



Bottom left photo by Sean Pollock (seanpollock.com), others by Paul Tyagi

Hackney Service Centre

Hackney Service Centre is an addition to the existing Town Hall. Opened in February 2010, it was built to house the Council's administrative staff and to make a place of contact for local residents. Council and ceremonial activities continue to take place in the Town Hall.

The building occupies five principal floors, with a main entrance from a plaza area on Hillman Street. At its heart is an atrium, housing the Council's public reception, the one-stop shop, with a waiting area, café and call centre. The accommodation on the upper floors is mainly open-plan workspace with areas for support, informal meetings,

break-out and tea points. The atrium allows visual connection between the public areas on the ground floor and the offices above.

Designed by Hopkins Architects Partnership, the Hackney Service Centre was a winner of the 2011 RIBA Awards for architectural excellence in the Commercial and Industrial category.

The BREEAM 'Excellent' building services specification demonstrates a 10% reduction in carbon emissions and 10% of energy generation from renewable sources. This is achieved by providing a combination of gas and wood pellet boilers as well as a large array of photovoltaic cells integrated into the glazed atrium roof.

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Building Watch

Churches at Risk

Three churches in Hackney are at risk from decay and neglect, according to a new report by SAVE Britain's Heritage. The Sight of Eternal Light Church in Shrubland Road is empty and vulnerable. Built in 1858 of corrugated iron, it is a rare surviving 'tin tabernacle'. Although St Michael & All Angels (1883-85) in Northwold Road has a healthy congregation, it urgently needs funds to remedy severe structural problems. In addition, St Barnabas in Shacklewell Row requires investment to reverse years of neglect.

London's Churches are Fighting Back by Edmund Harris identifies those churches most at risk from decay and neglect, celebrates successful rescues, and looks to the challenges ahead. It is available, priced £15 or £13 for Friends of SAVE, from SAVE (www.savebritainsheritage.org).



Pembury Estate

Plans to cover the Pembury Estate with insulating panels have been withdrawn. According to the estate's landlord, the Peabody Housing Association, the cladding would save residents money on energy bills. However, the residents themselves – the Pembury Tenants' and Residents' Association – opposed the proposals, saying the cladding would ruin the appearance of the buildings.

Wenlock Arms

In December 2011, Hackney Council extended the Regent's Canal Conservation Area to include the Wenlock Arms. This Hoxton pub has been under threat since the property developer Wenlock LLP announced plans to demolish it and build a five-storey block of flats. Supporters of the pub, the Save the Wenlock Society, campaigned to prevent the demolition and more than 500 letters were sent to Hackney Council. As part of a conservation area, the Wenlock Arms now has more protection. In addition, the pub has been put forward for inclusion in the locally listed buildings register.

Established in 1835, the Wenlock Arms was damaged by bombing during the night of 10/11 September 1940. It was

refurbished in the early 1990s and was voted North London CAMRA Pub of the Year in 1995, 1996, 2000 and 2004.

Campaigner Ed Grace describes the Wenlock Arms as 'an asset to the local and wider community and unlike any other place in London. It is a glowing ember of conviviality and humanity among the cold corporate monoliths of that part of town and if it is extinguished we will all be poorer. It is a hub for sports teams, cyclists, musicians, artists and consumers of traditional British beer, drawn by its uniquely friendly and tolerant atmosphere. People from all backgrounds and walks of life mingle here in a way which I have never before witnessed in London. Barristers and city traders brush shoulders with manual labourers and foreign visitors and all coexist respectfully and with



cheer. There is something extraordinary and special about this place and it is representative of many excellent aspects of British culture and heritage.'

Publications

Battle of Cable Street, 1936 by The Cable Street Group, **Battle for the East End** by David Rosenberg and **Everything Happens in Cable Street** by Roger Mills have been published to celebrate the 75th anniversary of The Battle of Cable Street. Five Leaves, £5.00, £9.99, £8.99, respectively.

Vintage Red: The Story of a Municipal Socialist by John Kotz is a memoir of an East End childhood and a career in the

Labour Party. The author was a member of Hackney Council and served as Mayor in 1963. Manifesto Press, £9.95.

London's East End Through Time by Michael Foley explores how the East End has changed over the last century. Amberley Publishing, £14.99.

