

The Hackney Terrier

The Friends of Hackney Archives Newsletter

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Winter 2016-17

Staff News

Siân Mogridge Moves On

We are very sorry to announce that Siân Mogridge has left the Archives after 10 years of valuable service, but congratulate her on gaining the post of Archivist with the Royal Artillery Museum, whose archives are based at Larkhill, Wiltshire. We would like to wish her the best of luck in her new job and home, and thank her for her unstinting help and advice in her time at Hackney Archives.

Siân has left this message for the Friends: "I was very sorry to be leaving Hackney Archives. I worked there for over ten years, and I had a great time. From a professional point of view it has been very useful. I have taken part in a wide range of archival activities, from cataloguing to giving talks, and from helping to run the Search Room to looking at Data Protection issues. I'm pretty certain that the experience I gained during the move from the Rose Lipman building four years ago was a major reason why I was offered my new job. From a personal point of view I have enjoyed the work, and I have got on really well with the people. My colleagues have been universally wonderful, and I have enjoyed dealing with the researchers who visit us (particularly, of course, those who belong to the Friends!).

My new job is to run the Archives of the Royal Artillery. These do not go quite as far back as Hackney's collection, but there are 300 years' worth of records and the history



looks to be extremely interesting. I also have the challenge of setting up the collection in a new location, as the records, like myself, have just moved from London to Wiltshire. It's very different surroundings - I now work on an Army base rather than in the middle of Dalston! However there is beautiful walking near by and my office is only about a mile from Stonehenge.

"I wish Hackney Archives and the Friends all the best, and will certainly keep in touch."

We also have to report that Sally England has had to take long-term sick leave, due to a setback with her MS, and is receiving ongoing treatment and therapy to manage her condition. We send her our very best wishes for a successful outcome.

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Congratulations to Tahlia Coombs, Heritage Manager, on the birth of her son, Teddy, on 5th November!
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Friends' News

We would like to pay special thanks to Siân Mogridge for having handled the Friends' membership lists so well for so long, and liaising with the Treasurer and Chair, as well as producing the mailing address labels. This has been of great help, and was always handled efficiently and with good humour.

A big thank you to everyone who completed a Gift Aid form, and to Sean Gubbins for clarifying what we could claim. As a result we have raised £550 to add to FoHA's funds, as we could claim back for three previous years. We will be able to continue to reclaim tax equivalent for ongoing subscriptions.

It is of course the time to ask you to renew your subscriptions for 2017, if you have not done so already, and a form is enclosed. We are most grateful for your continuing support of the Friends and the Archives. Should you have any questions about membership do please let Robert Whytehead know, either c/o the Archives, or via robertwhytehead@msn.com.

You should all have received a copy of Hackney History 19, our thanks go to Isobel Watson for her patient and persistent editorship of the journal. If you have not got a copy please let Robert Whytehead know. Of course, additional copies can be bought from Hackney Archives, or from the Friends.

Friends' News continued

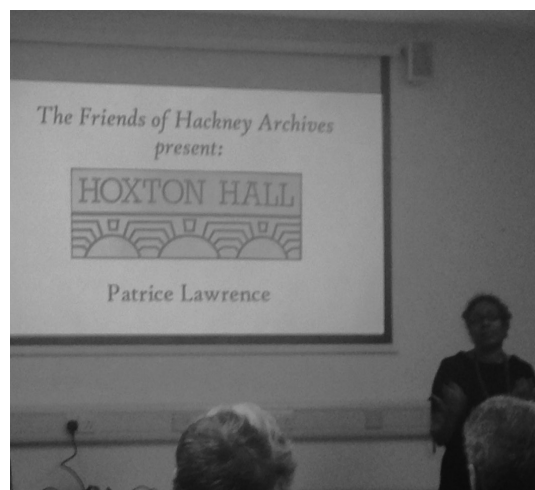
The Annual General Meeting for 2016 was held on 7th September. The Minutes of the 2015 AGM were accepted, as were the Accounts presented by Sean Gubbins. Joanne Anthony provided a round-up of her first, very busy, year as Archives Manager, and looked forward to new initiatives for the Archives, and wider Heritage Service in the forthcoming year. The officers of the Friends were re-elected: Robert Whytehead (Chair), Cliff Gully (Secretary), and Sean Gubbins (Treasurer). Patrick Vernon was elected to the Committee. It was with great pleasure that we saw Joan Potter's many years of volunteering at the Archives recognised in a presentation by Ted Rogers, with the Archives' staff.

