

The Hackney Terrier

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The Friends of Hackney Archives Newsletter

Spring 2007



Open Day 2007

Hackney Archives' annual Open Day for 2007 will take place on Saturday 2nd June. It will be part of Hackney Heritage Week, which is being co-ordinated by the 'Heritage Cluster', a loose grouping of organisations, both official and voluntary, that have an interest in promoting and celebrating Hackney's heritage. The Open Day falls at the end of Heritage Week, which includes a variety of events organised by organisations such as Sutton House, the Building Exploratory, Hackney Museum and Abney Park Cemetery.

As in previous years, visitors will be able to speak to staff members, make use of our photograph database and purchase local history publications. We also hope to hold conservation demonstrations. More details about the day will be available closer to the time.

Exhibition - 100 Years of Women in Local Government

The Department's next exhibition, which will be launched on the Open Day, will be about Hackney women in local government. This is to tie in with the centenary of the passing of the Qualification of Women Act 1907, which entitled women who were ratepayers to be elected to borough and county councils. This Act was partly brought about by the lobbying of an influential group of women, networking as the 'Women's Local Government Society'. The society operated in some form from the late 1880s until the time of the First World War. There are plans to revive the Women's Local Government Society this year to celebrate the success of women councillors since 1907.

Municipal Reform Leaflet No. 19 (1919). B. C.]

Appeal to Women with Votes.

WOMEN Voters at **Municipal Elections** can make their influence felt, and **bring their shrewd common sense to bear** upon practical matters, which are of far more importance to them in their everyday life than Imperial affairs. They appreciate the value of money more than a man does, and they know what extravagance leads to, because they so often suffer by it.

Women know that after paying rent, rates, and for food and clothing, they have little margin to spare. Consequently, they feel keenly the slightest increase in the cost of any of the items mentioned.

Women have played an influential role in Hackney's local politics since they were first able to vote and to stand in elections. Mrs Florence May Ashdown was the first woman councillor in Hackney, elected on 13 June 1918. Even before this, in 1910, Nettie Adler was elected to the London County Council. Hackney Archives has a wealth of material relating to local politics, including the records of the local branches of some political parties,

election ephemera (including leaflets produced by some of the candidates), family papers of local councillors and press reports on elections. The exhibition will include brief biographies of individual women who served as councillors (and even mayors) of Hackney, Shoreditch and Stoke Newington over the years, as well as those who represented Hackney on the London County Council. It will also highlight the different issues that were used to appeal to women voters and the ways in which different political parties campaigned for the women's vote. The exhibition will also look at the changing political landscape and how this affected the ways in which women were mobilised both as voters and as candidates.

Value of Women on the Council. We believe that the constituency will be glad (as women are at last eligible to become candidates) to have an opportunity of voting for a woman. Women have done most useful work on Boards of Guardians, on School Boards, and as co-opted members of Education Committees, and it will scarcely be denied that, even apart from the great work of Education, the co-operation of women is needed in many departments of the London County Council.

The Council deals with many matters affecting public health. It has large and important powers under the Employment of Children and Children Acts. **Nevertheless, no co-opted member can either speak or vote on questions arising on the administration of these Acts.** The Council is also the authority for the Shop Hours Act and Seats for Shop Assistants Act. It inspects and controls Baby Farms. It has power to register and inspect Registries for Governesses and Services. Moreover, in the Lunatic Asylums more than 10,000 women are detained, while in the Farmfield Reformatory for Inebriate Women a daily average of over 100 women are cared for. In all these matters, too, the interests of women and children, the help of women seems to be essential.

The election leaflets on this page and the previous page come from M4312 (Election ephemera)

Nettie Adler

Nettie Adler was the daughter of the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the British Empire. She stood as the Progressive Party candidate for the Central Hackney Division of the London County Council in 1910. According to the election leaflet for the 1910 election, Nettie Adler had been 'interested for many years in social questions affecting the welfare of women and children and especially in matters relating to the industrial status of women workers' (1910 leaflet). Before standing, she had served as manager of provided schools in East London for nearly 11 years, and for 9 years as a manager of special schools. She had also served as a member of the Education Committee of the London County Council for more than four years. She represented Central Hackney on the London County Council for over 15 years. In 1920 she was appointed Justice of the Peace, and in 1921 selected by the Lord Chancellor to serve on the rota of the Shoreditch Juvenile Court.

