

# The Hackney Terrier

# 69

*The Friends of Hackney Archives Newsletter*

Summer 2005

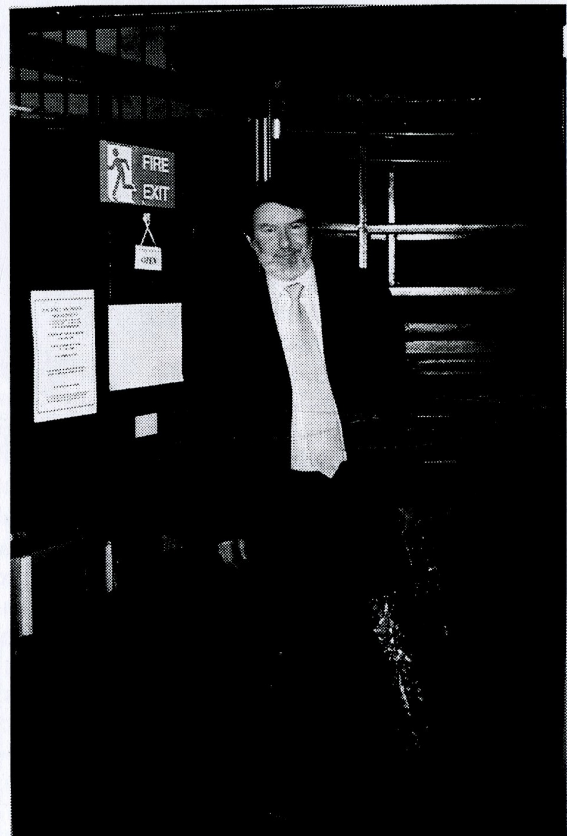


## Farewell to David Mander

It had to happen sometime; we could have wished the circumstances had been different. At two separate events at the end of May, one of which was the Friends' AGM, Hackney Archives Department, its Friends, and many other friends of David himself, said goodbye to David Mander. Pictured here are images from those occasions.

David came to Hackney, as its second Borough Archivist, in 1983, following the death in service of Stanley Tongue. David had a degree in history from Cambridge, and experience of archives work first for the City of Westminster at Marylebone, then at the Waltham Forest archives at Vestry House in Walthamstow. Once in Hackney, he wasted little time in setting about improving the service. Wishing to harness the substantial goodwill which the Department had earned during the tenure of Stanley Tongue, and communicate more effectively with users, he conceived the idea of a Friends' organisation - a model familiar in some county record offices, but not hitherto exploited in London - and the Friends came in to being towards the end of 1985, partly to serve as a focus for local history in Hackney, as the only existing body in the field centred mainly on Tower Hamlets. The Friends' inception as an independent body also meant that the monetary donations which satisfied customers insisted on making could be harnessed for the benefit of the collection rather than the bottomless pit of the Borough's perpetual deficit.

A systematic programme of catching up with a considerable backlog of listing acquisitions was put in hand, as without this these could not be made available to the public. Much of this was done by David personally, while other staff dealt with the 'front end' of the service. At the same time, a long standing conservation programme on the visual collection, started by the late Jean Wait, was completed, and a local exhibition on Hackney Wick followed by two ambitious exhibitions were put together by the Archives team. One was based on the Bryant and May archive, acquired by the Department, grant funded by the SE Area Museums Council and which travelled round the country, and another on Hackney gardens, HAD and LBH's 21st anniversary exhibition (the latter recently reincarnated online, on the Council's





website). Exhibitions in the end gave way to books, as a better and more lasting record of work put in, and providing much needed income generation. A formidable list of publications ensued. In the mid 1980s David was resident in South Hackney, and spent many weekends pacing the borough's streets in the steps of Dr Benjamin Clarke ('FRCS' of the 1890s), preparatory to publishing, with the Hackney Society, an annotated facsimile edition of *Glimpses of Hackney and Stoke Newington*, the book which more than any other helps the present day Hackneyite to understand the development of the borough's 19th century streetscapes. A partnership between the Department and local history publishers led to several books of photograph views, then to the most ambitious project of all, David's indispensable trilogy of histories of the three ancient parishes which make up the present Borough.

