

The Hackney Terrier

The Friends of Hackney Archives Newsletter

104



Spring 2019

Explore our
unique,
historic map
layers

Layers of London is a unique, free, historical and geographical resource for Londoners. Anyone can explore our map layers that have been stretched and manipulated to fit over the contemporary map of London; meaning you can focus on a street, building or area and see how it has changed over time!

▶ STEP BACK IN TIME



Partnership with Layers of London

Friends of Hackney Archives are now working in partnership with Layers of London, a map-based history website (layersoflondon.org) developed by the Institute of Historical Research. The website allows anyone to access free historic maps of London and contribute stories, memories and historical research. It is a powerful resource for local historians and is designed to spark new interest in the social history of London and its neighbourhoods.

The major project partners include the British Library, The London Metropolitan Archives, Historic England, The National Archives and MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) so the website draws on very significant collections of digitised historic maps, photos, research and

scholarship. It will also benefit from history generated by local archives, institutions and community groups.

We know that Hackney has a particularly rich history and are keen to make this as engaging and accessible as possible. The work of pioneers such as Stoke Newington History (stokenewingtonhistory.com) shows an appetite for stories of Hackney's past and suggests that the new audience may prefer – at least at first – to receive their history online and in bite-sized chunks. This fits perfectly with the Layers of London approach as it allows users to click on a map and find stories about the history of that location.

Friends of Hackney Archives are keen to make the wealth of material that has been captured by Hackney's local historians

Continued overleaf

Friends of Hackney Archives AGM announcement

The AGM for 2018 will be held at the Archives on Thursday November 28th 2019, at 6.00pm. The meeting will be followed by a talk on the provision of social housing after the Second World War by John Boughton.

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more widely available. A small team is drawing on articles that have appeared in past issues of Hackney History and the Terrier to create brief records that will sit on the Layers of London's maps and pop up when a location is clicked. We hope that these will whet the reader's appetite and encourage them to follow through to a full article and explore further.

Layers of London have been generous enough to fund the digitisation of our 20 year archive of journal publications to enable this to happen. Readers will soon be able to click through from a pop-up record to an original article on the Friends of Hackney Archives website (hackneyhistory.org). Longer articles from Hackney History will be searchable to make it easier for anyone following a particular line of enquiry. Those who want to dip into Hackney's history will find it easy; those who want to go deeper will have access to

original and rigorous local research. The Hackney History and Terrier articles will also be available to anyone coming directly to the Friends of Hackney Archives website.

In the next couple of months you can expect to see many new Hackney records on the Layers of London map and you will be able to view back issues of our journals online. This project takes the Friends of Hackney Archives in some new directions, especially as the Layers of London team are still developing the site and discovering how it can best be used. There may be some hiccups along the way but we are enjoying being in at the start and working things through together. Any ideas or suggestions from Terrier readers are very welcome.

Wendy Forrest



Some new additions to the Local Studies Library

Rings Around London by Wayne Asher

If you came to the event, *Jam for the Rich: a short history of Hackney's fight against new roads* at the archives in November, this won't be a new topic to you. Wayne Asher was one of our speakers and his book is the first full-length history of the Ringways; what they were, where they would have gone, and how Londoners fought them off.

Once Every 28 Years Hackney Hasidim Welcome the Sun 1981 by Neil Martinson

The photographs in this booklet capture the blessing of the sun festival, Birkat Hachama, which is observed by the Orthodox Hasidic Jewish community only once every 28 years. This may be the first time it was ever photographed. Neil Martinson documented the working life of Hackney and the East End throughout the seventies and eighties and was a founder member of the Hackney Flashers photography collective.

Black Tudors: The Untold Story by Miranda Kaufmann
From a Moroccan woman baptised in a London church to a Mauritanian diver dispatched by Henry VIII to salvage lost

treasures from the Mary Rose this book tells the remarkable stories of Africans who lived free in Tudor England.

The corners by Chris Dorley-Brown

Since 1984, Dorley-Brown has been creating a photographic archive of the London Borough of Hackney. This collection published by Hoxton Mini Press uses multiple exposures to document the ever-changing East London landscape in a hyper-real style.

Jamaican Migrant by Wallace Collins

An unvarnished first-hand account of the experiences of the Windrush generation in 1950s London.

Artists in the City 2018: SPACE in '68 and beyond by Mel Dodd *et al*

Established by artists in 1968, SPACE runs 20 affordable artist studio buildings across London and Colchester, with their headquarters in Mare Street, Hackney. This book examines their early pioneering history.

