

The Hackney Terrier



HACKNEY ARCHIVES NEWSLETTER

No.60
SUMMER
2002

DEER FOOT
The RENOWNED INDIAN RUNNER, and the
ENGLISH

THE GREAT RACE
CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE WORLD,
ON GOOD FRIDAY

WHITE LION

RACE GROUNDS

WICK,
STATION,
11th, 1863.
before his departure for the
ARIES.

Proprietor, Mr. W. PARNELL
Manager - Mr. W. PRICE
VICTORIA PARK STATION,

4 MILES FOR £50

FRONT RUNNERS
The First Athletic Track Champions
WARREN ROE

G. HAZ
J. FL
HACK
ON GOOD F
TO 5
Previous to the above, a ONE
Third, 10s. Winners of Heats, 5s.
new

ADMISS
EAST
A 400 YARDS HANDIC
Trains every 15 Minutes

ENGLAND
ruggle for victory, or if defeated, in
rod, and successfully dared, to com-
e names and the pretensions of the
to be expected.
SSION One Shilling.
Town—Return Tickets only 6d.
ENTER, HACKNEY WICK

E.
X
NGAP
ickets, 6d.

Foreword by
SEBASTIAN COE

IN THIS
ISSUE:

New to Hackney Archives: Acquisitions, Deposits, New Projects. Features: The Golden Jubilee of 1887. Reviews: Front Runners, Under Hackney. Friends' Interests: Family History connections.

New publication Front Runners and White Lion Posters

New to Hackney Archives

Acquisitions and Cataloguing

The visual collections here have long included a photograph of a sitting of South Hornsey Local Board c 1893. An enlarged framed print, overpainted in oils, has now been transferred from Hackney Town Hall and added to the collections.

Archive acquisitions since April 2002 have included the records of Christians in Hackney Aids Initiative records from c1986-2002, a further transfer of modern LB Hackney Committee signed minutes and the research papers of Martin Bailey, who published the directory *Stoke Newington Lifestyles* in 1987. The Aids Initiative records do not include any personal material and will be open to consultation once listed.

Listing is in progress on the business records of Howard Wall Ltd, taken in last year. There has been a small amount of cataloguing of recent book acquisitions, including the Friends *Under Hackney* book and a recent biography of William Allen, a prominent early 19th c Quaker resident of Stoke Newington.

Projects

The next A2A bid, *Campaigning London*, led by the Greater London Archives Network, has been duly signed off by David in his capacity as GLAN chair and sent off to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The bid will include a substantial Hackney group of lists, covering nonconformity, unions, charities and local societies.

Hackney Webcat is the bid to complete the retroconversion of the remaining parts of the local history library from

manual card form on to ADLIB. If the bid is successful, then it will enable us to go live on the internet search engine we already hold in readiness.

Office News

The new post of Archivist, shared with the Bishopsgate Institute and Hackney Archives Department has been advertised. The post holder will be responsible for the archives and visual collections of the Bishopsgate Library and undertake a mixture of searchroom work and listing at HAD. The initial contract will be for a year, with renewal subject to funding. Interviews for the post will be in mid August 2002.

There have been two two-week placements by work experience students in May. James Woodward and Zafar Abbas Naquvi both enjoyed their period with us, working on scanning images and other duties. Two other volunteers are due to start shortly. Celia Pilkington is to begin a two day a week placement on 25 June as a precursor to making applications for a place on an archive course. Colin Brooking volunteered through the Hackney Society meeting and is likely to give a day a week from later this summer.

Around forty people attended our open day on Saturday 27 April 2002.

Publications

Still no news from Sutton Publishing on re-issuing *Hackney Homerton and Dalston* (out of print) or *More Light More Power* (very few copies left at HAD). David is continuing to work on a projected new book to be produced by Breedon Books *The Highways of Hackney* on street name origins etc.

Glimpses of Hackney and the Chasereau map of Shoreditch are back in stock. The East of London FHS are in the course of preparing their next census names index, Hackney 1891, for publication in CD ROM form. Congrat-

ulations to the Friends on the appearance of *Under Hackney*, on sale at HAD and on the new book list.

Friends' AGM

The Annual General Meeting for 2002 took place on the 24th June. Isobel Watson, as Chair, presented her account of the year's activities, most of which have been covered in the *Terrier* as they took place.

The publications programme had leapt into life with the opportunity to publish Bill Hall's video 'Church Street: the Narrow Way', which the Friends were offering free of charge to Hackney secondary schools as well as making available for sale to the public.

