



THE HACKNEY SOCIETY

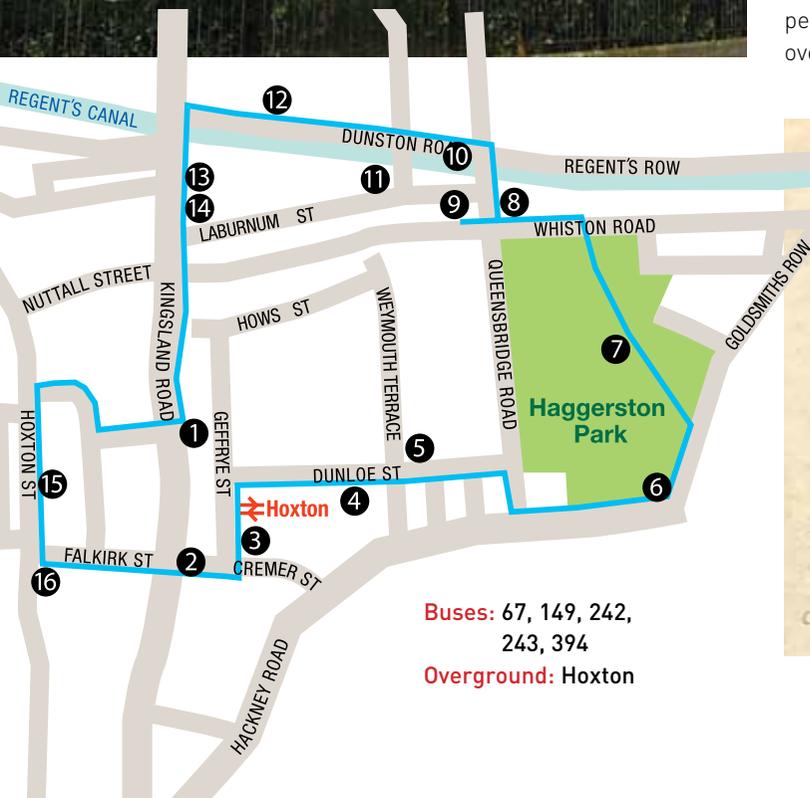
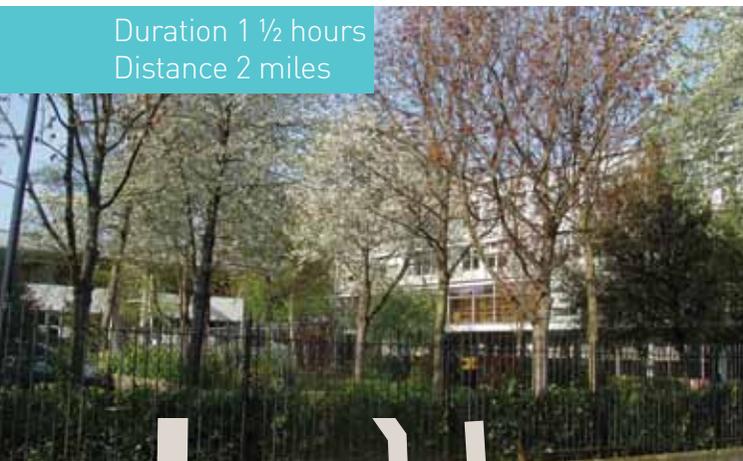
At the Heart of Hackney since 1967

Hackney Walks No 9

A Hackney Society Publication

Highlights of Haggerston

Duration 1 ½ hours
Distance 2 miles



Buses: 67, 149, 242, 243, 394

Overground: Hoxton

This walk covers the northern part of Haggerston.

Haggerston appears in the Domesday Book (1086) as Hergotestane, an outlying hamlet of Shoreditch. Roque's map of 1745 shows it as a village called Agostone. At the end of the 18th century, the area was still rural, with local farmers supplying London with milk and dairy products and feed for horses. With the opening of the Regent's Canal in 1820 and the development of the railways in the mid-19th century, the population increased and Haggerston became part of the urban sprawl with streets of workers' cottages and factories lining the canal. Nowadays it is popular with students and workers in the creative industries as well as with people from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. There is also a sizeable Russian community.

