

The Hackney Terrier

The Friends of Hackney Archives Newsletter

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Summer 2018

Hackney Archives Service Update

We were all very sad to learn of Bill Hall's recent passing and for those who knew him, we appreciated his amiable nature, enthusiastic insights and tireless support as a Committee member of the Friends of Hackney Archives. We are also sincerely grateful for the personal donations of archival material that he deposited with Hackney Archives, and which remains one of many positive and enduring legacies that Bill leaves behind. My colleague Elizabeth Green, who knew him longer, recalled that "He was a real presence at the Archives for many years. His cheerfulness and his genuine interest in and commitment to researching the local area was inspiring". We continue to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathies to Bill's family at this time.

Of note regarding recent staff changes: our Heritage Manager, Tahlia Coombs recently departed on maternity leave and we wish her well for the delivery of her second child. We welcome back Museum Manager Niti Acharya who has returned from maternity leave and will be Acting Heritage Manager over this time. Museum Officer, Rebecca Odell will in turn be Acting Museum Manager. We sadly said farewell and expressed much thanks to Thea Rogerson, who was a short-term Collections Assistant with the Service and made an invaluable contribution to our frontline operations and to our social media promotion of collections.



Bill Hall's DVDs

The Service continues to undergo a number of changes as we embark on a new programme of digital transformation aimed at improving the management and sustainability of our digital assets. This will tangibly relate to a new catalogue and new image management system that will be implemented over the coming year, all of which will hopefully improve online access to both our archive catalogues and our extensive digital image collections.

Joanne Anthony, Hackney Archives Manager

Advance Notice

The Friends of Hackney Archives Annual General Meeting will be held at the Archives on Thursday 8th November at 6.00pm

The Meeting will be followed by a joint event held with the Hackney Society of a talk and discussion on the past and present impact on Hackney of potential major road schemes, featuring Wayne Asher (author of books on road and rail) and Stella Bland (from the Hackney No Through Road Campaign in the late 1980s).

Wayne Asher contributed a piece: 1973: The Scrapping of the 'Motorway Box' to Hackney Society's 50th Anniversary publication Hackney: portrait of a community 1967-2017 (2017). Free event but booking will be by Eventbrite

Many thanks to all of you who took the trouble to respond to our request to confirm the use of your details under the General Data Protection Act.

Dr. Melvyn Brooks: It is with great regret we learnt, just before going to print, that Melvyn Brooks has passed away. Melvyn was an indefatigable collector of all things Hackney, and of postcards. He was a frequent contributor to the Terrier, and will be much missed.

Hackney Museum's Current exhibitions:

Hackney Museum currently has two temporary exhibitions on display, alongside our permanent displays which look at the different reasons people have moved to Hackney throughout its history.

One of these exhibitions is *The Mind's Eye*, which features artworks created and chosen by patients from the Regional Neurological Rehabilitation Unit at Homerton Hospital. Since 1995, patients at the hospital's art workshop have worked in collaboration with local artists and volunteers towards their recovery from brain injuries. This exhibition closes on Saturday 1st September.

The second exhibition is *Mothers of Hackney*, created in collaboration with a group of local mums and exploring the challenges and successes of being a mum in Hackney today. The mums who put together the exhibition will be meeting at the museum on Thursday mornings over the summer to share their skills and stories in a variety of workshops.

Other Hackney mums & babies are very welcome to join. Please email museumbookings@hackney.gov.uk for more information.

Coming soon

Black British Music in Hackney

We're developing an exhibition about the impact and influence of African and Caribbean music in Hackney, launching in October 2018. Clubs, shebeens, sound systems, radio stations, record stores, churches - what can you remember? We'd love to hear your story.

To stay up to date with what's happening at Hackney Museum, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. You can also join our mailing list – just email hmuseum@hackney.gov.uk and ask to join.