**CENTRAL
L.C.C. ELECTION—Thu.**

**ELECTION
OF
PROGRESSIVE
WHO ST
HOUSES**



**Miss NETTIE
ADLER**
J.P.

who has represented Central Hackney on the L.C.C. for the past 12 years as a Progressive, being one of the first two women to secure election. For 5 years prior to 1910 she worked as a co-opted member of the Education Committee, making a total of 27 years work on this Committee. She was Deputy Chairman of the Council from 1910 to 1911, and has served on the Housing and General Purposes Committees, Higher Education and Special Schools Sub-Committee. She is closely associated with education in Hackney and has been for many years Chairman of the Central Advisory Committee for Juvenile Employment, of the Hackney Juvenile Employment Committee and many other organisations in the Borough. She was appointed a Justice of the Peace on September 26th, 1920 and in 1921 was selected by the Lord Chancellor to serve on the rota of the Shoreditch Juvenile Court.



**ARTHUR
MORTIMER**
M.P.S., F.C.S.

is a native of Yorkshire and was for many years Hon. Secretary of the Ripon Division Liberal Association. He was until recently in business at Harrogate. He is a Non-conformist and has taken an active share in Harrogate and the West Riding in fighting for Religious Freedom, Temperance, and Free Trade. He was one of the founders of the Harrogate Rotary Club, was its first Secretary and is now its first Life Honorary member. He was a member of the Harrogate Town Council for 5 years and served on all its Committees. He was Chairman of the Education Committee. For over 5 years, including the War period, he commanded the Clare Division Special Constabulary, one of the largest in England, and served for some years as the Local War Pensions Committee. A practical Chemist he represented the West Riding on the Pharmaceutical and the Insurance Committees. Before his last return to Yorkshire, 14 years ago, he was Lecturer at the Medical Mission of St. James-the-Less, Belgium Green. He is now studying the Law with the intention of becoming a Barrister, and has passed his final examinations.

Update: Hackney Archives – have your say

In the last edition of the *Terrier* we asked for your views on the Archives' past projects and activities, to help us in developing a new programme of activities, events and projects for 2007 and 2008.

Thank you to those members of the Friends who sent us their views. We are currently assessing all the views expressed and putting together the programme for the next two years. We will keep the Friends informed, so that you can comment on the specific activities planned.

We are always keen to hear your views about our services and activities, so although this specific consultation is drawing to a close, you can always contact us to give us your comments and suggestions, either by email at archivesfeedback@hackney.gov.uk or by post to the usual address.

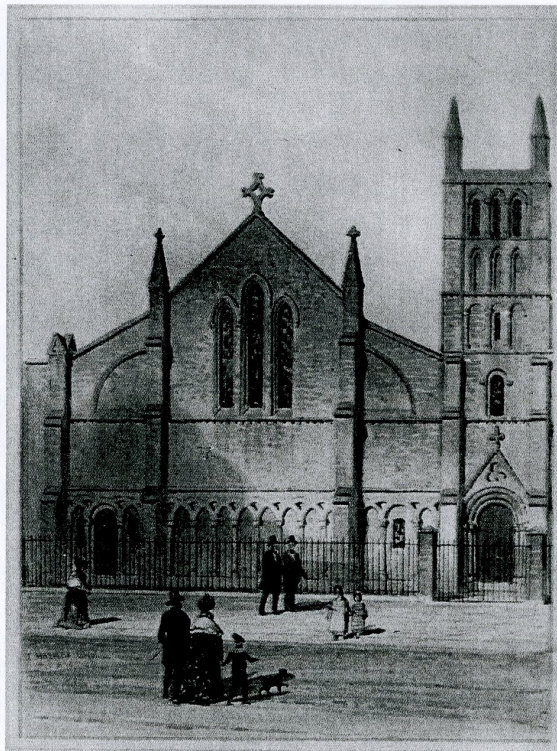
From the collections: images at Hackney Archives

The visual collection at Hackney Archives provides a fascinating insight into the history of the borough and a valuable supplement to the archives and local studies collections.

The collection of over 20,000 images includes drawings, watercolours, paintings, photographs and digital images. The basis of the collection came from the archive collections of Hackney, Shoreditch and Stoke Newington which were brought together when the London Borough of Hackney and consequently Hackney Archives was formed in 1965. The archives formed part of the reference collections of the public libraries. Shoreditch and Stoke Newington public libraries were formed in the 1890s and Hackney in 1908.

