

The Hackney Terrier

The Friends of Hackney Archives Newsletter

101



Spring 2018

Clapton Tales Talk – Carolyn Clark

The Friends held their first joint event with The Hackney Society on the 14th March, when The Archives hosted an entertaining and wide-ranging talk by Carolyn Clark based on her Clapton Tales book, but adding many images and quotes not included there, some having been received after the book was finalised. Carolyn has kindly allowed us to feature some of them here:

a. A very bizarre find of a perfume promotion card from 1929 promoting the fund raising event for the Salvation Army in Congress Hall. credit: Salvation Army International Heritage Centre

b. Postcard of the Mother's Hospital Matron and her dog with a handwritten note on the back saying 'and "Beauty" the man-hater.'

c. Clapton Square in the 1960s: a photo in the book shows the inside of one of the houses on the right in use as a clothes factory - advertising its expertise in 'CMT' - which a former tailor in the audience at the talk immediately identified as Cut, Make, Trim.

d. Pete Kirton's wonderfully atmospheric photo from 1968 of Clarence Road showing the dairy and milk machine outside, which people found so handy to get milk during the evening when shops were shut, Pete remembers 'Mr Evans had the most filthy black fingernails as he carved the ham, plus there was a cat sitting on the counter. But I can picture their faces now.'

Clapton Tales is available for £9.95 from Hackney bookshops, including The Archives, and online from Amazon and Carolyn's website: www.the.shoreditchtales.com



The book is supplemented by videos that can be found on YouTube, particularly Brian Walker's stories of Lower Clapton: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWkaKj95RVw>

If you go to this link you will find further links to Brian's photographic images videos, and others of Hackney interest.

There is also video of The Lower Clapton Heritage event that launched the Tales: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HeiHds8h9kE> complete with the Pearly Kings and Queens of Hackney and Islington!

Carolyn's next project is on the Islington end of the Regents Canal, for which she is collecting reminiscences.

General Data Protection Regulation form

You may be aware from membership of other groups or societies that the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requires that we seek your agreement to hold and use any data you have provided to us. Please see the enclosed form that sets out more detail. We would be grateful if you could complete the form, and return it to us, either as hard copy; or scanned and emailed; or as an email setting out the required points you agree to.

This may seem a formality, but we hope it will keep us on the right side of the Data Commissioner, and Charity Commission.

Email contact

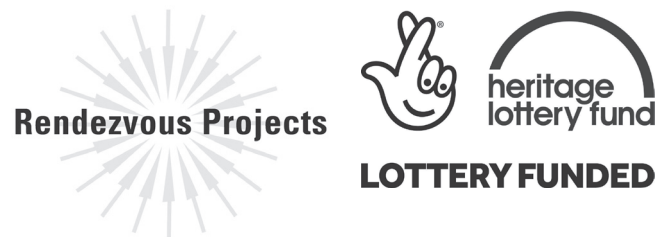
This is also an opportunity to gain your agreement, or not, to being contacted by email, something we have not done heretofore. An email group of the Friends would enable us to notify you of the occasional event arranged between newsletters, and possibly of campaigns related to the Archives and Heritage Service.

Lightboxes and Lettering: Printing Industry Heritage in East London

Rendezvous Projects have recently been awarded Heritage Lottery Funding for a project that focuses on the pre-digital era of printing in Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest and the experiences of people involved in the industry.

Printing – including lithography, silkscreen and letter press – has been an important industry in East London for many years. Access to small presses allowed political and community groups to easily print their books, pamphlets and leaflets, and many of these smaller firms were in East London. In recent years, the industry has changed a great deal, with the number of print workshops now much reduced and those in operation working in very different ways to how they would have done just a few decades ago.

The project will explore how the printing industry has changed with the arrival of digital technologies, and how newer processes have transformed the everyday lives of print workers. Volunteers will be engaged in oral history interviews with current and former employees, and in digitising archive material collected from existing and private collections. Members of the public will have the opportunity to take part in artist-led workshops, using



some of the processes and exploring the archive material uncovered by volunteers. The project will culminate in early 2019 with an exhibition and publication, and a website will document the progress of the project throughout.

