Promoting the highest standards in design and protecting Hackney's unique heritage

THE HACKNEY SOCIETY

SPACES 2026

News and views about Hackney's built environment

Issue 92 Autumn 2026 // ISSN 2047-7465

An eye on planning – Ewa Effiom looks at some of the applications recently reviewed by the society's Planning Group

Hackney is a special place, full of history and a spirit of place, unlike any other. It incites pride in those that encounter it, beguiling them with its ebullience and dynamism. From the scatter of medieval rural settlements to the sprawling district it is today, Hackney has always been a place in flux. That is not a secret, nor is it a bad thing.

But places with cultural and architectural value, however lauded, are susceptible to change. The role of organisations such as the Hackney Society is not to cryogenically freeze Hackney, preserving a pastiche of times past but ensuring change does not erode what makes it special: protecting that heritage while recognising change as inevitable.

In fact, cryostasis would stifle Hackney's vitality. The Hackney Society isn't arguing against change but advocating for good, managed change; demanding that new development respect the past while contributing positively to the future; this requires scrutiny to prevent unruly development from stripping away character for profit. Planning applications shape neighbourhoods for decades, long after the planning committee rules and the hoardings have come down. Since 2010, the Hackney Society's Planning Group has provided that scrutiny, engaging with applications as a check and balance for the places and people who will ultimately bear the consequences.

Recent applications in Hackney demonstrate why this scrutiny matters.

One of the most significant is Shoreditch Works, an £800 million mixed-use scheme occupying a 3.5-acre site in the South Shoreditch Conservation Area, assembled over decades by Linea Properties. The proposals include a 19-storey office tower,



Studio houses at 91-101 Worship Street image Rob Briggs

78 homes and 80,000 sqm of commercial, lab and studio space, alongside an acre of new public realm. The scheme responds to genuine demand for workspace but concerns remain about the tower, the demolition of post-war stock and its impact on the historic low-rise terraces on Worship Street, which include Grade II* listed buildings.

(See a detailed summary of the application below)

Ongoing tension also surrounds 150 Homerton High Street, where Re:shape, the developer, has commissioned Fourfoursix to design a 23-storey co-living tower comprising 35 per cent affordable homes, ground-floor commercial space and publicly accessible open space and interspersed communal terraces.

The scheme returned to the Hackney Society Planning Group after a six-year gap. The revised proposal submitted adds four storeys to CZWG's 2020 submission but makes limited substantive changes to address concerns including overheating risks associated with limited openable window provision, long internal corridors and the proposed height's relationship to the surrounding six-storey context.

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These are not simply aesthetic concerns; the typology raises questions about what kind of housing Hackney is delivering. Co-living can provide accommodation at a time where there is housing need but if it becomes a substitute for more conventional housing provision, it does little to encourage a mixed residential population. Hackney needs homes. But the question cannot simply be about maximising density; it must also be what kind of homes are proposed, how they relate to their surroundings and whether they contribute to the long-term viability of the neighbourhood.

Dalston Kingsland Shopping Centre

The redevelopment of Dalston's Kingsland Shopping Centre raises similar questions at a different scale. Criterion Capital's

Continued overleaf

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www.instagram.com/hackney_society/

proposals, designed by Buckley Grey Yeoman, would provide 254 homes, across four 12 to 14-storey buildings, alongside 4,600 sqm of non-residential space, following demolition of the eastern portion of the existing shopping centre, currently home to Matalan and a carpark. The scheme offers 35 per cent affordable housing, also below Hackney's policy expectation.

But the implications extend beyond the buildings. Dalston's identity is inseparable from Ridley Road Market, whose contested future this scheme would undoubtedly overshadow. Any major redevelopment around the Kingsland Shopping Centre therefore must be understood not only as a question of how many homes are provided but of how an existing social and economic ecosystem is protected and supported. Development cannot happen in isolation from the places around it.

The proposed redevelopment of the former Valente Bros ice cream factory on Chelmer Road provides another example of why design scrutiny matters. Pensaer proposed mews houses and flats across five buildings, using waffle-textured precast panels and columns referencing ice cream cones, with pistachio and strawberry hues drawing on the site's history of ice cream production.