A large part of the Hackney collection originated with the Tyssen family, lords of the principal manors of Hackney parish since 1697. John Robert Daniel Tyssen, who served as steward of the manors for his family and then as chairman of the Hackney Board of Works from 1855, built up a

collection of documents, books and images relating to Hackney. On his death in 1882 the Tyssen Library was donated to the parish. It was lodged in the new Town Hall in Mare Street and transferred to the newly formed public library in 1908. The visual collection from the Tyssen Library is particularly significant as it would appear that Tyssen commissioned architectural perspectives and scaled drawings of significant local buildings. This collection was added to by acquiring watercolours, sketches and drawings from local and London artists.

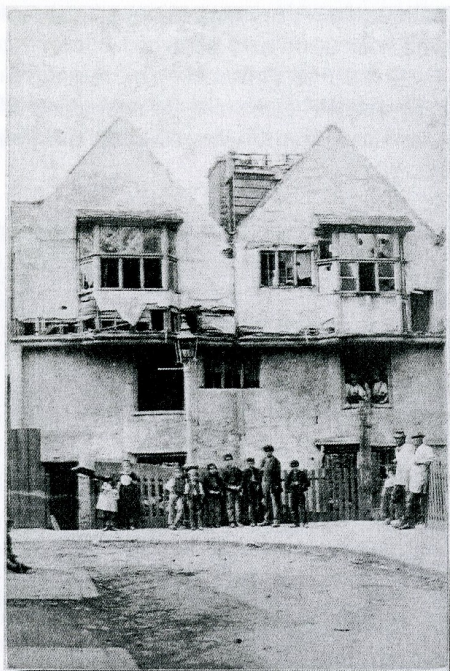


*St. James's Church, Curtain Road, c. 1843.
By T. H. Shepherd, from Ellis's
'History and antiquities of Shoreditch' (P3236)*

Both Shoreditch and Stoke Newington had also built up visual holdings through buying photographs, limited edition mounted prints (the local precursors to the postcard), and, subsequently, commercially produced

postcards. Collections were supplemented by encouraging members of the public and local businesses and organisations, such as local

photographic societies to donate prints. In some cases the records of these organisations were later



Baxter's Court, Mare Street, c. 1870. Photograph by George James. (P9075)

acquired by the Archives either as a deposit or a donation. Examples are the records of the Hackney Photographic Society (D/S/13) which were deposited in April 1971 with an additional deposit in 1989; and those of the Stoke Newington Photographic Society (D/S/38) which were donated in 1975. The Shoreditch visual collection was smaller than those of the other two boroughs, relative to the size of the area covered. However it does contain some interesting material, such as a set of watercolours of almshouses and other buildings that were added to a grangerised edition of Henry Ellis's *History and antiquities of the parish of Saint Leonard, Shoreditch, and liberty of Norton Folgate*, originally published in 1798.

Local photographers of note include George James, who was producing carte de visite-sized street scenes from the mid 1860s to about 1873, and Alfred Braddock, based in Lower Clapton, who produced postcard sized prints mounted on card from about

1875 to 1907. Hackney Archives has a number of Braddock street scenes in the image collection. In addition, two collections of Braddock negatives were purchased in 1997 and 2002, with the assistance of the donations fund of the Friends.

Other important collections include the bomb damage photographs. The metropolitan borough of Hackney photographed every bombing incident that occurred in Hackney during World War 2. These images were acquired as part of the records of the Metropolitan Borough. The photographs have now been scanned and added to the HA2000 image database (described below). Another series of images acquired as part of the records of the metropolitan borough are the slum clearance photographs. These were taken by the Public Health Department prior to slum clearance in the 1930s. They provide a valuable record of properties that were subsequently demolished and are of particular use to those researching the history of their house.

