



THE HACKNEY SOCIETY

SPACES 2008

News and views about Hackney's built environment

Double Issue 18/19 Winter 2008

Rivington Place

A new arts centre sits fortress-like on the corner of Rivington Place and Rivington Street in Shoreditch. The building, now home to the Institute of International Visual Arts and Autograph (the Association of Black Photographers), was designed by Adjaye Associates – the architectural practice of David Adjaye.

David Adjaye – a graduate from the Royal College of Art and the son of a Ghanaian diplomat – is like his buildings something of an architectural anomaly. In the world of architecture to be young (under 40), and black, is a rarity. In a profession that is dominated by white, middle-aged men his meteoric success hasn't gone unnoticed. One of his buildings, The Idea Store, in Whitechapel was awarded the RIBA Inclusive Design Award and nominated for the prestigious Stirling Prize in 2006. Adjaye was also recently awarded an OBE for services to architecture in the Queen's birthday honours.

Rivington Place represents a number of firsts – the first publicly funded exhibition space dedicated to cultural diversity, the first completed visual arts centre by David Adjaye, and the first new build public gallery in London since the Hayward Gallery opened its doors in 1968.

Rivington Place has all the design features that identify the building as Adjaye's work: the unusual choice of materials (a thick dark concrete façade combined with glossy black aluminium panels); the use of strip lighting; and a minimalist box with deeply recessed windows. The eight levels of window openings give the impression that the building is bigger than it actually is, as there are only five storeys to the building. The building is topped by a set of serrated skylights. Inside is a glass fronted gallery space facing onto Rivington Street; a double height project space; a lecture theatre; the Stuart Hall library; an education space used for a range of projects involving the local



community and schools; a photographic archive; a café/bar; and workspaces for local creative businesses. The building cost £8 million and was funded by the Arts Council, the National Lottery and Barclays Bank.

David Adjaye is recognised as one of the leading architects of his generation. In 1994, he formed a partnership with William Russell. They quickly developed a reputation as a practice with an artist's sensibility towards architecture. Their clever use of materials, bespoke design and ability to sculpt light evoked high regard from the architectural community. In 2000, Adjaye decided to go it alone – forming Adjaye Associates. Since then he has designed a number of buildings and interiors in and around Shoreditch – including the Dirty House for the artists Sue Webster and Tim Noble, an interior for the artist Jake Chapman, a house for the artist Chris Ofili, and two libraries in Tower Hamlets.

There is no doubt that Rivington Place will be a key addition to the London art scene, but more importantly, it is hoped that both the building and the art work contained within it will inspire a whole generation of young people living in Hackney and the surrounding area.

For further information about Adjaye Associates visit www.adjayeassociates.co.uk



A tour of Rivington Place, conducted by Tom Dyckhoff, has been arranged in March 2008. Full details on the back page.

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Swimming in Hackney: the old, the new, and two that were lost

In recent years swimming in Hackney hasn't been the easiest of activities to pursue. With only King's Hall and Britannia Leisure Centre to choose from, it was always much easier to think of something else to do. Over the years the Hackney Society and residents' groups have campaigned for the Borough's historic swimming baths, London Fields Lido and Haggerston Baths, to be restored and put back into use. In Issue 2 (Summer 1999), *Spaces* reported that a group of people were getting together at the Round Chapel to discuss their plans to restore the Lido in London Fields. In October 2006, the Lido reopened. The refurbishment cost £3.2 million and swimmers can experience London's only heated 50-metre outdoor swimming pool. Some things in Hackney do change.



Clissold Leisure Centre update

On 15 December 2007 the notorious Clissold Park Leisure Centre opened its doors for the first time in nearly four years. My husband, 15-month old son and I decided to go and sample the waters and try the facilities out for ourselves.

Clissold Leisure Centre has had a troubled five-year history. As *Spaces* reported in Issue 10 (Winter 2002) the leisure centre was already two years late and vastly over budget. So when two years later the centre closed for major repair works, to rectify serious structural and design faults, you couldn't help but sympathise with local residents who just wanted a run-of-the-mill functioning leisure centre that didn't cost the earth – £54 million is the latest estimate by the local activist group Not the Clissold Leisure Centre, who successfully protested about the scandalous waste of public money.