The design language is deliberately referential but references to heritage, though appreciated, are not enough. The Planning Group, working with a local resident, requested more information to understand how the proposal would sit in context. Given the site's constraints, understanding the treatment of boundaries and the provision of amenity space was essential to assessing the proposal's quality. These are not minor details. Hackney needs more homes but not at the expense of good, integrated, homes.

Detailed feedback

The Planning Group's experience suggests that when detailed feedback is provided early, applications can respond and are better for it. Benthal Primary School's revised submission is an example of this. The proposal replaced the single-glazed windows with double-glazed aluminium ones. Following concerns about an earlier application, which was ultimately withdrawn, the subsequent submission contained significantly more detailed documentation. Though the school is neither listed nor in a Conservation Area, it is recognised as important heritage and the revised proposal reflected that. The Planning Group's collaborative work with the Twentieth Century Society helped establish a constructive dialogue, which matters because it demonstrates that planning scrutiny does not have to be adversarial. Detailed critique, provided early, can help applicants submit better-informed proposals.

Shoreditch Works, called in by the Mayor of London and awaiting his decision, is a reminder that the stakes are rising. As market pressure on Hackney intensifies, so does the need for a body willing to ask what is being built, for whom and at what cost. The borough has always been shaped by change; the task now is to ensure it is shaped well, application by application, for as long as Hackney keeps growing.

Ewa Effiom is a Hackney Society trustee

Will Shoreditch work? A report by the Hackney Society Planning Group

Shoreditch Works is one of the largest redevelopment sites within Shoreditch, encompassing the majority of an urban block which forms the south-eastern boundary of the South Shoreditch Conservation Area. A proposal seeks to introduce larger, denser, city scale forms of development, including a 19-storey tower that would be visible throughout the conservation area and beyond.

The site borders a highly developed edge of the City of London, creating a juxtaposition in building height that is an important aspect of its significance. This juxtaposition reinforces the special qualities for which the conservation area was designated, primarily Shoreditch's furniture trade roots. The significance of the relatively low-rise architecture which housed the furniture trade is not diluted by the neighbouring city-fringe towers.

The proposal includes 78 homes and 80,000 sqm of commercial, lab and studio space, alongside an acre of new public realm. The scheme responds to genuine demand for workspace but concerns remain about the tower, the demolition of post-war stock and its impact on the historic low-rise terraces on Worship Street.

The site was badly damaged during WW2 and many of the buildings were altered or replaced during the post-war period. The modern buildings are mostly unremarkable, but the surviving historic buildings include a Grade II* listed terrace at 91-101 Worship Street by Philip Webb. This extraordinary terrace has continued to fall into disrepair since acquisition by its current owner, who is arguing the need for restoration to justify the scale of the whole development.

It is apparent from the application that the developer has engaged in extensive negotiations with Hackney Council, who supported the introduction of routes between north and south but consistently, and with little success, also sought to reduce the height of the tallest building, encouraging a low rise development. The developer's attempt to shoehorn large office floor plates into the fine urban grain of the streets have resulted in a complexity that obscures the historic structure of the block.

The proposal has seen the SPAB, Victorian Society, Historic England, GLA, the Hackney Society and Hackney Council's Conservation Officers raise significant heritage concerns. These stakeholders' concerns centre around the potential of a city-scale tower to harm the setting of the Grade II* Philip Webb terrace and the conservation area, but also the impact of the increase in height at the perimeter of the site.

Following these significant concerns, the application was reported to the 4 February 2026 Planning Sub-Committee with a recommendation for refusal on the following grounds:

1. The impact of the development on the townscape, conservation area and listed buildings;
2. The level of Affordable Workspace failing to address Hackney's employment requirements.

In the run up to the committee meeting the applicant had engaged in extensive lobbying of the councillors that sit on the planning committee, with some being accompanied on site visits. Backed by evidence in the form of letters of public support, the proposal was presented to the committee as exactly what the residents of Shoreditch want, which could be potentially blocked by the 'nit-picking' of the planning

Will Shoreditch work? *continues*

officers. After many hours of debate during the Sub-Committee meeting, and promises of amendments by the applicant, the councillors voted to defer rather than refuse the application, and a date was set for an amended scheme to be considered by the committee.