London's Lea Valley – A Century of Growing: The History of the Lea Valley Growers' Association from 1911 to 2011 by Jim Lewis covers the history

of an association of pioneering market gardeners who helped feed the nation through two world wars, natural disasters, fuel shortages and more than one financial meltdown. Libri Publishing, £25.00.

Savage Messiah by Laura Oldfield Ford seeks to chronicle a disappearing London that is being privatised. This collection of the author's fanzine includes parts of Hackney and the Olympic site. Verso, £19.99.

Love Local Landmarks: an update

Love Local Landmarks, the Hackney Society's survey of locally listed buildings, is almost complete. Over the last 16 months, Lisa Rigg and Ann Robey have worked with a fantastic team of volunteers who photographed, surveyed and researched the buildings and street furniture on the local list as well as finding architectural and historic gems to add. In November 2011 the project's steering group – Kevin Moore, Robin Mallalieu, Julian Harrap, Ann Robey and Lisa Rigg – met to shortlist the proposed additions. Members of the Conservation Team at Hackney Council are currently reviewing our recommendations and preparing a report to take to Cabinet in March 2012.

Here is a sample of the photographs that were taken during the project with some information about the people who took them:

The Eagle by Brian Longman



The Eagle Public House, rebuilt in 1901, was surveyed and photographed by Brian Longman. Brian, who had previously lived in Hackney (1961-76, 1979-84) is now based in Ongar, Essex. Currently working as a CAD draughtsman for a building design company, he took part in the project because his hours had been reduced at work and he thought the project would be a good way to spend his newly acquired time and gain new skills. He says that the project enabled him to learn a lot about Hackney's fascinating history and to gain an appreciation of all periods of architecture.

George and Vulture by Stéphanie Bosset



The George and Vulture Public House, built c.1900 and reputedly the tallest pub in London, was photographed by Stéphanie Bosset. Stéphanie, who lives in Hoxton, trained in photography and web design and currently works doing both – although she says she enjoys the photography much more! Having joined the project because she was keen to find out more about her area, she says it helped her to discover places and buildings in Hackney she hadn't known existed as well as to learn more about the historic and protected buildings that she sees daily on her way to work.

Former Bedford Hotel by Pauline Moon



Former Bedford Hotel, built by the local builder Thomas Ennor (who also built the Britannia Pub down the road), was photographed by Pauline Moon. Pauline, who lives in Clapton, is currently studying photography and working as a lecturer in adult education. She was keen to help out on such a valuable project and really enjoyed the photography training.

The Old Blue Last by John Digby



The Old Blue Last, built in 1876, was photographed by John Digby. John joined the project because he wanted to apply himself to a technical photographic task. Aided by the training given, he feels he was able to help preserve Hackney's splendid building stock.

Former Albion Pub by Jean Taylor



Former Albion Public House, built in an Italianate style, was photographed by Jean Taylor. As a resident of Hackney for over 32 years, she wanted a chance to view the buildings of Hackney afresh and benefit from the excellent photographic training that she received.

Thanks to Kopykat for sponsoring this issue

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LOVE LOCAL LANDMARKS x

Hackney Society Events*

Cabbages and Kings: The Garden Scene in 16th and 17th Century Hackney

Thursday 8 March 2012, 7pm

Talk with Margaret Willes

At the end of Elizabeth I's reign, although Hackney was only two miles from the City of London, it was a rural community, its fertile market gardens feeding the capital. It also boasted one of England's most famous private gardens, that of Lord Zouche, looked after by the Flemish botanist, Matthias L'Obel. Margaret Willes develops these two very different horticultural themes in her illustrated talk, based on her recent book, *The Making of the English Gardener*.

Booking essential. Pages of Hackney, 70 Lower Clapton Road, E5 0RN. £3.00 (includes a glass of wine or a soft drink)

Love Local Landmarks

Thursday 29 March 2012, 6.30pm

Talk with Lisa Rigg

Lisa Rigg will discuss her project about locally listed buildings.

Booking essential. Hackney Museum Technology + Learning Centre, 1 Reading Lane, E8. FREE to all

The Villas of South Hackney

Sunday 22 April 2012, 11am

Walk with Laurie Elks and Paul Shakeshaft

This walk will explore the increasingly fashionable 'urban village' of South Hackney with particular emphasis on the fine mid-Victorian villas and the influence of Victoria Park on the social and architectural fabric of the area.

