

The Hackney Terrier

The Friends of Hackney Archives Newsletter

95



Winter 2016

Heritage Service Round-up of 2015

What a 12 months! January started with good byes to Edmund and Libby, both moving to pastures new, but leaving the team unexpectedly short. The repercussions of the Heritage-wide service restructure came into effect on the first of April, resulting in a reduction of staff across the museum and archives teams from 8.2 to 7 full time equivalent staff.

Vacancies created lead to a drawn-out but successful recruitment process which has resulted in a new Heritage Assistant - Josie Stevens; Museum Officer - Rebecca Odell; and Archives Manager - Joanne Anthony. Joanne arrived in September and quickly settled into the team and the hectic pace of local government. She delivered a successful Black History Month programme and Anti-university event; working well with the Heritage Learning Manager, Emma Winch. Since November the English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) local history group have been attending weekly classes in the Archives, this continues into 2016, before they return to Hackney Museum to complete their course. This has been a successful partnership between the Heritage Learning Manager and Heritage Learning Trust ESOL service.

December brought more good news with the confirmation of a Collections Fund grant of just less than £95,000 to support the digitisations, preservation and access to the Gibson's Photographic Studio collection. This two year project will help to open up the collection to new audiences through creative community engagement, which will also support the collections catalogue information. This vast collection consists of 155,000 negatives of Hackney people and activities over three decades (1951-1979). The collections was kindly donated to us by Kevin Danks in 2014 with the Friends facilitating its transportation back to Hackney.

The project, titled: Hidden Stories: Changing Faces is now in development with the project plan due to be signed off by the funder in March and recruitment of the Project Officer post in April/May. This is an exciting opportunity for us to raise the profile of Hackney Archives at a time of struggle for local government services and we hope to use it as leverage for further grants.

Tahlia Coombs - Heritage Manager

The Friends of Hackney Archives now have a website!

Please go to www.hackneyhistory.org.uk and have a look. Whilst much of the content will be familiar to the Friends, it is aimed to give us a presence on the internet, to raise the profile of the Friends, and hopefully promote interest in investigating Hackney's history, encourage membership of the Friends, and sales of publications. We intend to advertise our talks, and other events, there, to which we can link other social media, as we develop our skills in the use of them.

The website can be used to provide news and information that might come up between issues of the Terrier, as well as links to events that would be of interest to members of the Friends and others.

We would be delighted to receive your comments on the website, its' use, and its' content, and particularly for suggestions on what we might add to improve it. We are thinking of adding interesting articles taken from past



Terriers and Hackney History to show the variety of topics that our history reveals.

Please comment as usual via Hackney Archives: archives@hackney.gov.uk or by post; or direct to the Chair: robertwhytehead@msn.com

Hackney's History – "It's in your hands!"

A call-out for Community Archives

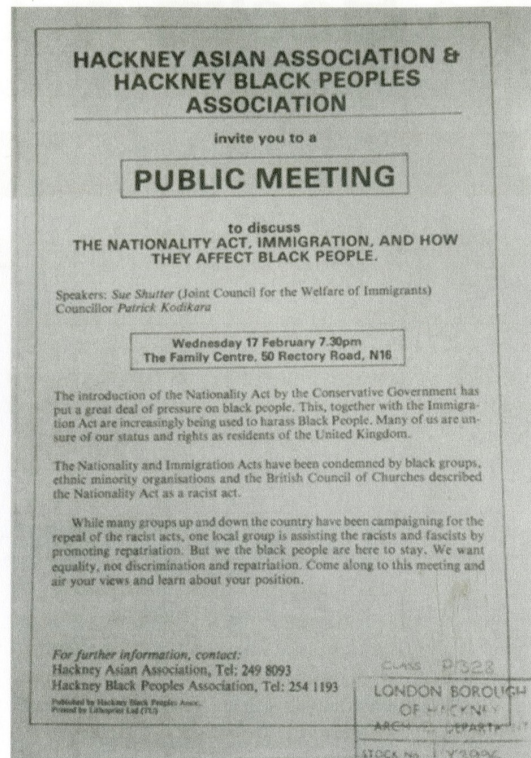
Hackney Archives is keen to actively collect historical material which represents every aspect of Hackney's past and recent present. We hope to work with you to preserve a more complete picture of the many diverse histories that have helped to shape Hackney.

Have you created or collected something of Hackney's history that perhaps fits the following description?