But a failure to honour these promises meant that, unusually, the Planning Service recommended refusal for the second time. With this course looking rocky, the applicant appealed to the GLA, who 'called in' the application, meaning that the privilege to determine their borough's own application is removed from Hackney Council and taken on by the Mayor of London. The dates are yet to be set for the public hearing at which the final decision will be made on this controversial development.

Haggerston Baths By Rob Briggs

Much of the sad recent history of Haggerston Baths has been documented in *Spaces*. Its sudden closure in February 2000 (in issue 5) and failure to reopen quickly despite Council promises, and the fallout from that (issues 10 and 11). The abortive attempt to rework the building as a 'Health and Wellbeing Centre' in 2009–11 (issues 24 and 33). And the years 2015–19 culminating in Hackney Council's selection of Castleforge Partners to proceed with a mixed-use redevelopment of the baths (issues 49, 51, 59 and 64). (To round things off, *Spaces* 43 also noted the building scoring the dubious honour of being one of the Victorian Society's Top Ten Endangered Buildings for 2014.)





Left, Haggerston Baths – picture Paul Bolding. Right, Model with Postits – picture Rob Briggs

Anyone with even a passing familiarity with the building nowadays will know that it has not been regenerated. In fact, although mothballed and secured from any repetition of past episodes of squatting, the condition of its exterior has visibly declined in recent years.

The Society's Buildings at Risk Group (BARG) has taken a particular interest in the baths because it is a publicly-owned building that seemingly had a brighter future within reach before things went silent. We have built up a fair understanding of the story behind the lack of progress with the Castleforge scheme (helped by what journalist Peter Carlyon uncovered for an excellent August 2025 article in *The Londoner*). The reasons are complex but boil down to the developer no longer being able to make the numbers add up — hardly surprising for an office/workspace-dominated reworking of a listed building in a backstreet location served by a single bus route. Haggerston Baths is effectively back at square one.

I felt that BARG should do something to make public what we had gathered about the baths, as the Council was doing a terrible job of keeping people informed. The impetus came with the announcement of 'Belonging' as the theme for the London Festival of Architecture 2026 — which in the case of the baths could be interpreted as much about its ongoing contribution to local sense of place as about the building being in public ownership and thus in a way belonging to all Hackney citizens.

With Centre 151 right next door on Whiston Road selected as the venue, an exhibition of two halves came together for a free public event on 14th June. One half presented all the information amassed to date about the baths, with timelines of its story (and that of Haggerston) from the 19th century up to 2026. The other half looked to the future, encouraging attendees to contribute ideas and opinions about how the building could be reimagined to meet the needs of Haggerston and Hackney in the 2020s and beyond. A series of examples of adaptive reuse of former baths and other historic buildings were provided for further inspiration.

A hundred people came through the doors in four hours and together made the event even greater than the sum of its parts. Many joined one of the tours around the outside of the baths and environs. Some wrote the 48 Post-it notes, bearing suggestions ranging from reopening the pool to a basement data centre, that were added to a scale model created by Ya Ya Chen, architect and Hackney Society trustee. And that's without mentioning the displays of Central St Martin's student Benjamin Chang of his MA project on the baths and the collection of 2015 photographs of the baths taken by Simon Mooney in 2015 and printed by Lisa Shell specially for the event.

Thanks are due to all the above-mentioned people for the day's success, and others likewise: Pierre Palluet and his Centre 151 colleagues for being such accommodating and supportive hosts; Patrick Hammill of Hackney Historic Buildings Trust for sharing his knowledge of the baths; the team of Society volunteers who helped set up and steward the event; and all of the local businesses and organisations who helped promote it.

Hackney Council's Strategic Property Services has since confirmed that engagement with Cabinet members about the baths is ongoing, with the building considered a priority site, but also that there has been no progress with Castleforge despite the developer having the ability to enter into discussions with Hackney regarding a new vision for the building. (Castleforge was invited to participate in the event but failed to respond.) So, something and nothing is happening behind the scenes.