The reopened leisure centre boasts a number facilities including two 25-metre swimming pools, a health suite, sports hall, fitness centre, group exercise studio, crèche, café and a new toddler pool. I was lucky enough to have swum at Clissold before, so I knew what to expect, but being childless at the time I had only ever swum in the main pool, so I was keen to try out the training and toddler pools.

As we arrived we were greeted by swarms of GLL staff offering tours of the building, and a promotional membership offer. I was keen for both, but wanted to get my impatient toddler into his wetsuit, before he became too tired and hungry. Unfortunately, I was to be disappointed – the toddler pool was not open. Anyway, we continued to the turnstile, asking other staff if there was a family changing room. 'Yes, just through here'. I came to the door, only to find the door locked. 'Could you open the family changing room for us? It seems to be locked.' Another member of staff walked over only to be confronted by a door with no handles. 'Something else for the snagging list.'

Once in the family changing rooms we found them ridiculously small, with no hooks to hang our clothes on. Families with very young

children would benefit from large unisex changing rooms, so both parents can help get their child ready. The toddler pool does have unisex changing rooms, but as the pool was closed we couldn't use them. One solution would be to put another door on the internal entrance to the toddler pool, so the changing rooms can be kept open even when the pool is closed. Another idea that could easily be implemented would be to stop swimmers wearing their outdoor shoes in the changing rooms. In other Scandinavian countries, like Iceland, swimmers have to observe strict hygiene rules and leave their shoes outside. This would help to keep the changing areas clean.

Thirty minutes later my husband and son emerged at the side of the 25-metre training pool. By this time I had done a number of lengths and was ready to get out. The training pool is fantastic for children – it is warm, and the depth of the pool can be changed to suit different purposes.

The main pool is also a delight to swim in, but unfortunately on the day we went you couldn't easily go from one pool to the other – instead you had to take a long circuitous detour round the building in your swimsuit. Also, our toddler found it extremely difficult to walk around as the floor tiles become very slippery when wet.

If you can ignore the spiralling cost, the 12-year wait, and the minor irritations Clissold Leisure Centre is an enjoyable place to swim, and with a crèche opening in the New Year I'll definitely be back with my son to try out the toddler pool and the other facilities when they open in January.

By Lisa Rigg

Albion Square Swimming Baths

From 1849, the western end of Albion Square, just off Queensbridge Road was occupied by Albion Hall built between 1849 and 1850 by Islip Odell, the developer of the rest of Albion Square. It was erected for the Kingsland, Dalston and De Beauvoir Town Literary and Scientific Institutions, a short-lived organisation with certain pretensions and aimed firmly at the middle-class residents who were moving to Dalston and De Beauvoir at that time.

After the literary institute closed c.1860, the building was taken over as a privately run hall and managed as a kind of assembly room with a variety of activities including a school. To the rear of Albion Hall were the Albion Baths. Built in the early 1860s, they were first advertised in *The Times* in May 1864 when the swimming bath was said to be 'now OPEN'. It measured 100 feet by 50 feet and the advert said that swimming was taught and season tickets were available. Privately owned, it was amongst the very first swimming pools in Hackney. It is clearly shown on the 1871 Ordnance Survey Map. Although connected to the Hall, the main access to the baths was from Albion Road. It cost 6d to swim at Albion Baths in 1878. In 1888 the pool was described as an 'extensive and well-arranged public swimming baths fitted with dressing rooms and also with private hot and cold baths'. In the same year the baths and the hall were let to the Albion Baths

Company Ltd for £300 per annum and during the first year of occupation the company spent £1000 on upgrading the premises.

But the venture was evidently not a great success as less than ten years later in 1897 when Charles Booth's researchers visited the area they stated that 'Albion Hall, a literary institute and swimming baths, is now closed'. Soon after in 1899 the London School Board purchased the property including the swimming baths; and this was transferred to the LCC in 1906. The LCC used the baths for swimming as a further education subject. Although the baths were never 'public', a range of clubs and specialist associations used them and sometimes during the last few weeks of the summer holidays, local children were admitted.