It continued with the long-awaited archaeology text 'Under Hackney', which was now in print, and which had been realised with support from the Museum of London and its Archaeology Service, and paid for in large part out of a grant from the lottery-funded Awards for All scheme. Copies were being offered free of charge to all Hackney schools.

The accounts for 2001, showing a healthy balance, were presented by Michele Guimarin and approved. David Mander presented the Borough archivist's report. He thanked Joan Potter for her continued work on the visual collection; the Friends for support especially at the Open Day, and through the donations fund. He proposed Martin Taylor as an honorary member, in thanks for his support for the Friends and his research and publishing while a staff member. This was agreed unanimously.

The following Committee was elected: Isobel Watson (Chair), Kay Owen (secretary), Michele Guimarin (Treasurer), Committee: Josephine Boyle, Betty Gough, Mike Gray, Cliff Gully, Bill Hall, Cam Matheson, Joan Potter, Maureen Taylor. The Hackney Society rep. is Michael Kirkland.

Features

Vivat Regina !!! or What Will She Give The Nation ?

Reflections on the local celebrations pertaining to Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee of 1887

The wall to wall media coverage of our recent Jubilee celebration has prompted me to delve into the rich newspaper holdings at Hackney Archives Department and gain some overview of that other Golden Jubilee in the far off summer of 1887.

The national celebrations began in earnest in the June of that year. Queen Victoria, still in the black of mourning, rode in an open landau to Westminster Abbey where over 50 Kings, Queens and heads of state attended a celebratory service made poignant by Handel's music and a sung Te Deum composed by the late Prince Albert.



Thousands thronged the processional route, beacons were lit and over 30,000 children were treated to tea and buns in Hyde Park.

Local preparations for the Jubilee began slowly. On Saturday 22nd January 1887 W. E Corner Esq. suggested in

his letter to the editor of the Hackney Express/Shoreditch Observer that plans be put in place for the construction of harbours of refuge along the coast that would be "a truly national and substantial memorial of a great and rare occasion". Another perhaps more practical reader, suggested on Saturday February 19, that although certain that Shoreditch "will not spend out of the public money the price of a yard of bunting, cannot a few of the better men of the vestry consult upon the idea of establishing commodious baths and washhouses that would confer a lasting benefit on the inhabitants". The proposed site being given as Messrs Laurence's premises and the Haberdashers house in Pitfield Street. This reference probably relating to the Haberdasher Askes Almshouse and School in Pitfield Street.

Most of the socially minded readers of both the Hackney Gazette and Hackney Express pushed for a scheme whereby the local children could be included in the Hyde Park celebrations of the coming June. Much concern was directed at how the children should be selected and transported to the event. The residents of South Hornsey showing especial concern that their children should not be overlooked simply because they resided outside the metropolitan area. Discussions foundered in the first quarter of the year due to the ever-present problem of financing such a well-intentioned excursion.

On a more martial note, Shoreditch residents were enthralled by a "Military and Patriotic Festival" held in honour of the Jubilee at the town hall in March 1887. An "assault at arms" was conducted by the 2nd Life Guards who went through "excellent practice in cavalry sword and lance". Their exertions made to the accompaniment of the Band of the Scots Guards.

Also in March, the Rev. Robert Douglas M.A., Vicar of Kidsgrove, Stoke-on-Trent, treated the residents of

Hackney to a lecture that attempted to shed "Bible light on the Queen's Jubilee". The treatise being conducted in the Long Committee Room of Hackney Town Hall with the intention of providing a biblical interpretation of the coming royal event in terms of "What it shews as to our national origin and destiny". One can only speculate as to how many lecture attendees also visited the less cerebral attractions of the Guard's "assault at arms" in nearby Shoreditch.

OUR ROYAL JUBILEE.

A L E C T U R E

As under, will (D.V.) be delivered in

HACKNEY TOWN HALL,

(Long Committee Room) on

THURSDAY EVENING, THE 24th MARCH,

BY THE

REV. ROBERT DOUGLAS, M.A.,

Vicar of Kidsgrove, Stoke-on-Trent, Author of
"Ephraim England," &c., on

BIBLE LIGHT ON THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE,

Or What it shews as to our National Origin and
Destiny.

The Chair will be taken at 7.30 p.m. by the

REV. HERBERT MARRIOTT, M.A.,

Lately returned from Syria.

On Friday 9th March 1887 a meeting was held at Hackney Town Hall in order that the proposed local celebrations be discussed. The conference included representatives from the parish, clergy, members of Hackney Vestry, Trustee Board, Board of Works and who we would now term the great and the good covering the professions and local press.