What is a community archive? It's a collection generated by members of a community in the course of meeting together for a shared interest(s) or as part of a common goal or activity e.g. archives of: Hackney Carnival; Hackney Independent Book publishers; Hackney Asian Association; Hackney Black Peoples Association; Hackney City Farm; Hackney Environmental Groups; Citizens Advice Bureau; Local arts and theatre consortiums; Hackney-based Cultural Associations/Community Centres; Women's groups; Hackney Community Defence Association; and Anti-Nazi League, Hackney branch etc.

Your archive collection might ideally include material such as original photos, hand-written letters, oral histories, collected memories documented in scrapbooks or news-clipping files, maps, documents (like minutes, petitions, reports, or notes of a community meeting or event), flyers/leaflets/posters of a local campaign, project or event etc. The collection can be either physical material, digital or both.

While Hackney Archives holds an amazing historical collection that tells the history of the borough and its people over the past 600 years or more, there are significant gaps remaining in many aspects of the Borough's history. That's why we're making a call-out or appeal to you, to consider entrusting us with a possible donation of your photos, letters, and memories of Hackney. We firmly believe it's important that everyone sees themselves reflected in Hackney's archives & how history is shaped through our shared experiences and encounters.



We welcome that you firstly contact us via email (archives@hackney.gov.uk) or phone (020 8356 8925) to have an initial chat about your archives, or if you simply require advice about how best to preserve your archives as they are & where they are. Note that we are unable to accept unannounced donations of material via post or at our reception as we need to plan for storage space as well as the specific requirements for your own archive.

Joanne Anthony, Archives Manager

Hackney City Farm Archive

Hackney City Farm has received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a volunteer project to help create an online Heritage Resource Store for Hackney City Farm, and hand over the Farm's story to Hackney Archives.

Original photographs, documents and artefacts have been donated to Hackney Archives, providing a lasting record of this community. Volunteers will receive training in website production, recording, interpreting and archiving and use this learning to share the heritage.

A new online resource store, a self-guide map and a "usable Farm feature" built by architecture students will celebrate this unique archiving project.

To get in contact if you want further information: Caroline Baker, Heritage Resource Store Project creative co-ordinator. **Hackney City Farm**, 1a Goldsmiths Row, London E2 8QA. www.hackneycityfarm.co.uk



Joanne Anthony new Archives Manager

While I've always secretly wanted to be a female Indiana Jones, I very happily went on to pursue a career in Archives instead. I was particularly inspired to follow this route after reading an article by (Indigenous Rights Activist and Academic) Henrietta Marrie (née Fourmile), titled Who Owns the Past?. Whilst undertaking racial equality & Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies during my Undergraduate history and politics degree, I first learnt of the power of archives to promote greater diversity, accountability and social justice – particularly in empowering the voices of those traditionally marginalised or excluded from the heritage sector. I remain inspired to actively work alongside others to combat the risks of vital histories being silenced or written-out of the history books, and in the shared hope of ultimately leaving behind a more truthful and complete picture of the past for future generations.

Since qualifying as an Archivist in 1996 from the University of NSW (Sydney) I've been fortunate to hold a variety of archive posts both within Australia and the UK, and across private and public sector archives. Along the way, I've developed specialised interests in community archives, under-represented and minority histories, political collections and digital archives.

In 2003, London was calling me due to a widespread shortage of Archive professionals at that time, alongside an influx of HLF grants. I was grateful to be sponsored on a UK work permit to develop and promote the community archive of the Bernie Grant Trust in memory of the life



Joanne

and times of the late Bernie Grant MP (<http://berniegrantarchive.org.uk/>). Since that time, I've also enjoyed working as a Digital Archivist/ Digitisation Operations Manager for a joint University of London Computer Centre/ The National Archives contract, followed by an Archivist/Archives Management role within the Archives & Special Collections of SOAS Library, University of London.

I feel both privileged and excited to now be contributing to the future vision of Hackney Archives and Local Studies Service, especially by working closely with Hackney Museum on the many new and innovative projects aimed at ensuring Hackney's rich and diverse past is collected and celebrated by all. While this is my first venture into local government, I'm thrilled to be undertaking a role which involves harnessing and promoting the social impact of heritage on people's lives.

Bomb Damage Photographs – identification appeal

Can you identify these locations? They come from a collection or set of an unknown donor to Hackney Museum, some have distinctive buildings in them, but ones that may have subsequently been demolished.