BARG is not seeking to mount a public campaign but is keen to keep pressing those responsible at the Council on the issue of the future of the baths. More than 26 years since it shut, the baths desperately needs a fresh approach to secure its future, one that learns from the failures of the past and ultimately sees it restored to its rightful role at the heart of Haggerston.

Go to the Hackney Society's YouTube channel for an external tour of the building.

Applications submitted for Tram Depot redevelopment

Parts of the locally listed former Clapton Tram Depot near the Lea Bridge roundabout would be set for redevelopment under plans submitted to Hackney Council for approval.

The series of Victorian buildings either side of a cobbled roadway houses a variety of business including venues used for weddings and parties.

The celebrity wedding of photographer Max Webster and fashion designer Coco Fennell there last December made British Vogue, Hello and other media. Guests included Joan Collins.

The venue for that blingfest, the ironically name Clapton Country Club, would not be directly affected by the planning application.

The proposal would radically alter the look of the 54 metres long Upper Clapton Road façade by adding five brick arches. Behind it, one corner of the site would be revitalised with commercial units and a restaurant/café and called The Square. Two small buildings would be demolished.

In a separate application for an adjoining space called The Lawns to the rear of the tram depot, five terraced houses would be built on a site now occupied by garages accessed from Casimir Road.



Clapton Tram Depot by Paul Bolding

Under a plan approved in 2011, the whole site was set to be demolished and 85 flats erected. A further application was consented in 2018 but also not proceeded with.

The depot was opened on 12 July 1873 by the North Metropolitan Tramways Company and is one of the few remaining examples of a Victorian horse-drawn tram depot in London. Trams linked Clapton to the City via Mare Street. The horse tram service ceased in 1907 and it was never adapted to the new electric trams.

Stalled Shoreditch project set to restart?

A major residential project in Shoreditch Park, stalled after the contractor went into administration, could be set to restart after Hackney Council found a new contractor. The council said on its website it was in discussions with Wates Construction Ltd about taking over the project. "Wates is managing the site and working with us to understand what we need to restart construction."

The project, between the new Britannia Leisure Centre and City of London Academy, comprises 51 new homes for social rent, 30 homes for shared ownership, and 290 homes for outright sale, being marketed as Shoreditch Parkside. Several major London sites were shuttered by the collapse into administration in June of Ardmore Construction Group Ltd.

Council reports state the costs are "now likely to exceed" the current approved budget figure of £197m, LDRS reported.

Meet the new Historic Environment Champion

Hackney's new Green administration has named Bettina Maidment, Lea Bridge Ward Councillor and a member of the Hackney Society, as its Historic Environment Champion.

The post has hitherto been called Heritage Champion under a network created by Historic England to develop its work at a local level. All local authorities are encouraged to appoint a Heritage Champion.

Bettina Maidment said about getting the role: "I'm really excited in advocating for Hackney's historic buildings, looking to enhance the great work the Hackney Society does, but also widen its scope to think more broadly in terms of our historic environment whether that's markets or public squares and our streetscape and the often forgotten little things like historic bollards that give a feel to an area."

"What I'd really love to be able to do is facilitate the varied groups that have an interest in the built environment whether that's people interested in retrofit or landscaping or just have a passion for the area in which they live. I really want to get as many people involved to discuss what is fundamentally Our Hackney; how we can use these historic buildings in a way that works for how we live now, for the benefit of the community and ensure that they are fit for the next 100 years."


Bettina Maidment

On the name change, she said it was felt "this more accurately reflects the focus on the built environment rather than cultural heritage, with cultural heritage being its own important subject area."

Go to the Hackney Society's YouTube channel for an interview that Bettina Maidment has given to the society's chair, Janet Chapman, about her new role.