The pool and hall were damaged by a flying bomb in 1944, and demolished soon after. They were replaced by LCC prefabs, some of which remained until 1977. When the site was cleared the area became an informal play space for local children. Various social housing schemes were proposed for the site over the years, but pressures from the Albion Square Action Group helped to defeat the most unsympathetic plans for the site. In 1994-5 two pairs of bow-fronted villas were built there in a yellow brick, stylistically in keeping with the rest of the square.

Victoria Park Lido

During the 1920s and 1930s the London County Council built many open-air pools in London. The urban population of the time was seen as being in need of fresh air, sunlight, exercise and opportunities for sociability, and lidos sprang up everywhere in response to this perceived need. There had been a long tradition of open-air swimming in the lakes of Victoria Park and also in the adjacent canal. The lido was built to replace these lakes, which were closed in 1934 due to their obsolescence and unsanitary conditions.

Victoria Park Lido opened in 1934 and was designed by H A Rowbotham and T L Smithson, architects of the LCC Parks Department. The pool cost £25,000. It formed an almost identical pair with the pool in Brockwell Park. The pool in Victoria Park was huge (200ft by 90ft) with diving boards and chutes and a shingle beach. A café served both swimmers and visitors to the park. On hot days the lido could accommodate 1000 bathers at any one time. The pool was extensively damaged during World War Two, but reopened in the early 1950s.

The pool survived threats of closure by the GLC in the early 1980s and I was fortunate enough to swim there c.1987 when I first moved to Hackney, but the lido was a victim to the abolition of the GLC, when Victoria Park passed to the joint control of Tower Hamlets and Hackney. It was demolished in 1990.

Outdoor swimming may not be possible at the moment in Victoria Park, but members of the London Pools Campaign have reported on their website that 'pool campaigners have spotted an unused bathing pond in Victoria Park, hidden behind the bandstand. The lake is very overgrown, but carries a notice saying it was closed in 1936 as it was no longer needed because of the Victoria Park Lido'. Who knows what the future might hold for swimmers in Hackney!

By Ann Robey



Buried by the Blitz

In 2005/06, the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) embarked on a community excavation in Shoreditch Park – a small open space on the northern edge of the City of London. Most people who use the park today would be right to question why on earth MoLAS would want to do an archaeological dig here. Unlike other green spaces in Hackney, which are the result of the Victorians protecting the rapidly disappearing countryside, Shoreditch Park's origins are slightly different. If you look at the Ordnance Survey map of 1919 you'll discover that there was once a number of terraced houses on this piece of land. The archaeologists were searching for the remains of the houses that once stood on the site.

During the Second World War a lot of the housing in this area was destroyed in bombing raids. Post-war, in response to a nationwide housing shortage, some of the site was used for temporary prefabricated houses until the whole site was turned into a community park in the 1980s.

The main trench covered the area from the pavement to the back gardens of approximately three properties on the north side of the lost road of Dorchester Street. These properties were known to have been standing, but damaged, post-war.

The archaeological dig was pioneering in a number of ways. The house remains are the sort of 19th and 20th century artefacts that archaeologists would normally ignore in order to



get to the older layers underneath, and the dig aimed to involve the local community, including past residents, to explore the buried aspects of their own recent history. In fact, a past resident who had once lived in one of the three houses was able to explain the origin of some of the finds, and the stories associated with these objects. This combination of oral history and archaeology gave the experts a unique insight into the history of the site, something which is normally impossible. This use of living memory as an interpretative tool gave added reality and complexity to the interpreted history of the site which would normally involve a certain amount of conjecture and interpretation.

The community excavation was to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. It was filmed by Channel Four's Time Team.

For further information about the project contact Ian Blair by email at iblair@molas.org.uk

A talk, by Ian Blair, about this community excavation, has been arranged in February 2008.

Full details on the back page.