The project will map former businesses, record the experiences of current and former employees, and collect printed matter; images of print workshops and details of technical processes. It will offer skills in oral history interviews, archive research and digital media to volunteers, and will share print processes with members of the public.

To find out more about the project get in touch via the website www.rendezvousprojects.org.uk or 07537 180033.

Victoria Brunton, Cataloguing Project Archivist

I started working at Hackney Archives in January and my role is to catalogue and improve access to the historical records of Hackney Borough Council and the papers of ex-Mayor of Hackney, Jules Pipe. I have spent the first few months getting to know my colleagues, finding my bearings and getting to know the collection and the scope of the project. I am enjoying finding out about the political structure and history of the Borough.

I have a particular interest in politics and history having studied a combined degree in English, history and politics at DeMontford University, Leicester. I was lucky to discover archives from a fairly young age when I visited the Archives and Local Studies in Cambridge to research a school project on the history of some medieval cottages in my village. This experience gave me the confidence to use archives, museums and libraries as resources for learning and ignited my interest in the sector. I undertook my Masters Degree in Archives and Records Management at University College London, in 1998.

After qualifying, I worked at Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies in various roles, except for 7 years between 2010 and 2017 when I was a stay at home

Mum, looking after my two young children. I worked as an Archives Assistant, Archivist and Senior Archivist, undertaking a range of duties including the acquisition, accessioning, cataloguing, packaging and storage of records. I enjoyed working with the visitors, assisting with enquires, teaching courses, giving talks, presentations and tours. I have worked on a number of major projects, including as project manager for the implementation of a collections management database for the archives (CALM). On my return to work in 2017 I gained another role as a project archivist at Hertfordshire, on a fascinating project to catalogue and make available the military records of the volunteer, territorial and auxiliary forces in Hertfordshire.

I am thoroughly enjoying this new challenge at Hackney. I am looking forward to helping to improve access to the Council's records and the accountability of the Council to the residents of Hackney.



Twitter: 3 of our recent popular Gibson tweets compiled by Gibson Project Officer, Lisa Peatfield

Tweet 1: We love this photo of this smartly dressed (but unknown) group standing outside @roundchapel in #Clapton, probably in 1953. Photo taken by Gibson's studio. Recognise anyone? Get in touch! We'd love to know more.

<https://twitter.com/ArchivesHackney/status/976073327977664512/photo/1>

Tweet 2: Have you been checking out our Gibson photos in Hackney Today? We're featuring a selection of images from our collection in every edition. New edition out today! Back issues online here: <https://www.hackney.gov.uk/hackney-today-archive#2018>

Tweet 3: Hackney in the '50s - even the dogs were rock 'n' roll! Photo by Ron Gibson - see more of the Gibson collection here https://www.flickr.com/photos/hackney_archives/albums



Archives Stocktake Round-Up

Thank you to everyone for your understanding during our annual two week stocktake closure of the Archives Service, which took place from 10th February until 27th February.

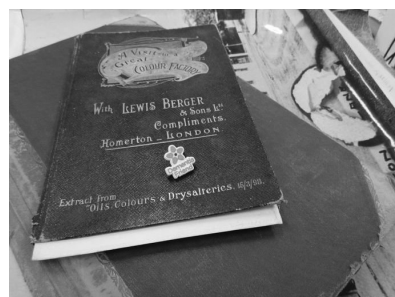
As a team, we were able to make some momentum by discussing planning issues relating to the Esmee Fairbairn funded Gibson photographic archive project, along with other vital full-team discussions around priority service issues. Stocktake was also a unique opportunity for all staff to further their professional development and training in everything from health and safety matters to archival access and preservation needs. A big expression of thanks must go to the Alzheimer's Society for our fantastic Dementia Friendly training, now making us a "Dementia Friendly" organisation – but with full recognition of the need for ongoing learning and application in this area. Soon after Stocktake, the team also attended an extremely helpful training session on Autism Awareness, kindly organised by Hackney Museum.