Josie Stevens



The Mind's Eye

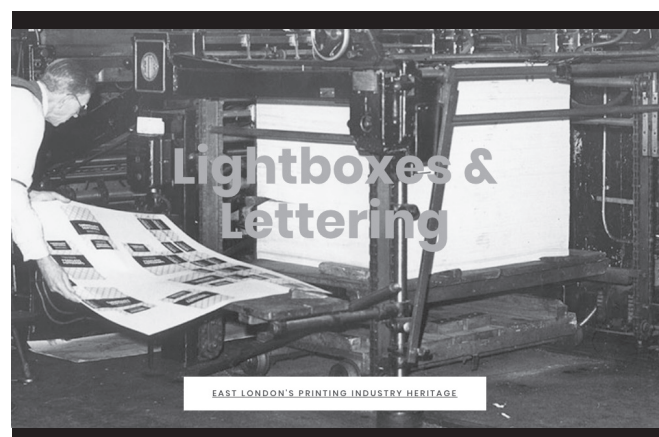
Lightboxes and Lettering

Lithography/Silkscreen/Letterpress/ Risograph/Reprographics

The east London printing industry heritage project mentioned in previous Terriers now has the above name. This is a National Lottery funded project exploring the pre-digital printing industry in Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest and Clerkenwell.

They would like to hear from anyone who worked in the industry prior to 1995, or who has photographs or archive printed material from east London.

See www.lightboxeslettering.com



Obituary

Bill Hall 1928-2018

We have the sad duty of letting you know that the Friends have lost another long-standing supporter. Bill Hall (William Edward Hall, to use his proper moniker) was Hackney born and bred. The early years were spent by Bill and his sister Lilian in Gransden Avenue, and he was a boy chorister at St Michael and All Angels in London Fields. After he married Jeanne, their first home was a flat in St Michael's Vicarage, moving on to Woodford in anticipation of the birth of their son Simon. Throughout the last war, too young for the services, Bill served locally as a messenger for Air Raid Precautions, was an active Boy Scout, then, after national service, started work in electrical engineering with GEC, where he rose to very senior management, retiring in the mid-1990s as a director of an important manufacturing company. His work took him throughout England and later overseas; his national service had taken him to Greece.

Bill was a natural communicator. Both he and Jeanne also relished technology. In retirement, he built on skills he had developed professionally in improving technical literature. His interest in local history was expressed first in a photographic account (deposited in the Archives) of what he called 'the Market Porters' Path', the route from the City across London Fields into Hackney by way of what is now Sylvester Path, stemming from his early association with the London Fields area.

Bill's electrical engineering background came to the fore at this point and he turned film maker, producing a series of video films between 2002 and 2008. He started with what was once called Church Street (the part of Mare Street now known as the Narroway) and went on to produce programmes on Brooke House, three other Hackney houses of note (Balmes, Shacklewell manor house and Barbers Barn), and finally an entire settlement: Stoke Newington, in which for the first time he developed a technique of using local expertise through interviews. These he himself wrote, narrated and shot, choosing vivid and attractive images both for the content and the covers. The films (which appear effortless, but must have been anything but to originate) hold their own with many of this genre which have been professionally produced. Bill was a careful and patient director, as David Mander and his daughter both recall from taking part in the Stoke Newington production. The films have subsequently been re-issued as three separate DVDs (all of which are still in print, and obtainable from the Archives).



Bill's regular visits to the Archives led him on to become a volunteer and he became a stalwart at Open Days and other Departmental and Friends activities – providing help, advice and service

with a touch of humour when appropriate. Bill went on to become a member of the Friends' committee, where his robust and cheerful good sense was invaluable and his quiet wit much appreciated. Indeed both Bill and Jeanne were gregarious and generous company. Jeanne died in 2014, and in 2016 illness took Bill to south Manchester, to be near their son Simon. He is much missed.

Isobel Watson, with additional material by David Mander and with acknowledgement to John Goldsmith, Bill's brother-in-law.

A Service of Thanksgiving for Bill's life was held at All Saints Church, Woodford Wells on the 19th of July, and attended by Isobel Watson, David Mander, Ted Rogers, and Robert Whytehead on behalf of the Archives and Friends.

