

Hackney History Festival Programme - May 2025



Talks

Sat May 10th

Round Chapel, 1D Glenarm Rd, Lower Clapton, London E5 0LY

All talks £3 [Day Pass £15](#)

Time	Speaker	Title	Blurb
10	Breda Corish	1851 Census: Who were the Irish in Hackney & Stoke Newington?	The census of 1851 was the first to record place of birth, marital status and occupation for people living in Britain. The census that year also recorded a jump in London's Irish-born population from 75,000 in 1841 to 109,000 in 1851, reflecting mass migration caused by An Gorta Mór, Ireland's Great Famine of 1847-1852. While London's Irish population had long been concentrated in poor central districts like Whitechapel and St Giles in the Fields, a small minority lived in Hackney and Stoke Newington. And their census records - as workers, wives, clergy and institutional inmates - illuminate less familiar aspects of the Irish presence in Victorian London.
11	Nigel Smith	Tales from Hackney's Memory Palaces	Since films first flickered on London screens in 1896 Hackney has been home to more than 60 cinemas ranging from grand architectural marvels to neighbourhood fleapits. Having delved into the archives, cinema historian and tour guide Nigel Smith tells the story of more than 100 years of cinema-going in the borough. Nigel Smith is a lifelong movie nerd. He's part of the team producing BBC Radio 4's film and TV programme Screenshot, co-founded the long-running Tufnell Park Film Club and leads guided walking tours exploring London's old cinemas. His website Memory Palaces aims to tell stories associated with 100 buildings in the capital that are or have been cinemas. Follow him on Instagram @nigelsmithwalks and find out more about his tours at memorypalaces.co.uk .
12.00	Andrew Whitehead	We Shall Fight, We Will Win": the British New Left'	In 1956, a new political movement emerged, explicitly socialist but rejecting both Soviet-style Communism and Labour's cautious embrace of social democracy. The New Left was concerned with ideas and culture. Those involved worked mainly outside political parties and electoral politics. In the 1960s, it helped shape the peace movement, student radicalism, the counterculture, opposition to the Vietnam war and the emerging Women's and Gay Liberation movements. It championed direct action and new forms of political communication, from agitprop poetry to silkscreen posters.

			Andrew Whitehead - who is working on an oral history of the New Left - traces the story of the New Left and its legacy and explores the role of Hackney politicians such as Sheila Rowbotham, David Widgery and the Grosvenor Avenue commune.
1	Richard Yeboah	From Hackney With Love: An Intimate History of Regeneration, Gentrification and Belonging	From Hackney, With Love: An Intimate History of Regeneration, Gentrification and Belonging is an insider exploration of the dramatic social, cultural and economic transformation of one of the most iconic places in Britain – my home, the London Borough of Hackney. My talk will explore the borough's history over the last three hundred years, and its transition from a middle class suburb to one of the poorest areas of Britain. But it will also examine through several social themes how Hackney has once again become a home for the middle classes in recent decades, which has been driven by the effects of regeneration, neoliberalism and gentrification - particularly since the 2012 Olympics, and has displaced existing working class communities in the process.
2	Amir Dotan	Look up, look down: Spotting local history everywhere	Our surroundings are filled with relics and remnants of the past, often hidden in plain sight. As we go about our daily lives, we rarely take the time to look up or down, missing the fascinating traces of history embedded in our environment. From disused coal hole covers and old boundary markers to servants' doorbells, boot scrapers, and faded street signs, these overlooked artefacts tell the story of how people once lived and worked. Stoke Newington historian Amir Dotan will share intriguing examples of these historical treasures he has discovered while exploring Stoke Newington's urban landscape, offering a new perspective on the rich history that surrounds us every day.
3	Sheela Banerjee and Lucy Fulford	From Hooghly to Hackney: Hidden Histories of Empire, Race and Migration	Journey through centuries and continents, and back to present-day Hackney, as authors Sheela Banerjee and Lucy Fulford share personal stories of migration to Britain, which reveal even bigger histories of empire and race. In What's in a Name? Friendship, Identity and History in Modern Multicultural Britain, Sheela – who has lived in Hackney for over 20 years – unravels the personal histories of friends and family through their names, including her own ancestors, who once lived by the banks of India's Hooghly River. In The Exiled: Empire, Immigration and the Ugandan Asian Exodus, Lucy explores how the Ugandan Asian expulsion of the 1970s continues to impact the UK to this day.
4	Jerry White	Radicals and Loyalists:	The outbreak of the French Revolution in the summer of 1789 was at first broadly welcomed in London, especially among