The AGM was followed by an extremely well-received talk by Rober Rider on the history of **Hackney's cinemas**. In their heyday these provided a large number of places for entertainment for Hackney's residents, with interesting social stratification at some, and considerable pretensions to grandeur. However their fortunes waxed and wained, many changed ownership and names, and of course

ultimately closed. Their recall stimulated many memories for audience members. We are most grateful to Robert for his comprehensive talk, much of which he first prepared when programmer at the Rio Cinema.

In December we held a talk by Patrice Lawrence on **Hoxton Hall**, from its origins to the present day. She stressed how rooted the Hall was in the local community, whether as a music hall; temperance hall; or later place of varied entertainments, providing a resource that all could use. This responded to the changing needs of society, and the social and political demands of the day. Volunteers from the 1970s and 80s were in attendance and helped fill out the social role of the Hall, and how vital it had been to the community. Patrice's talk was greatly appreciated, and demonstrated the wealth of detail that can be extracted from Hackney Archives, where the Hall's archive is held.

We hope to confirm talks for 2017 shortly, please keep an eye out on our website Events pages for notification of them.



Saving Hackney's Stocks! - Update

The project to save Hackney's stocks and put them back on public display is underway. For about 100 years the stocks could be seen in St John-at-Hackney's churchyard, until they were vandalised in 1999. Taken for safekeeping to a nearby garden, they remained there ever since, most recently in the open, exposed to the elements.

We are very pleased to state that Hackney Council have come up trumps, particularly thanks to Councillor Geoff Taylor, with support from the then Mayor, Jules Pipe. With their help, the stocks were professionally

moved in April 2016 to be stored at a LB Hackney Parks depot. There, safe and protected from the weather, they are drying out, ready to be restored. A conservator's report had been prepared on what needs to be done to conserve and restore them to a state where they can be put back on public display.

Two other Friends, Robert Whytehead and Iain Bruce, and I have taken it upon ourselves to see this project through. Now we need to secure the funds to restore them and find a place to return the stocks to public view.

Sean Gubbins

Hackney Archives' Current Exhibition:

From 15/11/12: come see a fabulous exhibition at Hackney Archives curated by young people from Stormont House School for the centenary of the former local World War 1 hospital. This is the culmination of a project previously described in the Terrier.

During the start of WW1 The Red Cross rented Stormont House situated in Hackney Downs Park for use as an auxiliary hospital. Although a school, the building was converted for use as a military hospital and was officially opened on 29th January 1916.

Stormont House Centenary is a partnership project between Fifth Word Theatre, Hackney Museum, Hackney Archives and is supported by Hackney Council's Leisure and Green Spaces. The project commemorates the lives of the staff and patients at Stormont House hospital during WW1 with community members and young people from Stormont House school. Further details of this project are at: <http://communities.fifthword.co.uk/current-project> where you can find a film about the project and how the school pupils, and others, used the Archives and Museum, and what they gained from this.



Twitter feeds linked to Stormont House School:

<https://twitter.com/StormontHouse>; and the Canadian War Museum: <https://twitter.com/hashtag/WW1?src=hash>

ESOL & Hackney Archives:

We're very pleased to report that ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes, led by Hackney Learning Trust, are being held at Hackney Archives over a 6 week period. We saw the first class of the term join us on a tour and introduction to the Archives, as well as using our R.A. Gibson photographic archives to inspire their learning & teaching content. We look forward to continue working with the Learning Trust in the future.



Volunteers wanted for box making parties!

Hackney Archives is about to start an exciting project to rehouse negatives from the Gibson collection into new packaging before they are professionally digitised as part of the Changing Faces, Hidden Stories project. We are looking for volunteers to spend a few hours a week helping us make the boxes and sleeves and meet other like-minded people.