Hackney Archives Projects' Overview:

It's been a busy (but successful!) few months at Hackney Archives with a combination of exciting outputs for externally funded projects and planning for a transformation of the digital aspects of service delivery. **Etienne Joseph**, Senior Archives Officer

The news in brief:

The RA Gibson Photographic Studio Project

Our Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund (EFCF) funded project is progressing very well. Thanks to the 56(!) volunteers who have worked on the project we are one box away from having repackaged c.150,000 negatives and are expecting the digitisation of these to have been completed by October 2018. The most recent activity on the project of note was a well-received public exhibition of a selection of images at Hackney Museum. The idea behind this event was to raise awareness of the collection within the borough and invite people to suggest how they would like to see the images used in future engagement. The next phase of the project will involve more targeted engagement work leveraging a sector-based collections toolkit to inform our organisational culture and the ways in which we work with both collections and communities.

Home City Stories Project

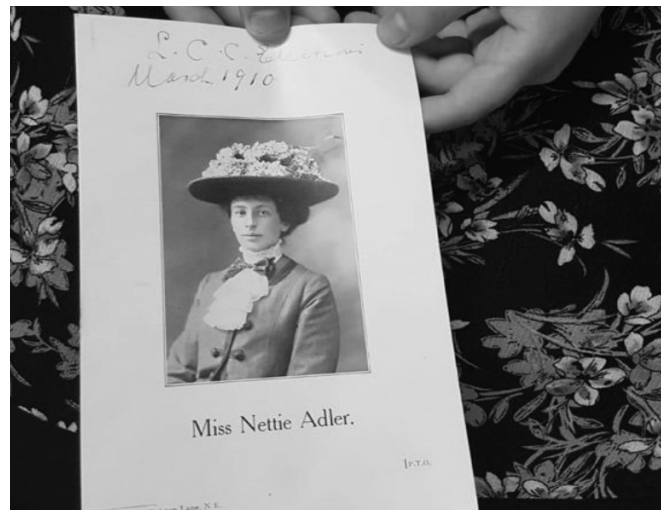
We have also been working on an externally funded collaborative project with Queen Mary University of London and the Geffrye Museum entitled 'Home City Stories'. The project was all about people's experiences of living in or around Kingsland Road both as migrants, and as people who were born and raised in Hackney. The outputs of the project include a walking smartphone app (drawing on our collections) and a series of short films featuring Hackney residents. We recently held a launch event for the app at the archives where the audience were invited to use the app, view a selection of project films and browse some of the archives that the project drew on. There was also a very inspiring panel discussion featuring local residents, a councillor and academics looking at the themes of urban regeneration and gentrification. To explore further details about the project and view the films, please visit: <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/homecitystreet/>

Teen Action

Teen Action is a Chassidic Orthodox Jewish organisation in Stamford Hill that provides training and leisure activities for young women. We are collaborating with them on a HLF funded project. They have almost completed oral histories/ films relating to key members within their community and they have a second upcoming research workshop at Hackney Archives. The main output of the project will be an exhibition launching at Hackney Archives in November or December of this year.



Guest panel at Home City Street Launch: (From Left to Right) Guy Nicholson (Hackney Council Cabinet Member for Planning, Business & Investment), Patrice Lawrence (Hackney-based writer and journalist), Judith Garfield MBE (Director of Eastside Community Heritage), and Winstan Whitter (Hackney-based film-maker).



There were some amazing personal discoveries from our first research session with Teen Action. Here a student holds her forebear's campaign leaflet! Nettie Adler was the first woman to be elected to the London County Council.

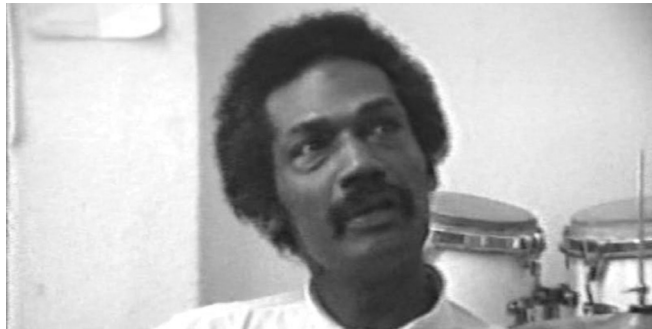
Black History Season Event at Hackney Archives:

Explore Hackney's extraordinary Jazz history from Sun Ra's drummer Clifford Jarvis to the mighty Jazz Warriors - one of London's first all-black Jazz collectives. Learn how Hackney provided the seeds, and the spaces for musicians of African & Caribbean heritage to rise to the top of their profession through film, archive, audio and discussion. Guests include founding members of the Jazz Warriors plus film-makers Winstan Whitter and Anthony Collins who will show excerpts of their in-production documentary on Clifford Jarvis.