They can all be viewed online through these links:

<http://museum.hackney.gov.uk/object8640>

<http://museum.hackney.gov.uk/object8642>

<http://museum.hackney.gov.uk/object8641>

<http://museum.hackney.gov.uk/object8637>

<http://museum.hackney.gov.uk/object8638>

<http://museum.hackney.gov.uk/object8639>

If you can identify any of the locations please contact: Rebecca Odell, Museum Officer, Hackney Museum 020 8356 2838.



8637



8640

Forthcoming Exhibitions and Events:

The World at War

March 2016 is the 100th anniversary of the Military Services Act which introduced conscription. To mark this two new exhibitions will be opening exploring war, recruitment and objection. Keep an eye out for events linked to both exhibition over the next few months.

The Art of War: Posters and Propaganda from the First World War

This exhibition features striking original recruitment posters from Hackney Archives collections and personal stories from Hackney Museum's collection.

At Hackney Museum from February 2016

Not in My Name: Hackney's First World War Conscientious Objectors

This exhibition explores a few stories from Hackney's 350 conscientious objectors. In partnership with the Peace Pledge Union.

At Hackney Archives from March 2016.

Artist in Residence

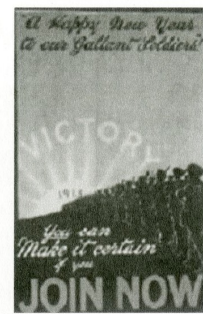
An artist in residence has started researching Hackney Museum and Hackney Archives First World War collections and related material. Lucy Harrison will work closely with some of Hackney's diverse communities to explore the relevance of the conflict in the borough today.

Discover Young Hackney Home: Change the Record

Hackney Museum has been working with Rising Tide, which uses music to engage young people. Around 16 young aspiring musicians have been exploring Hackney Museum and Hackney Archives' historic collections, particularly objects linked with the notion of home and campaigning in Hackney. They have been supported by upcoming musicians to create lyrics, songs and set them to music to respond to these themes.

A display at Hackney Museum sharing these songs and responses to being young in Hackney today opens in Feb 2016.

Niti Acharya



New Books in the Local Studies Library

Friends member Andrew Ward has very kindly donated something I've wanted to add to the collections for a while: a boxed set of four colour sheets reproducing the 1863 maps of *Victorian London* by cartographer Edward Stanford. Preceding the first detailed Ordnance Survey maps of 1870, the sheet covering north east London contains a wealth of information about the Hackney area at a time of rapid growth.

Paul Kieve's *Hocus Pocus: a tale of magnificent magicians and their amazing feats* contains all any fan of Harry Potter needs to know about mastering magic tricks. The great magicians come back to life to teach young Paul their secrets, all culminating in a spectacular show at the Hackney Empire.

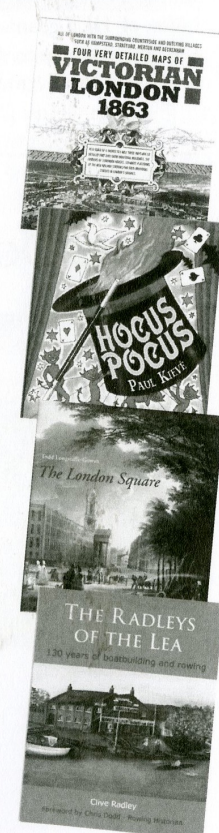
The magnificent seven: London's first landscaped cemeteries by John Turpin and Derrick Knight traces the story of how the problem of London's overflowing churchyards was solved by entrepreneurs financing the building of new burial grounds that became architectural showcases. The book includes Abney Park Cemetery and the Jewish cemetery in Lauriston Road.

The erection of street shrines was a concept that emerged in east London during the First World War, especially in South Hackney. The subject is covered in Mark Connelly's study *The Great War, memory and ritual: commemoration in the City and East London, 1916-1939*, which examines how the diverse communities of east London coped with the horrors of war and loss, and shaped how their dead were remembered.

The London square: gardens in the midst of town by Todd Longstaffe-Gowan offers a peek through the railings at the history, evolution, and social impact of enclosed garden squares from the C17th, and includes a number of examples from Hackney and Shoreditch.