Lucy Tann, Senior Archives Officer

Hackney Museum Events

Remember the Lenthall Road Workshop?

Hackney Museum is looking to speak to any residents who remember, or were involved with, the Lenthall Road Workshop women's print shop based in Haggerston between the 1970s and 90s.

Former workers from the print shop are working with the museum to co-curate an exciting exhibition. As well as stories and oral histories the museum is looking for artefacts from the print shop such as posters, postcards or t-shirts to appear in the exhibit.

Contact the group directly by emailing lrworkshop18@btinternet.com or get in touch with Hackney Museum by emailing hmuseum@hackney.gov.uk or by calling 020 8356 8676.

WOMEN ON SCREENS

Printmaking, photography and community activism at Lenthall Road Workshop 1970s–1990s

14 May – 31 August 2019

Hackney Museum
1 Reading Lane, E8 1GQ
020 8356 7500

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9.30–5.30pm
Thursday 9.30am–8pm
Saturday 10am–5pm

Hackney

ROLLING SISTERS



© Neil Martinson

Another Time, Another Place: Hackney in the 70s and 80s.

Photographs by Neil Martinson

A new photography exhibition exploring Hackney during the 1970s and 1980s is now open. The photos show working lives, protests, children and young people, homelessness, Jewish life, street markets and street scenes.

Neil Martinson started taking pictures when he was a pupil at Hackney Downs School, using a camera he bought after saving up money from his Saturday job at a shop in Stoke Newington. His work has since appeared in the National Portrait Gallery.

On display at Hackney Museum until 13th July 2019



© Neil Martinson



© Neil Martinson

Taking Archives into Account

Given the persistent media attention to inner city youth crime of the past few years, we are incredibly proud to have been invited to host the inaugural meeting of a young group of change-makers by the name of *Account*, convened by Hackney CVS with the aim of improving relations between young people in the borough and the local police force. As our back issues of radical local rag the *Hackney Peoples' Press* evidence, the relationship between young people and the police in the borough has not always been a cordial one. The purpose behind the workshop was to explore some of this historic friction with a view to cultivating more productive interactions going forward. We drew on a range of sources including everything from copies of the *Hackney Gazette* published at the time of the 2011 London Riots through to poems and creative writing published by Centerprise on the subject of policing and community relations. The session was extremely well received and it really was amazing to see the ways in which records held by Hackney Archives can be used to inspire social change in the Hackney of tomorrow. We look forward to being involved with this, and other like initiatives in the borough as things progress.

Etienne Joseph, Senior Archives Officer



Archives News

RA Gibson Roundup

The RA Gibson Studio project is now in its final months. The vast majority of the 150,000 negatives have been digitised by our colleagues at NCS and catalogued by our magnificent team of volunteers. They will be incorporated into the Archives' new online catalogue once it is live later this year. Archives staff and facilitators Poppy Szaybo and Sandra Shakespeare have been holding workshops around the borough to talk to people about the photographs and their memories of Hackney. The team have so far visited residential homes run by Jewish Care and the Chat's Lunch Club (run by Clapton Park Methodist Church) with more sessions still to come. This summer will see an exhibition of Gibson photographs travelling around venues in the borough as well as the launch of a guide to researching diverse histories.

Lisa Peatfield, Project Officer

Exhibitions and others

Secret Rivers – Current exhibition at the Museum of London in Docklands

'Secret Rivers uses archaeological artefacts, art, photography and film to reveal stories of life by London's rivers, streams, and brooks, exploring why many of them were lost over time.

Historic and contemporary artworks from artists, poets and authors will also show how London's rivers have played an important role in the city's imaginations. Previously unseen artefacts from excavations of the River Fleet and elsewhere hint at the diverse industrial, economic and religious roles these rivers have played over the centuries.

The intriguing histories of the River Effra, Fleet, Neckinger, Lea, Wandle, Tyburn, Walbrook and Westbourne will all feature in the exhibition. Each river will highlight a broader theme such as poverty, industry, development, effluence, manipulation, activism, sacred association and restoration.'

Free exhibition – until 27th October

Archives' Events / workshops round-up

My Hackney My House: Researching local houses and buildings

This exciting event, held at the Archives on 07 February 2019, brought together three different perspectives on the development of the built environment in Hackney. The Hackney planning team talked about their role in listing local buildings of historic interest, the Archives provided the historical perspective and the role of original records as a source of evidence, and the Hackney Society brought us back to the present day and their work with the Conservation Area Advisory Committees commenting on and sometimes challenging planning applications that could have an impact on the built environment and local communities. Attended by over 30 people, the talks were followed by some lively discussion, and in the weeks following there has been a significant increase in people visiting the Archives to explore the history of their own houses.