Thurs 1st Nov 2018 • 7-9pm

Age: 13 upwards, Free

Advance booking suggested via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/doing-it-for-ourselves-independent-jazz-history-in-hackney-tickets-48336318229): <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/doing-it-for-ourselves-independent-jazz-history-in-hackney-tickets-48336318229>



Screenshot of Clifford Jarvis from film 'State of Pyramid'. With thanks to Steven Marshall

New Archive Donations:

Hackney Anti-Apartheid Group collection



Some new & exciting archive donations have recently arrived with us off the back of initial donor contacts kindly established by our allied service, Hackney Museum. Some of these include a collection of material from the Hackney branch of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, including ephemera, posters, press clippings, photographs, and interview transcripts. These Hackney Anti-Apartheid donations (Accession numbers 2018/16 & 2018/21) date from the 1980s until 2013. In conjunction with the future display of some of this fascinating original material, we are intending to host a launch event alongside a ready-made travelling exhibition compiled by the Hackney Anti-Apartheid Group in Spring of next year. One to watch!

Jenako Arts collection 1983-1995 (Accession 2018/22)

Another exciting donation helping us and Hackney Museum tell Hackney's musical stories. Jenako used to be on Balls Pond Rd and was an important hub for African, Caribbean and Asian cultures in the borough.

The collection consists of posters, prospectuses, photographs, letters and records relating to Hackney Adult Education Institute with Jenako Arts.



Current Exhibitions at Hackney Archives

Changing Faces, Hidden Stories: Photographs from RA Gibson's studio

A selection of photographs taken by RA Gibson's studio in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. See a slice of Hackney's history and maybe someone you know!

The Four Aces Club

Come and see photographs from Hackney's legendary The Four Aces Club.

Elsie's Diary

My Diary, or A collection of thoughts, impressions and incidents, from Nov: 20th 1917.

Earlier this year we received a fascinating and very timely donation; the diary of a young woman called Elsie Bishop who lived in Morning Lane in Hackney. It starts just over a century ago in December 1917 when Elsie is aged 18 and ends in 1922. A number of pages have been removed and various entries scribbled out so the story of these years is tantalisingly patchy, but we can learn some interesting details about life in Hackney during the First World War and in the period that followed.

The first entry is dated Friday 7 December 1917 and describes the events of the early hours of the previous day. Elsie, her mother, older sister and younger brother are woken by 'a patrol' and instructed to take cover. They decide to head up the road to the Hackney Empire where Elsie's father Francis is working. (Francis was employed as a fireman at the Empire, as we can see from his entry in the 1911 census.) He greets them at the stage door where they are joined by others seeking shelter in the theatre, including the stage manager and his family. After the all-clear is announced they set off for home, only to hear police whistles starting up again. They hurry back and wait out what transpires to be a long bombardment that lasts until 6.30am.