On an important but practical level: our information guides, sale publications, finding aids and some of the searchroom furniture was re-arranged to enhance accessibility for all archive users. These changes will now hopefully offer you more logical and improved pathways

in how to use our collections. Many thanks to volunteer and Friend of Hackney Archives, Kate Starling, for her invaluable assistance in helping to sort and rehouse a major Council donation of archival press cuttings, along with efforts aimed at improving the accessibility of our historic map collections. Our equally enthusiastic team of 30 Gibson project volunteers also continued to make important inroads in repackaging and preparing the photographic negatives for ongoing digitisation. Nearly 30 out of the 40 trays of Gibson negatives have been repacked thanks to the instrumental and tireless efforts of our amazing volunteers!

As always, there is still much to be done but brief times of public closure for all Archive services have proven to have manifold benefits for all in the long run!

Joanne Anthony, Archives Manager



Thank you, Thank you, Thank you

Our grateful thanks to everyone who has renewed their subscriptions, and particularly to those who generously added a donation. A reminder is enclosed for those who have not yet renewed. Please keep an eye on our website for events later this year.

We would be very glad to receive any contributions to the Terrier from the Friends, and any researchers into Hackney's history, please send them to our email address.

Robert Whytehead, Chair Friends of Hackney Archives

How well do you know Hackney?

Answers to the quiz in Terrier 100

1. The London Borough of Hackney was created in 1965.
2. The London Borough of Hackney was formed by amalgamating three boroughs: Hackney, Shoreditch and Stoke Newington.
3. The tower in Mare Street is called St. Augustine's Tower because it was part of St. Augustine's Church.
4. Shoreditch was once famous for its lunatic asylums.
5. The Castle Climbing Centre on Green Lane was originally built as a pumping station.
6. Joseph Priestly was the famous scientist, who discovered oxygen, and taught in Hackney.
7. The famous playwright Harold Pinter attended the Grocers' Company School on Hackney Downs.
8. The New River is about 400 years old.
9. The River Lea river forms part of the eastern boundary of the Borough.
10. Christopher Marlowe was arrested for brawling in Shoreditch in 1592 .
11. Hackney celebrated the opening of its first railway in 1850.
12. During the 1830s, Hackney was home to the largest hothouse in the world.
13. Dalston Library was re-named after Cyril Lionel Robert James, the celebrated Trinidadian writer, historian and political activist in 1985.
14. Charles Bradlaugh, founder of the National Secular Society, was born in Bacchus Walk, Hoxton.
15. 12 Dalston Lane, opened in 1886 as Dalston Circus, became a variety theatre – the Colosseum, reconstructed in 1898 as Dalston Theatre of Varieties, and converted to a cinema in 1920. It became home to the Four Aces Club in 1966, and was part used for car sales.
16. Diane Abbott MP become the first black woman member of parliament in 1987.
17. The 'Ayah's Home' on King Edwards Road was a home for homeless and abandoned South Asian nannies who had initially travelled to the UK with families returning from India.

ROBERT HUGH THOMPSON (1944 - 2017) by Isobel Watson

Robert was a leading expert in the field of coins. Hackney was lucky to have him as one of its librarians for many years, both in Shoreditch and in the Central Library (then in Mare Street), and he was a valued contributor on many numismatic subjects to Hackney History. But his writing and scholarship went much wider. He compiled 8 volumes of the major museum-led project the Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles, which catalogue the private Norweb collection, 2 volumes of which concern London and Middlesex. His historical understanding and breadth led to his contributing the all-important index to the London Topographical Society's A to Z of Charles II's London, 1682, a recent volume in their celebrated map series.

Robert was not only a librarian professionally, but served in that capacity for the Royal Numismatic Society. He was a delightful companion, apparently diffident and even formal, but very convivial on better acquaintance. Above all he was a scholar, and politely sceptical about anything until satisfied by evidence. He had many friends, both in Hackney and elsewhere, all of whom remember him with affection, appreciation and regret at his loss.

The Royal Numismatic Society's obituary and tribute to Robert Thompson, by Michael Dickinson, can be found on their website: numismatics.org.uk – then search his name.

Melvyn Brooks remembers Robert Thompson

Robert Thompson was born in Cardiff, and first published on coins in a 1959/60 school magazine. He was an expert on coins and tokens, especially those of Hackney, and had encyclopaedic knowledge of the subject. He was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and in 2000 he was awarded the Sanford Saltus Medal of the British Numismatic Society. He retired in 2004.