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 To register your interest email us at: Archives@Hackney.gov.uk

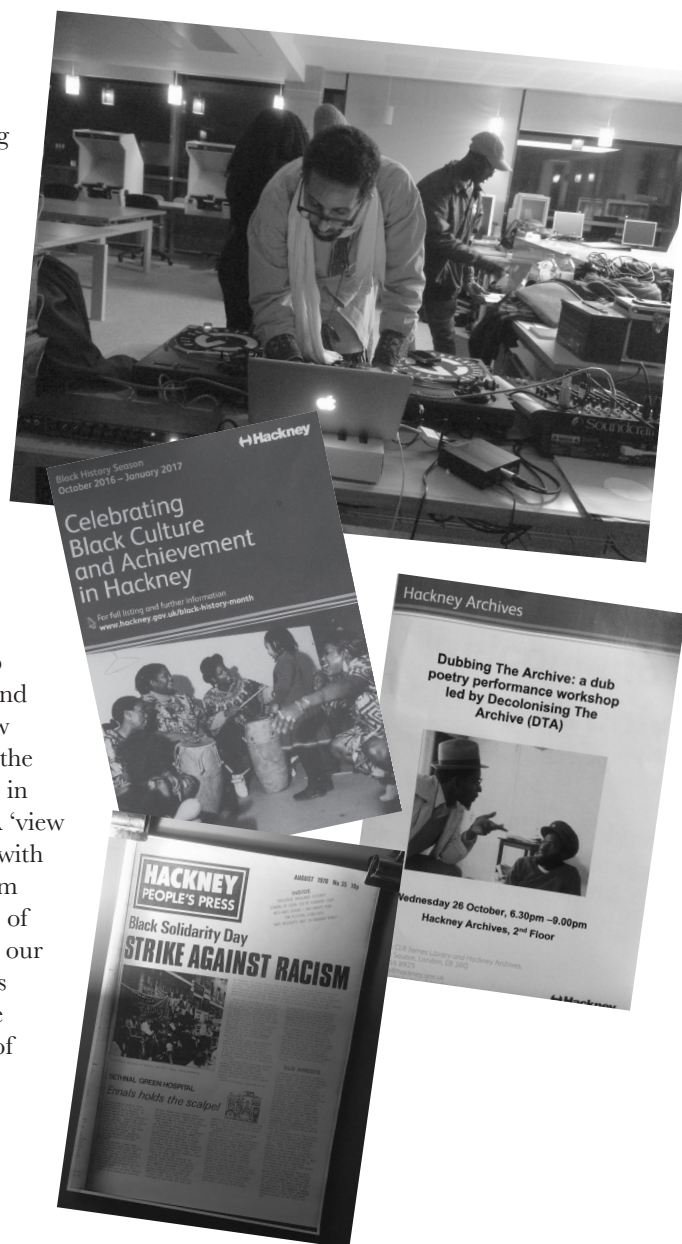
Black History Season 2016

Dubbing the Archive

As part of Black History Season, Hackney Archives Service worked in partnership with community consultants Decolonising the Archive (DTA) who delivered creative outreach events that took us on an exciting journey to re-imagine, diversify and transform how we see Hackney Archives and its history. We experienced the phenomenon of dub poetry through music, film, archive and performance – highlighting poets like Linton Kwesi Johnson, Mikey Smith and Jean ‘Binta’ Breeze, and explored connections to local people and movements as Hackney Archive collections were revealed, remixed and reimaged live in the public search room. Live musicians helped everyone create their own dub poem, speaking out about issues that were important to them. Our archival copies of Hackney Peoples Press and an amazing collection of photographs were amongst those that inspired discussion on serious issues still affecting many people today.

The ongoing aim and legacy of DTA’s work is to ‘sustain and share Black memory for collective well-being’ and to help everyone explore questions like ‘What exactly our history is, and the most culturally appropriate ways of working with it’, ‘How we remember things and why’ and ‘Devising ways to dissolve the barriers between our communities and the heritage locked up in large institutions which is of relevance to us’. Ultimately DTA ‘view history as something which lives, and therefore must be dealt with in living ways’. At Hackney Archives, we enjoyed learning from DTA’s philosophy and wish to continue to build a new culture of community engagement and radical heritage approaches into our core work, so that everyone feels a sense of belonging and sees themselves reflected in Hackney’s rich and diverse past. While still upholding the Archives as a trusted and accountable site of deposit for the Borough’s local authority records, the Service (in collaboration with our partner team at Hackney Museum) is keen to develop a legacy of more equitable alliances, community-generated histories, and a culture of delivering shared heritage for all.

