



Woodford Times

Woodford Historical Society
Founded 1932

Newsletter Spring 2022

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Editorial

Welcome to 2022.

Last year, at this time, I hoped 2021 would be better than 2020, but alas it was not to be. Let us hope that 2022 will improve for us all.

In December I wrote to inform you that from February, our meetings will be held at All Saints Church, Woodford Green. This will be in conjunction with Zoom. It will give those who do not have technology a chance to enjoy our talks once again. It will also give those who do have technology the option of staying at home or attending the talk. We will review the situation in April. Any specific instructions related to attending the meetings will be given when the notifications are sent out in February.

The dates have changed for the talks at the hall, they are as follows:

24 th February	Victorian Farm Buildings	Anne Padfield
24 th March	AGM and This Policeman`s Lot	Peter Lawrence
21 st April	The Mysterious Meridians of Highams Park	Mike Payne

The meetings will run from 2.30p.m. to 4.00p.m. Due to time restraints we will not be serving refreshments, but water will be available. There is limited parking at the Church. The 20, 179 and W13 buses all stop nearby, and parking is available in the road at a cost.

The School has still not indicated if we will be able to return there.

Jill Hicks who has been a Committee member, since the 13th September 1994 has decided not to stand for re-election. During this time, she has given so much to the Society and she will be sorely missed. If any of you have some spare time, please come forward to assist the Committee.

Included in this Newsletter are the following documents for the AGM on 24th March:

- AGM Agenda 2022
- Minutes of the 2021 AGM

Chairman's Report and Accounts & Financial Report to follow

We are intending to restart our outings this year, again these will be subject to any restrictions that are placed on us. We will be arranging a visit to Valentines Mansion to be led by Georgina Green (cost £5.00) and a walk around Hackney to be led by Sean Gubbins (cost £7.00), who spoke to us in November 2021. Included in this correspondence is a form for you to return to express your interest.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at our meeting in February.

Sue Ralph

POSTCARD FROM THE PRESIDENT (6) January 2022

I'm compiling this "postcard" at the very beginning of the New Year, hoping that this year will be easier for us all, although I'm sure we must agree that Covid, like 'Flu, is something we will have to live with. However 2022 heralds the 90th anniversary of the Woodford and District Antiquarian Society, now the Woodford Historical Society and we look forward to remembering this year in whatever way Covid will allow !!

On the 31st March 1932 at the Wilfrid Lawson Temperance Hotel, which stood at the top of Chingford Lane, a meeting was convened to form an antiquarian society for Woodford and surrounding areas but not including areas to the west as the Walthamstow Antiquarian Society had already been formed in 1914. Speakers included representatives from Walthamstow and Leyton Antiquarian Societies, also members of Essex County Council and other "dignitaries" were in attendance. Eighty invitations were sent out, with letters of apology received from Sir James Hawkey and Winston Churchill, M.P.

The main reason for the upsurge of interest in antiquarian societies was increasing development and the need to have special interest groups keeping an eye on local situations but at the same time creating archives and publishing local history studies. During this period major trunk road building around Woodford was well advanced but 1929 saw the first big push in housing that included the Laings estate and the demolition of houses such as the Firs, Monkams, Knighton and Gales Farm at Woodford Bridge.

The first full meeting of Woodford and District Antiquarian Society took place at the Wilfrid Lawson Hotel on Monday 7th November 1932. Some 55 members heard Stephen Barns read a paper entitled simply "Woodford", which was published in 1933 as part of the Society's first Transaction booklet. A more in-depth account of those early events can be found in "Woodford in the 1930s" published in 1992 to celebrate the 60th anniversary. In 2002, to celebrate the 70th anniversary, a reproduction of the first Transaction was made available to members. I'm sure copies of both can still be found on well-known retail web sites.

Looking ahead into 2022, I believe it a positive step forward to hold meetings during the afternoons at All Saints church hall, where I look forward to joining you for the A.G.M. on 24th March. In the meantime, please continue to look after yourselves.

