

# The Hackney Terrier



HACKNEY ARCHIVES NEWSLETTER

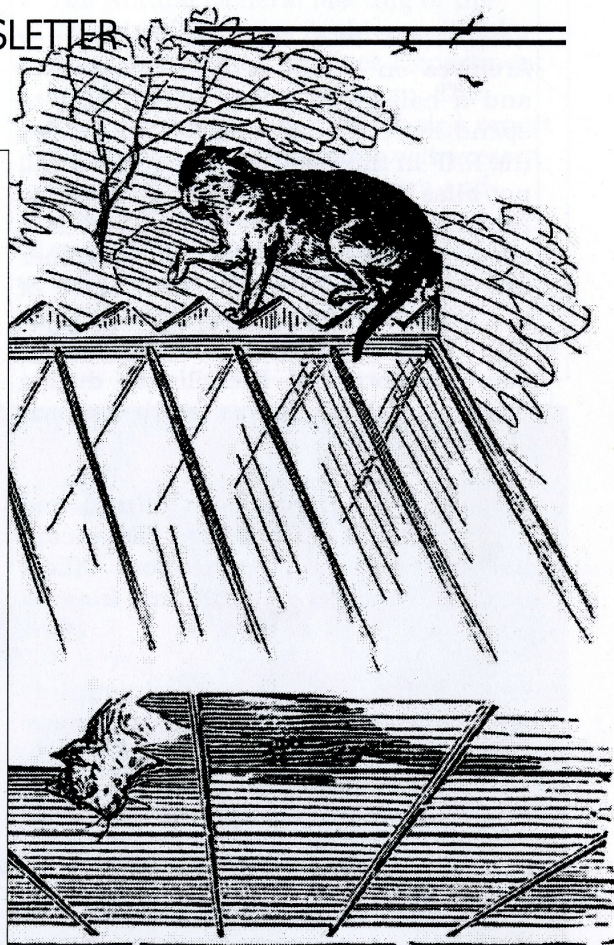
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## Webcat Treasures

Images of Cats in the greenhouse from: page 9 of James Shirley Hibberd's - *The Amateur's Greenhouse and Conservatory: A handy guide to the construction and management of plant-houses, and the selection, cultivation, and improvement of ornamental greenhouse and conservatory plants.* Published in London by Groombridge and Sons, 1873.

"We once suffered in a frightful manner through the breaking of a pane of glass on a low-roofed house when a party of cats were holding an outdoor nocturnal demonstration upon it. They fell in and went mad with fright, and committed such havoc as for the time nearly broke our heart."

Shirley Hibberd lived at 6 Lordship Terrace, Stoke Newington from 1855 until the loss of local hedgerows prompted him to move to Muswell Hill c.1875.



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# News

## Staff

Peter Kent will be leaving Hackney Archives on 4 May after just over two and a half years. Peter will be able to spend more time on his PhD thesis on the RAF in the Cold War period, and will not miss the long journey from home to Hackney. During that time, Peter has been the main face of the customer service, and got to grips with some of the back log of photographic cataloguing. Peter says 'Thanks to you all for your support and friendliness during my time at HAD. It was much appreciated.'

Elizabeth Green has been offered and accepted what will become the vacant half of the IT and Searchroom Officer post, and will become full time from 12 May.

Paul Carless, the agency Administration and Finance Officer, came to the end of his contract towards the end of March. Kyle Ackermann started with us on 26 March doing the same work for three days a week and will be with us for the next six months.

## Funding bids update

The disability access audit was completed in March. Much of the changes will focus on the toilet, and we will be looking at a re-design that meets all requirements.

## Projects

Tudor Hackney has now passed all its technical tests, and we have claimed our final grant cheque from the New Opportunities Fund (NOF). Ten Generations, the second NOF digitisation project we have had a stake in, is also complete, and we will shortly add a web link from our pages in the Hackney Council site.