Reverend A Brook M.A., Rector of St John at Hackney, later a leading light in Hackney's celebrations, voiced the

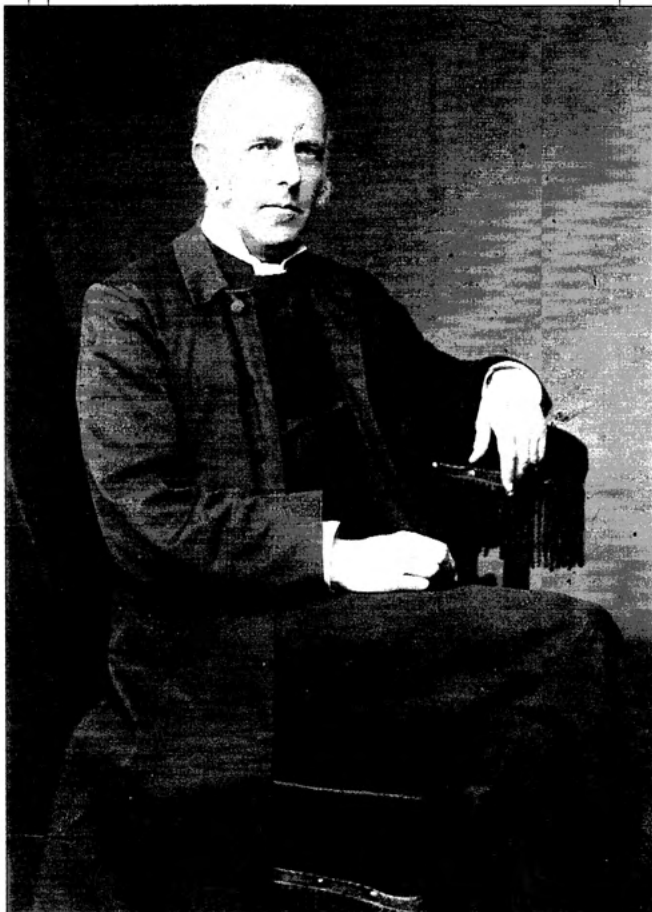
sentiments of many when he suggested that all attendees were "met together, bound by a bond of devotion to the Queen and in a spirit of thankfulness for the many blessings enjoyed in her reign".

this first meeting is indicative of Hackney's overall preparations for the Jubilee that start with large projects and high ideals, but eventually become pragmatic and concentrated upon local institutions such as the rectory or workhouse.

Approaching his final year as Rector of the church of St John at Hackney, Reverend Arthur Brook was not idle in his preparations for the Queen's Jubilee. Having participated in the inaugural meeting of the Jubilee committee at Hackney Town Hall, Brook perhaps understood more than most the way the wind was blowing. Following the natural inclination of a man of his calling, he embarked upon preparations to host a celebratory dinner in the parish rooms, rectory garden in aid of the aged poor of the borough. Brook was to be disappointed by the lack of financial support from his wealthier parishioners and was forced to confine the gathering to those residents in the immediate vicinity of the parish church. Financial worries apart, the day went well. On Wednesday 22nd June 1887 the old people were driven in brakes from the New Town Hall to a service at the church followed by the serving of "a dinner of a very substantial character". After dinner, the aged guests enjoyed "a capital entertainment of vocal and instrumental music" amply supported by Mrs Brook, the Rector's wife.

At a meeting of the Hackney Board of Guardians in Homerton in June 1887 agreement was finally reached as to how Hackney Workhouse and Infirmary would celebrate the Jubilee on the 21st. Discipline was to be relaxed and a special diet introduced whereby a repast of roast lamb, potatoes and greens be enjoyed. Inmates were also to enjoy a special allowance of 1oz. of tobacco "men only" and 1oz. of snuff "for women if required". After some dissent, an allowance of one pint of beer per inmate was also accepted. Some outrage was occasioned by the suggestion that the officers of the workhouse be awarded the generous

Arthur Brooks, Rector of Hackney



Thereafter the focus and direction of the meeting became blurred with many suggestions being mooted, centred on the possibility of building a suitable memorial for the Jubilee. The idea of constructing bathhouses was resurrected, or more ambitiously, the possibility of a memorial library being built. Such proposals are perhaps illustrative of the late Victorian obsession with cleanliness and literacy that pervades much of the thinking of the educated classes at this time. Other attendees, with minds more directed towards the practical needs of the poor suggested that perhaps pensions be established for the aged poor or at the very least a fund be created to provide Board schoolchildren with boots during the winter.