Hackney School of Food By Ya Ya Chen

Located on Oswald Street in Lower Clapton, on the grounds of Mandeville Primary School, Hackney School of Food is an initiative teaching children and young people how to grow, prepare and cook delicious and nutritious food. The school is a joint venture between the Learning, Education, Arts and Partnership (LEAP) Federation, a network of three Hackney primary schools, and Chefs in Schools, a charity dedicated to transforming food, food culture and food education in schools through training, guidance and support.



Hackney School of Food - Picture Jim Stephenson

Hackney Society visited Hackney School of Food recently and members were given a tour by Tom Surman, founder of architecture practice Surman Weston. The office was appointed in 2018 to transform a redundant caretaker's cottage into an educational kitchen.

The transformation of the building is deliberately modest. The existing building was stripped out and its entire first floor removed, creating a generous double-height space. Many of the original finishes and features were left in place to minimise unnecessary removal costs, including rough plaster and old bathroom tiles.

The new kitchen is at the heart of the scheme. It is equipped with professional-grade appliances but remains welcoming and playful, with specially designed height-adjustable workstations allowing children of different ages and abilities to cook comfortably.

Outside, the garden is both a productive growing space and an extension of the classroom. We met head gardener Lidka D'Agostino, whose enthusiasm for the space was infectious. She talked about the garden not simply as somewhere to grow vegetables, but as another way of teaching. Rather than telling young people what constitutes a healthy diet, children can see where food comes from, understand the time and care involved in growing it, and take what they have grown into the kitchen to prepare and eat. There is something powerful about learning in real places and through real activities.

After our conversation with Tom and Lidka, we spent some time wandering through the garden in the summer sun. It was a quiet reminder of what the Hackney School of Food is trying to achieve: not simply teaching children about food, but helping them understand where it comes from, how it is made and why it matters. Perhaps this is what makes Hackney School of Food so interesting. It demonstrates that some of the most meaningful learning can happen when young people are given the space, tools and responsibility to do things for themselves.

Ya Ya Chen is a Hackney Society Trustee

Go to the Hackney Society's YouTube channel for a tour of the site.

Peace Mural concerns

Concerns have been expressed for the Hackney Peace Carnival Mural in Dalston Lane after a planning application was lodged for major alterations to the building on which it is painted.


Hackney Peace Carnival Mural Picture Flickr Loco Steve CC BY-SA 2.0

The application for numbers 15-19 Dalston Lane would create 27 affordable homes within the two buildings, number 17-19 being one building. The mural is on the west elevation of number 15.

The application from Centrepoint and Safe Haven London says among its objectives are that it "preserves the physical, historical and cultural context of the site, including the Dalston Peace Carnival Mural."

A group called Friends of the Peace Carnival Mural has written to the developers urging that they jointly appoint "an independent structural engineer with conservation expertise to report with recommendations on any additional steps which will be necessary to mitigate the potential impact of the development on the Mural".

The mural was designed by artist Ray Walker in 1983 to celebrate 'Peace Year'. It shows the Hackney Peace Carnival which took place in the same year and depicts both the celebration of peace and many threats to peace at that time. It was restored in 2014.



Hackney shop sign - image Tom Hunter

Sign points to radical past of Mare Street shop

The unexpected uncovering of a shop sign in Mare Street has led to discussion of the building's role in Hackney's radical past.

A later sign on 245 Mare Street either fell off or was removed in building work (reports vary), revealing the word "Hackney" elegantly styled as part of a banner being carried by marchers. It was clearly half of a wider sign covering number 247 that remains hidden.

Bodies that used the address 245-247 Mare Street from at least the early 1970s include Hackney Community Relations Council (CRC) and its successor organisation Hackney Council for Racial Equality. Number 247 was also the address of Hackney NALGO, the particularly activist branch of the National and Local Government Officers' Association trade union, though that may have been the premises above the shop.

The *Community Relations Commission* was a national body established by the government following the 1968 Race Relations Act. It set up local *Community Relations Councils*, which appear to have been quite varied in activity, but were broadly aimed at increasing community cohesion and reducing racism. By March 1969 there were 78 CRCs around the country with 42 full-time posts attached.

By August 1969, Hackney CRC produced an exhibition to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, the Indian anti-colonial nationalist noted for his nonviolent resistance to British rule that helped deliver India's independence.