## Premises

Tendering has now been completed to undertake a feasibility study on options for premises improvements for the archive, either at the present location of the service, or near Hackney Museum and the main Hackney library. The successful consultants were Faithful and Gould, one of the W.S. Atkins group of companies. Faithful and Gould have an impressive track record of archive work, having undertaken design projects for Essex Record Office, the British Library, Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies, Hereford Cathedral, Liverpool Record Office and the National Archives. When complete the feasibility study will form the basis of a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund on the chosen option.

## Acquisition and listing

The transfer of the drainage records for Shoreditch 1877-1964 and Stoke Newington 1894-1964 duly went ahead, and both series have been listed. A new leaflet explaining the whereabouts of microfilm and the original records to customers who visit Building Control at Dorothy Hodgkin House on Reading Lane and Hackney Archives Department has been prepared by HAD staff. The process of getting 175 large volumes into our over crowded strongroom was not easy, and involved considerable double shelving of some classes of records, so document production may be a little slower on occasion.

Other deposits include additional records from the De Beauvoir Town Association for the early 1980s and further records of LB Hackney's Twinning section, covering links with Hackney's twinned towns all over the world.

## Special closure

Elsewhere in this Hackney Terrier, are some treasures that have been unearthed from the work of the Hackney Webcat team of Sally England and Julia Hoffbrand. Re-cataloguing work on the



former Stoke Newington collection is well advanced, and as the first stage of merging the book collections, we will be closing for a week from 7th to 11th June 2004 to physically re-organise the book shelves in the strongroom.

With a higher proportion of the books now included in the ADLIB catalogue, we will be introducing live use of the catalogues on the public terminals after we re-open.

David Mander

## News from the Friends

### Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Hackney Archives will take place at Hackney Archives Department on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 7 p.m. The meeting will consider the Chair's report for the year, the Treasurer will present the accounts, and the Officers and Committee will present themselves for re-election. Afterwards David Mander will give a short presentation about the new London-wide archives body, Archives for London.

## Features

### Forbes' Poem

The Poem, from the late 18th century, was written by John Forbes of Church Street Hackney to advertise the service and goods offered by his shop. It seems from the last lines as though this was something John Forbes had a talent for as the sheet is in its second edition. His shop must have been a real treasure trove with something in it for everyone.

To the PUBLIC  
And more particularly to his good  
Friends, the inhabitants of St John,  
HACKNEY.

IN Church-Street at Hackney, not far  
from the Brook  
A shop is established, by hook or by  
crook,  
Where the wants of his Patrons and  
Friends to supply,  
And promote his own Interest too, by  
the bye,

Church Street (Mare Street), late 18th Century ref. P691



The master has tried to the utmost his  
care,  
An assortment of all the best Goods to  
prepare;  
Where all so dispos'd may be certain to  
find  
Good Cloaths for the Body, and Food for  
the Mind.  
And that none may mistake, he thus  
fully declares,  
That he chaffers and deals in the follow-  
ing Wares:  
In Thread, Silk and Worsted, all manner  
of Hose,  
And all sorts of Handkerchiefs fit for the  
nose,



There are Night-caps of cotton, for old men to wear,  
 And Fillets for young ones to bind up their hair;  
 Such Linen, that none in the kingdom can beat,  
 Strong, fine, and well threaded, white, lasting and neat;  
 Gloves, leather and woolen, and some nice and thin,  
 Lin'd neatly with fur, to preserve a soft skin.  
 Good Baize, and fine Flannel, from Scotland and Wales,  
 And hats finartly cocked in the taste that prevails.  
 There is pigtail Tobacco, and good Oronoke,  
 For Gentlemen either to chew or to smoke;  
 Some fine spun for Ladies of delicate juice,  
 And short-cut and shag for the general use.  
 Then for snuffs, there's Rappee, both scented and plain,  
 And pungent fine Scotch, to clear up the dull brain;  
 With Strasbourg and Bergamot too of the best,  
 Of peculiar fineness and delicate zest;  
 Hardham's best thirty-seven, and Cephalic enough,  
 And Boxes to hold both Tobacco and Snuff.  
 Then there's paper for writing, of every sort,  
 As good Fool's-Cap and Post, as can ever be bought,  
 Gilt, black-edg'd, and plain, and some rul'd to the hand,  
 Pens, Inks, Quills, Pounce, Wafers, Wax, Pen-knives and Sand.  
 Here are message-cards too, Invitations to carry,  
 And playing-Cards stamp't with the Phiz of King Harry;  
 Ink-stands of all sorts, both for Table and Pocket,  
 And one you may slide the top over, and lock it;  
 Lead Pencils, and boxes for wafers and pounce,  
 And fine spangled Writing-Sand, three-pence an ounce.