The lack of direction and consensus at

extra allowance of 3s.6d against the more paltry allowance of 1s. per inmate. Pressure from the West Hackney Ratepayers Association ensured that this motion was dropped and that the extra money was spent on the inmates, who enjoyed the day tremendously.

Vestry being described by one reporter as being "dreary puerilities; wherein the discussion of a few shillings occupies hours of personalities, whilst many thousands are voted without a word of criticism". Notwithstanding the eventual successful outcome, the Shoreditch Board of Guardians made itself a little ridiculous in the heated discussions that it conducted over many weeks in relation to the proposed celebrations at Shoreditch Workhouse. Tempers flared and egos were ruffled over the apparently simple task of deciding the inmates' menu for this special day.

At a meeting on Wednesday 10th June 1887 in Hoxton Street, Mr Marshall, a Guardian, clashed with the Chairman over his proposition that an allowance of one pint of beer be made to each inmate. Another Guardian, Mr Alabaster, felt that half a pint would be quite enough but that the inmates should be given sausages and potatoes instead of beef on Jubilee Day. Discussion in this vein dragged on interminably, with a Mr Heard stating that he was "glad to find that half a pint was considered sufficient to make a man jolly now, as in former times it used to take a quart!" Mr Buckea did not approve at all and asserted that "it was pints of beer that had brought a good many people to the workhouse in the first place". At close, the inmates got their pint, but had their sausages withdrawn in favour of beef as "It would be a cruelty to the inmates to give them pork sausages at the end of June".

By far the most successful and well received Jubilee proposal was mooted by a Mr E. Walker, Clerk of the Vestry in a letter to the Editor of the Hackney Express & Shoreditch Observer on the 4th June 1887. Under the title "The Jubilee-what is doing in Shoreditch?" Walker suggests a grand scheme to provide "a treat of tea, milk and cake to 2000 of the poorest school children of this parish who will be left out of the Hyde Park gathering". This suggestion was eagerly taken up and an appeal

Mare Street 1887, with a few jubilee flags flying



Individuals as well as institutions contributed to the celebrations. On Tuesday 21st June Mr R Rains of The Grove, a popular Hackney man, entertained over 500 local children with a display of mechanical toys, musical instruments, singing birds and a strange collection of "statuettes representing Roman warriors, war chariots and other devices".

Preparations in Shoreditch paralleled those of Hackney but were perhaps pursued with more vigour. The protracted discussions concerning the Jubilee by both Shoreditch Vestry and Board of Guardians did not enamour them to all. Deliberations by the

was launched for funds and also for volunteer teachers who would, in theory, keep the little darlings in check during the excitement of the festivities. A scheme to feed some of Shoreditch's aged poor was also integrated into the overall planning of the event which was set for Wednesday 22nd June at Shoreditch Town Hall.

One can imagine the excitement and anticipation of the children and old folk as the great day dawned. First to be entertained were the "ancients" who partook in a lunchtime repast that consisted of roast beef, carrots, potatoes and Bass's beer. Their day was made by the gift of 2oz. of tobacco for the men, and unlike Hackney, a quarter of tea for the ladies. All guests left with "a spick and span new sixpence". The vestrymen and helpers then steeled themselves for the onrush of children who were fed, watered and treated to a display of dissolving images. As with many well intentioned events, meaner souls were quick to start a rumour that the day was brought to a close prematurely due to the unacceptable behaviour of the children. This was vigorously denied by Walker in a letter of 2nd July where he stresses that the children "although jubilant, were also well behaved and kept in decent order by the teachers who managed their difficult task admirably". An unbearable atmosphere caused by defective ventilation, being given as a cause for the curtailment of the evening's entertainment.

Although not situated within the bounds of the borough, over ten thousand Hackney school children were entertained to amusements and refreshments in the Queen's Hall and grounds of the People's Palace for East London at Mile End. The scheme, generously funded by the Masters and Wardens of The Draper's Company, drew the children from the public elementary schools of Hackney and Tower Hamlets and was conceived as a direct result of the fear that local children would lose out in the Hyde Park celebrations. The events at the

People's Palace proved very successful with 20,000 local children being accommodated in four sittings between the 23rd and 24th June 1887. Only 9000 local children attended the larger gathering in Hyde Park due to the combination of excessive cost, and a natural inclination for local people to look east to a People's Palace already intimately associated with Queen Victoria in her Jubilee year.

