

INTRODUCTION

This walk takes you through Hackney Wick – a place rich in history. A place where inventors, industrialists and sportsmen came and excelled.

Most of the buildings have gone and the stories are now forgotten. Here are some poems to help you imagine what Hackney Wick was like in the time when your great, great, great grandparents were alive!

*Yes, this was Hackney Wick, my dears,
this was Hackney Wick,
Do the rounds and beat the bounds
and make the memories stick!*



HACKNEY WICK - A LONG, LONG TIME AGO

*A stretch of land beside the River Lea,
where hunters came to bend the trusty bow.
a marshy waste, a world away from town,
such was the Hackney Wick of long ago.*

*A medieval manor on a stream
where men might see the silver salmon leap,
a patch of scrub in leafy Middlesex,
where cattle grazed and shepherds
watched their sheep.*

*Here where the winding river claimed the land
the weeping willows once gave welcome shade
to country folk who strolled along its banks
and fishermen who plied their gentle trade.*



SPORTING HACKNEY WICK ^A

We've all heard about the famous sporting event that is going to happen in 2012. But, have you heard about Hackney Wick's famous sporting history?

FIVE OLD ETONIANS & ETON MANOR BOYS' CLUB

[i]
*'You can't do away with the Manor Boys
For they'll be needed bye and bye
For every one of the Manor Boys
Is ready to do or die
For they made the name of Hackney
As mighty as mighty can be
If it wasn't for the Manor boys
Where would dear old Hackney be?
In the workhouse!'*

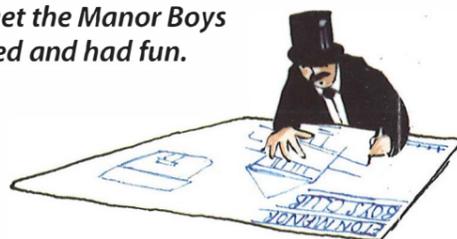
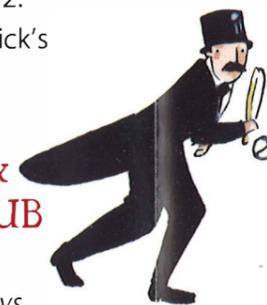
[ii]
*It was in Queen Victoria's time
the Wick was called the Sink.
It was a den of vice and crime,
of poverty and drink.*

*The college boys of Eton
came East to found a club
to keep the boys of Hackney Wick
from hanging round the pub.*

*The Eton Manor Boys' Club
grew famous in the land.
Five wealthy Eton old boys came
to lend a helping hand.*

*They built a handsome clubhouse,
a sports ground of the best.
They planted hope and promise
here in the Wilderness.*

**Then remember Eton College
and the good deeds that were done
but don't forget the Manor Boys
who sported and had fun.**



Acknowledgements: This illustrated storywalk would never have been realised without the generous contribution of Ralph Rochester. I would also like to thank Zara Slattery, Elizabeth Green, Ann Robey, Glory Hall, Diana Oluntunmogun, Libby Adams, Sophie Rochester and the people of Hackney Wick.

And here is the Eton Manor Boys' Club's most famous member.

HARRY MALLIN & THE OLYMPIC GAMES

*Harry Mallin was a boxer
but the whole world knew his name.
The noble art of self defence
was Harry Mallin's game*

*When Harry came to Hackney Wick,
a hundred years ago,
he joined the famous Manor boys
and learned to strike a blow.*

*He learned to stand up in the ring.
He mastered many a trick
and all that Harry Mullin learned
he learned in Hackney Wick.*

*He fought in two Olympic Games
in Belgium and in France
He taught the Belgians how to hop,
The Frenchmen how to dance.
He won the prized gold medal
and what did he do then?
He went back four years later
and he won the gold again.*



Beating the Bounds of the Games

HACKNEY WICK

An illustrated storywalk for children and their families
Poems by Ralph Rochester
Illustrations by Zara Slattery