Olympics 2012

Hackney Wick will see the development of the Olympic Media Centre, which will provide 24-hour, state-of-the-art facilities to the 20,000 international and domestic accredited broadcasters, wire services, print journalists and photographers. Two consortia of developers and architects have been short-listed for this building project – Bouygues with Development Securities and Allies and Morrison Architects, and Carillion with Igloo and Hopkins Architects. The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) will be announcing the winner in Spring 2008. For further information about the Olympics visit www.london2012.com

Sponsorship

We are pleased to announce that Currell Estate Agents have agreed to be a corporate sponsor of the Hackney Society. The Management Committee would like to thank Anne and her team for supporting the Society.

Bricks in Hackney

Colin Brooking, a longstanding member of the Hackney Society, has produced a short pamphlet *London Brick in the Middle Ages*, which explains how the medieval tradition of timber buildings gave way to brick, with examples including Hackney's own Sutton House, which has also been known aptly as Bryck Place. He has kindly made it available to members. If you would like a copy and have email, we can send you a copy in pdf format free of charge. Please email tonygillett@blueyonder.co.uk. *For a printed copy please send a cheque for £1 to cover printing and postage costs, to the Hackney Society office.*

Hackney's Children's Centres

Fourteen children's centres have been opened in Hackney offering a range of integrated services to parents, carers and under-five's. Each centre has been designed to respond to local needs, so each one is slightly different, but the ethos employed is the same – to offer continuous support to children and their families. The services offered include early years education integrated with childcare, child and family health services, including services to pregnant women, family support services, and community outreach services, for instance supporting parents back into work.

These centres are at the heart of the Government's strategy to deliver better outcomes for children and families, building on successes of Sure Start local programmes, early excellence centres and neighbourhood nurseries. They are also a vital part of the Government's 10-year childcare strategy to enable all families with children to have access to affordable, flexible, high-quality childcare places.

Three of Hackney's Children's Centres have been designed by Hackney-based architects. Cazenove Architects have designed two centres – the Ann Tayler and Linden Children's



Centres – whilst Levitt Bernstein Associates designed the Millfields Children's Centre in E5 (see photo above).

Ann Tayler Children's Centre

By Louise Goodison

Located at the southern end of London Fields the Ann Tayler Children's Centre is the one of the largest developments of its kind in North East London. The recently completed project has involved re-planning and refurbishing the existing building constructed in 1986, to provide a 96-place day nursery in association with crèche and drop-in facilities, training rooms, health consultation rooms and offices for Sure Start, the Primary Care Trust and social services.

A two-storey extension has been added to an existing single storey nursery and community centre. Cazenove Architects have designed the new extension to hook the building into the urban pattern and establish a decisive street presence. At the junction of old and new, a double height space has been created which has become the focal centre of the building, allowing interaction between the many diverse users of the new Children's Centre. Views within and beyond the building enrich the spatial experience and create an interplay between the park space to the rear and the gritty urban



landscape to the front. The timber framed extension to the front of the building has created additional community and office space complementing the re-modelling of the existing building which has improved the security, circulation and environmental control.

Cazenove Architects also designed the Linden Children's Centre on Rectory Road in N16.

The Best of Hackney

40 Great Buildings

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Hackney Society (1967-2007) we are planning to publish a new book to celebrate the Society's achievements over the past four decades. Taking inspiration from our previous books, *Lost Hackney, Buildings at Risk* and *Twentieth Century Buildings in Hackney*, the book will explore 40 great buildings in Hackney.

This project will give us the opportunity to publish an up-to-date survey of Hackney's building stock – promoting good quality new architecture, and highlighting to the public the buildings that have been lost in recent years, current buildings at risk, and those that have been saved through restoration projects. The book will also include a map and simple grid reference system making it the ideal companion on a walk around the Borough.



We are very keen to involve local people in the publication of this book. What buildings would you like to see included? Please send us your nominations in the following categories:

Lost buildings that have been demolished in the last 40 years.

At risk buildings that are at risk, either through neglect or development.

Restored a successful restoration project.

Good design great buildings that have been built since 1967.