Joanne Anthony Archives Manager



Forthcoming Exhibitions at Hackney Museum

Madhouse, My House? Will run from 2nd February - 13th May

Until the 1980s many people with learning disabilities were forced to live in hospitals for ‘idiots’, ‘imbeciles’ and the ‘feeble minded’. Explore life at St. Leonard’s using the stories of two ex-patients: Harvey Waterman and Mabel Cooper. This interactive exhibition was researched and created by members of Access All Areas, a Hackney-based theatre company that works with people with learning disabilities.

The Golden Age of Social Housing? Life on the Gascoyne Estate will run between 14th February and 3rd June.

Exploring the role that social housing played in the lives of Hackney’s communities through the words, films, family photographs and memories of Gascoyne Estate residents.

www.hackney.gov.uk/museum

Using the Gibson Collection

A Journey through Photographs – The Changing Faces of Hackney



At the heart of the sessions was the story of Vivian Usherwood. Vivian was born in Jamaica and moved to Hackney as a child. He attended Hackney Downs School (now Mossbourne Academy), where his talent for writing poetry was noticed by teachers. A book of his poems, published by Centerprise in 1972 when Vivian was 12 years old, went on to sell thousands of copies.

We don't know much more about Vivian's story, but Kwame Asiedu and Vivienne Isebor, the creative freelancers who ran this year's Key Stage 2 sessions, imagined it and brought it to life. The session saw Kwame and Vivienne acting, singing, taking the children on a sensory trip to the Caribbean and helping them to think about how they can make positive changes in Hackney today. Children who took part said that the session made them feel "alive" and "powerful".

The workshops highlight the important work that the museum does in uncovering less well-known stories of inspiring Hackney people and sharing them with all of our visitors.

Josie Stevens

This event during Black History Season was held on 20th October.

The original promo for this Gibson event said: Do you remember R.A. Gibson's Photographic Studio in Clapton? Did you or your family have their photograph taken there? Would you like to know more about this fascinating studio that captured the diversity of Hackney's people from 1950s - 1970s? Staff and volunteers at Hackney Archives are putting the collection online for all the world to see and we need your help! Come and find out how you can help us to bring the collection to life and get tips about researching your family history in Hackney and the wider world.

Our tweets from the event said: Great session @Archives Hackney recruiting local people to help prepare our Gibsons' photo studio negatives for digitisation.

Thanks to all, incl @AutographABP who came to tonight's RA Gibson photo studio event @ArchivesHackney One more family photo identified too!

People Power workshops at Hackney Museum

Hackney Museum's 2016 Black History Season workshops for local primary schools took place in October and November with over 2000 children, aged 5-11, taking part in free sessions inspired by our current temporary exhibition People Power: Black British Art in Action (closed 21st January).





Lower Clapton Heritage Project

The Friends of Hackney Archives were kindly invited by Carolyn Clark to have a bookstall at the very successful The People's History event which she describes here:

During 2016, Lower Clapton Heritage Project volunteers were busy collecting local memories and stories as well as photos and material about Lower Clapton over the last 100 years. These were showcased at a free event in the Round Chapel on Sunday 13th November attended by about 500 people. As well as the extensive exhibition, there were film, stalls, Pearly Kings and Queens, a young people's view of the area following photographic workshops with Hackney Quest, and storytelling. The East End Women's Institute provided tea and cakes, and the stalls included the Prefab Museum and East London Family History Society. A history map of Lower Clapton was launched on the day with free copies available. A film was shown at the event of Brian Walker's memories of the area and this is now on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWkaKj95RVw>

Lower Clapton Heritage Project is run by the Hackney Historic Buildings Trust supported by funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Hackney Museum and Archives were represented there, too, as **Josie Stevens** reports:

Lower Clapton: The People's History

On Sunday 13th November, elements of Hackney Museum and Archives went on tour to The People's History event at The Round Chapel. It was a very special and very busy day which we were pleased to be a part of, alongside many other local organisations.

We took along prints from the Archives' collection of photographs taken at Gibson's photo studio in the 1970s, which was located opposite The Round Chapel and is now a craft beer shop. Also on show were Some the Museum's Suitcase Stories (collections of objects that tell the migration story of a local person). We have over 20 suitcases in our handling collection, and we chose to share the stories of Mary, who came to Hackney from Trinidad as part of the Windrush generation, and Mohamed, who came as a refugee from Sierra Leone in 1999. Both the photographs and the suitcases were really interesting conversation starters for visitors of many ages and backgrounds. The event was a powerful reminder of the importance of understanding and remembering the past in enabling us to be more unified in the present.