1 Geffrye Museum

The Geffrye Museum is housed in a group of Grade I listed almshouses, built in 1714 by the Ironmongers' Company with a bequest from Sir Robert Geffrye, former Master of the Company and also a Lord Mayor of London. Some 50 pensioners lived in the almshouses until the early 20th century, when the Company sold the property to London County Council and located the pensioners to a healthier area. By then Haggerston was overcrowded and considered to be unsavoury.



Fig 1: Geffrye Museum ©Hackney Archives

In 1912-13, the almshouses were converted to a museum of woodwork and furniture. At that time the area was renowned for the furniture trade. Today the museum specialises in the history of the English domestic interior. Its collections of textiles, furniture and paintings are displayed in a series of period rooms from 1600 to the present day.

The museum expanded in 1998 with an extension designed by Branson Coates with Sheppard Robson. Barely visible from Kingsland Road, the horseshoe-shaped extension may be viewed from Hoxton Station.

Behind the museum is an award-winning herb garden, opened in 1992, which contains over 170 different plants. A series of period garden rooms, laid out in 1998, complements the period rooms inside.

2 Cremer Street

This street was named after William Randal Cremer (1828-1908), who was Liberal MP for Haggerston from 1885 until 1895. Cremer was a trade unionist, pacifist and winner of the 1903 Nobel Peace Prize for work in international arbitration. The Randal Cremer Primary School in nearby Ormsby Street is named in his honour.

3 Hoxton Station

Officially opened on 27 April 2010 as part of the East London Line project linking Hackney to South London, Hoxton Station was designed by Weston Williamson Architects. The station entrance and ticket hall are formed in the refurbished brick arches of the former railway viaduct with new platforms above accessed by

Fig 2: Hoxton Station, 2011



new lifts and stainless steel staitowers. Hoxton Station received a commendation at the Hackney Design Awards 2010.

4 St Chad's Church

This Grade I listed church was built in 1868 by James Brooks, an architect from Stoke Newington. St Chad's is noted for its strong design and use of rose windows. It has been described as 'part of the massive Victorian effort to bring the workers of East London into the Anglican Church'. Sir John Betjeman considered St Chad's to be one of the best examples of an East End Anglo-Catholic Church.

5 Haggerston School

Built in 1964-65, Haggerston School (previously Haggerston Girls School – boys were first admitted in 2010) is a Grade II listed building by the internationally known architect Ernö Goldfinger (1902-87) and Hubert Bennett (London County Council architect). Goldfinger, who had been a pupil of Auguste Perret (1874-1954) and was influenced by Le Corbusier (1887-1965), developed an aesthetic use of concrete.

The school was built as three distinct blocks: a main classroom block with a concrete frame, an entrance block including a school hall constructed of Staffordshire blue load-bearing bricks, and a gymnasium block of reinforced concrete. The elevations of the school follow the mathematical proportions of the Golden Section.



Fig 4: Haggerston School, 2011

6 Hackney City Farm

Opened in 1984, Hackney City Farm offers an opportunity for children and adults to get up close to a range of farmyard animals. People can learn about where their food comes from and why that matters. The farm hosts a number of environmental and craft-based activities including pottery, food growing, upholstery and beekeeping. The site of the farm was home to West's brewery from 1880 until the 1930s, then furniture makers, and from the 1940s Jeakins Haulage Company.

7 Haggerston Park

Haggerston Park was developed in two phases: the previously industrial northern half of the site became a public park in the late 1950s and the southern part of the park was fully developed for public use in the 1980s. Formerly the site had been occupied by gas works such as the Imperial Gas Light and Coke Company, which was connected to the Regent's Canal by the Haggerston Basin (filled in, 1967).



Fig 5: Haggerston Park, 2011



Fig 6: Adelaide Wharf, 2011

8 Adelaide Wharf

Adelaide Wharf was designed by Allford Hall Monaghan and opened in 2007. Consisting of three blocks around a courtyard, it provides 147 flats and 650 square metres of workspace. As part of English Partnerships' London-wide initiative, it offers a mix of privately sold, key-worker and socially rented apartments.

9 Haggerston Baths

Designed by Alfred Cross (1858-1932), an architect who specialised in public baths, Haggerston Baths were opened in 1904. At the opening ceremony, the Vice Chair of the Baths Committee, Alderman E J Wakeling, swam the length of the bath under water.