The People's Palace was also to serve as a waypoint for a more extravagant spectacle that began and ended in Victoria Park. On the Saturday preceding Jubilee week an assemblage of more than 5000 attended a "unique processional demonstration" in support of the Hospital Saturday Fund. This "Grand Carnival Costume Jubilee State Procession" was marshalled in Victoria Park with the overall intention of marching to the Peoples Palace and thence back to the park by way of Cambridge Road, Bethnal Green Road, Bishopsgate, Shoreditch and Hackney Road. In an elaborate display of homemade costumes, William the Conqueror and the "Last of the Georges" mingled with an unlikely mix of Spanish matadors, cowboys and indians and knights in armour.

The mile-long processional cortege also included many local worthies such as Guardians, Vestrymen, Hospital Saturday delegates as well as many philanthropic and benefit societies that included the likes of the Sons of the Phoenix and the Independent Order of the Good Templars. For those unlucky enough to fall into the ornamental lake, help was at hand in the form of the Dauntless lifeboat drawn by horses and manned by a dashing crew of 16, arrayed in uniform. A spectacle of illuminations and fireworks greeted the cortege on its return to Victoria Park by nightfall. Despite early misgivings about possible displays of radicalism in a park that once formed the meeting ground for the Chartists, the event was, on the whole, good humoured. Regrettably, the Jubilee spirit was not apparent in all

revellers as arrests were made for assault, theft and drunkenness.

Little mention is made of individual or family celebrations concerning the Queen's Jubilee. Both in the Hackney Gazette and Express there is a feeling that the area was somewhat removed from the centre of Jubilee activity, and that on the whole Shoreditch performed better in its celebratory events. Even the private illuminations were more notable in Shoreditch with Hackney not showing much light or decoration. Mare Street being described in the Hackney Express of 25th June 1887 as being "comparatively dull for the want of light". It was Darnley Road that saved the day being "very prettily decorated by festoons of Chinese lanterns".

**GAS FITTINGS,
ILLUMINATIONS
FOR THE JUBILEE.**

—

G. WILCOX & CO.
CHAMPION BOILER WORKS
85, OLD STREET, LONDON,
Opposite Golden-lane.
HOT WATER AND GAS ENGINEERS,
AND BOILER MAKERS,
STOVE AND RANGE MANUFACTURERS.

—

NOTE THE ADDRESS—
85, OLD STREET, LONDON,
(OPPOSITE GOLDEN LANE.)

Apart from a more general support for the good causes, local commerce did not appear to change its practices in honour of the Jubilee. Few special Jubilee advertisements appear in any of the local papers pending the celebrations. Notable exceptions included an advert in May for a "Jubilee Elocutionary Competition- First Prize £50-00" offered by W.H.Woollven, Butcher of Upper Clapton and the giving of "A Grand Jubilee Concert" in Morley Hall, Triangle, Hackney on Saturday

16th April 1887 under the "immediate patronage of Sir W.Guyer Hunter M.P". Rather incongruously, W.H Tilley's advertisement for Jubilee gas stars and illuminations sits uncomfortably close to an advert for "Keating's Worm Tablets", a cure-all for ills caused by worms in children.

GAS ILLUMINATIONS.
A Large Stock o
GAS STARS
AND
LETTERS
FOR THE
QUEEN'S JUBILEE,
Suitable for SHOPS and PUBLIC BUILDINGS on hand.
Gas devices of every description made to order.

W. H. TILLEY,
GASFITTER,
53, KINGSLAND ROAD, CITY END, E.

At the close of the Jubilee year one can gauge a genuine feeling that Britain was moving into a golden age with impressive strides being made in political freedoms, science, literature and "the arts of civilised life". A certain sense of ambivalence to Royalty and the Jubilee persisted and can be felt in letters, poetry and in the year-end retrospectives of many of the local papers. The dark years of Victoria's seclusion and mourning had taken their toll on the popularity of the monarchy, leaving some local residents either uninterested or negatively disposed to celebrating the Jubilee. Public attention was also directed towards the world at large, with tensions increasing on the border of Canada and the United States, and with the ever-present problem of the "Irish Question" which was described by the Hackney Express as being "the one dark spot in her Majesty's Jubilee".