Thanks to the Lower Clapton Heritage Project for running the event and for inviting us to be a part of it.

All of a Twitter

Referencing associated tweets in relation to projects and research shows the lively and immediate ways that discoveries, or events can be announced, or questions asked and answered. Hackney Archives and Museum now actively Tweet and this is a great way to keep up with what is going on. Jacoba Mijnsen, who has been helping out at the Archives, explains more about their use:

The Archives on Twitter

Writing about the use of social media in the Archives is not as easy as it sounds. Tweets, after all, are only 140 characters, but explaining why tweeting is a good idea and how to do it can require rather more than that.

Perhaps the best way to describe the reason why you tweet is gaining a new audience. Surprisingly, and despite the excellent work by the team at Hackney Archives and the Friends, there are still people around who do not know anything about the work of archives or what you can find in them.

Continued page 8



The Methodists of Stoke Newington

Think Dissenters and Stoke Newington: Quakers probably come to mind. The Friends' burial ground is still to be found off Yoakley Road; Clissold Park's mansion house was built by a Quaker, whose brother, Samuel Hoare, and other prominent co-religionists, lived in Paradise Row.

It was the Methodists, though, who were the largest non-conformist grouping in Stoke Newington at prayer in 1903. They established their first congregation in the area in 1814, 36 years after the Wesley Chapel was built in City Road. Two years later, amidst the open fields of the Tyssen estate, the Methodists built their first church on Stoke Newington High Street, a fact which their successors celebrated in November 2016, with the opening of a new building on the same site.

According to records still kept by the Minister, the first church was small: 48ft long, 30ft wide, 25ft high. To accommodate a growing congregation, it was rebuilt in 1851. Bombed during WW2, the church was rebuilt in 1957, to be replaced in 2016 by the 4th building on the site, designed by Julian Cowie architects. The only other surviving Methodist congregation in Stoke Newington is on Green Lanes. A later plant, of 1872, stood picturesquely beside the New River; the first church there was also destroyed in WW2. Its post-war replacement has recently been rebuilt, designed by Julian Cowie as well.

After the death of the founding father of Methodism, John Wesley, in 1791, some Methodists broke away from the mainstream Wesleyans to form their own 'connexions', building their own places for worship and mission in the area. These tended to be in the south of the parish of Stoke Newington, north of Newington Green, which was being built up from the 1850s.

The only surviving buildings, built as places of Methodist worship, but no longer used as such, are the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Amhurst Park and the Primitive Methodists' Church in Northwold Road. The latter became a synagogue in 1955 and Sunstone Gym in 1992, until it closed in 2014.

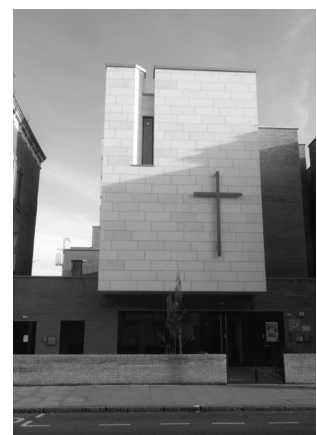
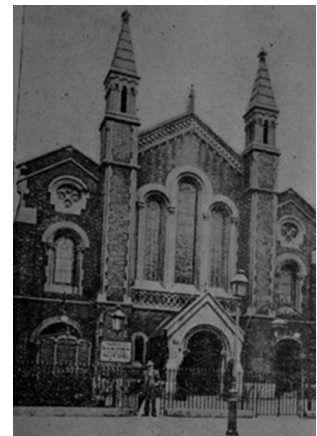
Further down Northwold Road, George Whitefield, one of the founders of Methodism along with John Wesley and his brother Charles, preached in 1739 on Stoke Newington Common to crowds reported

to have been 20,000 strong. It is difficult to imagine today's Common holding that number, but, of course, not having lost much of its area to later building, the Common, once having stretched all the way to the High Street, was larger then.

George Whitefield visited Fleetwood House in today's Stoke Newington Church Street (the site of the fire station). Neighbouring Abney House was visited by John Wesley, when in 1740 he called on Dr Isaac Watts, who was living with the Abney household. So through those very gates of the old house, now the Church Street entrance to Abney Park cemetery, walked the father of Methodism himself, nearly 300 years ago.

