, had to give up work on health ground in September this year, and are grateful to the Friends Com-

mittee of who contributed to a present marking his many years of service to Hackney.

Financial Matters

Hackney Council has a projected budget deficit in this existing financial year, and this has resulted in a search for savings. HAD has taken a £20,000 cut, taken from the allocation for payment of business rates in anticipation of half the rating costs for the Rose Lipman Library and Community Centre coming from Kingsland Neighbourhood Offices, who are responsible for meeting the cost of the resident community association. In practice the Neighbourhood Offices have proposed a rating division of the building, which will have the same effect. The budget cut means that the premises improvements we are in the course of undertaking this year will largely have to be met from income generation and savings elsewhere in the budget.

Hackney Council also faces a substantial shortfall between anticipated income and expenditure in financial year 1999/2000. The Director of Learning and Leisure has undertaken a review of all services, including HAD with a view to making further savings. At the time of going to press it is not known what impact any proposals could have on HAD.

However the Directorate of Learning and Leisure has initiated a new process of consultation on its plans for the coming year. Three meetings have been held, two at the Ann Taylor Centre in Westgate Street on Saturday 7 and Monday 9 November and the third at Stoke Newington Assembly Hall on 11 November. Invitations to attend the meetings were sent to all

Friends who live in the London area and we are grateful for those who were able to attend and express their views. David Mander was the facilitator for groups that included archives, libraries and the museum on 9 and 11 November. The Strategy and Commissioning team for Learning and Leisure, who work with the Director, are in the course of analysing the results of the sessions.

In the Searchroom

Following a suggestion from Michele Vincent, we have introduced a 'Comments' box and cards into the searchroom, which will allow customers to comment on any aspect of our service. This replaces the previous Suggestions book, which we had difficulty in finding space for and saw little use.

There will be a small change to our opening hours in the Christmas week. We will be open on Christmas eve, Thursday 24 December up to 1pm, providing, among other services a chance to pick up a last minute Christmas present in the shape of one of our local history publications. The service will then be closed over Christmas and the New Year and re-opens on Saturday 2 January 1999.

Also a reminder to our regular customers that we will be closed as usual for our annual stock taking during the last two weeks of February from Monday 15th to Saturday 27th inclusive and will re-open on Monday 1 March 1999.

Computer matters

Changes to our local area network will connect our server to the main Hackney Council server before Christmas.

The changes will help cut our phone bills - our present link is via a fax-modem - and speed up some of our financial and administrative work, but the main change the user will notice will be access to the Internet via the searchroom terminals. This will allow users to consult on-line archive resources like the National Register of Archives and the forthcoming Public Record Office catalogues directly. Because of pressure on our services the terminals will not be available for general use.

The same changes will also provide ADLIB direct access to their software on our server, which will make the introduction of layout and other changes quick and easy. In addition to the work that Richard Bowden has undertaken on the archive lists, Jane has pushed on with the book cataloguing, and the system now has 620 entries on it, covering the majority of the 300 classes (which include political history, business and industry, shops, finance and the building trade, transport, local societies, charities, hospitals, almshouses, education and estates and manors).

ADLIB support their own user group, and HAD will be hosting a meeting for other bodies using the archival package in January. Our guests will include staff from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Institute of Electrical Engineers, Jersey Archives and Kingston upon Thames Museum & Heritage Service.

Interest in our HA2000 software continues and demonstrations have been given to staff from Stockport Library Service, Oxford Museum, Barnet Library Service, Kingston upon Thames Museum & Heritage Service, Merseyside Museums & Galleries, Bexley Lo-

cal Studies Centre. David Mander and Ken Laing set up a demonstration stall at the Society of Archivists conference at Sheffield on 8 September. David was the only speaker from the south of England at the digitisation training day organised by the North East branch of the Library Association at Durham on 15 October. Both Ken and David demonstrated *Hackney on Disk*, the *Victorian Life in Hackney* program and the other applications .

David was also a guest speaker at the Society of Archivist's digitisation training day at the Public Record Office on 16 November, although this was less successful, as the disk drive transported from Hackney refused to function! Despite a rapid car journey to Hackney and back to Kew, it was not possible to set up a replacement terminal, though the talk on the background to the system did go ahead.