In 1995 a project was begun to digitise the images in the visual collection. The aim behind this was to protect the original prints and negatives and to provide easier access to the images for researchers. The project included an initial collaboration with Sutton House and funding from a variety of sources including the British Library and the Heritage Lottery Fund. By 2000 about 12,000 images had been scanned and



Homerton High Street c. 1885. From collection of Braddock negatives D/F/BRD/23

added to the database, now known as HA2000. The database, which is available in the public searchroom

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at Hackney Archives, can be searched by choosing an area on a map or by typing in text such as the name of a street or house. Searching can also be done by subject or date. Hackney Archives continue to add to the database with the help of volunteers. At present about two thirds of the images in the visual collection can be searched via the HA2000 database. The images that are not on the database, including a number of larger framed watercolours, can be searched via a subject and topographical a card index in the searchroom. A small proportion of these images is available on the Hackney Council website at <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/w-images-database>. Hackney Archives is currently exploring ways of developing the HA2000 database and is always keen to acquire photographs and other images that relate to Hackney, to add to the collection.

Elizabeth Green
2007

Part of this article is based on *Managing Visual Collections in the Combined Record Office and Local Studies Library – a case study*, by David Mander, 2004



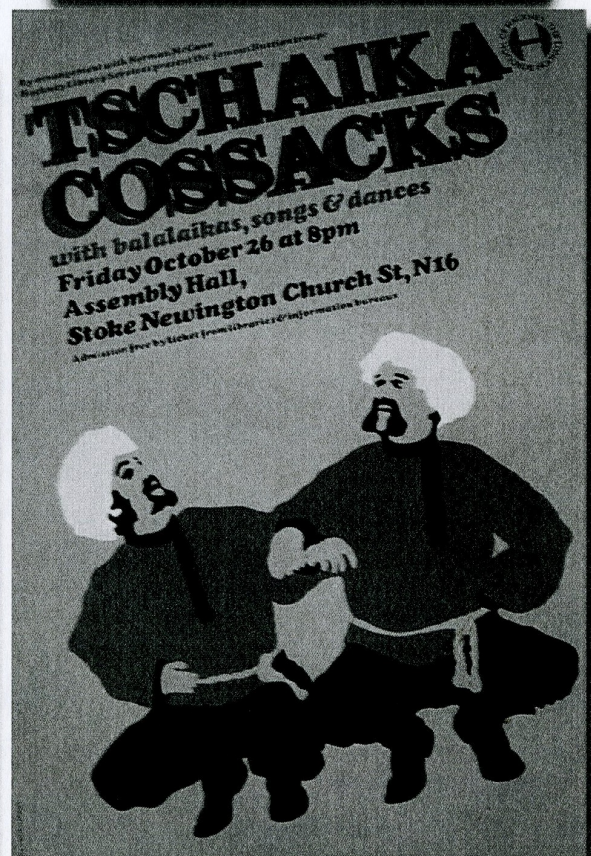
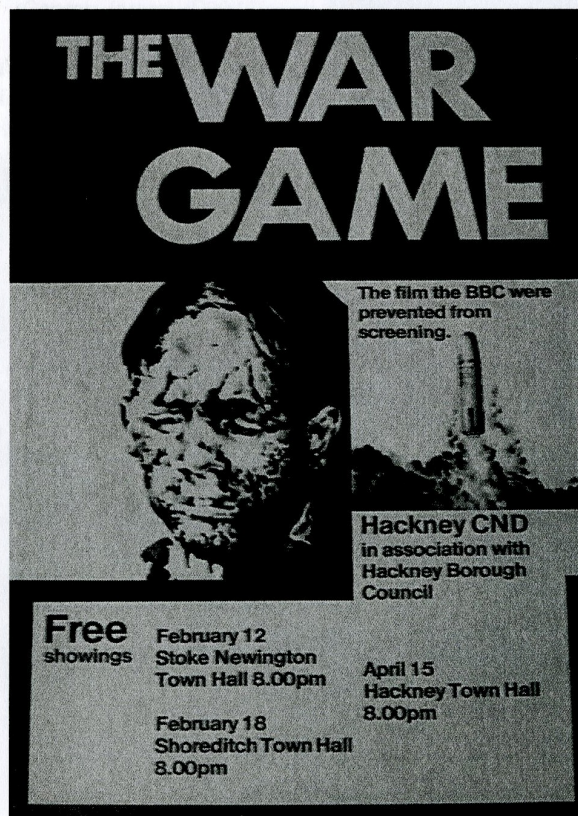
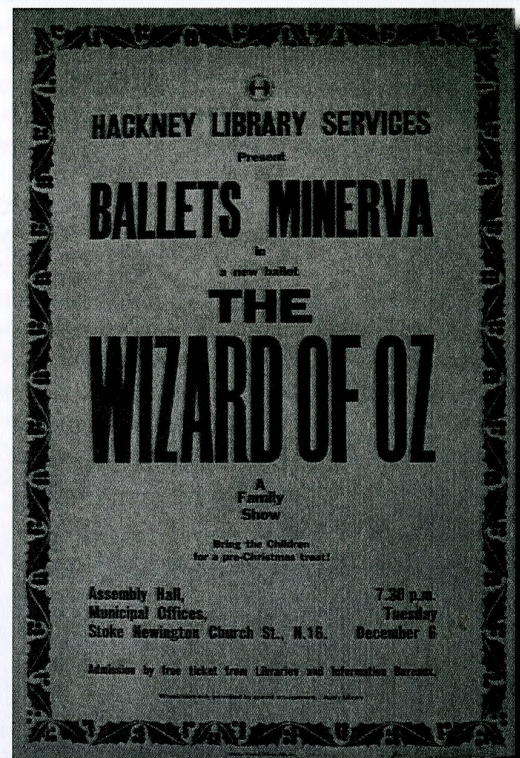
Homerton High Street, c. 1933.
(P9198) View from near former
Ragged School, looking south
east to College Street. View of
properties in slum clearance ar-
eas. From Hackney Metropolitan
Borough Public Health Depart-
ment records H/PD/5/3