As with our recent celebrations in 2002, local newspaper coverage concentrated on either royalist opinion or radical fervour with conflicting views being propounded by recourse to letter or by the more artistic medium of

poetry. The following extracts of poems published in the Hackney Gazette and Express being good examples of the contrasting local mood surrounding the Jubilee:

Our Queen

God, in thy mercy, cast thy mantle of protection round our Queen.
Let the sunset of her ruling be grandly glorious and serene.
Let neither anarchy nor war disquiet her declining days.
But let her clemency deserve her loyal subjects' ardent praise.
Endue her ministers with wisdom
To frame efficient, righteous laws
To act impartial unto all,
thus gain the nation's true applause
etc. **"A Claptonite."**

Re Jubilee

We hear of presents to the Queen,
Some of flunkey derivation;
But many anxious ask, as well-
What will she give the Nation ?
She must have made a mammoth pile
by careful derivation,
From public shows and regal gifts:
What will she give the Nation ?
While the poor starve, and hope has fled
from many a habitation,
The cash should go to them-not Guelph.
What will she give the Nation ?
etc. **"The Liberal Poet of Hoxton"**

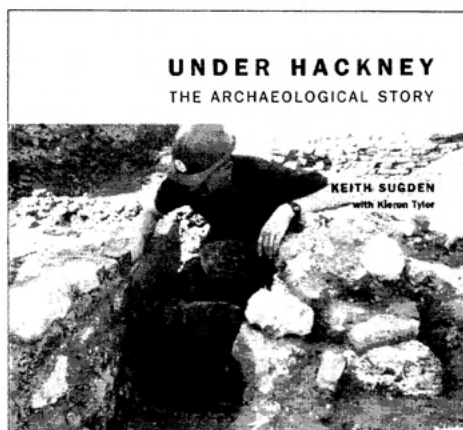
The Hackney Express/Shoreditch Observer of 4th June 1887 encapsulated the practical but benevolent intentions of Jubilee celebrants, stating that "there is no necessity why public money should be wasted over the Jubilee; the times are too bad and taxation too heavy; but there is every reason why the event should be celebrated by acts of kindness to children and aged people".

When assessed within this laudable and benevolent framework, the 1887 Jubilee celebrations in Hackney and Shoreditch can only be viewed as an unmitigated success.

Peter Kent

Book Reviews

Under Hackney The Archaeological Story



This introduction to the archaeology of Hackney examines the Borough period by period. It begins with intriguing evidence of its palaeolithic past and culminates in an account of its two late Tudor theatres erected on the site of the dissolved Holywell Priory, like their more famous Southwark counterparts, beyond the jurisdiction of the City.

Under Hackney is a well-produced booklet with some fascinating archive photographs. There is much that will be of interest here not only for those who reside or work in the borough but for all who wish to learn more about the component parts of a seemingly ever-changing London. Important local discoveries stand out. These include the palaeolithic 'floors' with stone tools perhaps some 200,000 years old from Stoke Newington and the mammoths and woolly rhinos from the cold tundra environments as well as the elephants and hippos from the savannahs of the warmer periods that may have perished close to ancient versions of the river Lea. Also reported is a serendipitous recent find, the canoe, retrieved by an unsuspecting digger driver in 1987 from the environs of the Lea dendrochronologically dated to the late Saxon period.

Hackney, as a Greater London Bor-

ough, is of course a modern administrative invention. Creating a coherent narrative from what was, until the nineteenth century, a combination of city margins, village centres and rural hinterlands crossed by ancient routes is not easy.

As the text makes clear, evidence for some periods is still remarkably thin: the Neolithic is represented largely by axe heads from the Lea Valley, the Bronze Age by three (unspecified) finds and 'no Roman settlement sites in the Borough have yet been discovered'. The archaeological evidence often adds little and is then set within a generalised period framework which might sound authoritative but is, at best, simplistic. To take one example, do archaeologists really 'know that the City of London was abandoned by the late fifth century'?

Another difficulty relates to the format. The natural and man made topography of the Borough, which might help to explain the ancient settlement pattern, requires more informative mapping. Such mapping might suggest that the elusive Roman settlement sites lie mainly in the north-east of the Borough on the high gravels between the Hackney Brook and the Lea.

Indeed much of modern Hackney lies on the gravel terraces of the Thames, which, both up river and down river from the City reveal dense and complex landscape, evolving from the Neolithic onwards. There is little reason to suspect that the pattern is dissimilar beneath modern Hackney. Some of the evidence for this is likely to have been destroyed unrecorded in the vast expansion of London during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries but some traces are likely to remain.