In April 2008, we will find out if our funding application to Awards for All has been successful. If so, we will be looking for people to take photographs, carry out research, interview current occupants, and contribute articles about the short-listed buildings.

If you have some time to spare and would like to get involved please do not hesitate to contact Lisa at lisa.rigg@btinternet.com

Hackney Design Awards

2008 will see the third Hackney Design Awards organised by the Planning Service at Hackney Council. The Awards celebrate the best in architectural design and aim to raise awareness of the great buildings being built in Hackney. This year's awards will be launched in Summer 2008 with the deadline for nominations being in the Autumn. Previous winners have included Mossbourne Community Academy, Raines Court and the Hackney Empire.

Who will be short-listed this year?

- Clissold Leisure Centre?
- London Fields Lido?
- Rivington Place or
- Ann Tayler Children's Centre?

The Hackney Design Awards 2006 was open to any buildings or landscaped schemes completed between July 2004 and August 2006. Anyone could nominate a scheme that demonstrated one or more of the following – quality, visibility, innovation, sustainability. The Judges short-listed 17 schemes from the 26 that were nominated. Here are some of the winners from 2006.

The Rooftop Nursery by WHAT architecture

The Rooftop Nursery is a publicly funded initiative that aims to get mothers back to work by offering inexpensive childcare. Given the high costs of land in the Borough, the design needed to minimise the amount of land required for such a scheme. This was achieved by placing the outdoor play space on the roof. The roof is the UK's first granulated rubber play roof. The interior was designed to be fluid and adaptable. This was achieved by designing walls that could be moved, allowing the organisation of the space to be changed for different purposes.

Nile Street by Munkenbeck and Marshall Architects

Nile Street is a high density housing development providing 175 homes for key workers and those on low to intermediate incomes. The scheme includes a communal courtyard, roof gardens, a youth centre, and a playground. The Nile Street and Provost Street elevations of the building are clad in green copper with the other elevations clad in light timber panels. The projecting balconies, rectangular on one side and triangular on another, provide an outdoor space for most of the flats as well as giving the exterior a bold and attractive façade. The Egyptian theme reflected in the street name, Nile Street, is expressed in the use of hieroglyphic symbols on the curved concierge windows on the ground floor.



Commendation for contributing to conservation in Hackney

Clapton Portico by Brady Mallalieu Architects

The Clapton Portico is what survives of an orphanage that was built in 1825. The imposing stone Doric portico was the entrance to a larger complex of buildings. When the Salvation Army moved out in 1975 the rest of the buildings were demolished leaving the Portico and connecting colonnades as a steadily deteriorating monument. This scheme resurrects the ruin as the entrance to a new computer training facility for schoolchildren and adult education. The new building extends the body of the Portico to the rear in the location of the original chapel providing four storeys of accommodation. **For other winners log on to www.hackney.gov.uk/ep-design-awards-2006.htm**

Building Watch: Clapton

By Malcolm Smith

In the last issue of *Spaces* (number 17), we lamented the lack of progress in restoring the New Lansdowne Club at 195 Mare Street. In this issue we look at another Grade II* listed building which also has a history as a members' club, and a wider update on current and impending changes in Clapton.

Looking onto Clapton Pond, the future of the Grade II* Pond House, at 162 Lower Clapton Road, is of ongoing concern. Until last year it was home to the Hackney Volunteers (set up in 1909 by the Hackney Rifle Men). Built circa 1800, Pond House is a large two-storey villa, typical of development in Clapton up to the 19th century. It was used as a house until 1900, then as a clothing factory until Hackney Volunteers acquired it as a private club in 1939.

In recent years, the building has been in poor condition, and ways to restore it were looked at in a feasibility study commissioned by Hackney Historic Buildings Trust in 2001. The study described Pond House as 'virtually complete, with a very attractive wrought iron staircase and entrance hall' and noted that it 'has retained much of its original joinery and fittings and many of the rooms retain their original character'. It considered several options, including conversion back to residential accommodation, with an enabling development of the garage site round the corner in Mildenhall Road (currently leased to the St John Ambulance) to help fund it. There was also a prospect that English Heritage might make a grant towards the conversion costs.