The premises were also used by the Hackney Committee against Racialism, a grassroots community group formed around 1971 by local residents in London concerned by the local impact of racist statements made by Enoch Powell.

Hackney Society is currently in discussion with the owner and Hackney Archives to save the sign.

Go to https://tinyurl.com/MareStreetSign for more.

Hackney's Affordable Housing Targets **By Chris Kennedy**

There is a housing crisis in the country in general and Hackney in particular. The borough's shortage of social housing means over 3,000 households are in temporary accommodation and nearly twice as many again also on the waiting list because their existing provision is at least two rooms short of the space they require.

Council infill sites, like the award-winning Chowdhury Walk, add small numbers to the social housing stock, but even the huge regeneration projects on estates like Woodberry Down, Kings Crescent and Colville struggle to significantly increase the number of council-owned units.

Since the Blair/Brown era, the bulk of new provision has been expected to come from private developers by requiring a target-driven proportion of all new development over a certain size to be provided as social housing. All sites of over 10 units must provide a minimum of 50 per cent affordable housing in Hackney's current Local Plan.

But new development starts across London have been desperately low recently, with Brexit, the pandemic and the Ukraine war all cited as factors. So affordable housing targets hit the London headlines in October 2025 tempt to incentivise developers, announced a temporary, emergency 20 per cent target across the capital.

Cue outrage: the new Green Party leadership in Hackney joined with Aspire-led Tower Hamlets and the Lewisham Greens in a threatened judicial review. They claimed victory when Jules Pipe, former Mayor of Hackney and now Khan's deputy mayor for housing, unveiled the new draft London Plan in July of this year. This proposes that when the new plan takes effect on March 31st 2028, the target for Hackney, alongside a tranche of the rest of inner London, rises to 35%. Inside Housing magazine argues that this change was already in the pipeline before the threat of legal action was raised.

However, remembering back to my time as a backbench councillor when I was on the Planning Committee for a couple of years, *target shmarget*. Rarely do I recall anything that we passed meeting its affordable housing target. The devil in the detail is something called a viability assessment. This allows a developer to make a profit (15-20 per cent), take into account the cost of acquiring the land, building the units and the expected retail return and spits out an, almost inevitably lower, new target. LP13 (Affordable Housing) of Hackney's Local Plan explains: "The council will seek the maximum reasonable amount of affordable housing, subject to viability and site context."

The figures used to calculate viability are deemed to be commercially sensitive and are shown to, and negotiated with, highly trained planning officers but not councillors. You can vote against if you think the social contribution offered is unacceptable, but developers usually win on appeal, sometimes with costs i.e. Hackney taxpayers' money! Tempting as it is to wear your principles on your sleeve, my Green Party successors would do well to remember that.

Chris Kennedy was a Labour Party member of Hackney Council from 2002 to 2026.

Grant for St John of Jerusalem

The Grade II*-listed church of St John of Jerusalem in Lauriston Road, South Hackney has been awarded a Heritage Lottery grant of £193,000 to help it celebrate the parish's 200th birthday this year.