Another excursion, this time on 1 December to speak to members of Merton's Heritage Forum was also beset by problems, but this time the disk drive was coaxed into life and David was able to demonstrate the Hackney systems and a small trial package prepared using Merton maps and images.

An update on the progress made with the software ranges by Ken Laing and the work at Hackney was written for the magazine of SPIN, the Society for Public Information Networks, *Electronic Public Information* and appeared in their July/August issue.

Future developments may include a collaborative project with Dr Chris Mullen of Brighton University, who has a collection of Bryant and May images and is interested in working with HAD to create a Bryant and May website. This would also be a chance

for us to make use of our travelling exhibition on the history of the company, *A Striking Success*, which we produced in the mid 1980s. Slides of each of the twenty two panels were taken and could be reproduced as part of the proposed website.

Ken Laing is working on proposals to use the software we have developed for Hackney Museum's new premises in the Technology & Learning Centre. We also hope to make use of virtual reality programmes to recreate one of Hackney's vanished houses and to see if a virtual reality record office could be created as an educational tool or alternatively a piece of fun to introduce the young and young at heart to the joys of using archives and local history collections.

The *Victorian Life* program has now been completed and is being tested in schools. HAD has put in a bid to Hackney Council's Community Empowerment Unit to produce a similar product linked to the regeneration project for the Stamford Hill and Woodberry Down area. We also will be formulating another project for Sutton House to tell the story of Tudor Hackney, arising from research work that Martin Taylor has been undertaking and which we will be reporting on in later issues of *The Hackney Terrier*.

Reprographics

The HP DeskJet printer has now proved its worth and customers are able to print out copies of the catalogue details and screen prints from *Hackney on Disk* images at a cost of 50p for black and white and £1 for colour.

Godfrey New's retirement spelled the end for our conventional photographic service and has forced us to look to

alternatives. Using Adobe Photoshop and our printer it is possible for us to scan pictures to a high resolution and produce photographic quality prints in either A4 or A3 sizes. The early results in colour and black and white have been dramatic in quality, but in the first instance each image will need to be scanned. The scans used for our *Hackney on Disk* images are of too low a resolution to be used for photographic quality work - it is this low resolution that enables them to be come up quickly in a selection, so the re-scan is vital. The high resolution scan can also be sent to a bureau to produce traditional photographs on Kodak paper, and will be saved on CD ROM and accessed when required.

The new service is being developed by Michael Kirkland, which ultimately will offer slides, some photographic work and the digital service. Pricing details are still being worked out, but we hope to implement a new service before the end of March 1999. Judging from the early results and the customer comments, the digital print copies should surpass our previous photographic service, and we may be also able to improve on the previous turn round time of one week.

As our printer also prints on card, we are going to experiment with limited runs of greeting and postcard images selected from our collection. While the printer is not suitable for mass production, it could be possible for a customer to place a small order for personalised greetings cards with an image chosen from the digitised range of the collection. We are also looking at replacing the old calendar prints (the colour images that retail at 25p) with a fresh selection of photographs and prints. These would be run off at either A4 or A3 size (one of a number of issues to be

decided) at a quality suitable for framing and with brief captions supplied as labels. If you have a favourite image you think would prove to be popular,

Acquisitions and cataloguing

The street naming and numbering volumes for Hackney 1863-1939 (including Stoke Newington until 1894) have now been accessioned and are available for consultation (LBH 7/8). They contain copy orders and plans for the extensive changes to street names and numbers which were undertaken by the Metropolitan Board of Works and the LCC under the 1862 Metropolis Management Act. They are invaluable for discovering the location of terraces and streets which seem to vanish between censuses, and tying in addresses in nineteenth century trade directories with modern ones. The survival of this material at local level seems to be unusual. It is unfortunate that Shoreditch Vestry's copies of their orders and plans do not survive. Joan Potter has begun to prepare a detailed index. Jacketed microfilm of the orders and plans can be used by readers to make copies.