		Hackney in a Revolutionary City, 1789-1815	the many radicals and dissenters of Stoke Newington and Hackney. But as the events in France became more bloodthirsty, and as apparently dangerous democratic agitations began to trouble the streets of London, an opposing view developed, especially among the property-owning classes of the suburbs, Hackney among them. In early 1793 France declared war on Britain and Holland and the London supporters of revolution quickly came to be seen as potentially treasonable allies of the enemy across the Channel. This led to an organised expression of loyalism, often taking a military tone, which faced outwards (to protect England from invasion) and inwards (to protect London from radical insurgents). Hackney was caught in the middle of this struggle, active radicals and blue-coated loyalists competing for the future of the parish, and of London.
5	Tony Travers	Hackney Council at 60	Tony will talk about Hackney in the 60 years since it was created as one of today's London boroughs in 1965. He will consider the borough's extraordinary contemporary history, including both the high and low points. Few boroughs have changed as much in recent decades, with remarkable demographic and social differences affecting all parts of the borough. And what is likely to change in the years ahead? What might Hackney look like if and when it reaches its 100th birthday in 2065?
6	Dr Matthew Green & friends	The lost world of Dudley Ryder	An immersive, illustrated talk on a forgotten Hackney diarist who is easily as gripping as Samuel Pepys, with a costumed actor performing readings, evoking in rich, vivid detail the lost world of 18th-century Hackney, and exploring how — over the last couple of decades, with the relentless march of gentrification — the Hackney villages have come full-circle.

Sun May 11th

Sutton House, 2 and 4 Homerton High St, London E9 6JQ

We will have three exciting talks running concurrently.

All talks £3 [Day Pass £15](#)

10	Kirsty Styles	A Tale of Two Cities: How East London's Silicon Roundabout Helped Enrich, Casualise or Automate	Kirsty will talk about how big tech came to call East London home, and how this global industry has come to change all of our lives. Many bill this as inevitable progress, but she will ask us to ask more questions about how big technology companies work, transform our work, and may be dictating our future.
10	Jill Drower	1967 - No Two Elephants are the same - Performance Art, LSD and Bent Coppers in the Sixties Counterculture	A talk about the life and times of the flower child dance troupe known as the Exploding Galaxy, who lived as a commune in Dalston. In this talk, Jill Drower links London's hippies back to their family wartime experiences - the Blitz, rationing and 'make do and mend', as well as to a host of other influences that made the British counterculture what it was. Starting in a night club in March 1967, and led by the now world-famous artist David Medalla, the group grew in size and notoriety until the end of 1968. During this time, they developed from semi-naked writhing on stage to becoming a living artwork, and an aesthetic experiment. The inhabitants at 99 Balls Pond Road were extremely concerning to mainstream society and the authorities. Reaction led to tabloid condemnation, bricks through the window and police plantings. Following these relentless attacks, the group started to disperse. By the end of 1968 the troupe had largely broken up. The house was sold in early 1969.
10	Pete Carty & Travis Elborough	High Art and Low Life in 1990s Hoxton	Travis Elborough interviews Peter Carty about his novel Art. Art is a dark satire about the birth of Young British Artists in early 1990s Hackney, faithfully reflecting the period and its creative obsessions. Illuminating, moving and blackly funny, it mercilessly exposes the pretensions of contemporary art, as well as the unrestrained hedonism and low life that ran alongside in the streets of Hoxton and Shoreditch. This was a period when organised crime, urban blight and fascism were prominent locally. The novel's backdrop is the gentrification that the artists helped to kick-start, and which has dramatically transformed the area over the past three decades.