The ideas proliferated and the volumes multiplied - a book about press coverage; 'before and after' picture views; a millennium perspective. Not all of these are still in print. The trilogy has for some time been planned to re-appear as a second edition in a single volume. David also encouraged others to publish, or write, or both: it is no accident that Hackney was among the earliest London area to boast coverage (and later, complete coverage) by the Godfrey edition of

old Ordnance Survey maps. The mark made by the Godfrey edition in Hackney encouraged the somewhat reluctant publisher to believe that the series could succeed in London. Despite growing pressures on space, David was also an enthusiastic collector (and assiduous cataloguer) of material, trawling the commercial, religious and educational sectors for new deposits of records (sometimes from reluctant depositors), and especially interested in enhancing the strong business records side of the collection.

During the 1980s and early 1990s times were difficult for the Department, as staff moves and maternity

leave led to vacancies that the Council consistently dragged its heels in filling, and pressure on storage space became gradually more acute. The lowest point was in the spring of 1990, when for a brief and inglorious moment officers of the Council conceived the lunatic idea of closing the Department altogether. Fortunately sense prevailed and Council members rejected the proposal. In June 1993 the Archives ceased to be part of the Library system, and was able to manage its own budget; at the same time, there began what turned into a series of attempts to identify a more satisfactory future home for the Department than the present cramped basement (and its satellite out-stores): attempts which only now are showing signs of bearing fruit, in recognition by senior Council managers that there is a problem which must be

addressed. With more immediate success, David conceived a number of ambitious grant-aided projects, computer-based and otherwise. The 'HackneyonDisk' initiative, supported and initially funded through Sutton House, then successively by the British Library and the Heritage Lottery Fund, was designed by Ken Laing (whom David had talent-spotted). Thus began the digitisation of the borough's image collection, to a design subsequently adopted by other local authority services. It laid foundations on which other projects, such as Tudor Hackney on the 'London Discovery'



website, have built. It is not an exaggeration to say that Hackney Archives, under David Mander's leadership, became a national beacon. It has seemed at times that if a national government institution wanted to feature local record material, say in a poster or public information film about the census, or needed a local test-bed for a national project, such as the Community Access to Archives programme, it has instantly thought of Hackney: more probably, it has thought of David, as David Mander and Hackney Archives came to seem synonymous.



Nevertheless, David's Hackney friends and customers may not all be aware of the pivotal role he has played on the regional archives scene throughout his tenure at the Department. Prior to coming to Hackney, he saw the need for archivists working in the local government sector to join together to represent their common interests, and thus became founder and longstanding chairman of the Greater London Archives Network, which later widened its remit to include other archivists working in the capital. In the same way he saw a need for users of archives to have their interests represented and their collective voice heard, and drawing on his experiences in helping found GLAN and the Friends, co-founded the London Archive Users' Forum as a meeting point for users and archivists, and a vehicle for campaigning against cuts and closures as well as raising Londoners' consciousness of the capital's unparalleled documentary heritage. Thus he became the natural choice to chair the interim regional committee for the London archives sector (he insisted it should be known as LARC) established in the wake of the Blair government's regional strategy for archives, museums and libraries. Following on from this, he has driven the regional agenda to the point where, this summer, the new charitable body Archives for London will replace all three of these predecessor organisations, so as to harness the energy of London's entire archives community, both professionals and users, most effectively for the future.

This is an extremely hard act to follow. It is scarcely surprising that, having escaped the Libraries structure once, David embraced the redundancy of his post, and a future as a freelance consultant, rather than contemplate returning to a library hierarchy, albeit in senior management. He has left the Department at the same time as reaching another milestone: David married Janet Keighley on 7th May. His many friends wish them both the very best in what will on past form be an exciting future. For the presentation made in May, a joint collection raised more than £1100, with which (together with assistance from Janet) David chose to purchase two fine watercolour landscapes, painted in 1885 in the Italian Lakes by William Ferguson.