The Stoke Newington drainage volumes 1856-94 are also now available for consultation (LBH 7/9). These are arranged alphabetically. Once again jacketed microfilm copies are available from which to make print outs.

Among the archives acquired by HAD during the autumn are a copy of some verses for 1820 written by Mr Allwright, beadle of Shoreditch, deposited by a gentleman who found them behind panelling of a building in Shoreditch High Street; a sale catalogue from the early 1980s for Gibson

Gardens in Stoke Newington; two diaries for 1893 and 1894 of another beadle, retired, Abraham Harvey of 84 Brooke Road, deposited by a gentleman who found them at a car boot sale; and a large collection of Parochial Church Council minutes and other records of St Luke's Homerton Terrace.

To the Local History Library have been added three trade catalogues: a late nineteenth century catalogue of Broadwood White & Co., piano manufacturers of Dalston, which features "colonial and tropical pianos"; a 1938 catalogue for Berger Paints which includes many colour samples of their products; and an undated but probably 1950s catalogue for Firmback chairs, made by the Cintique Chair Co. of Andrews Road Cambridge Heath.

Among books acquired for the local history library is *Touching Lives: a personal history of Clapton Jewish Youth Centre*, by Celia Rose. This is an interesting review of the activities of this organisation. It is available from the National Youth Agency, 17-23 Albion Street, Leicester LE1 6GD, price £8.50. Isobel Watson's new edition of *Hackney and Stoke Newington Past* has also been acquired, both for reference and for sale. There have been some textual changes since the 1990 edition and the reproduction of the illustrations is of a higher quality. Copies can be obtained from HAD at £14.95.

Publicity and publications

Strength in the Tower: an illustrated history of Hackney by David Mander has now been published. This complements the volumes for Shoreditch and Stoke Newington, and completes the trilogy. It is available from HAD at a special price of £8.99 until Christmas, when it will revert to its normal retail

price of £9.99. For those unable to attend the launch party at the Department on 8 December, we are more than happy to supply copies by post. Cheques should be made payable to London Borough of Hackney, and as usual 20% (£1.80 on £8.99) should be added to the total to cover postage and packing. We are hoping that Suttons, the publishers, will be able to provide slip cases, so that the whole trilogy can be bought as a set at a slightly reduced price.

Two recent Hackney Society productions are now for sale at HAD. A reproduction of the 1741 plan of Hackney churchyard by Roger Root, notable for its depictions of the old church and adjacent buildings has been produced as an A2 poster with explanatory notes by David Mander. This is priced at £4.50. Extracts from the Root plan are included in a range of postcards which depict architectural and other images of Hackney, including the Round Chapel and the German Hospital. There are eight cards at 30p each.

In the new year a leaflet on house history research will be produced by the Department. This will be rather more substantial than our ordinary leaflets, and will be a joint effort by HAD staff each writing on the sources available, at HAD and elsewhere, for studying the history of one's house. It will probably retail at £1.00.

The Learning and Leisure Strategy and Commissioning Officer with responsibility for HAD, Michelle Guimarin, recently graded a short secondment for a teacher to advise us on the drafting of a new education leaflet. Caroline Rolt made some constructive suggestions, and we hope to distribute the leaflet, suggesting possible educational uses of HAD, to schools in the new year.

HAD is arranging two special openings for people in the Borough to learn about the service we offer and the opportunities for life long learning we can provide. These will take place on the evening of Monday 1 February 1999, 6pm-8pm, and on Saturday 13 February. These will be advertised in the *Hackney Gazette*, and its reporter Mike Butler visited HAD recently to be shown *Hackney on Disk*. We hope that he will write us up in the *Gazette* before Christmas.

Lastly, any alert Friend who watched the recent Inspector Morse episode *The Wench is Dead* may have caught a glimpse of HAD masquerading as Oxfordshire Record Office, and an interesting similarity between the burial register being consulted by Morse's new henchman (ostensibly of an Oxfordshire country church) and one of Abney Park's registers...the explanation of these curious coincidences will be found in the last edition of *The Terrier*.