Our paths crossed in 1997. I was preparing an article about David Alves Rebello (DAR) that would be published in the new journal, Hackney History. Rebello was a Marrano Jew who lived in Clifton House near the junction of Mare Street and Cambridge Heath Road. He was a successful merchant in the City of London. DAR issued the first private token in England. A promissory halfpenny token. Further, in 1796, it was joined by a commemorative medal, both pieces were produced in a limited edition of twenty in copper and a further ten in silver.

Within a few months forgeries were in circulation. In addition to the forgeries Robert Thompson lists at least twelve Rebello mules. Mules were a combination of dies not originally intended for the same coin and were permutated. Thompson describes the dynamics of how this was done in his article that appeared in tandem with my own article.

My article about DAR was biographical, whilst Thompson's article was numismatic. They led to a lasting friendship between us. I met him on several occasions in London and we had a long correspondence which now holds a treasured place in my Hackney collection.

In May 1998 Robert and I had lunch at the British Medical Association, Tavistock Square. I purchased from him two 17th Century Hackney Tokens that were duplicates in his collection. He also handed on to me his well-used copy of Ruding's Annals of the Coinage of Great Britain. Nearly thirty of the coins listed are now presumably in the British Museum Department of Coins and Medals and had been in the collection of Rebello.

The following is a list of the articles written by Robert Thompson that have been published in Hackney History:-

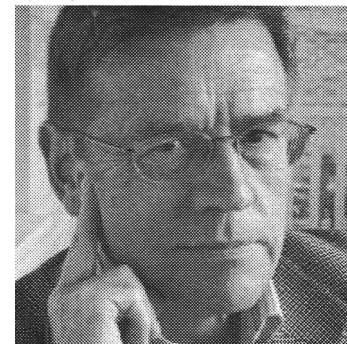
The Rebello Collection of Coins and Tokens. Vol 3 1997

The symbolism of the Rebello token. Vol 5 1999

Local public-house tokens and their makers, 1802-1896. Vol 12 2006

The mystery of the Homerton H-O-G. Vol 14 2008

Stamped with their private stamps: the tokens of the 17th century. Vol 17 2013



New Books in the Local Studies Collection

We ordered a substantial batch of new books in February, covering a range of topics that we thought were a bit under-represented in the library collection. Each tells another strand of the story of Hackney, from the work of local artists and craftspeople to the abolitionist movement.

If you have any suggestions for new books, please email lucy.tann@hackney.gov.uk.

You can search the local studies library catalogue by visiting www.hackney.gov.uk/archives-webcat

Makers and Bakers

Hackney is home to a diverse range of small businesses producing all kinds of craft products, food and drink. These books are a snapshot of daily life in studios, restaurants and cafes in the borough and around East London.

East London Food: The people, the places, the recipes by Rosie Birkett

The Violet Bakery Cookbook by Claire Ptak

Makers of East London by Katie Treggiden

Art and film

Among the local artists featured in our new acquisitions is Trevor Burgess. He has painted views of the streets between his studio, just off Kingsland Road and his home near Mare Street. They depict the African, Caribbean, Chinese, East European, Indian, Turkish and Vietnamese communities that live and work there. We also have a new book on the East London Group. This set of working class, realist painters was active in the 1920s and 30s and included Walter Sickert, Osbert Sitwell, John Cooper and Arnold Bennett.

From Bow to Biennale: Artists of the East London Group by David Buckman

Hackney Archived: A residency in Hackney Archives by Art House Foundation

Trevor Burgess, introduction by Isabel Tejada

70x70: Unlicensed Preaching: A Life Unpacked in 70 Films by Iain Sinclair

Personal stories

Individual memoirs and books based on personal interviews are a valuable part of the collection. The Lower Clapton Tales gives readers a real flavour of Lower Clapton's past through a range of local memories and photographs, while Probably Nothing is a personal journey through cancer treatment and recovery told as a graphic novel by local artist, Matilda Tristram.