Unfortunately, the Volunteers were not able to countenance restoration of the building, and they sold up in December 2006. We understand that the house, stables and land to the rear were purchased by a Jewish charity that is looking to convert it into a school. We hope that a careful restoration of this fine building will ensue, and a keen watching brief will be maintained by local conservationists.

Meanwhile, across the road, the future of the former Clapton Cinematograph Theatre (Kenning Hall Cinema) remains uncertain. One of Hackney's earliest cinemas, dating from 1910, its licence as the Palace Pavilion nightclub was revoked last year, leaving it prone to possible redevelopment or even demolition. It would be good to see it used once again by the wider local community. A friends group has now been established, who would like to see it restored as a local cinema.

North of the Lea Bridge roundabout, the former Lea Bridge Tramway Depot, home

to an extraordinary mix of artists and small businesses, continues to be under threat of demolition and redevelopment.

Just around the corner in Lea Bridge Road, last year saw the sad demolition of Marcus Glass's fine Clapton Federation Synagogue. The synagogue, with its Art Deco-Romanesque front noted by Pevsner, had been bought by a Jewish charity in 2005, who apparently sold on to a developer who then pulled it down. The new owners had stripped out the splendid Ark and other interior fittings even as the Clapton Conservation Area Advisory Committee (CAAC) had striven to get English Heritage to inspect it in order to get it listed. The building was already 'locally listed', but this was to no avail. Ironically, demolition occurred just as an important new book *Jewish Heritage in England: an Architectural Guide* was published by English Heritage in association with Jewish Heritage UK. (For further details, go to <http://www.jewish-heritage-uk.org>).

Another of Clapton's hidden treasures on English Heritage's Buildings at Risk register is the ragstone Grade II listed former Mission School at Lea Bridge. This early Victorian survivor was a school for bargers' children. It falls within the Lea Bridge Conservation Area that Clapton CAAC fought for in 2005. The area also includes the historic Lea Bridge Dock at 142 Lea Bridge Road and the neighbouring former Carbonic Acid Gas works — which until recently was the home to the arts organisation Project 142. English Heritage supported the conservation designation because it demonstrated the industrial evolution of this part of Hackney. Anyone travelling along Lea Bridge Road will have noticed the prominent industrial chimney, and designation happily meant that a planning application to demolish it was thwarted. It is now planned to retain the chimney, but the Council has also approved an application to replace the dock with a private 'water feature', flanked by blocks of flats of up to six storeys, to be built on Metropolitan Open Land.

This is a sadly missed opportunity to enhance the local character by restoring the dock to encourage a renaissance of the waterway for recreation and commerce — particularly considering the much



publicised 'Water City' aspirations of the Olympics and Lower Lea legacy project only a mile or so to the south. The dock will be permanently filled in and an underground car park built where it used to be, but nonetheless this development is branded as 'Paradise Dock', after an historic earlier name for the area.

Dense developments along the Lea are transforming its formerly traditional and industrial character. The latest proposal is for seven-storey blocks at Essex Wharf, opposite Millfields Park. Clapton's riverside will soon be barely recognisable: just up the river from Lea Bridge is the emerging enormous housing development on the former Latham's Timber Yards (see *Spaces* Issue 11, Summer 2002), and there are others beyond — either underway or planned. The new developments are incurring an irreplaceable loss of informal public space such as with the disappearance of centuries-old riverside pubs like the King's Head and Robin Hood — their gardens much more valuable for oversized blocks of flats it seems. As in other parts of the borough, Clapton's open space and local distinctiveness continue to be under redevelopment pressure.

For further information about developments in Clapton, or to join the Clapton CAAC, contact Tony Gillett, tonygillett@blueyonder.co.uk

Hackney Society news

2007 was a challenging year for the Society. In May, Christina Sosanya resigned as Chair. Christina had been a Committee member for over 10 years, and had been the Society's Chair since 2004. Unfortunately, Christina felt unable to continue to devote adequate time to support the work of the Society. The Management Committee would like to thank her for all of her contributions to the work of the Society over the years.