Clive Radley has produced a fascinating account of the history of boatbuilding on the Lea River and his family's historic involvement in the trade and in rowing. *The Radleys of the Lea: 130 years of boatbuilding and rowing* began as simply project by Clive to trace his family tree, but has resulted in a fascinating account of local business and sporting history.

Sally England, Senior Archives Officer



A Postcard from the Past

Melvyn H. Brooks Tel Shalom, Karkur, Israel

In 1964 I left Hackney Downs (Grocers') School to study medicine at Sheffield University; I married Roma in 1968. In 1975 we moved into our present home in Karkur, Israel. It had been built in 1936 and consisted of two rooms with a small outhouse. The Prizel Family were the first occupiers having fled Nazi Germany in 1936. The outhouse contained some old books and furniture. It was here that I found a postcard that caused me to rub my eyes in amazement. I have been collecting postcards of Edwardian Hackney since 1962 and in my hands was a card sent from Stamford Hill, 7th March 1941 to the house we now called home. And that the card had arrived in Palestine during the War. Communication for non-military purpose was greatly restricted.

Although not a true picture postcard, the card is one of the treasures of my collection of Hackney postcards. It is addressed to Fam. Priesel and Ritterband. Tel-Schalom, Karkur Palestine. Sender: Hanna Rosenberg

75, Stamford Hill London N.16.

Translation, from the German, of the message side of postcard.

15.3.41

My Dears! (Hebrew abbreviation meaning "Have a long and good life")

I hope that this postcard arrives before (Hebrew text meaning "Passover"). We also have not heard from you at all at the moment.

I hope that you received the £2 for Gerta and the £1 for Esterchen that I sent. I hope that you are all very well. How is our Rutshe? We are well, thank God. Marta is bearing up very well after the operation.

Unfortunately, one cannot change how well our beloved parents are this year. Do you know that dear Mother will soon have her 60th birthday? Dear Nanny could you see if you can find some of my things at the Schlussels. I hope that you will find an opportunity to send them to me. I have some very good things there besides the knitted cover. How are you getting on with your cover and the Seder night cushion? You once had the opportunity to study a Rabbinical text with Papa that contained our family's origins.

Upside-down at top of page; -

Warmest greetings to all of you and kisses to Ilsa? and (illegible)

Comments about the message of the postcard.

75 Stamford Hill is on the west side of Stamford Hill, north of Holmleigh Road, just north of Stamford Hill Mansions. The Electoral Registers for 1939/40 and 1945 list the following occupants of number 75, Cohen, David, Saunders and notably Hanna, (possibly Hanna Rosenberg the writer of the postcard)



75 Stamford Hill on the left

I know from my (MHB) enquiries that Mordechai Priezel and his wife came to Palestine a little before 1936 and were able to bring some possessions with them from Germany. Part of the family, including siblings and cousins had found refuge in London - mainly in the East End and Hackney. The sisters Gerta and Esterchen lived in Palestine had both been sent money gifts from their cousin in England. The Schlussels were probably family friends who had remained (and possibly perished) in Nazi Germany. I have been unable to locate or find out the fate of the things left in their keeping.

It is a common tradition to list the names of children and their dates of birth, death and marriage in the Rabbinical volumes of the Gemorrah. In order that descendents will know from whence they came. My wife Roma has a Yichus (Ancestor) Tree dating back over 600 years.

My thanks to Elizabeth Green of HAD, Joel Hess and David Kahn for translation from German to English, and Esther Dolinski for her knowledge of the Ritterband and Priezel families.

brooks@netvision.net.il



New Accessions

Council for Racial Equality – 2015/17

In the autumn the HCVS (Hackney Council for Voluntary Services) got in touch with us to say that they had eight large boxes of archives. When we went to have a look it turned out to be material collected by the Hackney Council for Racial Equality, almost all of it booklets and leaflets, possibly the HCRE's old reference library. We don't always take in large collections of publications like this. Often much of the material in them doesn't relate to Hackney and is preserved by more appropriate libraries and archives elsewhere, and publications that do relate to Hackney are frequently ones that we already have. However, in this case a look through made it clear that there were quite a few items produced by Hackney organisations (including the Council!) that we do not have. Since the collection is rather large it is going to take some time to look through it and sort it all out, but we are definitely very happy to have it in our care. So if you know of a similar collection, please don't be discouraged from asking us if we'd like to take it in!