There are Books of Account bound in Parchment and Vellum,  
 And some with brass clasps, lest long using should swell 'em.  
 Neat sets of FRY'S Types, to print names upon Linen,  
 And Ledgers with Alphabets at the beginning.  
 Port Crayons, and cases for pencils in Steel,  
 And neat little Books, your bank-notes to conceal.  
 In short, there's whatever the Stationers sell,  
 As cheap as at LONDON, and finish'd as well.  
 There are printed Books too, of all sorts and conditions,  
 Well bound, in good order, the fairest editions.  
 All tastes he can suit, be they ever so various,  
 And please every fancy, however precarious.  
 Here are Truths and grave Maxims, to please the Discerning;  
 Here the Wit may find Jokes, and the Scholar find Learning;  
 Here is Mirth for the Gay, and sad Tales for the Grave,  
 And Sieges, and Battle, and Wars, for the Brave.  
 For the curious, inquisitive Mind, that loves Facts,  
 Here are all sorts of Hist'ries, and Memoirs, and Tracts:  
 For the Poet here's Rhime, for the Solid here's Prose,  
 And Assistants for those, who want help to compose:  
 Political Pamphlets, and Monthly Reviews,  
 Magazines of all sorts, and all manner of News.  
 To pass a dull hour, here are Novels in store,  
 Fairy Tales, and Romances, and fifty things more;  
 Collections of all the best Songs, that are sung,  
 Devout Books for the old, and Love Tales for the young.  
 For the Schoolman, here's nice and abstruse disquisitions,  
 Court Cabals and State-Papers to



please Politicians!  
 Here are wond'rous exploits of intriguing gallants,  
 And young Ladies' escapes from their old maiden Aunts.  
 Here are Voyages, Travels, and Letters, and Plays,  
 And Operas, and Riddles and Moral Essays:  
 Here's abundance of Works of the Sentiment kind,  
 And here too the Satyrists pleasure may find:  
 All sorts of new Music, Songs, Airs, and Sonatas,  
 Solos, Trios, Duets, Catches, Glees, and Cantata's.  
 To sum up the whole. Here's what each one may chuse,  
 And what they do not, they are free to refuse.  
 That all may enjoy the effect of this Treasure,  
 And read for a trifling expense at their leisure,  
*Twelve Shillings* a year gives command of the whole;  
 You may read as you please, without any controul:  
 Or if that Sum's too much, or you chose a time shorter,  
 You may always subscribe, for *Four Shillings* a Quarter.  
 Thus having announc'd to the Public his Station,  
 There remains but to make this sincere declaration,  
 That he always will strive with his utmost endeavours,  
 To obey their commands, and so merit their Favors.  
 It affords him the highest delight to reflect,  
 His success is beyond what he could e'er expect;  
 And yet such is the honor to which he aspires,  
 It is not a whit beyond what he desires.  
 This trifling affair having seen two editions,  
 Appears, as most other works do, with additions:  
 The reception the first hath obtain'd,  
 leaves no fear,  
 That this second will meet with a fate

more severe;  
 Since it serves to convey his best thanks to his Friends,  
 By whose favor he rose, and on whom he depends;  
 The sense of whose kindnesses past quite absorbs,  
 Their most faithful, Sincere, humble Servant, JOHN FORBES.