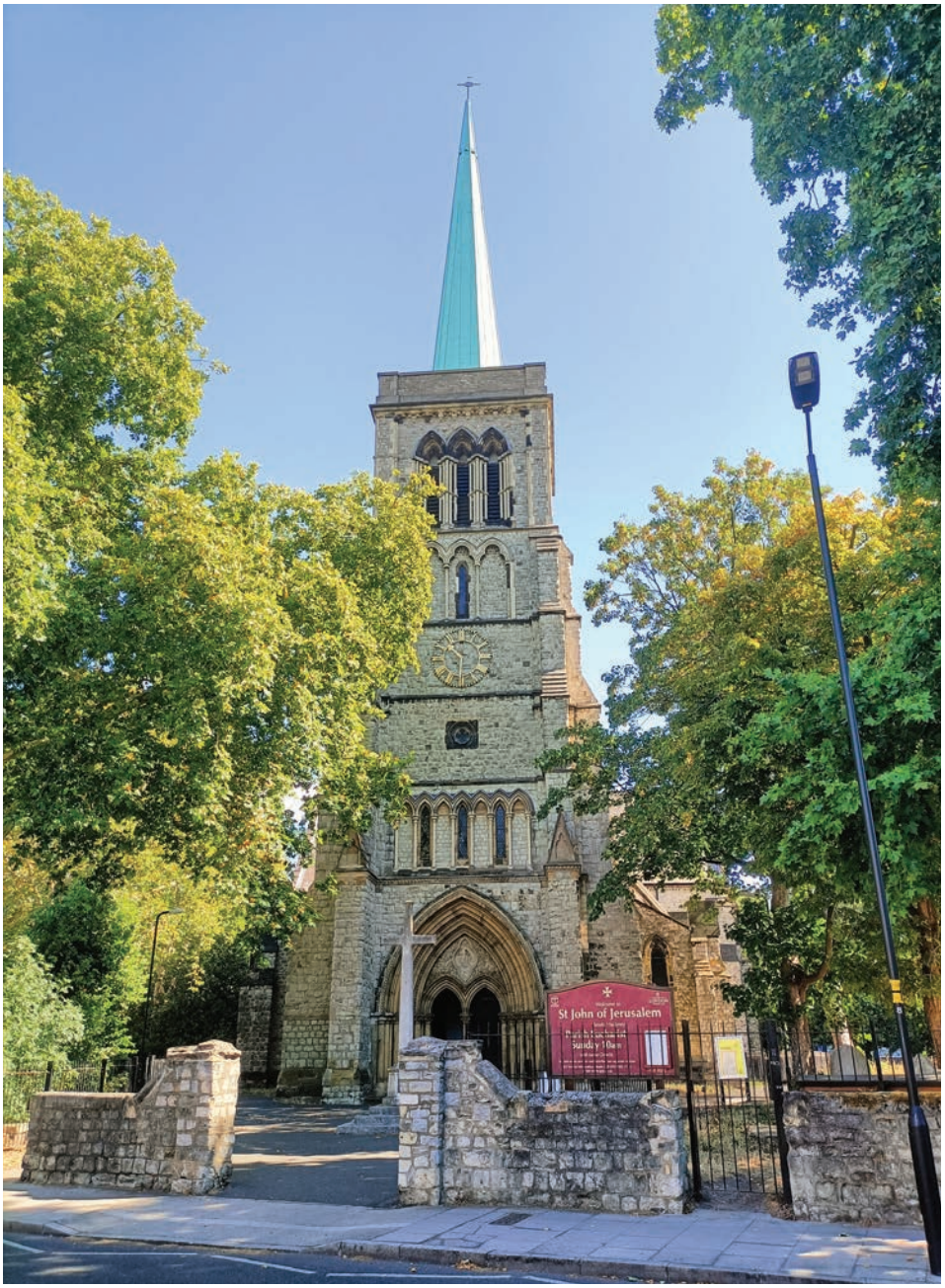
Designed by Edward Charles Hakewill, the church is built in Kentish ragstone with limestone dressings. Although it was consecrated in 1848, it dates the start of parish life from the first baptism register when a predecessor church stood in Well Street nearby.

The Rev Prebendary Andrew Wilson, the rector, said in a statement: "This parish has stood at the heart of South Hackney for two hundred years, and it serves all who live here.

"We are enormously grateful to the National Lottery and to the local schools, charities and neighbours who have funded and shaped these plans."

The grant will fund improvements include a new graded, accessible entrance and vital roof repairs, along with a programme of community events. These will include craft workshops for children, a concert and afternoon tea for older residents, and a heritage trail designed with local children.

The church was given planning permission for the work earlier this year by Hackney Council. Further plans include air source heat pumps and possibly solar panels but these have not been funded yet.



St John of Jerusalem Church by Paul Bolding

Design Awards launched

The Hackney Design Awards 2026 have been launched. The awards, the oldest such local authority scheme in London, seek to acknowledge the best of the built environment in the borough. We're delighted that Hackney Society Chair Janet Chapman has been invited to be one of the judges this year.