The original building included slipper baths and a wash-house as well as a swimming pool. At the time most houses in Haggerston did not have their own baths.



Fig 7: Opening of Haggerston Baths, 1904 ©Hackney Archives

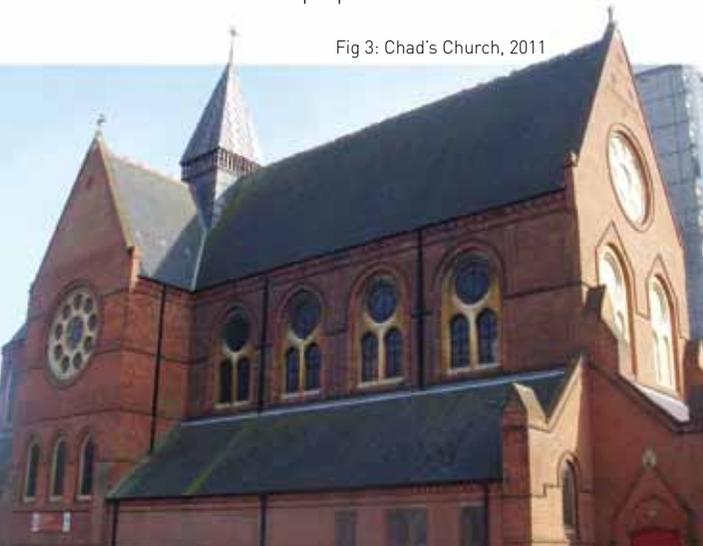


Fig 3: Chad's Church, 2011



Fig 8: Whiston Road North side, 1955 © Hackney Archives

The Grade II listed building in Edwardian Baroque style is of red brick in English bond with Portland Stone dressings. Its slate roof is topped with a cupola with Ionic columns, leaded dome and a gilded weathervane in the form of a ship (Golden Hind). The baths were closed in 2000 on safety grounds.

10 Regent's Canal

The Regent's Canal was built between 1812 and 1820 to link the Grand Junction Canal's Paddington Arm to the Thames at Limehouse. The architect John Nash was one of the directors of the company that built the canal and his assistant, James Morgan, was the engineer on the project. Thomas Homer, who had proposed the canal in 1802, was appointed Superintendent of Works, but in 1815 he was found to be embezzling funds and was sentenced to transportation.

During its first year of operation, the canal carried over 120,000 tons of cargo, and by 1830 this had risen to 500,000 tons of goods a year. The main cargoes were



Fig 9: Bridge Academy, 2011

coal for gas works, timber for the growing furniture industry in Hackney, and grain to feed the horses used to pull the barges along the canal.

Despite some trade being lost to the railways in the mid-19th century and to the roads after World War I, the canal remained a commercial waterway until 1950. During the 1950s, tractors began replacing horses on the canal towpath; the last horse-drawn cargo was in 1956. The government recognised that commercial activity on the Regent's Canal was ending and in 1967 the Grand Union Canal was classified as an amenity waterway.

11 The Bridge Academy

This award-winning school opened in 2008. Designed by BDP and sponsored by UBS, the Bridge Academy forms a seven-level interactive learning environment. The galleried learning space is set around a social gathering area that is designed to be friendly and welcoming and to deter bullying. Classrooms may be adapted for small or large groups. Terraces extend the internal learning space, either as outdoor classrooms or playground areas.



Fig 10: Haggerston Estate, 2011

A transparent ethylene tetra fluoro ethylene (ETFE) cushion stretched over the outside of the building helps minimise energy use. It is a sustainable and hard-wearing alternative to glass.

12 Haggerston Estate

The Haggerston Estate was constructed in two main phases: Haggerston West was built in the 1930s and Haggerston East after World War II. The estate is due for redevelopment in 2011.

In 2007, windows of empty flats were covered with bright orange boards. The artist collective Fugitive Images created the public art project "I am here" and replaced the boards with photographs of 67 residents.