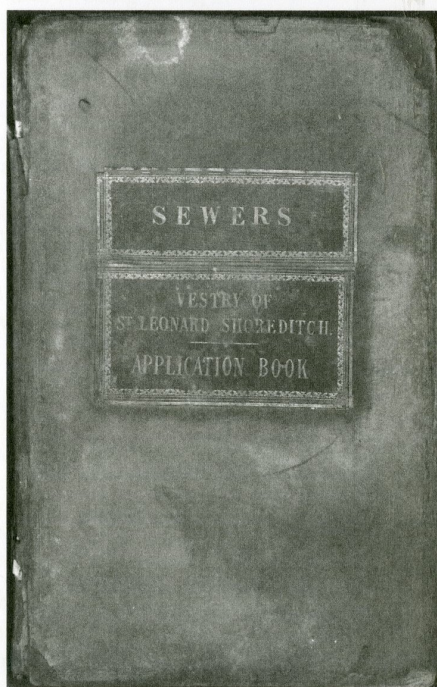
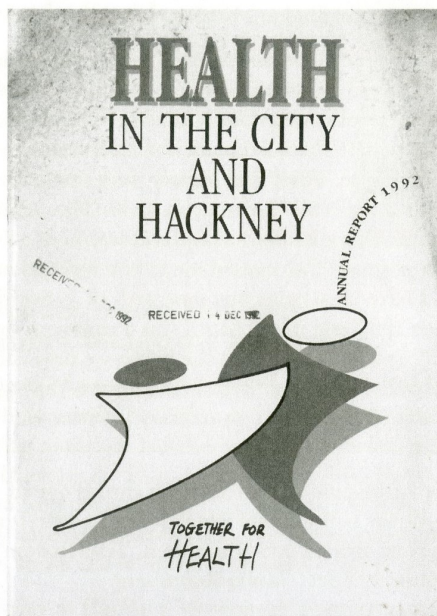
Shoreditch Sewer book – 2015/07

It never fails to surprise me where archives end up. Plenty of old records and documents have stayed put for hundreds of years – in church chests, in college libraries, in City muniments rooms. Somehow others manage to migrate. In May we received an e-mail from a curator at Bristol Museums and Art Gallery informing us that “for reasons that have been lost in time” they had in their possession a ledger for Sewer Applications in the parish of Shoreditch between 1856 and 1863. Sewer or drainage applications may sound a little unappealing, but applications to attach a building to the sewage system were one of the early forms of planning permission, and are very useful for house history. Our main set of drainage applications for Shoreditch start in 1877 – they should start in 1856 – so although the volume found in Bristol is not as detailed as our main series, it fills a completely blank gap and we are very grateful to Bristol Museum for passing it on to us. How it ended up in Bristol is another matter – we don't have a clue!

Learning Trust – 2015/21

In 2002 the Council's Education Department was detached and made into a private, not-for-profit company. It was the first such company in the UK to take over a Council's entire education function. In 2012 it came back in-house, and is again one of the Council's departments. We've just had the records transferred to us for that ten year period. From an archival point of view it's very satisfying to have the records covering the whole of an organisation's existence, from its creation until its closure. Since it was not part of the Council during this time, these records will be catalogued separately from any previous or subsequent Council department records. In years to come I imagine it will be rather interesting for researchers to compare the two.

Siân Mogridge, Senior Archives Officer



Recent articles in HackneyToday

Don't forget that 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 do not 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 <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/w-hackneytoday.htm>. You can also access back issues by clicking on the link to the left of that page. Articles can usually be found on page 23 of early issues, page 25 of later ones and occasionally elsewhere within the newspaper!

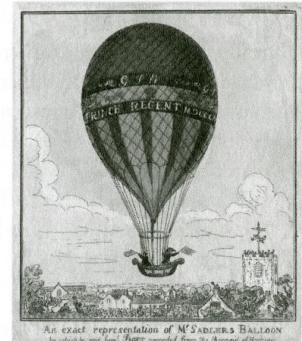
Here's a list of the articles (with the number of the issue they appeared in) published over the past year:

- 344 St Michael and All Angels: celebrating the centenary of the London Fields church
- 345 a look back at the history of pantomime in Hackney
- 346 seeing in New Year sore heads with the story of local temperance societies
- 347 local architect Matthew Allen's ground-breaking flats of the 1870s
- 348 the 30th birthday of Hackney City Farm
- 349 Activating the Archive: an exhibition of publications by local artists at Hackney Archives
- 350 slum clearance of the 1930s and the building of Banister House
- 351 a round-up of some of the new books recently added to the Local Studies Library
- 352 tracing the route of the underground River Walbrook from Shoreditch to the Thames
- 353 no article due to election coverage
- 354 a selection of images from early Hackney photographic studios
- 355 marking the centenary of the first air raid on London
- 356 an exhibition and book charting 60 years of life on the Woodberry Down estate
- 357 50 years of Hackney Archives
- 358 the heroic deeds of Henry Sayer who saved over 100 people from drowning in the Regents Canal
- 359 Ship's Master Frederick Parslow of the Mercantile Marine, First world War Victoria Cross recipient
- 360 James Sadler's C19th balloon ascents from the Mermaid Tavern
- 361 the story of the Hackney Reading Society which supplied literary material to Hackney's wealthy residents
- 362 how east enders used to spend their summers picking hops in Kent
- 363 life in Hackney's C19th workhouse
- 364 the story of James Richardson Spensley, Stoke Newington-born founder of Italian football
- 365 Hannah Snell, the female soldier who ended her days living in Stoke Newington
- 366 Anti University of East London: a 1960s experiment in radical education
- 367 the life of Hackney merchant Sir John Cass
- 368 early fire services in the borough
- 369 the story of Pollock's toy theatre business, Hoxton
- 370 the development of South Hackney parish and its churches

Sally England, Senior Archives Officer



Woodberry Down School party c1970



Sadler and Paget's balloon ascent 1812



the women's ward at Hackney Union Workhouse, c.1900.



Harrison family hop picking at Horsenden, Kent c1906

Congratulations to Ed Lyon, formerly on the staff of Hackney Archives, who last year received one of the British Association for Local History's annual awards for research and publication for his article 'An avalanche of wrathful violence: physical opposition to the Salvation Army, 1881-1883' in Hackney History 18. It is the fourth such award for an article in the journal, and was presented to Ed at the Association's annual meeting, held last year in Birmingham.

*Professor David Hey presents
Ed Lyon with his award*



Events of Hackney Interest at Tower Hamlets Local History Library

If they fix the ceiling! Please check: <https://www.ideastore.co.uk/local-history>

Talk: The Life & Times of the Music Hall and Marie Lloyd

Saturday 6 February 2016, 2.30-3.30pm
Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives

In the late Victorian age, Music Halls were popular throughout Britain and were where the East End of London found its cultural voice.

This illustrated talk by Danny Wells, celebrates the rambunctious nature of this form of entertainment, with characters such as Champagne Charlie, Little Tich, the coster comedian Gus Ellen, George Robey - the 'Prime Minister of Mirth' and Vesta Tilley. It ends with the much-loved Marie Lloyd, both the 'Queen of the Music Hall' and of the double entendre. 'Our Marie' had a turbulent life both on and off the stage.

Free, no booking required
[Marie Lloyd lived in Graham Road, Hackney]

The Match Women's Strike 1988: Alison Marchant's 'Wall Paper History' revisited

Tuesday 23 February - Saturday 7 May 2016
Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives

In July 1888, over 1400 women and girls employed at the Bryant & May match factory in Bow successfully went on strike to improve their working conditions. In 1988, East End artist Alison Marchant marked the centenary of this pivotal moment in feminist and labour history with a range of public installations and a national touring exhibition. This creative project, called Wall Paper History, repurposed archives from Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives and the Museum of Labour History to bring attention to working class women's continuing economic oppression, illustrated by the imminent redevelopment of the now defunct match factory as private housing.

In 2016, to mark Women's History Month, Alison Marchant and Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives will re-stage her 1988 exhibition, which includes original prints, etchings and collages inspired by archival imagery.

A programme of talks and events will reflect on the history of women's work in the factory and in the home during the Victorian era, and provide a platform to explore and discuss feminist cultural activism in the 1980s and today. More details to follow soon!

[The Bryant and May archive is held by Hackney Archives]

Subscription Renewal

It's time to remind you to renew your subscriptions to the Friends, for which we would be very grateful. We are conscious that we have slipped behind with production of the Terrier, partly because of the time and effort put into constructing the website.

We hope to make this up this year. We are also offering you the facility of paying by bank transfer direct into our bank account. Please see the enclosed renewal/Gift Aid form.

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www.hackneyhistory.org.uk