Anyone can nominate a building as long as it was completed September 2024 and August 2026.

These can include: new buildings; retrofits; restorations; extensions to existing buildings; public spaces; landscaping projects.

In addition to overall categories, the awards will include:

- retrofit and climate resilience
- heritage and restoration
- inclusive communities

The awards take place every two years. Winners will be announced at a ceremony at Hackney Town Hall on 16 December.

Details Here: https://tinyurl.com/HackneyDesignAwards

EVENTS

Lost at Play at Sutton House



Sutton House playing card – illustration by Beth Walker

"Lost at Play: 500 Years of Fun and Games" explores 500 years of fun and games at Hackney's oldest house. The exhibition is on now at Sutton House and runs until 20 December. Come along for a display of toys and games which were discovered beneath the floorboards of the house in the 1990s. These items tell the story of the people who have lived, worked and gone to school at Sutton House.

Whether lost at play or purposefully hidden, the items tell the story of play across five centuries. Some of these toys are familiar, including a domino, playing card and chess piece, while others, like the gaming tokens carved out of animal bone, add intrigue to the history of play.

Address and opening times here: https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/london/sutton-house-and-breakers-yard

Hospice founders set for plaque

As part of the Hackney Society's ongoing plaques project, the next in the series will honour the nuns who founded St Joseph's Hospice.

Many of us will have first-hand experience of the long-standing local institution based on Mare Street.

Five Sisters arrived in Hackney in June 1900 and set about serving the community. Their first home was at 4 King Edward's Road where the plaque will be installed.

You can read their story in the first volume of *Women from Hackney's History.*

We are working with St Joseph's to arrange a date for the unveiling.

Guiding course sees 16 graduate

As any Hackney Society member knows, Hackney has history wherever you look. In order to show this off to its best advantage it needs knowledgeable guides.

The first Hackney Tour Guides course started in January and ended in July. Led by myself as Course Director and ably taught by John Finn, Graham Scrivener and Karen Lansdown, the students learnt the full range of Hackney's history. With talks in class at Shoreditch Town Hall from a range of local experts, they learnt not only about notable buildings and people, but community action, the role of squatters, the impact of immigrants and the radical ethos that has continued through centuries.

After two exams - inside at Sutton House and outside in the streets of Haggerston and Dalston - and written assessments, 16 new guides will receive their official badges in September at a ceremony hosted by the Mayor.

Walks will be advertised on the Hackney Society website and you will also be able to attend walks organised for the Hackney History Festival.

For those who would like to follow in their footsteps another course is being planned for 2027.

Classes take place on Wednesday evening and alternate Saturdays.

For those who would like further information, some of the guides are taking part in London Local Guiding Day on 10th October and will be available to talk to potential students.

Information on Guiding Day here: https://tinyurl.com/HSGuideTour

Sue Doe

Historic street furniture project

It is anticipated that the 'From Pillar to Post' project, announced at the Society's recent AGM and to be led by Rob Briggs of the Buildings At Risk Group, will commence in October and run through to the end of the year. There will be several strands to the project, one being to achieve crowdsourced recording of all examples of certain types of historic street furniture (namely the boundary marker pillars and gun posts of the project name) in the borough that have been susceptible to unwarranted loss in recent decades. In the process, it is hoped the project will encourage people to think more about what makes a positive contribution to Hackney's public spaces and how such things can be better appreciated and safeguarded from harm as the borough continues to develop. Look out for further information about the project in forthcoming Spacelets emails and on the Society's social media and website.



Imperial Saw Mills post in Wenlock Road – picture Rob Briggs

Upcoming Events

Sep 27th 11 am. Find out about Hackney Guiding Course Walk.

Oct 10th All Day: People and Power on the City's Doorstep – Free walks in Hoxton for Local Guiding Day

Nov 7th 11 am. Visit to Common Room Stamford Hill.

Nov 7th 2pm Monthly Wikipedia Training Course

Dec15th 6 for 6.30 Visit/guided tour to refurbished 195, Mare Stret + social event

Details on our Events Page

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

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