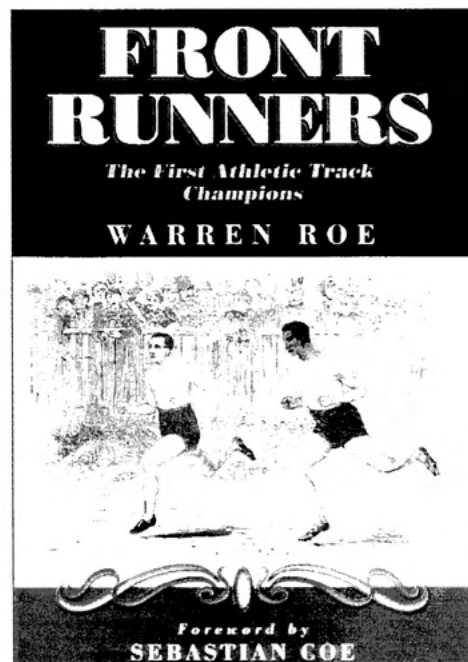
Fortunately, since in 1990, a more routine investigation of impending development sites in Hackney has taken place. That needs to continue, with detailed and where feasible large-scale investigations occurring. Ultimately this will produce a richer history of

Hackney, giving us more detail of the early human groups who survived by exploiting the flora and fauna on the margins of the glaciers.

Harvey Sheldon

Harvey Sheldon was the former head of the Inner London Archaeological Unit, precursor to the Museum of London Archaeological Service, who designed and oversaw the printing of *Under Hackney*. The book is a substantial revision of *The Archaeology of Hackney*, which appeared in 1977 and is long out of print. Harvey Sheldon is now course director of the MA in archaeology at University of London (Birbeck). He was until recently chair of the Council of the London And Middlesex Archaeological Society.

Front Runners by Warren Roe



Readers of *Hackney History 7* will recall Warren Roe's fascinating account of the role played, in the early history of professional athletics, by the White Lion Running Grounds, next to the tavern of that name at Hackney Wick. 'Front Runners' is the witty title of the book on which the article was based, now published by the Book Guild of Lewes. Centring on the White Lion (or 'Metropolitan') running grounds in their heyday from 1857 to their decline in the 1870s, the book deals with

amateur contests (the preserve of solicitors and stockbrokers) as well as with the professionals, who included several North American Indians – notably the celebrated Deerfoot – as well as working-class (and extremely hard-working) Englishmen and their contests up and down the country.

The book is written principally for athletics enthusiasts, but is full of interest from the perspective of social history, as well as the more obviously local angle. In many ways it is the achievement of one man that Hackney played a role in this story at all, because the running ground itself was nothing spectacular – quite the reverse. Indeed it was such a small space, rather tatty, with awkward corners, that Deerfoot expressed utter dismay when he first saw it.

James Baum, who followed his father as the proprietor of the White Lion, was the entrepreneur in question, and not only promoted athletics (then known as ‘pedestrian’) contests, but also boxing. In a business which, then as now, had its frauds and corruption scandals, Baum was notably honest and respectable, and promoted benefit matches at which ‘the competitors would wear proper costumes so that ladies could attend and help in the “Christian work”’. There is lots of fascinating detail, and extensive appendices deal with details of training and diet, and records of races won and records achieved. Alas, there is no index.

Front Runners is a racy read, attractively printed, and illustrated throughout with contemporary engravings and handbills. It is available in hardback only, at £16.95 (post free in the UK), from the Book Guild Ltd., Temple House, 25 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 2LU. Telephone 01273 472534 (fax 47672). Cheques to the Book Guild Ltd; credit card orders telephone 01825 723398.

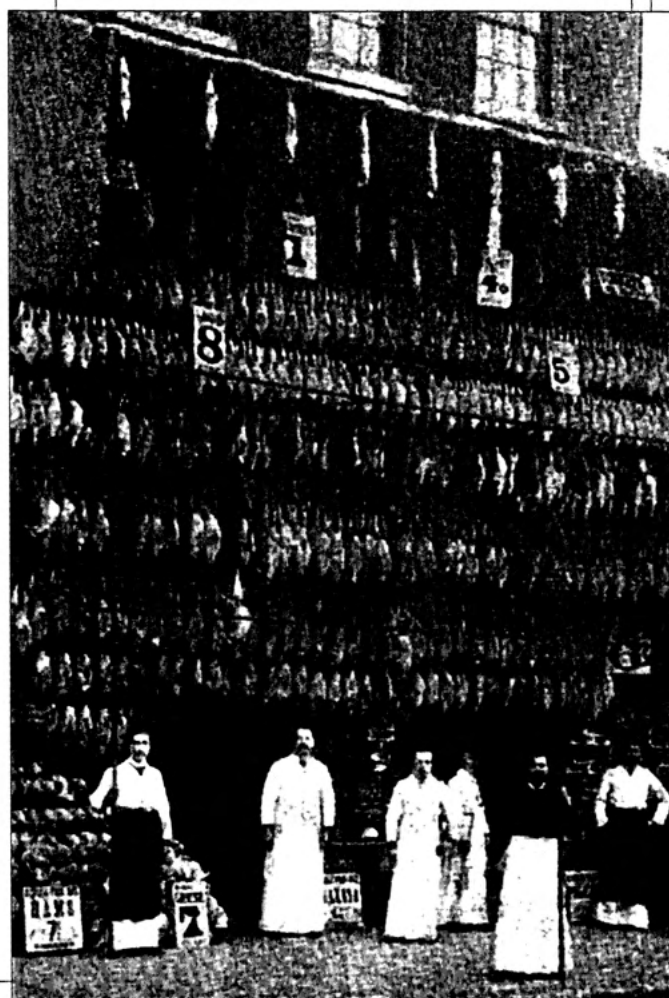
Finally, we are absolutely delighted to congratulate Warren on being nomi-