Unity Arts visit – Blue Circle of Dissent

Another workshop was held at the Archives in April for Unity Arts. This organisation has just received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to support a two year project, known as Blue Circle of Dissent, which will research the events, works and personalities that surrounded the lives and work of Mary Wollstonecraft and Blue Stockings Society leader, Elizabeth Montagu. A group of project volunteers visited the Archives to learn some basic research skills and explore Mary Wollstonecraft's local connection to Newington Green and the Unitarian church. Everyone was excited to view a first edition of the 'Vindication of the Rights of Women', published in 1793. It is held in the Local Studies Library, which includes a number of rare editions by local authors. The feedback from the group was enthusiastic from the specialist academic to the group's youngest researcher, with the project leader commenting "As always



you have ignited an interest in archival research".

St. John-at-Hackney Project

As part of a National Lottery funded restoration project at St. John-at-Hackney Church, a project officer has been visiting the Archives over the past few weeks to look at the Archive material we hold relating to the church. The plan is to digitise some of this material to make it more accessible to church members and local people. A community visit to the Archives was also arranged on the 13th April so that local people could view some of this original material. An important find was a large-scale detailed plan of the graveyard, marking the location of all the tombs and gravestones in the 1950s, before the gravestones were moved to the edge of the graveyard.

Elizabeth Green

Under Ground London – Current exhibition at London Metropolitan Archives

'Under Ground London will explore our relationship with the subterranean capital, exploring hundreds of years of documents, images and plans to tell the story of the underground city, as well as some of the enduring legends that have risen from the darkness down below.

Celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of one of London's less celebrated heroes, Sir Joseph Bazalgette, the exhibition will uncover the system of sewers he designed to save London from the Great Stink. It will explore the first tunnel under the Thames, the development of the first 'underground' railway and the first tube line, which might not be quite what you expect.'

Free exhibition until 31st October

Silent Cinemas

A new website, based on a map interface, locates all the cinemas, whether purpose-built or adapted theatres, that showed silent movies. Hover over the flags and a brief description comes up, click on the flags and a fuller listing plus comprehensive sources to research is shown.

londonssilentcinemas.com

Local History Conference

The London and Middlesex Archaeological Society annual Local History Conference will be held on Saturday 16th November at the Museum of London. Details will be available on their website: lamas.org.uk

The Skinners' Company's School for Girls



Irene Glausiusz is 2nd row from top, at extreme right. The girls in white blouses, 3rd row from top are the Prefects, who were given great responsibility and below them a section of the much to be feared teachers.

A Schoolgirl Memoir

The Skinners' Company (a City Guild dealing in furs) had a long history of supporting education – that is for boys! But what about the girls? They needed their own school and so in the year 1890 the Stamford Hill establishment was founded.

The passing of Rab Butler's Education Act in 1944, changed the system for the Skinners' Company's School for Girls. No longer just for the elite. Fees were abolished and Skinners' became a State Grammar School. Pupils were accepted on ability, i.e. passing the 11 plus exam.

In 1947, I was offered a place at Skinners', a twenty minute bus ride from home in Mayola Road, Clapton. Why Skinners when the John Howard School was virtually on our doorstep? The reason? Neighbours of ours were respected members of the Plymouth Brethren, their daughters educated at Skinners. What's more, these young women worked in Downing Street. No other recommendation necessary.

Every girl needed the strictly enforced uniform, this at a time when clothes rationing was still in force (*ending in March 1949*). We had a dark gymslip and white square necked blouses. Thus my best friend said we resembled "*round pegs in square holes*". A navy blue beret with the Skinners' badge emblazoned with "SS" was not a popular insignia in post war Britain. Woe betide the girl not wearing her beret outside school, or an even greater sin – eating in the street.

Each year, 90 girls were enrolled, divided into three parallel classes A, B and Beta, thought kinder than having B and C. During one of the first English lessons, we were taught to place the appropriate apostrophes in the correct order for the school's title. Considered immensely important.