13 Passmore House

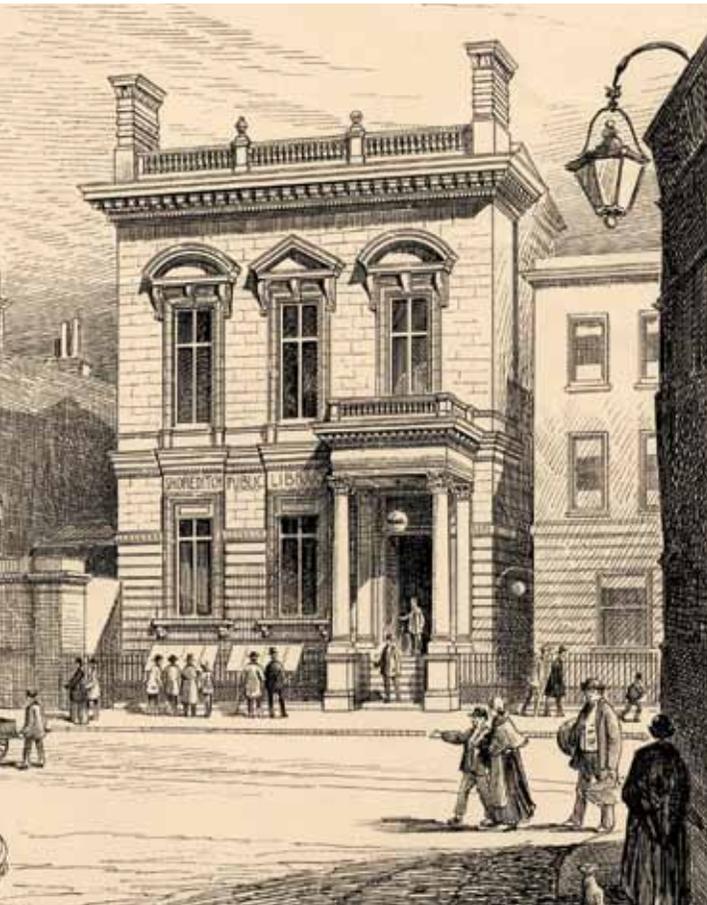
Formerly Haggerston Library, this Grade II listed building has been converted and refurbished to provide apartments for private rent and affordable homes for local residents. There is a large communal area to the rear.

Haggerston Library was opened by the Duke of Devonshire on 10 May 1893, a year after Shoreditch adopted the Public Library Acts of the 1850s. Funding was provided by John Passmore Edwards (1823-1911), who is commemorated with his name above the entrance and on a foundation stone that he laid in 1896.

Unlike other Passmore Edwards libraries, Haggerston Library was not built in the Arts and Crafts manner because it took over an existing neo-Baroque building, designed by R J Lowell. In 1896 Maurice B Adams extended the library in the same style. The building was further extended in 1936.

Although the library was bombed during World War II, it remained open. It was restored after the war. In 1975 it closed for good, and remained empty for almost 20 years.

Fig 11: Haggerston Library © Hackney Archives



14 Süleymaniye Mosque

Süleymaniye Mosque was officially opened in 1999. Built with Turkish funding, it was designed by the architect Osman Sahan to reflect Ottoman style. It shares its name with the second largest mosque in Istanbul. The building includes a function hall, a school and a canteen.

15 Hoxton Hall

Today Hoxton Hall is a youth arts centre. Built by James Mortimer in 1863 'with the specific object of affording the humbler classes an entertainment that shall combine instruction with amusement', it has been through various stages from music hall to temperance mission. In 1943 it was used as an air raid shelter. This Grade II listed building has many original features including wrought iron work on the balconies.

Fig 12: Süleymaniye Mosque, 2011



Fig13: Hoxton Hall, 2011

16 Hackney Community College

The Shoreditch campus of Hackney Community College was opened in 1997. The campus, which includes Shoreditch Library, was designed by Perkins Ogden Architects working with Hampshire County Architects.

The blacksmith Matthew Fedden created gates and screens for the two main entrances and five smaller courtyards. Bettina Furnee, who carves stone, produced four curved cast-stone benches around the amphitheatre in the main courtyard. Each carries two lines of the first verse of Benjamin Zephaniah's A State of Rock.

Text by Monica Blake and John Finn
 Photographs courtesy of Monica Blake and Hackney Archives
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The Hackney Society is the borough's civic and amenity society. For further information log on to www.hackneysociety.org, email info@hackneysociety.org, or write to us at The Round Chapel, 1d Glenarm Road, London E5 0LY.
 Other walks are available in the series.

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www.hackneysociety.org