A Hackney Society Publication
in collaboration with Hackney Archives

Hackney Walks no. 7a

The Hackney Society

We are a local civic and amenity society. We love all the good things about Hackney – its buildings, parks, history and people. If you love Hackney you can become a junior or family member and help us to look after what is special about Hackney. For more information log on to www.hackneysociety.org

Hackney Archives

A place which looks after Hackney's history – we hold historic records, photographs, maps, newspapers and books about Hackney's past from about 1700 to the present day. Anyone is welcome to visit and use our collections. For more information log on to www.hackney.gov.uk/ca-archives.htm

Discover Hackney's Heritage Festival

Come and discover more about Hackney's heritage at an annual festival organised by Hackney's Heritage and Built Environment Partnership. For more information log on to www.hackneyheritage.co.uk

Hackney Wick Festival

Come and have fun at the Hackney Wick Festival in September. For more information log on to www.hackneywickfestival.org.uk

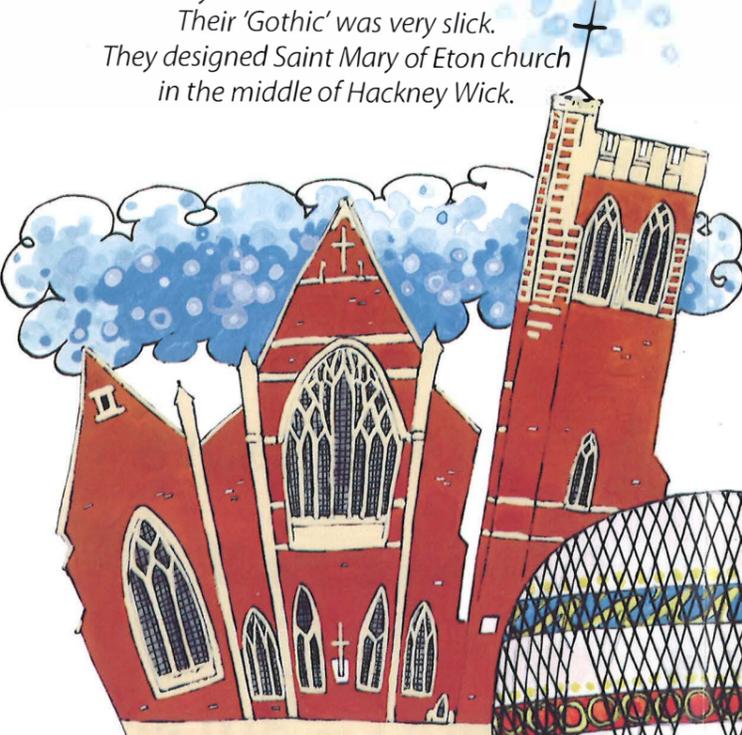
In 2009 and 2010 we will publishing podcasts about Hackney Wick and Marshes. Contact Lisa on 020 8806 4003 for further information.

This project has been generously funded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and Renaissance London; and supported by Hackney's Heritage and Built Environment Partnership. Commissioning editor: Lisa Rigg.
Poems: ©Ralph Rochester, 2009. Illustrations: ©Zara Slattery, 2009.



6 **BODLEY & GARNER, & SAINT MARY OF ETON CHURCH**

Bodley and Garner were architects. Their 'Gothic' was very slick. They designed Saint Mary of Eton church in the middle of Hackney Wick.



7 **PERCIVAL HOLT & GAINSBOROUGH ROAD PUBLIC BATHS**

WHAT NO BATH!
What shall we do?
No bath and no shower!
Let's pop down to the public baths and scrub for a happy hour.

Now we're clean and fit to be seen.
Now we're ready for laughs.
Thank you Mister Percival Holt for giving us PUBLIC BATHS.



The storywalk is circular and starts at Leabank Square overlooking the Lee Navigation Canal.

Yes, this was Hackney Wick, my dears, this was Hackney Wick, Do the rounds and beat the bounds And make the memories stick.