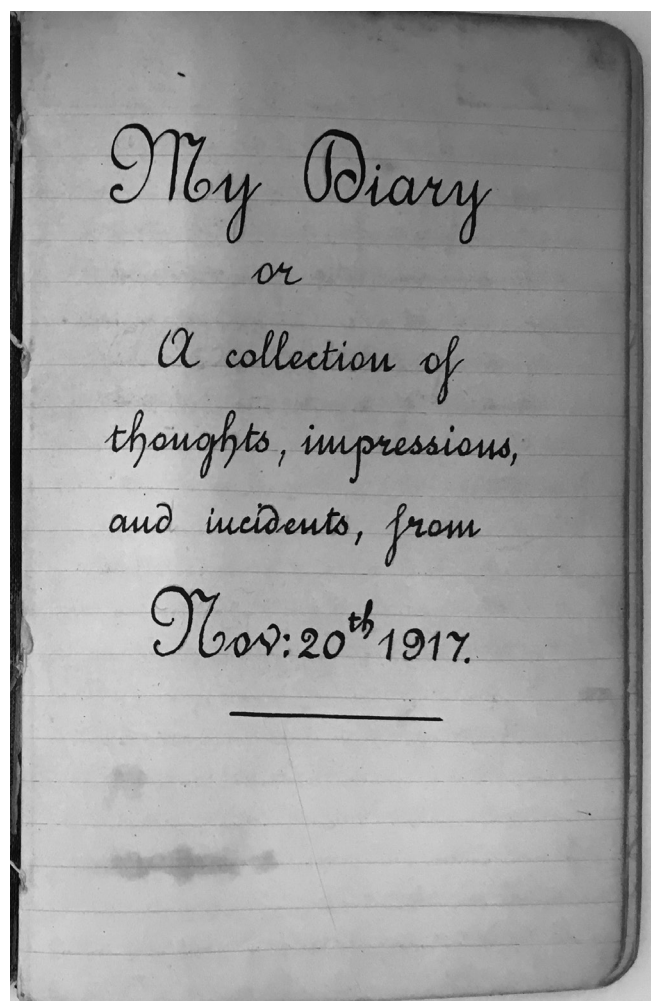
A later entry on 20 May 1918 describes the aftermath of a raid, the damage to the street and Elsie's concern for her friends, whom she hasn't seen since the all-clear:

"The weather is simply glorious, with an azure blue sky without a single cloud all day. The trees are just green, fresh and beautiful. What a pity it seems that such wickedness should exist when everything is so lovely."

Elsie's personal and home life are no less fascinating. She was a very creative person, painting in oils and watercolours whenever she could find the time between her day-job at Muddiman's, a trimming, fringe and lace manufacturer in Dalston Lane, and helping her ailing mother with household duties. She expresses a strong desire to be a portrait artist like her grandfather and in September 1918 she enrolls in oil-painting classes at the Hackney Institute.

Elsie's art occupies a lot of her thoughts and diary entries. She paints portraits of significant people in her life, including her close friend Gladys, Miss Bruce, the 'forelady' at Muddiman's, and her favourite actress, Marie Lohr, whom she sees in a number of plays in the West End. The strong emotions she expresses and her correspondence with Miss Bruce, which also forms part of the donation, have led both the donor and myself to speculate that Elsie had formed an attachment to her that would have been deemed inappropriate at that time.

The donor came to have the diary and letters through her father who was born in Hackney. Her great grandmother had the surname Bishop, but it remains unclear precisely how they are related to Elsie. It therefore came as quite a surprise to discover that we already had some Elise Bishop



material in the archives. Elsie had donated her school exercise books from Hackney Free and Parochial Girls School around the 1970s and they have been here ever since. We hope that this will help us uncover more of Elsie's story as we now know where she lived at the time of the donation and that she had retained her maiden name.

There are some other questions that I hope to answer with some more research into life in Hackney during the First World War:

- Why was a fireman employed at the Hackney Empire from 1911 and was this a reserved occupation during the war?
- Who were the 'patrol' that woke the family on the night of the air-raid. Were they the police or volunteers?
- What were the effects of the two raids that Elsie describes in the wider area and across London?

I hope to update you on these and add some more to Elsie's story in a future issue.