In addition, the lack of adequate funding and limited number of volunteers hindered the Society from operating at the level we would have wished to – the main casualty of this being the infrequent publication of Spaces, the quarterly newsletter. Despite this we held four very successful events during the year, including guided tours of the Agapemonite Church in Stamford Hill, Navarino Mansions in Dalston and the Hothouse in London Fields, and a talk by Laurie Elks about the River Lea.

However, throughout these challenges, the Management Committee has been working hard to come up with plans on how to improve things over the next 12 months. In October 2007, we employed Lisa Rigg to undertake some fundraising, and to organise this year's events programme. So far she has submitted a funding application to the National Lottery distributor Awards for All for a new publication, secured corporate sponsorship from Currell Estate Agents, and organised a number of events. In 2008, she plans to submit further funding applications, and approach other Hackney businesses for corporate sponsorship.

Furthermore, we are planning a number of initiatives to increase the Society's profile. This includes running a stall at Broadway market, and producing a new publicity leaflet. We are also planning a programme of monthly events, some of which will be at the weekend in collaboration with other civic and amenity societies. In Autumn 2008 we are hoping to organise a joint event with the Huguenot Society about the French Hospital in Victoria Park Road, and an event with the Victorian Society. For further information please refer to the programme listing on the back page.

The Society's AGM was held on Monday 26 November 2007 at the Hothouse, off Richmond Road. Six committee members were elected including Kevin Moore as Chair. Also a new member to the Society, Ann Robey, was elected onto the Committee. Ann has previously worked for English Heritage, the Survey of London, the Georgian Group, Hackney Historic Buildings Trust, and London Borough of Hackney's Conservation team.

In September 2007, we applied to the London Council's Hackney Grants Programme. The London Council administer this grant programme on behalf of Hackney Council. Unfortunately, we have not been successful in securing a grant for 2008/09 from this fund. We have received this grant for approximately 10 years. In the past this grant paid for the Society's core operational costs – rent, staff, insurance, events and newsletters. This decision comes as a huge blow making the future of the Society uncertain. Over the next few months we are going to have to make some important decisions about how the Society operates, and what level of funding is going to be required to sustain our activities.

Join the Society?

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2008. Full membership is £15.00 per annum, Junior membership is £10.00, Corporate membership is £100, and Life membership is £250. In return you will receive the newsletter posted to your home, and free entry to all our events.

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

Buried by the Blitz

Talk with Ian Blair, Museum of London Archaeology Service.

Thursday 28 February 2008, 7pm

Venue: Daisy Barge, Holborn Studios, 49/50 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED

In 2005/06, the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MOLAS) embarked on a community excavation in Shoreditch Park. This illustrated talk will explore what was discovered during this project and what it tells us about our recent past. Booking essential due to limited number of places.

Rivington Place

Tour with Tom Dyckhoff, Architectural Journalist and Broadcaster.

Thursday 27 March 2008, 7pm

Venue: Iniva, Rivington Place, London EC2A 3BA

Rivington Place is a new arts centre, designed by Adjaye Associates, for the Institute of International Visual Arts and Autograph (the Association of Black Photographers). Booking essential due to limited number of places.

Furniture on foot: The south Shoreditch furniture trade and its buildings

Walk with Joanna Smith, English Heritage.

Monday 28 April 2008, 7pm

Starting at the junction of Worship Street and Clifton Street in EC2A, and ending at the Geffrye Museum on Kingsland Road.

London's East End was once a leading centre of the furniture trade and at its heart was Shoreditch. The trade has gone but has left a rich legacy of Victorian and Edwardian buildings. These former showrooms, factories and warehouses, lately reinvented as bars, galleries, studios, shops and apartments, bear testimony to the impact of the trade on the development of Shoreditch. Booking essential due to limited number of places.

All the events are free to Hackney Society members and £5 to non-members. To avoid disappointment please book a place as some events have a limited number of places. To book a place contact Lisa on 020 8806 4003 or email lisa.rigg@btinternet.com. Please note that events are subject to change.