8 **HACKNEY HAWKS & THE HACKNEY STADIUM**

'Make it a date, Friday at eight!'
Hear the engines roar!
The Hackney Hawks are racing again, They are back in the saddle once more.

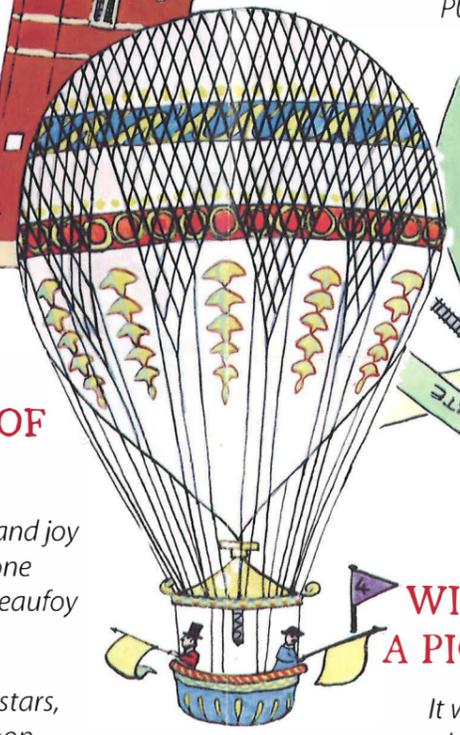
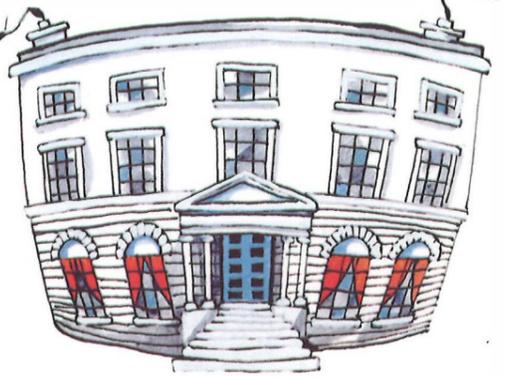
The Stadium's packed. The punters gasp. **Traxcitement** is in the air. The kings of speedway are back on track. The thrills are everywhere.

5 **MARK BEAUFOY OF WICK HOUSE**

Old Wick House was the pride and joy of the Wick in days long gone and there lived Colonel Mark Beaufoy In eighteen twenty one.

Mark Beaufoy who loved the stars, who fell in love with the moon, who rose up over his garden gate in a beautiful air balloon.

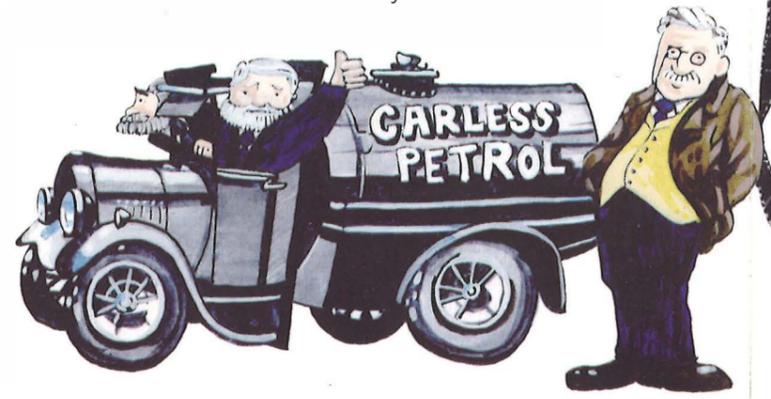
Over his garden gate he rose In eighteen twenty one and flew high over his wonderful house which now and for ever is gone.



4 **WILLIAM LEONARD, A PIONEER OF PETROL**

It was in the eighteen nineties, when cars were an innovation, that William Leonard and his mates brought petrol to the nation.

They called it Carless Petrol which was a funny name for it powered ten thousand motors but was Carless just the same.