Councillor Sammy Fisher ad-
dressing a meeting in support of
David Weitzman, M.P., General
Election, 1951. (P10550.1) Pho-
tograph by S.E. Veronique. From
Stoke Newington Photographic
Society Archive D/S/38/1



Do you remember ?

The posters on this page came to light during the recent stocktaking closure. They are part of a collection of posters advertising social and cultural events organised by the Council. They provide a fascinating insight into changing styles in graphic design, as well as the changing nature of events organised by the Council. The events took place mainly at the Hackney, Stoke Newington, and Shoreditch town halls from the 1960s to the 1980s. The posters were transferred to the Archives from the Communications team at the Council in 1985. Hackney Archives is keen to find out whether anyone remembers attending any of these events? If you do, please write to Hackney Archives, 43 De Beauvoir Road, London N1 5SQ, or email archives@hackney.gov.uk



Hackney's oldest building, open for your visit

St Augustine's Tower is the remaining part of the medieval parish church which was pulled down in 1798 after the new church of St John was completed. It was built in the late 13th century but partly rebuilt in the early 16th century. It is Hackney's oldest building by a margin of about 300 years and appears on the Borough's coat of arms.

The original dedication was to St Augustine of Hippo, the patron saint of the Knights Templar, who had a house and grounds in Hackney. In 1308 the Order of Knights Templar was suppressed and their property was handed over to the Knights of St John to whom the church was later rededicated. The extent of the old church is marked by cornerstones; it was built of stone and had a clerestoried nave, north and south aisles and a tower. The interior and exterior of the old church are shown in a virtual reality display in the Tower.

The Church was largely reconstructed in 15th to 16th centuries and additions to the church were made in the 18th century to increase the capacity of the Church to 1,000 worshippers. Hackney's population was expanding at this time. It was favoured as a place of residence by wealthy city merchants, a short trot from the counting houses yet rural enough to carry a river, the Hackney Brook, where watercress was grown. There were also a number of schools in the area. Pepys' diary records that he often walked out from the city to Hackney where he liked to sit in the Church and ogle the schoolgirls.

The parish resolved to raise funds to build a new 3,000-seat church to meet the needs of a growing congregation. It was designed by James Spiller and completed in 1797 at a cost of £10,000. It was a great barn of a church, built on an unrealistically low budget and with insufficient funds for a bell tower. In consequence, the old Tower was retained. The suggestion that the Tower survived due to the indolence of the demolition contractor is alas urban myth. The new church got its Tower in 1814, but only after 1854, when the Tower was underpinned,

did the parish fathers have confidence to remove the bells. By this time, the Victorians' liking for all things medieval ensured that the Tower was retained. After a somewhat chequered history, including a lengthy spell as a toolshed for the churchyard gardeners, it passed in 1990 to the care of Hackney Historic Buildings Trust which has recently completed Heritage Lottery funded restoration works.