11	Lucinda Rogers	Ridley Road market in drawings	From Larry the oldest stallholder to Jacky the parrot, Ridley Road was Lucinda Rogers's inspiration and studio for two months in 2017 as she created a portrait of its traders and stalls in a series of large documentary drawings made on the spot. She will show the drawings and talk about the resulting exhibition 'On Gentrification', which placed Ridley Road within the context of changes in the area and in the market itself. She will bring the market's story up to date with an account of recent happenings.
11	Eithne Nightingale	Life Under Lockdown: On Mehetabel Road and Isabella Road in Hackney 2020	Eithne and her neighbours discuss Life Under Lockdown with Hackney resident and professor of historical geography, Alastair Owens. The book features photos taken by Eithne of her neighbours on their doorsteps holding objects that sustained them through lockdown. Join in discussions on the long-term impact of COVID-19 on our relationship to home – on children's education, patterns of work, relationships within and beyond the household, and neighbourliness.
11	Ken Worpole & Gareth Evans	A Fortunate Man: John Berger in Hackney	John Berger (1926 – 2017) was one of Europe's most important post-war writers and intellectuals, admired across the world. Storyteller Booker Prize -winning novelist, filmmaker, essayist, poet and artist, he also co-created one of British television's genuine masterpieces, 'Ways of Seeing', In the early 1970s he met Glenn Thompson, the black American draft-resister who founded the Centerprise Bookshop project in Hackney, Stoke Newington-based writer & social historian Ken Worpole and Gareth Evans, a close friend / publisher of Berger, and organiser of an international festival on Berger's work explore John Berger's formative years in Hackney and London's left-wing bohemian culture.
12.	Laurie Elks	Hackney Heroes 2	After Hackney Heroes 1, last year, Laurie Elks continues his exploration of the bloody minded heroes who stood up for what they believed in and made Hackney a better place. In this talk he will consider the achievements of Mike Gray who led the campaign to save Sutton House; Elaine and Peter Gosnell who had a key role in the preservation of the Stoke Newington Reservoirs; Roland Muldoon who created the Hackney Empire theatre we know today and Marie Murray and Brian Cumming who have created the Curve Garden as Dalston's unique green oasis.
12	Tony Rich	Stoke Newington at war: Hidden stories of	During World War II, Stoke Newington–London' s smallest borough–stood on the front lines of Britain' s home defence. Its Town Hall still bears its original wartime camouflage, a rare and lasting reminder of the borough' s efforts to stay hidden from enemy bombers. But do you know how and why it was

		resistance and survival	<p>... painted that way? As the bombs fell, the Air Raid Precautions (ARP) and Civil Defence Services sprang into action. Many were volunteers—air raid wardens, fire watchers, and rescue teams—risking their lives to protect their community. From blackout drills to bomb shelters, every household played a role. But Stoke Newington didn't just defend itself on the ground. It also had a fleet of aircraft and ships, assigned to its name, serving in battle across the globe. At home, the war brought out the best in some and the worst in others. The borough had its share of heroes, but also villains... and even Nazi sympathisers hiding in plain sight.</p> <p>Using rare photos, first-hand accounts, and expert analysis, Tony uncovers the borough's hidden stories and explores how echoes of conflict still shape our world today.</p>
12	Tahiara Munshi & Cllr Rathbone	Trading matters: The importance of Hackney's markets and their place in the development of the local community	A history of Hackney's markets and their recent resurgence in popularity
1	Sue Doe	Women from Hackney History Volume 2	Volume two of Women from Hackney's History features 115 women with strong links to Hackney. Their names emerged as research carried on after the publication of volume one in 2021. Many more Hackney women remain relatively undiscovered but deserve attention and more research. Sue Doe who produced Volume two alongside a group of contributors will highlight some who made it into the book and some others who are knocking at the door of Volume Three.
1	Andrew Harrison	The Angry Brigade – Anarchy In N16	If you've ever turned to walk down Amhurst Road from Stoke Newington Road, you'll have unwittingly passed the HQ of one of Britain's most infamous cases of political violence. Between 1970 and 1972, Britain's first urban guerrilla group the Angry Brigade – based in a flat at 359 Amhurst Road – carried out a campaign of bombing and attempted assassination which targeted government buildings, banks, and other symbols of capitalism.
1	Steven Spencer	The Salvation Army in	The Salvation Army ran three rescue homes for women at 44-48 Navarino Road in Dalston between 1885 and 1889. This