Booking recommended. Meet at cemetery gates, next to Elbows Café, 103 Lauriston Road, E9 7HJ. FREE to members, £5.00 non-members

Hackney Society News

Book Award The Hackney Society won a 2011 Walter Bor Media Award for its book *Hackney: Modern, Restored, Forgotten, Ignored* edited by Lisa Rigg. The award was announced at a ceremony on 14 December.

The Walter Bor Media Awards, which are presented every two years, commemorate Walter Bor, the first President of the London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies. They seek to promote high

standards in the material published in all media by member societies.

Funding Discover Hackney has awarded the Hackney Society a grant for an event in March as part of a series of learning activities in the borough. The funding will support a talk by Lisa Rigg at Hackney Museum on 29 March 2012 (see Events section for details).

New Hackney Society Publication To celebrate Hackney's role as an Olympic venue, the Hackney Society is preparing a new book. *Hackney through the Centuries: An Unexpected History* edited by Margaret Willes provides a snapshot of the borough during five eras: 1612, 1712, 1812, 1912 and 2012. The book will focus on the people who have lived in Hackney over the centuries in all their glorious variety: courtiers and actors, body-snatchers and dissenters, balloonists and horticulturalists, suffragettes and missionaries. This richly illustrated publication will not only surprise and delight those familiar with Hackney but also those who come as visitors in this Olympic year. Contributors are Juliet Gardiner, Matthew R. Green, Lisa Rigg, Ann Robey and Margaret Willes.

Noticeboard

A Taste of Hackney

Different Drum Productions has been awarded a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop an intergenerational project, A Taste of Hackney, which explores the history of Ridley Road Market. Pupils from Colverstone Primary School and members of Age UK Hackney are working with artists to create stories for a customised iPhone and Android app. The app will show how food, trade and immigration have helped create the market's identity. It will be available in May 2012.

Dalston Pineapple House

Plans are afoot to build a glasshouse – the 'Dalston Pineapple House' – in the Eastern Curve Garden. Hackney has a rich history of famous plant nurseries and 'hothouses', where tropical fruits like pineapples were grown. The Pineapple House will protect delicate plants over winter and allow the raising of herbs and vegetables from seed early in the growing season.

The glasshouse, which has been designed by Felix Xylander-Swannel with MUF architects, will be built in timber, glass and steel. An adjacent brick shed will include a demonstration 'living' green roof.

The London Development Agency and Timberland Earthkeepers have contributed funds for the building, but £10,000 is still needed. If you would like to make a donation or have a fund-raising idea to help build the Dalston Pineapple House, please email Marie at tellme@dalstongarden.com.

Regeneration of Estates

Hackney Council has granted planning approval for Phase 2 of the regeneration of the Haggerston West and Kingsland Estates. London & Quadrant Housing Trust is delivering the regeneration in partnership with Hackney Council, local residents, PRP architects and contractors Taylor Wimpey. Construction work will begin on Phase 2 in summer 2012, with a total of 394 new homes to be built, spread over five blocks. Phase 1, consisting of 367 new homes and a new state-of-the-art community centre, has been in construction since 2010, with the first three residential blocks due for completion in summer. The new development will provide homes for existing residents as well as a mix of new homes for rent, shared ownership and private sale.

Rededication of War Memorial

The memorial to soldiers killed in the First World War who had worked on the former North London Line was rededicated on Armistice Day 2011. Originally installed at Broad Street Station in 1921, the memorial was put in storage when the station closed in 1986. It was placed outside Hoxton Station following the opening of the new London Overground line from Dalston Junction to South London.

Opening of New Library

Dalston C.L.R. James Library opened to the public on 23 January 2012. A day later Hackney Archives re-opened its public searchroom. Although the complete archives are not yet available, people with an interest in Hackney history will be able to use local studies sources on open access such as maps, digitised photographs, local history reference books, and sources on microfilm and microfiche.

Spaces is published by the Hackney Society. Views expressed in the articles are not necessarily those of the Society.

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The Hackney Society is a registered Charity (No 107459) and Company limited by guarantee (No 04574188)

* Please check our website for up-to-date information and additional events that are organised throughout the year. Most of our events are free to Hackney Society members and £5 to non-members. For special and joint events there may be a charge for members. To avoid disappointment please book a place as some events have a limited number of places. To book email events@hackneysociety.org or phone 07771 225183.