Undated, c. late 18<sup>th</sup>C. HAD ref. 332P

### **Singing in Hackney: a brief history of the Hackney Singers by Joan Potter** **Part 1**

In June 1973 a notice appeared in the Hackney Gazette from Edward Horton, the Borough Head of Arts and Entertainment, inviting people interested in singing to a meeting at Stamford Hill Library to discuss the possibility of forming a choir in Hackney. The few who attended expressed a keen interest in the idea, as a result of which it was decided to start off in October as an evening class at Upton (now Homerton) House School, where Mr. Horton hoped one day "to hear the strains of the Hallelujah Chorus echoing through its corridors".

Having no conductor at first, people brought along their own music, with a couple of us attempting to be accompanists, whilst another gave auditions!! In such circumstances the attendance of about 10 people began to dwindle and we closed down for a few weeks until November when a local musician, Malcolm Cottle, became our first conductor, which enabled us to be enrolled as a class with the rather ambitious title of Hackney Choral Society – well, we had increased our membership back to 10! Our repertoire comprised a wide range of 4-part songs, despite the fact that we failed to attract, or keep, male singers – a lone tenor would appear one week and similarly a bass another, but never the twain did meet and consequently they never returned.



Guildhall Library and Awards for All. New volunteers would be particularly welcome. It's a great way to learn to handle computers, if you have not already done so, and the documents are a fascinating way to see Regency London come alive.

Full training is given, so don't be afraid to give it a try. Contact Susan Sneddon, part-time Project Manager, at [firearchive@aol.com](mailto:firearchive@aol.com), or by leaving a telephone message on 07939 178246.

## Book Review

### **Climbing the Family Tree** **Graham Claydon** **Sea Dream Music 0-907888-43-7**

Who wouldn't like to inherit a treasure map? Graham Claydon did, and used it to unearth nuggets from his family's history. The 'map' was an outline of the family tree, handed down and amended over four generations, which led the Rev. Claydon on a quest to discover the lost stories of his relatives, culminating in this book which is not only a fascinating read in itself but also an inspiration for anyone contemplating researching their own ancestry.

Claydon opens with the 'story of the story', recounting the various nudges and coincidences which finally inspired him to explore the secrets of the treasure map, and describing his research methods. But this is not a 'how-to-do-it' guide to discovering your family history, rather a nudge in itself to remind us how we all have mysteries and unanswered questions about our backgrounds which can be springboards for investigation, pointers towards uncovering our own personal treasure.

The book contains Hackney-related material, but that is not the sole reason for reading it: here is a wealth of compelling stories, from the Civil War to the 1930s, beautifully told. Be moved by George

Evans lovingly-preserved letter to his daughter Nanny and puzzled by their suicidal bees; relive Thomas Archer's doomed elopement before he went on to become a still-legendary hunting, shooting, library-book vandalising, horse-mad Essex priest; adventure in East Africa with handsome Archer Claydon, who survived being mauled by a lion but not the horrors of the Great War; and feel for bright, Oxford-educated Stanley Hensler, institutionalised for life for stealing from the church poor-box.

Claydon emphasises the importance of real stories about real people and the danger of losing them in an age when mass-media bombard us with fictions which, he says, 'make little addition to our true joy or feed our sense of destiny'.

A natural storyteller, the 'Stepney Gospeller' brings his personal history to life in a way that can only give added impetus to existing or budding genealogists, and shares with his readers those vivid and moving glimpses into history that are the bright gold from his treasure map.

Climbing the Family Tree is £10 + delivery and available from: Graham Claydon, All Souls Vicarage, 44 Overbury Street, Clapton Park, E5 0AH.

### **Credits & Contacts**

*The Hackney Terrier was produced by Catherine Taylor, 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.*

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