		Hackney: the Navarino Road rescue homes 1885-1889	talk will look at the development of these rescue homes and explore in detail the lives of a selection of the more than 300 residents. Some of these women came from Hackney but many more came from all parts of the UK and even other countries.
2	Mark Gorman	Down with the Fences!" – the long struggle for London's open spaces	For hundreds of years London has been growing ever larger, its boundaries spreading from the confines of the medieval city and swallowing up once rural villages such as Hackney, covering London's countryside with housing. After 1800 growth intensified to meet the ever-increasing demands of industry and commerce, and the threatened loss of London's green spaces aroused increasing opposition. Mark Gorman tells the story of the campaigns to save London's open spaces, notably the landmark struggle for Epping Forest, as well as the fight to save Hackney Downs and other local open land. Highlighting the role of popular protest in these campaigns, this is the story of ordinary Londoners and their part in saving London's green spaces.
2	Chas Loft, Graham Smith & Duncan Campbell	Stoking up Trouble	Stoke Newington police station became one of the most notorious in the country after a number of major incidents there in the 1980s and 1990s. The death of Colin Roach inside the station in 1983 provoked great anger in the community and many responses. There were also many disputed arrests with people claiming they had been falsely accused, cases which were monitored and logged by the Hackney Community Defence Association. The Metropolitan police then launched an investigation into alleged corruption at the station called Operation Jackpot. The Guardian covered the story in 1992 and was sued for libel by eight officers. This led to a trial which ended in a victory for the Guardian, the first of 95 libel cases brought by the Police Federation against newspapers that they had lost. Chas Loft and Graham Smith of the HCDA and Duncan Campbell, who covered the case for the Guardian, will talk about those times.
2	Cat Arnold	The Invisible Enemy – the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic in Hackney	In the last year of WWI, the world was devastated by a pandemic of Spanish flu. Killing up to 100m people worldwide, Spanish flu was the deadliest outbreak since the Black Death. Spanish flu killed troops on both sides of the conflict, but what was the impact for those left behind on Civvy Street? In this talk, Catharine Arnold discusses the effects of Spanish flu on Hackney. Already vulnerable due to poverty, deprivation, and four long years of war, how did Hackney respond to the invisible enemy, killer flu? Catharine Arnold is the author of <i>Pandemic 1918, the story of the deadliest influenza in history</i> .

			Catharine's books include <i>Necropolis, London and its Dead</i> and <i>Bedlam, London, and its Mads</i> .
3	Rosie Llewellyn-Jones	Hackney and the East India Company	There were a number of links between the Company, founded in 1600 and Hackney, then a small country village. An early owner of Sutton House, Captain John Milward was a silk-merchant and governor of the Company who found Hackney conveniently situated – east of the city of London where the Company had its headquarters and north of the East India Docks where imported goods arrived. There were other connections too, some rather strange and sad like the Pembroke House Asylum for Britons, mainly soldiers, who experienced mental illness while serving in India and were shipped to Hackney to recover. The borough also provided a home for ayahs, Indian nursemaids who had accompanied British families home and then looked for a return passage to India. Dr Llewellyn-Jones is an historian of colonial India and particularly interested in the impact that the East India Company had both abroad and at home.
3	Andy Beckett	Invasion of the middle-class lefties	Invasion of the middle-class lefties: what does the relationship between gentrification and politics in Hackney since the 1970s tell us about the borough, and about the broader, generally leftward shift since then in London and other British cities?"
3	Kate Murray-Browne	One Girl Began - a fictional feminist history of Hackney	Kate Murray-Browne was born in London and worked in publishing for ten years before becoming a writer. Her critically acclaimed first novel, <i>The Upstairs Room</i> , was published in 2017 and selected as a Book of the Year in <i>The Times</i> . Her second novel, <i>One Girl Began</i> , is set over 111 years in Hackney and tells the story of three women separated by history but connected by the same building: a box factory in the Edwardian era, a derelict squat in the 1980s and luxury flats by 2020. It was described by the Hackney Citizen as 'a feminist history of the borough in fictional form'. Kate lives in Hackney with her family.
4	Neil Martinson	Hackney: Echoes Through Time - A photographic journey over fifty years	Drawing on his unique archive of photographs taken fifty years ago, Neil reveals more unseen images in parallel with those he has taken over the past two years. His images are powerful narratives that delve deep into the human experience, offering a raw, unfiltered look at the struggles, joys, and resilience of the people of Hackney. He reveals, in often surprising ways,

			the profound changes that have taken place over half a century, and what remains.
4	Deborah Cohen	Hackney's Health	As Hackney became more populated in the nineteenth century there were more opportunities for infectious diseases to spread. There were outbreaks of smallpox, TB and influenza, in addition to the steady incidence of diphtheria, measles, dysentery, scarlet fever and other infections that were often killers amongst the poor. In this talk I'll discuss how the local Medical Officers of Health, doctors and social reformers in Hackney responded to these diseases before the NHS and what changed after it was founded in 1948.
4	Sue Elliott Nicholls & contributors from Immediate Theatre	The Hackney & Newham History Social Club: Different people, walking the same streets all with their own unique stories to tell.	Funded by The Heritage Lottery Fund, we have been capturing the oral histories of the diverse communities arriving in East London between 1939-1990. Our podcast series uncovers the life stories of some of these people: people who have rejuvenated the shops, delivered the babies, made clothes, worshipped, partied, and watched over the London Borough Of Hackney over fifty years. Presenter Sue Elliott-Nicholls will be joined by members of our Production Club who have together been researching and interviewing across the borough, aiming to preserve those accounts before they are lost forever, and introducing the people behind these amazing stories. You can listen to the podcast at: The Hackney and Newham History Social Club Immediate Theatre
5	Lucy Madison	Hackney History "Pub" Quiz	Join us for a fun pub-style quiz about all things 'Hackney History'! Written by professional quiz writers and Hackney history enthusiasts, you can expect Hackney-history-based general knowledge, picture, music, literary and connection rounds, with a variety of questions tailor-made for all knowledge levels. 2 hours with comfort and refreshment break half-way.