The Tower has four floors with a turret staircase of 135 steps leading to the roof (there is disabled access to the ground floor only). The clock, which is known to be at least 400 years old, is considered by the Greenwich Horological Museum to be exceptionally important. Originally, the clock only had a striking train to tell the time by the striking of the church bells, the clock faces were added in the 18th century. A wondrous series of cogs connects the pendulum to the clock face and it is a tribute the craftsmanship of the clock makers that it still tells the time accurately. A fine new bell was installed in 1856 when the church bells were moved to the new church.

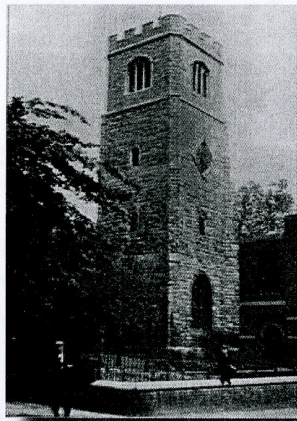
The roof has a panorama depicting the many landmarks in Hackney and beyond visible from the top of the Tower. Alexandra Palace and the London Eye are visible but, strangely, Canary Wharf cannot be seen being obscured by the blocks of Trelawney Estate.

Adjacent is Hackney's first Town Hall built in 1802, whilst the Churchyard (including a walled garden) has been extensively restored with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The crocuses in early spring are particularly fine.

The Tower is now open every last Sunday of the month, December excepted, from 2.00 – 4.30 p.m. The Trust also welcomes trips from heritage groups and organised tours can be arranged (an invitation to join a tour on 17 May is included with this *Terrier*). The Tower is also open to schools, and an Education Pack is available.

More detailed information about the Tower and the Round Chapel can be found on the Trust's website at www.hhbt.org.uk. For further information call 0208 985 2971.

Laurie Elks



St. Augustine's Tower, c. 1910, looking south-east from Mare Street. Postcard by Wm. Rawlings & Co. (P1063)

Abolition 07

An exhibition to mark the 200th anniversary of the end of the slave trade in Britain opened at Hackney Museum on 15 March 2007. The exhibition includes copies of documents and images from the Archives, as well as a copy of the book *The Dying Negro*, by Thomas Day, local Stoke Newington resident and abolitionist, from the local studies library. To complement the Museum's exhibition and to mark the bicentenary, Hackney Archives will be organising an exhibition portraying Hackney in 1807, looking at national events in a local context. This will be launched later in the year.

Give a Dog a Home ...

We have three remaining bundles of *Terrier* back numbers to dispose of. Each bundle consists of more than 30 issues, most dating from 1986-1995, during which time longer articles which would now find their way into *Hackney History* were published in the *Terrier*.

Each bundle weighs more than a kilo and postage is around £5.00. Add something for a donation to funds, and one of the bundles is yours .. if you are one of the first 3 to respond.

Cheques payable to the Friends of Hackney Archives, 29 Stepney Green, E1 3JX. First come, first served; when they've gone, they've gone.

LAMAS lectures

The Friends have affiliated to the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, and members are welcome at LAMAS lectures, which take place at 6.30 p.m. in the Museum of London (coffee, or sherry, and biscuits are served from 6 p.m.)

The lecture on Thursday 17 May 2007 is 'A History of the Worshipful Company of Apothecaries', by Dee Cook, the Company's archivist.

Archives for London: forthcoming events

The following are some of the forthcoming visits and seminars organised by Archives for London for the next few months. The booking form (and membership details) are available from the AfL website at www.archivesforlondon.org

Seminar How to find and use London Wills 3rd May 2007 - Jane Cox

London Metropolitan Archives. 5.30pm (refreshments) 6.00pm (start). This is a free event. Please contact Nicola Avery if you are coming - email her on Nicola.Avery@cityoflondon.gov.uk or telephone 020 7332 3816

Visit 17th May 2007 Kew Gardens 2.00pm There is a £5 charge for this event.

Please complete the booking form and send to Jessica Newton The British Postal Museum & Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL.

Visit 19th June 2007 Bethlem Royal Hospital 2.00pm There is a £5 charge for this event.

Please complete the booking form and send to Jessica Newton (address as above).

Our grateful thanks

Elizabeth Green has produced the *Terrier* for the Friends since Spring 2005, transforming the appearance of the newsletter and maintaining a consistently high standard of output. We can't see her move on to other tasks at Hackney Archives - in addition to her responsibility for the image collection. - without recording our most grateful thanks for her achievement and hard work. In her place as editor we welcome Sally England, local studies librarian, who will from now on be the person to contact about newsletter items.

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