We were overawed by the building in particular the immense stained glass window in the hall, portraying the City Guilds, emblazoned with the school motto "Honour before Honours" Try living up to that! We began French lessons in the first year with a brand new system entitled "Apprenons le Francais" (Let's Learn French) – *with no English translations*. The following year came the choice of either

German or Latin. My father thought German undesirable, understandably, so Latin it was and what a struggle it was. Endless grammar, declensions and verbs, forever changing to suit the mood of the text. There were extra classes for those whose parents wanted their daughters to have that bit of extra polish – Elocution and Music. I was entered for an Elocution exam and recited Part IV from Coleridge's *Ancient Mariner*, the Examiner telling me I had "*a good sense of drama*". Then on a much dreaded evening – The Audition – took place and we were expected to perform.

Prayers in the hall were held daily, but as the school had a large percentage of Jewish girls, separate prayers were held thrice weekly for them in the gymnasium, conducted by Mrs Rose Lipman, who would climb precariously on a raised form to conduct proceedings. Mrs Lipman in later years

represented Labour on Hackney Council's Northwold ward.

We played Netball and Hockey in Winter and Tennis in Summer. The playing fields were located in Egerton Road and on the way there, it was easy to dawdle, grabbing the opportunity to wander around Woolworths just in case we needed something.

I progressed through first to fourth form and by then decided I had had enough; uniform, rules and tons of homework. I wanted an office job, so learning shorthand/typing was essential. There was nothing for it but to see the austere (and much feared) ancient Head Mistress, Miss Barton. Shaking in my shoes, I confessed – I wanted to leave to study at commercial college.

I must give credit where credit is due. I did appreciate the Skinners' education I received, even remembering some of the famous Latin mottos that were drummed into us; in particular **Justicia Turis Nostra**, (which used to be embossed on various Hackney Council Vehicles), which translates as "**Justice Is Our Tower**".

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Footnote:- Occasionally my mother met me after school and we would see a film at either the up-market Regent Cinema perched on the Hill, or the somewhat shabbier



Super Cinema nearby (both eventually converted to supermarkets).

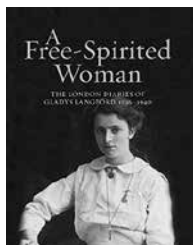
The original Stamford Hill building is now listed for its special architectural/historic interest, but the school itself moved into new premises at Woodberry Down, now re-named The Skinners' Academy.

Irene Glausiusz

Books of local interest

A Free-Spirited Woman. The London Diaries of Gladys Langford, 1936-1940 Eds. Patricia and Robert Malcolmson 2014

An elementary teacher in Hoxton and Shoreditch, Gladys Langford started her diaries at the age of 46, and from 1939 contributed to Mass-Observation studies. An astute and sometimes acerbic observer of everyday life in 1930s London, she describes the challenges of teaching in the poorest areas, and the impact of the war. In her personal life she had a relationship with a married man, never fully requited, and the stresses of wartime led to anxiety and depression.



The Outcast Dead. Historical and archaeological evidence for the effect of the New Poor Law on the health and diet of London's post-medieval poor. Britney K. Shields Wilford BAR B.S.634, 2018

At a time when changes to the benefits system are proving controversial, it is salutary to consider attitudes to and provision for the poor in the past. This volume provides a general background to care from the Elizabethan age and the old poor laws, and contrasts them with the impact of the implementation of the New Poor Law from 1834. It takes the admission and discharge records of the Shoreditch Union Workhouse as one of its principle historical sources, as well as burial records from City parishes. The study particularly looks at diet

(to compare with osteological evidence), a record of the diet in the parish of St John's Workhouse, Hackney of 1750 – beer, butter, bread, cheese – is compared with that recommended by the Poor Law Commission 1836, and that assessed against the calorific and nutritional value of the diet and its fitness for the hard tasks that workhouse inmates were subjected to under the new regime, including picking oakum, breaking bones or stones – needless to say – the diet is found wanting.

Towers for the Welfare State. An Architectural History of British Multi-storey Housing 1945-1970. Stefan Muthesius & Miles Glendenning 2017

This work provides a comprehensive review of municipal tower blocks and their Welfare State provision. It is divided into three parts, the first looks at 'The Providers', the underlying statistics, Council managements and the architects, engineers and builders. Part two looks at tower block design, ever-increasing heights, flat types and construction. Part three compares different approaches across Britain and within London, and sets them within the global context. Key issues include the ideology behind tower blocks; the daring engineering involved; the introduction and impact of pre-fabrication; and regional variations.



The book is richly illustrated, with many examples from London including Hackney. A copy has been deposited with the Archives.