Saturday 17th May

Hackney Archives second floor of Dalston CLR James Library, Dalston Square, E8 3BQ

All tickets free

10.15		Details coming soon	
11.30	Etienne Joseph	Collins & the value of personal archiving	Personal archives are an important source for local, and even national histories, but how many of us are intentional about what we keep for future generations?

			<p>Using the Sir Collins collection at Hackney Archives as an example, archivist Etienne Joseph explores what this huge archive collected by a local Music Producer, Activist and Community Worker can tell us about the enduring power of the things we choose to keep.</p>
2:00-2:30	Mini talks 1	Celebrating 40 years of Hackney City Farm	<p>Chris Pounds and volunteer team members will present a short film to mark the Farm's 40th anniversary, created by the community and volunteers and made possible through The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Team members will also share how the film was made.</p>
2:45-3:15	Mini talks 2	Abney Unearthed - Remapped, Researched, Rediscovered	<p>Opened in 1840, Abney Park is one of London's 'Magnificent 7' Victorian cemeteries, located in Stoke Newington. The 32 acre site is the resting place of over 200,000 people. Designated a nature reserve in 1993 it is also home to a wide variety of flora and fauna including veteran trees, rare fungi and invertebrates.</p> <p>Abney Unearthed is an exciting project to remap the cemetery and discover more about the people buried there. A team of dedicated volunteers are adding missing information to the burial records and researching the people, bringing their diverse stories to life.</p> <p>Haydn who runs the project will explain the project and why it is so vital, and will introduce the exhibition running at the Archives.</p>
3:30-4:00	Mini talks 3	Shrubland Road TRA and the Closed Pubs of Hackney	<p>Pete Jarvis (chair of Shrubland Rd TRA) on using Archive research to create local events,</p> <p>How can you dig up fascinating facts at Hackney Archives to turn into a neighbourhood newsletter or walk?</p> <p>Find out more from Peter Jarvis of the Shrubland Tenants and Residents Association and guide of the Closed Pub Walk.</p>
4	Laurie Elks, Roland Walker and Alan May	Dalson Peace Mural	<p>Local historian, Laurie Elks chairs a panel discussion with Roland Walker and Alan May: two of the figures in the Dalston Peace Mural. Roland is the son of Ray & Anna Walker. Ray designed the mural and Anna co-painted the mural following</p>

			Ray's untimely death, with Mick Jones. Alan was a member of Chats Arkestra, who played at the 1983 Peace March celebrated by the mural. Together, they will decode the mural's narrative and history; identifying the faces, themes and events depicted. Arrive at 4pm to browse the collection of Ray Walker's: Dalston Peace Mural, recently donated to Hackney Archives. Panel discussion starts at 4:15pm
5pm onwards		After Party at Curve Garden	Celebrate with us at the famous Curve Garden, Dalston Lane FREE Just Turn Up
Sunday 18 May Hackney Archives			
1.15 – 4.15	Wikimedia	Wikiediting Workshop	Trainers from Wikimedia UK will give an overview of Wikipedia editing and help attendees. We are particularly hoping to add more information on some of the women featured in Women from Hackney's History Volumes 1 and 2, but participants will be able to focus on their areas of interest. Please bring a laptop with you if possible. We hope this will be the start of an ongoing project. Further guidance will be shared with people who register. FREE

Walks

All walks £3 except those ticketed externally indicated by *

Sun 4th May 10am	Black History Walks*	Hackney (Dalston) Black History Walk	This walk recognises 75 years since the SS Windrush arrived from the Caribbean. This tour starts with the 1950's and goes right up to the 21st century. Tickets and details here
Sun 4th May 11am	Lesley Thompson	Historic Hoxton	Once a run down area on the edge of the East End, now an amazing mix of old and new, the dilapidated and fashionable, Tudor retreats, almshouses, elegant squares and workhouses, a connection with the Gunpowder Plot, a place of entertainment, then a descent into poverty, workhouses and burial grounds.
Sun 4th May 11am	Jill Drower	The Exploding Galaxy	Oh the shenanigans at number 99 Balls Pond Road": Performance Art, LSD and Bent Coppers in the Sixties Counterculture.
Wed 7th May 11am	Sean Gubbins	Homerton	Stretching along a ridge sloping down to two rivers, Homerton was once the wealthiest, most populous part of Hackney. Home to dissenters and paupers, its social decline was brought about by the coming of industry,