David has always encouraged and motivated others, spotted (and mercilessly exploited) talent, welcomed volunteers. No opportunity to make use of a grant has knowingly been missed. During his time at Hackney there has at any given time usually been some new project afoot, and the projects (several exhibitions

and readings from archive material have sailed under the label of 'Last Minute Productions') have always been innovative and fun. David has also expected his staff to rise to his own levels of drive and commitment. Hackney training or experience has stood several



young archivists in good stead elsewhere. One of David's many achievements is finally to have done what every good manager should: delivered the service, on quitting it, in excellent shape into excellent hands. Ted Rogers has worked at Hackney as David's deputy since late 2001. They made a very effective team, and it is excellent news that the new Principal Archivist, when he or she is appointed, will have Ted's support in his new role as Archive and Information Manager within the Community and Leisure Directorate.

Isobel Watson  
Chair

### **Tudor Hackney website receives 5-star rating**

For full review by WebUser online magazine see [http://www.webuser.co.uk/sites/site\\_review.php?rev\\_id=910](http://www.webuser.co.uk/sites/site_review.php?rev_id=910)





20 June 2005

TO THE FRIENDS OF HACKNEY  
ARCHIVES

Dear all,

I would like to use the pages of the Terrier to thank all of you who sent gifts and best wishes for my departure from Hackney. I was overwhelmed by the generosity of Friends and delighted to have the opportunity to pick an outstanding watercolour as a memory of my Hackney days. Naturally it should have been a London scene - ethics would have prevented me buying a Hackney original! - but in the event one view stood out. It was pleasing to be able to rescue its companion, and both will be framed shortly.

May was a momentous month for me, as Janet Keighley and I got married at St Bega's Church, Bassenthwaite. It was a suitably archival day, as the best man, both the ushers and one of the readers were all archivists and a very happy one, with a great deal of affection and support from all our guests. Special thanks to Ted Rogers, who in the midst of the travails of the restructuring, took on the duties of my best man, which he performed to perfection.

I shall not vanish from the Hackney scene, although I have promised faithfully not to trouble HAD staff - well, no more than any other users. I still have my 'streets' book to finish, and also hope to be able to do something on the Shoreditch front to see if the proposed Shoreditch History Project, to create, among other things, a Victoria County History quality history of the area, has legs. On the business front, I

have consultancy work coming in, and so retirement, even for a brief while, is a non-starter. Indeed rather the reverse, as Janet and I are having problems finding time to get ourselves and the children under one roof.

In the immediate future, I have my part to play in the formation of Archives for London (AfL), which will be the successor to the Greater London Archives Network, the London Archives Users Forum and the London Archives Regional Council. AfL had a successful launch at London Metropolitan Archives on 6 July. For those interested in the wider London scene, this promises to be a key event, and AfL will be offering a membership discount until the end of July. Details from the Membership Secretary, Nicola Avery at LMA (Nicola.Avery@corpoflondon.gov.uk).

I look forward to seeing Friends old and new there or at Hackney in the future.

With best wishes,

David Mander





## Ted Rogers: 30 second interview

Ted Rogers, newly appointed Archives and Information Manager spares 30 seconds of his time to speak to the Terrier.