The Lower Clapton Tales by Carolyn Clark

Probably nothing: A diary of a not-your-average nine months by Matilda Tristram

Pie 'n' Mash and Prefabs by Norman Jacob

Stories of enslaved people abolitionism

Abney Park Cemetery has a wealth of memorials to people connected with the abolition of slavery, including Baptist missionaries, campaigners and writers. The testimonies of formerly enslaved people were a vital force in this movement, especially the writings of Olaudah Equiano whose daughter Joanna Vassa is buried at Abney Park.

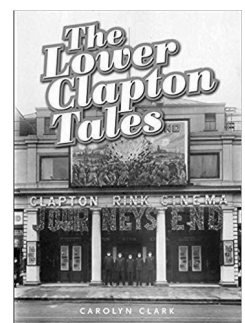
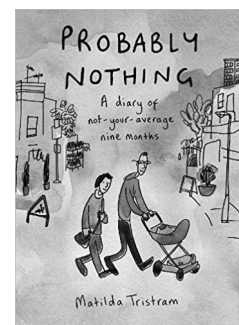
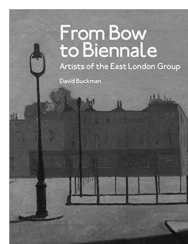
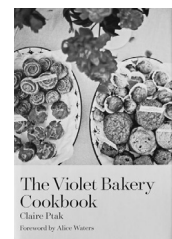
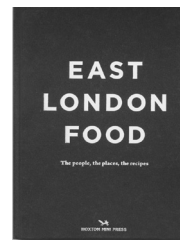
Thoughts and sentiments on the evils of slavery and other writings by Ottobah Cugoana

The interesting narrative and other writings by Olaudah Equiano

Letters of the late Ignatius Sancho, an African. To which are prefixed, memoirs of his life

Daddy Sharpe: A narrative of the life and adventures of Samuel Sharpe, a West Indian slave written by himself edited by Fred W Kennedy

Lucy Tann, Senior Archives Officer



The Stoke Newington Bombshells – by Wendy Forrest

What links Stoke Newington and explosives? Your first thought may be the Angry Brigade, arrested in a 1971 raid on 359 Amhurst Road after a campaign that had targeted Barclays Bank, the Miss World contest and South African Airways. But almost a century earlier police scoured Stoke Newington for a different cache of explosives. This was accident rather than uprising but the two are fortunately alike in one respect. In both cases there was no loss of life and very little injury.

In 1884 Ayrsome Road had some brand new houses but the rest was still open farmland including a large cowshed. The cattle were gone and builders had taken over the old shed. Mr Cashell and his son, from 25 Allen Road, were demolishing the shed when they dug up more than twenty round iron balls. These were around 10 inches in circumference and each had a flat brass screw nipple probably used to insert a fuse. The description fits very closely to a cartoon bomb or to the grenade favoured by pirates.

The Cashells thought they had found cannon balls or something like. Nevertheless, they thought it might be helpful to break one apart with a pickaxe. Luckily the ball resisted this robust exploration. So they agreed that, whatever their purpose, the balls had value as scrap metal and the marine stores or junk dealers were likely buyers. They covered their find with earth to sell on the next day.

Overnight, however, a group of local boys discovered and made off with the missiles, sharing them out for further research. One was taken home to 42 Bouverie Road where the boy's father, equally curious, thought it might be enlightening to put the iron ball in the fire hole of the copper that heated water for the family washhouse. The resulting explosion wrecked the washhouse but father and son walked away uninjured. Searching the wreckage, police recovered just a fragment of the mysterious iron ball.

Meanwhile another of the boys had decided to test his ball on the Church Street pavement, throwing it as high

as he could and seeing what happened when it fell. His investigation also ended in a huge explosion. Happily there were no casualties here either. In this case the police found more of the iron casing. The police were not pleased to learn that two more boys had decided to forgo experiment and use another of the balls for a game of football in Victorian Grove, just behind the police station.

Inspector Glass of Stoke Newington Police Station now had four of the iron balls, or what was left of them. Eventually the investigation recovered seven more. One was taken from a boy at 42 Woodland Road who had been going at his with a hammer and chisel. Another boy took his to school in Oldfield Road. Around half of the shells, however, remained at large. And the police were no more successful in identifying the origin and purpose of

the balls than the boys – or, if they were, did not make this knowledge public.