			railways and hospitals. Perhaps the last part of Hackney to submit to 'gentrification', catch it before Homerton changes again.
Sun 11th May 6.30 pm	Hackney Tours and Wick Award	Happening in Hackney Wick	Hackney Tours and Wick Award want to show you how this neighbourhood has reinvented itself over the last 150 years - and why it's so full of fascinating stories. From Victorian industrial pioneers to the artists of the noughties to the people of today that make it such a strong community, join us for a deep dive into Hackney Wick. Then either head home or stay and join us for a drink in one of the Wick's most interesting venues.
Wed 14 th May 5pm	Sean Gubbins	Hoxton	Take a walk past the Town Squares, Mad Houses and Music Halls of Hoxton, part of the ancient parish of Shoreditch. Find out where the Gunpowder Plot was given away, who made light from rubbish and where you can train for the circus. 2 hour walk ending at Hoxton Street.
Sat 17th May	Lesley Thompson	De Beauvoir Town walk	Royal hunting ground to 19C residential estate. De Beauvoir Town lies on the south-western border of Hackney and is still sometimes called 'Kingsland' because Henry VIII hunted here. It is distinct from but nestled up close to Dalston, London Fields, the Regent's Canal, Shoreditch, south east Islington and Mildmay. This walk winds through the early/mid 19C streets and beautiful central square, a historic canal basin, lost churches, site of a cattle market and much more.
Sun 18th May 1pm	Rabbi Mendy*	Jewish Stamford Hill	Discover Stamford Hill and its Chasidic communities. Tickets here .
Sun 18th May 2pm	Hidden Tudor Tours	East India Company in Hackney	Join us for a 90-minute walking tour through the streets of Hackney and discover the lesser-known ties to one of Britain's most influential trading companies - the East India Company. From the grand manor houses once owned by EIC directors to the asylum for mentally ill staff, this tour will shed light on Hackney's East India Company connections.
Sun 18th May 2pm	Pathways to Ancient Britain	Hackney's Stone Age Past	Join us for a guided walk through Hackney's Stone Age landscape, where we'll explore the key locations that reveal the stories of the humans and animals that once roamed this area. Starting at Abney Park Cemetery, we'll trace the footsteps of Victorian antiquarians like George Worthington Smith and Joseph Exall Greenhill, whose discoveries have shaped our understanding of Hackney's ancient past.
Mon 19th 7pm	Tom Hunter	Squatting, a walking tour of central Hackney	Tom Hunter, who squatted in Central Hackney from the mid 80's until the end of the 90's, will take you on a guided tour of his old homes and theatres of fun and entertainment. Starting at the Town Hall square, where 'The Spiky Thing With Curves' occupied the old Salvation Army building and the Weatherspoon's pub, winding through back streets and old traveller yards along with Cinemas and Bingo halls all within 100 yards of Mare street. On this journey Tom will be reliving and retelling tales of all night raves, electric shocks, murders and a creative energy which changed Hackney forever.

Sat 24th May 1.30	Shrubland Grow Box Garden	Closed pub walk	Shrubland Road runs from Queensbridge Road to London Fields - 100 dwellings. It appears to be a quiet, residential road but it has a history of riots, 2 killed by German bombing in WWI, a hub of illegal gambling and much more. Back in the 1890s, it became the centre of a campaign to close local pubs. The vicarage of St Mary Church (designed by John Nash) was situated on the site now occupied by Lovell House and the vicar help to set up the Vigilance Committee 'to procure a diminution of the Licensed houses'. Although the campaign failed in the 1890s most of the pubs had disappeared by the end of the 20th century.
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Film Screenings