House History Course

Discovering the History of a House was the title of a one day course held at HAD on Saturday 24 October, and taught by HAD's contracted researcher Lilian Gibbens. Publicity in the *Hackney Gazette* ensured that the course was fully subscribed. Sources discussed included directories, census returns and maps and illustrations. People who attended reported that it was informative and enjoyable, and there have been requests that we repeat the event next year.

Middlesex Sessions Records

At the beginning of November David Mander attended a meeting of archivists from the area of the former

County of Middlesex at the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA). The LMA are a long way towards submitting a bid for a lottery grant application for work on the Middlesex Sessions archive 1549-1889. An eighteen month period of work is envisaged by three cataloguers, to result in computerised finding aids for the whole of the archive. This will include the sessions rolls and books which record the judicial activities of the Middlesex bench and also the records of their administrative functions, from licensing public houses to registering game keepers.

The LMA is keen to obtain the participation of other archives in the Middlesex area, which they feel will increase their chances of success. Cooperation may have tangible results for borough archives in the form of copies of the resulting database and staff training opportunities.

Book Reviews

Sir John Cass and the Cass Foundation
by Sean Glynn

1998 is the 250th anniversary of the Sir John Cass Foundation. This educational charity was established by Sir John Cass, City of London politician and Grove Street resident, to whose bequest to the Foundation of his South Hackney estates Cassland Road owes its name.

This book tells the story of Cass and the establishment of his first school at St Botolph's Aldgate, in part motivated by a wish to consolidate his political position in the City to further his campaign to become one of its members of parliament. Cass provided for the school in his will of 1709, but further endowments, of the Aldgate school and a proposed school in Hackney,

came to nothing when Cass died at the moment of making a second will in 1718. The pupils of the Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School, successor to the original one at Aldgate, wear red feathers at the Founder's Day service to commemorate the legend that Cass expired of a "haemorrhage of the lungs", covering with blood the quill he had poised to sign the will. Rather sadly, Glynn suggests that this memorable story was a later invention.

He goes on to describe the development of the Foundation, and the extension of its work to include the Sir John Cass Institute in Jewry Street (now part of Guildhall University) and the Hackney Sir John Cass Institute in the former Cass estate office building in Cassland Road. The charity's activities were financed by the development of the South Hackney estate. Glynn draws heavily on Isobel Watson's *Gentlemen in the Building Line*, but adds little new information.

This is a comprehensive history of the Foundation, and it finishes with a description of the Foundation's educational work in the present. The only disappointment is the quality of the reproduction of the illustrations. It is available from Sir John Cass's Foundation, 31 Jewry Street, London EC3N 2EY.

Talks

The Islington Archaeology & History Society have organised a talk: "The Enigma of Clissold House - an architect's viewpoint" by John Bolter, architect. The talk, which is open to non-members is on 20th January 1999 at 8.00pm in Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 and is described as "a guided tour highlighting unusual features of the house".

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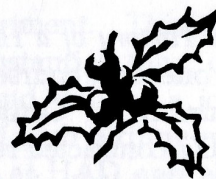
Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting on 6th February 1999 at 4.15pm at Hackney Archives

Business: New Constitution

Enclosed with this Terrier is a copy of the proposed new constitution, as outlined in Terrier no 47.

We would also be pleased to hear from anyone who can offer assistance with running the Friends. In 1999 we will in particular be looking for a successor to Jean Chaudhuri, the current Treasurer. The duties, as Jean will testify, are not onerous, but she would like to hand over the reins to someone who lives nearer to Hackney than she does, in deepest Sussex!

Isobel Watson
Chair



The Hackney Terrier was produced by David Mander, Martin Taylor and Michael Kirkland of Hackney Archives Department at 43 De Beauvoir Road, London N1 5SQ. Tel 0171 241 2886. Fax 0171 241 6688; e-mail archives@hackney.gov.uk. Additional contributions came from Isobel Watson. The Terrier is distributed free to members of the Friends of Hackney Archives. Membership of the Friends is open to all. The subscription is £8 for each calendar year, (plus £2 for each additional member at the same address and £12 for overseas members (if paid in sterling) Back numbers are available from the Friends at 29 Stepney Green E1 3JX (large sae for details)