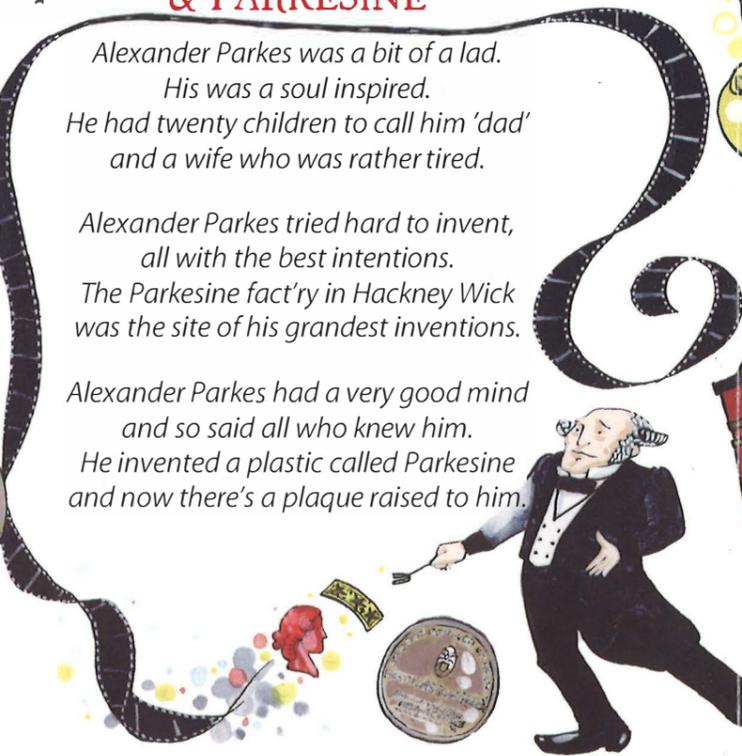


3 **ALEXANDER PARKES & PARKESINE**

Alexander Parkes was a bit of a lad. His was a soul inspired. He had twenty children to call him 'dad' and a wife who was rather tired.

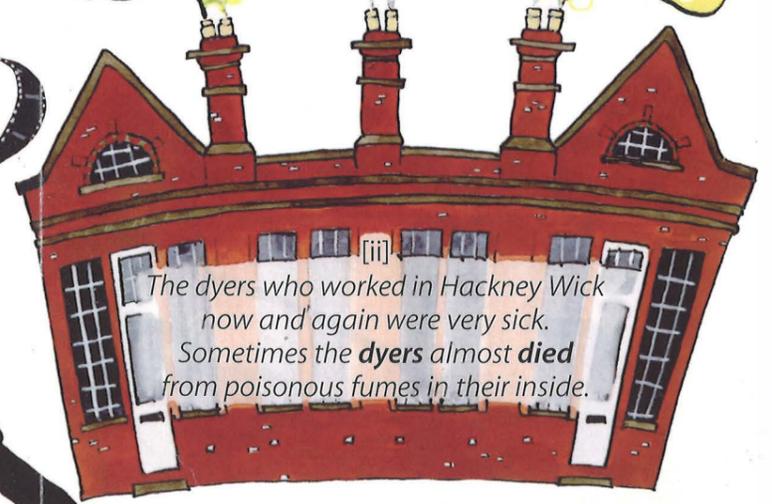
Alexander Parkes tried hard to invent, all with the best intentions. The Parkesine fact'ry in Hackney Wick was the site of his grandest inventions.

Alexander Parkes had a very good mind and so said all who knew him. He invented a plastic called Parkesine and now there's a plaque raised to him.



2 **ARTHUR GREEN & THE ATLAS WORKS**

[i] At the Atlas Works, a clever fellow whose name was Arthur GREEN discovered a dyestuff that was YELLOW and called it PRIMULINE.



The dyers who worked in Hackney Wick now and again were very sick. Sometimes the **dyers** almost **died** from poisonous fumes in their inside.