The grounds of Abney House, which became Abney Park Cemetery, were the last resting places of a number of Methodist ministers, including two Presidents of the Wesleyan Conference. Other prominent Methodists buried there are Sir Hugh Owen, a founder of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth; the playwright George Linnaeus (yes, son of a seedsman) Banks, who wrote a play 'The Slave King' for Ira Aldridge, a leading black actor of the Victorian era; and two members of the Loddiges family (of Hackney Botanic Garden fame) who married into Methodist families. Some of the most prominent graves in the cemetery must be those of William Booth and members of his family. Booth started off as a Methodist Minister, before breaking away to form the Salvation Army in 1865. In the north of the cemetery, buried in a pauper's grave, lie the remains of Betsi Cadwaladr, a remarkable person. Born in 1789, one of a Methodist Minister's 16 children, after a life of domestic service and sailing around the world as a maid to a sea captain, she travelled at the age of 65 to the Crimea to help nurse British soldiers. There she worked, but did not get on, with Florence Nightingale.

There are two other connections between Stoke Newington and John Wesley. John's father, Samuel, went to school in Newington Green at Dr Morton's Academy, also attended by local boy Daniel Defoe. Towards the end of his life, Wesley stayed with his friend, London upholsterer Charles Greenwood, who was living in 1781 in Palatine Road, not too far south from today's church in the High Street.



A Dancing Academy and the Musical Hughes Family

Some questions have arisen from Wendy Pepper's research into her father's family and she has turned to the Friends in case anyone can assist her. Her research so far:

My father, James Stanford Hughes, was born at 141 Southgate Road, Islington on 19 April 1901. He married my mother, Gertrude Kathleen Florence Ewbank on 19 July 1938 at St Leonard's, Streatham. Reports of the wedding appeared in both the Streatham newspaper and the Islington Gazette:

"The groom and his parents are well-known in North London musical circles; he is a popular baritone. His father plays the clarinet in the BBC "Proms" orchestra and his mother is principal of a dancing academy".

My grandmother who ran the academy was Elizabeth Ada Hughes (nee Deaton), who died in October 1950, when I was 6, but I have photos of my brother and me in costumes she brought for us to wear, so I guess she put on

shows. I wonder where the academy was and what was its name?

The Hughes family were living at 141 Southgate Road at the time of the 1891 census, although for some reason my great grandfather, Francis Hughes, called himself Frank Smith. It's definitely the same family.

My grandfather, also called James Stanford Hughes, died on 6 January 1951. The family was split over his will and probate wasn't granted until 19 November 1951. I've hunted for a report of the court case without success – Probate court case records are destroyed after 7 years and visits to the British Library, Islington and Hackney Archives were unsuccessful.

Any help your Friends can give would be much appreciated.

Wendy Pepper, 25 Cofton Church Lane, Cofton Hackett, Birmingham B45 8PS
wendy_pepper@btinternet.com

All of a Twitter continued

Twitter is a way of presenting yourself to the world that is easily accessible for all and simple to use. The question is more what to tweet about than why you should do it. In the stores there is an abundance of interesting stories waiting patiently for someone to come and find them. Which of those should you pick?

Other things also need to be taken into consideration. Posting something on Twitter does not necessarily mean that anyone will see it, and hopefully like it. It needs to be visually attractive and therefore have an image that goes with it. It needs to be linked in some way to what is going on in the world at the moment, or at least in the Twittersphere. A photograph of an advertisement for Ibbetson's Tea on Mare Street from 1880 on #InternationalTeaDay ticks all those boxes very nicely.

The challenge remains with showing off those stories not so well illustrated or linked to current events. Some of the documents that have passed through my hands at the enquiry desk these last two months have amazing tales to tell. Recipe books on how to make cordials from 1844 or drainage plans for properties that were bombed in WW2; the list is endless. How do you choose, and how do you condense all you want to say in those pesky 140 characters?

I suppose this is something where the Friends of Hackney Archives can contribute. The fount of knowledge gathered

by your members could and should be made public. Therefore the next time you pop over to the search room and find an exciting little titbit, write a tweet. You should also follow the Archives and Hackney Museum Twitter accounts and see what else there is waiting to be discovered. Who knows what interesting stories you will find!

Jacoba Mijnsen, @ArchivesHackney, @HackneyMuseum

"Popular Tweet!" Anyone remember the Venus pencil factory in Lower Clapton Road?

This image was one of our most popular tweets. Thanks to volunteer Kate Starling for bringing it to our attention!



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