Tue 6th May 7pm	Castle Cinema	Double bill of <i>The Estate</i> by Andrea Luka Zimmerman & <i>A Palace for Us</i> by Tom Hunter followed by a discussion with the directors about regeneration. Tickets from venue.
Sat 24 May 1.30pm	Rio Cinema	Double bill by Winstan Whitter showing <i>Save our Heritage + Hands Off</i> plus a Q & A with Bill Parry-Davies & Director Winstan Whitter In anticipation of London's Olympic bid, a new tube line for Hackney and urban regeneration efforts were planned. The site of the old theatre at Dalston (a.k.a The Club Four Aces, a.k.a Labyrinth) lies very close to Dalston rail station and the famous Ridley Road market. An organization called OPEN formed to try to protect the site because of its cultural heritage, with support from an active cross-section of Hackney's people. Tickets from Rio here
Sun 25 May at 1.30	Rio Cinema	<i>How To Get On With Everyone</i> plus a Q & A with Directors Winstan Whitter, Elin Moe and the star of the film Rabbi Herschel Gluck An intimate portrait of one of life's loveable optimists, London Rabbi Herschel Gluck. Following his life and works, building bridges between people from all walks of life. Not an easy feat in a polarised world. Tickets from Rio here

Satellite events

Ticket price determined by venue. Ticketed unless stated otherwise.

Tue 6th May 6.30	Shoreditch Town Hall Guided Tour	Learn about how the use of the space developed over the years from a municipal building that opened in 1866, holding the inquest into the murder of Jack the Ripper's last victim Mary Kelly in 1888, to becoming one of the East End's premiere boxing venues in the 60s, hosting colourful trance nights in the 1990s with the now infamous Whirl-Y-Gig, to the leading arts venue it is today with a programme of spectacular theatre, star-studded comedy, boisterous drag queens and more. You'll find out about the architecture and design of our building, and get the opportunity to see your favourite film and TV locations in the flesh - our spaces
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		were recently featured in Baby Reindeer and A Quiet Place: Day One. Oh, and you might bump into a ghost in The Ditch... Tickets here
Wed 7th May 6pm	Innovation on Historic Grounds: The Transformation of Here East and the Journey of the Olympic Park	Join us at Here East during the Hackney History Festival as we take you on a journey through our transformation from the former International Press and Broadcast Centre of the London 2012 Olympics to today's thriving tech and innovation campus. Explore the rich history of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, uncovering its evolution from industrial land to a global hub for creativity, education, technology, and entrepreneurship. Through interactive exhibits, talks, and behind-the-scenes insights, we will showcase how Here East has played a pivotal role in shaping the legacy of the Olympic Park. In addition, Dave Hill will present his book "Olympic Park – When Britain Built Something Big," which captured the history of London 2012 and the creation of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. FREE
Thu 8th May 5pm	Day-Mer Centre Open Evening	We will hear from Taylan Sahbaz from Day-Mer, Turkish and Kurdish Community Centre who will give an introduction to Hackney's Kurdish, Turkish, and Turkish Cypriot Communities. This session will give an insight into the community and a chance to learn about the different groups that make up a significant community in Hackney. Day-Mer was established in 1989 and has worked with Turkish, Kurdish, Cypriot Turkish and European Turkish communities in Hackney to support integration. Day-Mer provides advice, health, education and cultural support services and works to help those experiencing poverty and economic disadvantage, socially excluded young people, women, older people and recent migrants receiving little or no support. Taylan will be open to questions at the end of his presentation. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the different groups within the Turkish/ Kurdish/ Cypriot Turkish community, and how to adopt an anti-racist approach. FREE
Thursday 8th May 6.30- 7.45pm	Battlefield Hackney: The 43 Group & Their Fight Against Britain's Fascists 1946-50 with Daniel Sonabend	The 43 Group was an anti-fascist organisation formed in the wake of WWII by Jewish ex-servicemen and women, in response to the return of the fascist followers of Oswald Mosley to the streets of Britain. Between 1946-50 the 43 Group waged a direct and often violent street campaign against the fascists, with Ridley Road, Dalston as the most prominent and violent battleground. In his talk Daniel Sonabend, author of We Fight Fascists: The 43 Group and the Forgotten Battle for Post-War Britain will tell the story of the 43 Group and their fight against fascism, with particular focus on the central importance of Hackney within the conflict. FREE Tickets from Hackney Museum
Thu 8th May 7pm	Mildmay Tour	The Mildmay Club (formerly the Mildmay Radical Club) has overlooked Newington Green since it was built 125 years ago. At this event there will be two short talks – one from Pete Brown, author of 'Clubland: How the Working Men's