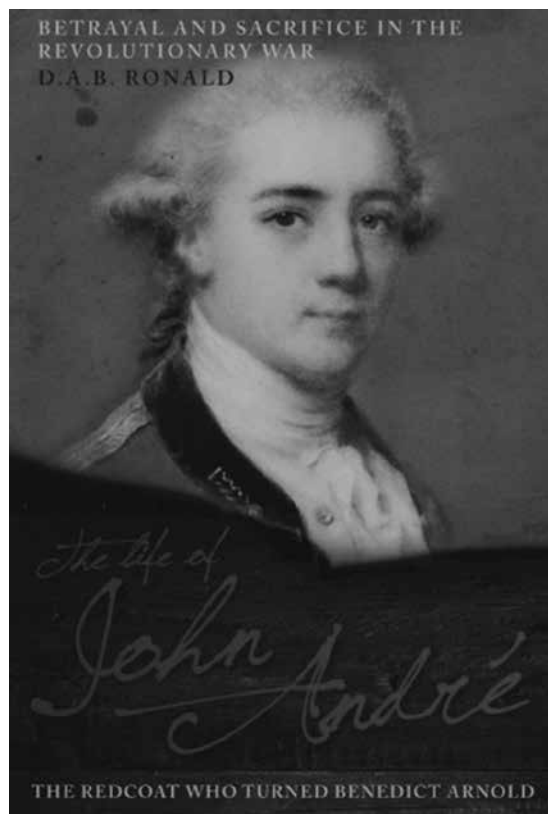
Major John André, Hackney's famous son

Who among the class of 1765 at Dr Newcome's School, Hackney could have guessed that one of their fellow pupils, fifteen-year-old John André, would go on to become Britain's spymaster in New York at the height of the American Revolutionary War? Who among John André's many relatives living in nearby-Clapton could have believed that the dear 'cher Jean' they knew so well would then be hanged as a spy by the Americans in 1780, revenge for his part in the plot to turn the arch-traitor, General Benedict Arnold? Who among the André family's Clapton neighbours might have thought that John would end up being acclaimed as a national hero by the British public, feted by the blue-stocking poet, Anna Seward, and honoured in Westminster Abbey with a memorial designed by the great architect of the time, Robert Adam, and commissioned by none other than George III?

Who, indeed, could have imagined all this? Wasn't this John André the same young 'Claptonian' who had dreamed of becoming a poet and talked airily of entering politics but was instead destined by his stern father for a cozy career in the family's 'compting-house', trading silks and cloths from the heart of London's bustling 'City' metropolis? So, if John's path had already been mapped out for him so surely, so clearly, so advantageously, what happened that he chose a life of risk and of danger?

In retrospect, of course, for those who understood the dark arts of what was then called 'petite guerre', young John already had what it took to be a spy, even as a school-boy. He was a brilliant mimic: witness his star turns in the school's famed theatrical productions. He was an accomplished artist and draughtsman: evidence the scenery he designed almost single-handed for the school's performance of the *Siege of Damascus* seen by, among others, the Prince of Wales. He had a honey gift with words: remember his impromptu prologue for the last night of the *Siege* which had girls in the audience swooning with palpitations and had his classmates – among them the three Cavendish brothers and the future Earl of Euston – green-eyed with envy. And last...but not least...he was fluent in French: no surprise given that the André's were Huguenot refugees, but crucial nevertheless for any spy-in-the-making, what with France the eternal enemy and already sending a new wave of agents – most famously the Chevalier d'Eon – into every European court so as to subvert Britain's influence following the Seven Years' War.

Yet, for all these undoubted skills which so ably suited John André for the hidden byways of secret warfare, it seems he was hardly the obvious stuff of martial glory. Soft-spoken, mild-mannered and self-effacing, why ever did he choose



the army and how then to explain his meteoric rise through the ranks, in the process leapfrogging more 'Establishment' officers to become righthand man to Britain's Commander-in-Chief in North America?

The inscription on the sarcophagus honouring John in Westminster Abbey attempted to answer these questions:

'Sacred to the Memory of Major JOHN ANDRÉ, Who raised by his merit at an early period of his life to the rank of Adjutant General of the British forces in America, and employed in an important but hazardous enterprise, fell sacrifice to his zeal for his King and Country on the 2d October 1780, aged 29, universally beloved and esteemed by the army in which he served, and lamented even by his foes.'

Yet, to this day, John André, his life and, especially, the circumstances of his death remain an enigma, his heroism only gradually being understood in the wider context of a war which should never have been fought.

Dr D.A.B. Ronald, Author of *The Life of John André, The Redcoat who turned Benedict Arnold* (Casemate Publishing, 2019)

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Contributions to future issues should be sent to the above address.

www.hackneyhistory.org