**Q: I believe archives runs in your family. Is this true?**

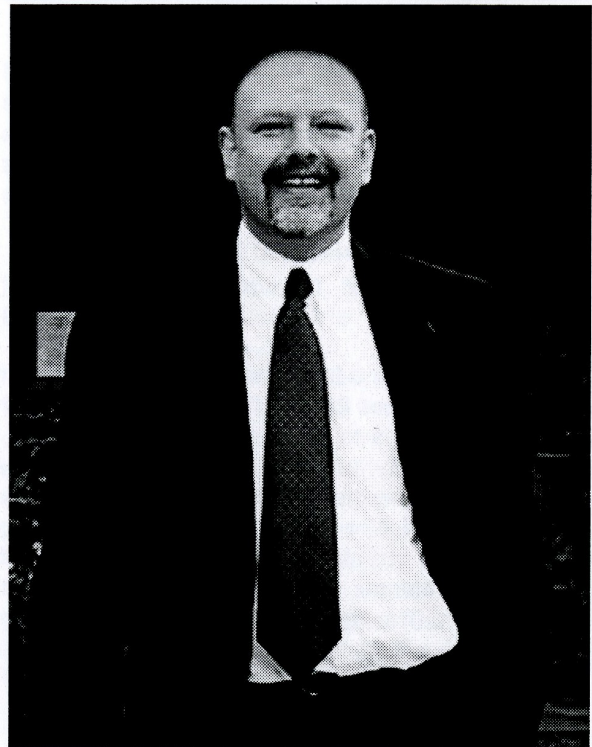
A: Yes. My father was County Archivist of Wiltshire, retiring in 1990. Since no child wishes to follow their parents' career, I studiously avoided an archival career, working instead on the 1991 census and later in university research. However, the archival genes were strong and having undertaken some short term contract work appraising engineering drawings from the Great Western Railway, I embarked on the Archive Trainee scheme at Swansea followed by the Archive Administration postgraduate course at Bangor. After qualifying in 1998, I worked once again in railway archives, this time at the British Railways Board Record Centre before moving to Hackney as Senior Archivist in 2001.

**Q: You have now got a new role in the Council. What will you be doing?**

A: Yes, from 22<sup>nd</sup> of May, I have been the Archives and Information Manager, which is a new post. As you know the Archives and Library services within the borough have been merged to form a new service, the Libraries, Archives and Information Service. This new post has responsibility for both archives and for other functions within the old library service. I report directly to Nicola Baker, the new head of service, so archives will continue to have a strong voice at a senior level.

**Q: But with these new responsibilities you won't be able to spend all your time at the department?**

A: That's true. I will be doing some of the things that David did before he left, but we are currently recruiting to another post, Principal Archivist. We hope to have appointed someone very soon and once they start, they will be the day to day manager at the Department. But I won't be some distant bureaucrat – I will still often be in the office, if perhaps less often in the searchroom. I will still be actively involved with the Friends.



**Q: What other changes can we expect in the next year?**

A: Well, even when we appoint the Principal Archivist, my old post of Senior Archivist will remain vacant. But I hope that we will not only be able to appoint another archivist, but also make permanent some other posts that already exist. If this happens, then we can expect better opening hours than we have had for several years now plus the resumption of listing large collections, an activity which we have not been able to do since I've been at the Department.

**Q: Are you missing the old man?**

A: David had a huge amount of knowledge, not only about the history of the area and the archives but also of the machinations of the Council, and although I learnt much from him when we worked together, several times I have had to disturb his retirement. Of course, he is still very active in archive circles and we frequently meet at one event or another and a visit to a pub normally follows.

But life after David has been made much easier by the fantastic support that I've had from my colleagues Sally, Elizabeth and Fran. Although we have been terribly short staffed recently they have put in a huge amount of effort to make sure that visitors still get all the help and support that they need.