We know that the strange balls were all the same size although of different weights, possibly because the iron skin varied in thickness. Most but not all were charged and ready as explosive devices. Gunpowder was not used although lead bullets were used to fill at least one. All the signs pointed to homemade rather than commercial construction and it was assumed the makers were disturbed before all the shells could be filled.

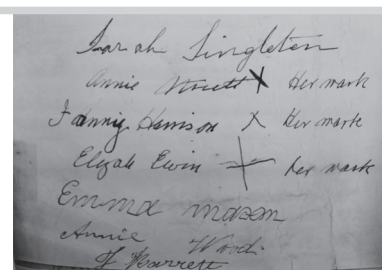
The discovery was never linked to any cause or organization but the find came towards the end of the twenty year Fenian dynamite campaign. Some of the balls were rusted and could have dated from the Clerkenwell Outrage when Irish Republicans bombed a prison in 1867. Older readers may remember the 1970s slogan 'Moss Side, Bogside, Support the Angry Side' - perhaps these incidents share more than just their Stoke Newington location.

Information from contemporary newspaper accounts including the Hackney and Kingsland Gazette and North London News.



An excerpt from the 'Humble Petition' of 1907 showing the crosses made by some of those who could not write but supported the suffragette movement.

See page 8 'Making Her Mark'.



Black Music in the Archives

The closer relationship between Hackney Archives and Hackney Museum heralded by our amalgamation into a single heritage service and made manifest through the RA Gibson Studio project has taken another big step forward - a collaboration on a temporary exhibition scheduled for later this year.

Whether it's dance halls, clubs, unlicensed 'shebeens' or even churches, Hackney has a long and rather famous (at least in certain circles) relationship with the music of the African diaspora. To celebrate this rich legacy and unearth some lesser known musical stories, a Hackney Museum exhibition chronicling Black Music in Hackney will launch in October 2018.

It is fairly routine for Hackney Museum exhibitions to draw on our collections here at the Archives, but for this exhibition we have upped the collaborative ante! Since last month, I have been dividing my time between music exhibition research and the myriad other tasks that are part of the day to day running of the Archives. There have been some exciting finds relating to the history of African and Caribbean music in the borough in our basement stores, but the richest material has been unearthed through the oral histories I have been conducting with the former luminaries of Hackney's music scenes. Apart from being great fun to put together, working collaboratively on an exhibition in this way presents a great learning



opportunity for the archives department as a whole. Being outward facing by their very nature, Hackney Museum is a bountiful source of lessons in best practice public engagement and exhibition production. They are also a community-led museum and as a result, have a amazing network of contacts across Hackney's various communities.

As a member of the Archives team, much has been learnt in a few short weeks which can benefit the team as a whole in terms of processes, procedures, and best practice lessons. Even more exciting, is the network of potential donors with which connections are being made through the research process. One of the outputs of the collaboration will see the Archives hosting elements of the programme of events connected with the exhibitions so stay tuned to the Terrier (and Hackney Archives social media channels, naturally) for future updates!

Etienne Joseph, Senior Archives Officer

Making Her Mark: 100 Years of Women's Activism in Hackney

In 1918 the first British women gained the right to vote, thanks to the activism of the suffragette movement. But that was just the first step to all women gaining equal rights to vote in 1928. A new exhibition at Hackney Museum reveals the story of women's activism doesn't begin or end there.

Until 19 May, visitors can explore Making Her Mark: 100 Years of Women's Activism in Hackney made in collaboration with the East End Women's Museum, and discover the inspiring stories of women who made a difference in the borough and beyond, across issues ranging from education, workers' rights, and healthcare to domestic violence, the peace movement, and police relations.



Included in the exhibition is a display of 'The Humble Petition' c.1907, recently conserved by Hackney Archives and the National Conservation Service to mark the centenary. Haggerston residents signed this petition asking for women to be given their right to vote in parliamentary elections. A large number of the women on this petition signed with an 'X'.

This is likely because they could not write their name, and shows how many local women at this time did not have access to an education. Despite this they still took part in a campaign to have their views represented in national government.

The exhibition covers the past century, looking at how local women have brought about change in their community and in wider society through political campaigns, industrial action, peaceful protest, direct action, and the arts.

Rebecca Odell Museum Officer

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