nated by the British Association for Local History for their 2002 Local History Award for services to local history in writing his article in *Hackney History* 7. We would, of course, dearly have loved him to win: but, in the circumstances, there is some satisfaction in his being declared, at the awards ceremony on 1st June, to be ‘runner up’!

Isobel Watson

In the next Terrier

In the next Terrier we will be featuring extracts from the London Illustrated News, including an article on Shaw’ & Co. Provision Merchant. The photograph below shows the very impressive ‘Shaw’s Great Sale of Poultry & Game’ at 140 Stoke Newington High Street. Shaw’s also had premises at Kingsland High Street and Broadway, South Hackney.



Friends' Interests

Readers may recognise ancestors in the enclosed list of children rescued from the Regents Canal at Hoxton during the period 1892/1898 by my grandfather **Thomas JACKSON of Whiston Street, Haggerston.**

He received various awards from the Royal Humane Society for his bravery. He was also presented with a Bible by the children of the Canal side. In all he saved over a hundred lives in the Home Counties. I have details of what occurred, and each rescue from the canal.

For an S.A.E. I will send a written account to any proved descendant.
Doris Langstaff, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. LU7 2LD

Thomas SMITH, Aged 6, Maidment Street, Haggerston Rescued 24.7.1892

William HARRIS, Aged 6½, Wilmot Gdns, Hoxton 3.6.1892

Arthur EDWARDS, Aged 8, Duncan Court, Shoreditch 15.4.1893

Albert MORRIS, Aged 8, St James Street, Hoxton North 18.7.1893

Violet GIBBONS, Aged 8, Lyndock Street, Kingsland Road 27.3.1894

Albert MAHER, Aged 6, Crescent Place, Hackney Road 26.8.1894

William WOOTTEN, Aged 5, Brunswick St, Haggerston 24.5.1894

J H BATTS, Aged 8, no address Drowned 20.6.1895

Thomas TOMKINS, Aged 12, Hyde Road, Hoxton. Rescued 29.8.1895

Fred CHANDLER, Aged 5, Duncan Road, Broadway, London Fields 28.7.1896

Jane STOREY, Aged 9, no address 5.7.1897

Ada BURROWS, Aged 8, no address 27.7.1897.

John COOK, Aged 7, no address 28.6.1898

Mrs G Hall, 41 School Road, Balmullo, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 OBA, would like to know any information connected with:

James DOLEMAN, Silk Weaver, daughter **Mary Sarah** married **John Henry TERRELL** on 25 May 1874 at the parish church of South Hackney, name unknown.

We can tell you Mrs Hall, that the church is called St John at Jerusalem and the records are at the London Metropolitan Archives. Hackney Archives has local history information on the church (including watercolours and photographs) and the census (by address) for 1871.

Please send your family and local history queries to Hackney Archives at the address below.

Hackney History Volume 8

The next mailing you receive from the Friends will be Hackney History Volume Eight, featuring: Quakers in Stoke Newington, the White Lead Works in Southgate Road, The Hackney Mad House Keepers, Hackney Workhouse in the 1920's and 'Surviving the Slump'. The next Terrier will be just before Christmas.

Credits & Contacts

The Hackney Terrier was produced by Michael Kirkland and David Mander. The Terrier is a quarterly newsletter distributed free to members of the Friends of Hackney Archives. Membership of the Friends is open to all. The subscription is £10 for each calendar year, (plus £2 for each additional member at the same address) or £20 (in sterling) for overseas members. Membership also includes a free copy of the annual journal, Hackney History.

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