## New book acquisitions

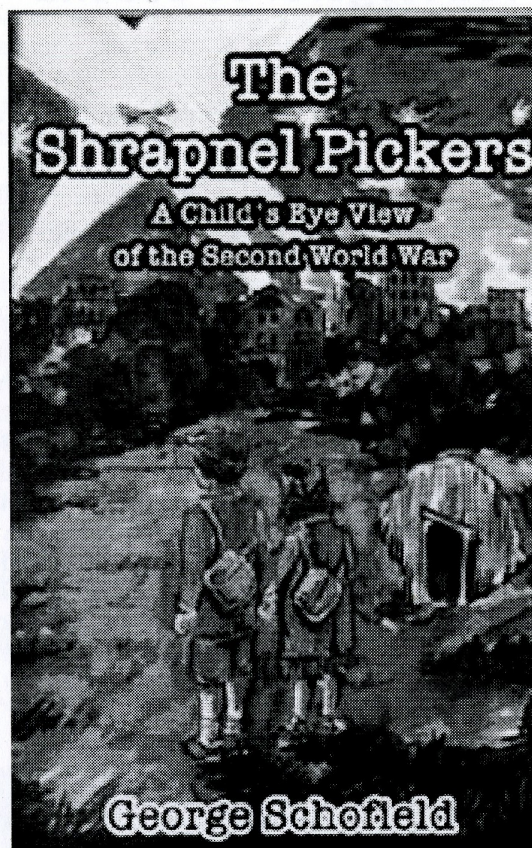
**Sutton House: a Tudor courtier's house in Hackney**  
Victor Belcher, Richard Bond, Mike Gray and Andy Wittrick  
English Heritage/National Trust  
ISBN 1873592566  
£65.00

A very welcome addition to our holdings on Sutton House, this traces the chronology of the building from its C16th origins to its later role as a centre for the local community through a wide variety of uses and abuses mirroring the changes in the social condition of Hackney itself. Not only is the history of the building's use covered but also an account of its actual fabric and the problems and solutions encountered in its restoration. The detailed analysis is complemented by extensive illustrations, maps, diagrams and plans. It is hoped that a full review of this book will be published in a future edition of 'The Terrier'.

**Hackney Downs boys in wartime 1939-1945 : an anthology of the Grocers' School's experience**  
D.B. Ogilvie and G.L. Watkins (editors)  
The Clove Club  
£15 post paid in the UK, £20 overseas  
Available from:  
G.L. Watkins, 12, The Crescent, Whittlebury, Northants. NN12 8XP  
willie@cloveclub.fsnet.co.uk

In early September 1939 many of the staff and pupils of the Grocers' School were evacuated to north Norfolk. This compilation of both contemporary accounts of that period and reminiscences by some of those who were there paints a colourful portrait of wartime experience – washing under the farm pump, 'Gaywood Spew' for dinner, meeting fenland fishermen, US airmen, German POWs and first girlfriends. And a certain Maurice Micklewhite being nicknamed 'Milkbottle' because of his fair skin, his next change of name, of course, being to 'Michael Caine'.

**The shrapnel pickers: a child's eye view of the Second World War**  
George Schofield  
Xlibris  
ISBN: 1413478271  
Available from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)



George Schofield was born in 1932 in London Fields, his father a street bookmaker in Goldsmith's Row, his mother employed at Polikoff's boot and shoe factory. This autobiography gives a colourful account of his childhood experiences during the London Blitz and also his various evacuations to Suffolk, Northamptonshire and Hemel Hempstead, described alongside a chronological list of major events of the time.

**10 Edwards Lane, Stoke Newington, London, N16: an archaeological evaluation report : April 2005**  
Museum of London Archaeology Service

The latest MoLAS report relating to the LB Hackney area examines an open area on the site of a former garage prior to its redevelopment for residential housing.

No finds of national importance were discovered.



**'An industrial suburb': the commercial buildings of South Shoreditch 1850-1980**  
**English Heritage : Architectural Investigation : Reports and Papers B/018/2004**

A 2-volume report from English Heritage comprising an architectural investigation report and a gazetteer, this is an extremely useful resource examining a strategically important area within the City Fringe. South Shoreditch (mostly within the London Borough of Hackney but also encompassing parts of Islington and Tower Hamlets) retains many Victorian and Edwardian commercial buildings and this report offers evidence of their significance for the management of future planning and development. Volume 1 gives a contextual report, volume 2 lists dates, architects, use and occupation of sites.

**Historic Buildings Record: Laburnum Street School, Laburnum Street Haggerston**  
**Ignus Froneman/CgMs Consulting**  
**June 2005**

A fully illustrated report prepared by CgMs Consulting on behalf of UBS AG on the former Laburnum Street School buildings which are due to be demolished



to make way for the new UBS Academy. The report aims to document the historic, architectural and archaeological significance of the school and its associated buildings through detailed description, analysis, plans and numerous photographs.