		<p>Club Shaped Britain' on the history of working men's clubs and the Mildmay's place in that history, and another on the history of the building. These will be followed by a tour around the Grade II Listed building, a presentation of historic records, pictures, and artefacts, and opportunity to ask questions.</p> <p>You will learn about the architecture, design and successive refurbishments of the building, the political, educational, cultural and sporting activities that continue to be fostered here, celebrities who have performed here, and club members' participation in two world wars. Space will be available for up to 40 people. Please reserve your place at https://buytickets.at/mildmayclubandinstituteltd/1588828 or email enquiries@mildmay.club for more information. Suggested donation: £5 (£2 concessions).</p>
Fri 9th May 11.30	Hackney Empire Guided Tour	Hackney Empire is a grade II* listed building, built as a music hall in 1901, designed by the architect Frank Matcham. Hear how we went from a music hall, to a TV studio, to a Bingo Hall, to the theatre we are today. FREE
Sun 11th May 2-4	St Augustine's Tower	St. Augustine's Tower is Hackney's oldest building, having survived when the rest of the original parish church was demolished in 1798. A chance to go inside and climb up to the roof with its amazing view over Hackney. FREE, Just turn up.
Mon 12th May 2pm	Hackney Town Hall Guided Tour	Join a Hackney councillor on a guided tour of the beautiful art deco Town Hall and learn all about the building's heritage of local government, service delivery, and recently as an interactive theatre venue! FREE
Mon 12th May 5pm	Yankl Theatre at Hoxton Hall	Join playwright and Yiddishist Tamara Micner for a workshop discussing a much forgotten chapter of London's East End. In this fascinating discussion-based workshop, we will explore the struggles and triumphs of the Jewish community in the East End, and how these movements played a crucial role in shaping the political landscape of London today. Workshop supported by Arts Council England and Shoresh Trust as part of Yankl and The Beanstalk: a new Jewish pantomime set in the East End of yore" Tickets here
Thu 15th May 6pm	Renovation at St Johns, Hackney	Find out about the once in a lifetime restoration of St John's and its surrounding churchyard. This £6 million project turned this iconic building into a world class music and events venue designed to be a cathedral of creativity for church, music and unique experiences and one of the largest venues in East London. FREE, Just turn up.
Fri 16th May 4pm	195 Mare Street Guided Tours	Visit 195 Mare Street, one of Hackney's oldest buildings. Built in 1697, the house has an incredible history. Come on a tour and hear the stories of rich merchants, a venal Tory MP, women prisoners and working men. See the restoration in progress and discover objects found beneath the floorboards. FREE, Just turn up.
Sat 17th May 11-1pm and 2pm-4pm	Laburnum Boat Tours	Join Laburnum Boat Club on a trip to learn the intriguing story of the Regent's Canal in Hackney. After a short introductory session, we will go on a relaxing boat trip along the canal, guided by Carolyn Clark sharing stories and information about life and work along the Cut over the last 200 years. Carolyn is the author of 'The East End

		Canal Tales', 'The Lower Clapton Tales' and 'The Shoreditch Tales'. Cost £15 from Laburnum Boat Club
Tue 20th May 10 am	Hackney Town Hall Guided Tour	Join a Hackney councillor on a guided tour of the beautiful art deco Town Hall and learn all about the building's heritage of local government, service delivery, and recently as an interactive theatre venue! FREE
Sat 24 May 1.30pm	Rio Cinema double bill	Save our Heritage (37 mins) + Hands Off (21 min) plus a Q & A with Bill Parry-Davies & Director Winstan Whitter In anticipation of London's Olympic bid, a new tube line for Hackney and urban regeneration efforts were planned. The site of the old theatre at Dalston (a.k.a The Club Four Aces, a.k.a Labyrinth) lies very close to Dalston rail station and the famous Ridley Road market. An organization called OPEN formed to try to protect the site because of its cultural heritage, with support from an active cross-section of Hackney's people. Tickets from venue
Sun 25 May 1.30pm	Rio Cinema double bill	How To Get On With Everyone (70 mins) plus a Q & A with Directors Winstan Whitter, Elin Moe and the star of the film Rabbi Herschel Gluck An intimate portrait of one of life's loveable optimists, London Rabbi Herschel Gluck. Following his life and works, building bridges between people from all walks of life. Not an easy feat in a polarised world. Tickets from venue
Sun 25th May 2-4	St Augustine's Tower	St. Augustine's Tower is Hackney's oldest building, having survived when the rest of the original parish church was demolished in 1798. A chance to go inside and climb up to the roof with its amazing view over Hackney. FREE, Just turn up.
Sun 29th May 6pm	Poetry event at Homerton Library	a focus on poetry about Hackney Marshes, Hoxton, the Olympic park site in Newham and other local edgelands/sites of transformation (and some wider histories too). There will be readings and a discussion between the poets and a member of library staff, with books available to buy on the night. The poets are Jude Rosen (author of Reclamations from London's Edgelands) and Derrick Porter (author of Voices of Hoxton and The Art of Timing). FREE, JUST TURN UP