Lucy Tann, Senior Archives Officer

Social Media

The Archives has increasingly been using social media, such as Twitter and Facebook, to promote our services. We now have over 2,500 Twitter followers. These are some of our top tweets over the past few months. It's not always easy to tell which images/subjects will be popular. Thanks to part-time assistant Thea Rogerson for striking a chord with the following tweets and images:

19 June

Happy #TravelTuesday! Never forget that there is more than one way to get off the beaten track! From our collection: someone driving a tractor past Acton Lock, Regent's Canal in 1974. Escape today by browsing over 15,000 images on our database #TuesdayThoughts #photooftheday



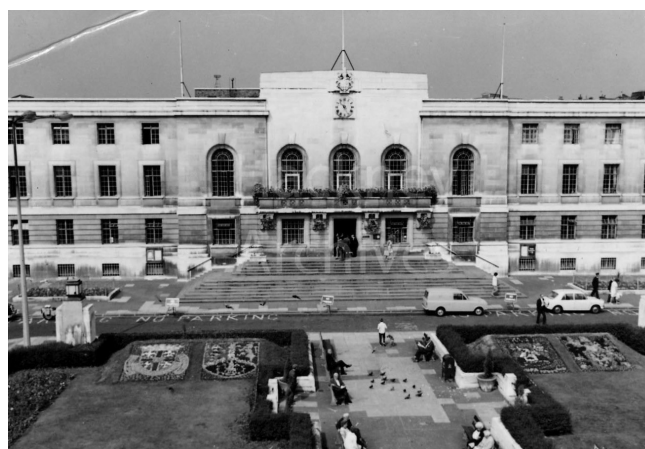
3 July

#OnThisDay July 3rd 1937, the #Hackney New Town Hall was officially opened. From our collection: a few photos of some ups and downs the building has weathered seen in its 81 years so far! #TuesdayThoughts



5 July

#Onthisday 1888, 1400 girls and women marched out of Bryant and May's match factory. This became known as the #MatchGirlsStrike. Images: conditions in a B&M factory (1910s), Annie Besant's reports on events and the Strike Committee. Find out more! <https://bit.ly/2IRHACW>



Changing Faces, Hidden Stories – Gibson Project Update

Hackney Archives hosted an Open Studio event on 5 July at Hackney Museum to publicise the RA Gibson collection to the local community. The event, which was attended by over 60 people, featured an exhibition of 60 prints from the collection which are on long term display at the museum. It also showcased a wide range of images from the collection on three TVs including one generously funded by the Friends of Hackney Archives. Screening the images on TVs allows far more images to be shared than could be achieved with prints due to cost and space considerations. Attendees heard from Joanne Antony and Lisa Peatfield, who outlined the work of the Archives and the RA Gibson project, and also from Angela Andrew, whose photograph appears in the collection. The event also offered attendees the chance to pose for their very own ‘Gibson’ portrait in a recreation of the RA Gibson studio.

Look: www.flickr.com/photos/hackney_archives

Watch: <https://tinyurl.com/GibsonFilm>

twitter.com/ArchivesHackney

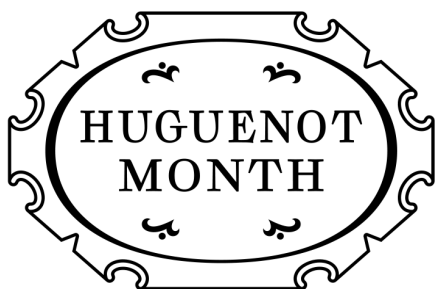
www.facebook.com/HackneyArchives

Lisa Peatfield, Project Officer – Changing Faces, Hidden Stories: photographs from Hackney’s RA Gibson studio 1952-1978



RA Gibson studio recreated

Huguenot Month Launches in Spitalfields



Huguenot Month is supported by the City of London Corporation as part of their initiative, ‘*Women: Work and Power.*’

October is Huguenot Month! Huguenots of Spitalfields have a packed programme of events to celebrate these extraordinary, creative and talented people.

Huguenots were French Protestant refugees who fled persecution during the 16th to 18th centuries, many of whom settled in London. They contributed their skills to many fields, including silkweaving, furniture design, spinning and dyeing, silversmithing, clock making and jewellery.

For full programme visit: <http://www.huguenotsofspitalfields.org/walks-events.html>

Contact: Charlie de Wet at info@huguenotsofspitalfields.org or telephone 020 7247 0367.

The LAMAS Local History Conference this year will be on Saturday 17th November, at the Museum of London, on the theme of London Shaped by Trade. Further details will be available on their website: www.lamas.org.uk

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