**'Our magazine' number 21, September 1912**  
**Lady Holles' School for Girls**

A generous donation from Surrey History Centre, this delightful magazine was written by students of Lady Holles' School and contains such articles as 'Suggestions for the consideration of studious badminton players' by 'Chrononhotonthologos', an account of a voyage to the Canary Islands by Marie A. Hilton, stories, poems, and a play. The contribution 'When I'm a man' by Willie Sharman of Form I suggests that the school was not restricted just to girls. This and its companion piece 'When I'm a woman' by Constance Frances Mincher are reproduced below.

**From 'Our Magazine' September 1912**

*'When I'm a man'*

*When I am a man I am going to be a salor and go to osstayor to see my aunty and to neusealand and see my uncucle and to take my mother and father with me to newsealand and I shell bye a ship which will cost about two hundred and fifty six pounds if I have anuf muneey and I an going to trie and go all round the wouuld and go to afreecer and the strast of gibrolt.*

*Willie Sharman, Form I*

*'When I'm a woman'*

*I would like to be a rich Lady. I would have a lot of servents and cooks and a Dear little girl and have a beautiful Garden for her to play in and a summer house in it, and I'd by her a lot of toys and I'll have a very nice room to sit in it, and a balcony when the sun in shining to read, and I would dress very nicely also, from*

*Constance Frances Mincher, Form I*



## Calico to Catwalk

Hackney's clothing and fashion heritage  
unravelling  
at Hackney Museum in collaboration  
with Free Form Arts  
26<sup>th</sup> July – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2005

Hackney Museum is opening an exciting new exhibition tracing the history of our local clothing and fashion heritage from the establishment of silk weavers in the 1600s to the cutting edge fashion haven that it has become today.

The exhibition puts contemporary practice of the local textile & clothes manufacturing industry into context by tracing its history including the influence of the many communities represented as part of this local heritage. This heritage is represented through various means;

- a collection of locally created outfits and their histories
- a video tracing the history of the industry through interviews and archive images from Hackney Archives Department
- a timeline of key historical events

The exhibition is presented based on the concept of a catwalk show, with the outfits presented on mannequins to be tried on by visitors who can then walk down the catwalk (which is also the timeline). The video serves as the narration to the show and establishes the context of the garments and the industry history.

### SHOREDITCH PARK DIG

Between 4<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July 2005 the Museum of London will be digging up a World War II blitz site at Shoreditch Park. The area was once a row of Victorian houses, which were bombed during the war. With the help of the local community, Museum of London archaeologists are planning to unearth the story of the people who lived there. The dig is part of National Archaeology Week, an annual event organised by the Council of British Archaeology. Daily site tours, as well as archaeology sessions can be booked. Please email [shoreditchpark@museumoflondon.org.uk](mailto:shoreditchpark@museumoflondon.org.uk) or call 0870 4443850.



From "Off the Track in London: VI - Round Hackney Wick", by George Sims, published in Strand Magazine, Sep. 1904

### CALLING WW2 EVACUEES

The London and Middlesex Archaeology Society are collecting written accounts of the experiences of evacuees during World War Two. They have devised a form, with questions to prompt recollections of different aspects of the experience, but are happy to accept material in any form. Contributions can be signed or anonymous. Further details and copies of the form/questionnaire are available from Julia Hoffbrand, Later Department, Museum of London, 150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN; email: [jhoffbrand@museumoflondon.org.uk](mailto:jhoffbrand@museumoflondon.org.uk); tel: 0207 814 5754. From the end of July the form will also be available to download and print out from the LAMAS website at [www.lamas.org.uk](http://www.lamas.org.uk)

### Credits & Contacts

*The Hackney Terrier*, which appears at least three times a year, is published by the Friends of Hackney Archives and produced by Elizabeth Green. 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  
e-mail: [archives@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:archives@hackney.gov.uk)