Very best wishes

Peter

Do You Know?

Dick Walker

In a chance conversation in a café down George Lane I found I was talking to the owner of the building in George Lane occupied by the estate agents Debora Conway. The building is on the left going down from the roundabout towards the station and the upper storey extends over an archway leading to the industrial estate behind. He told me the deeds give him the legal right to drive sheep through the archway! Neither he nor I can think of any reason for the existence of this right. Our conversation wandered to a nearby anomaly which I admit I had not noticed before. On the opposite side of George Lane the terrace of shops from the corner of Cleveland Rd opposite Barclays Bank down to the Nat West Bank are all of the same design appearance except half way along there is a gap with two single storey shops, The Little Woodford Café and Martin Olive Jeweller. There is no record of a bomb falling here¹ and the visible end walls on either side of the gap have the appearance of having been built as outside walls at the same time as the buildings, in books of old local photos there are several photos showing the gap back to 1915². Why was a gap left here?

Can anyone answer these questions?

¹ "It Happened Here" The Story of Civil Defence in Wanstead and Woodford 1939-1945. Stanley Tiquet

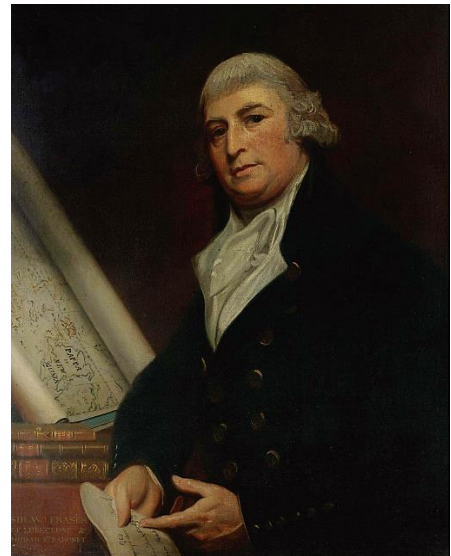
² See also the Woodford Historical Society website, Photo Gallery, South Woodford, Second full width photo.

<https://www.woodfordhistoricalsociety.org/gallery-copy>

Sir William Fraser of Ray Lodge (c.1737 – 1818) by Georgina Green

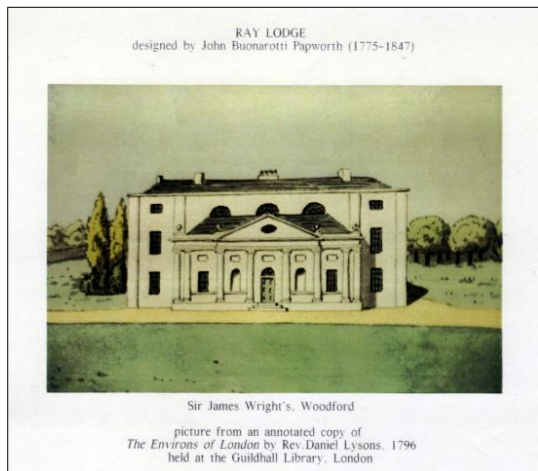
Sir William Fraser is another Woodford resident who made his fortune with the East India Company. He was born near Inverness, probably in 1737.¹ He sailed for the East India Company starting as fourth mate in the 1759/60 season, sailing twice as third mate, then second mate in 1767/8 and he was then taken up by Alexander Hume who was the Principal Managing Owner for his remaining voyages, as first mate and then as captain.

His first voyage as captain ended in disaster as his East Indiaman *Lord Mansfield (2)* was 'Lost in the Bengal River, 7 Sept 1773' but thankfully the crew and passengers were all saved. Instead of leaving the service of the Company in disgrace, the Court found the lost was due to an error of judgement by the pilot and that the captain was in no way to blame. Fraser went on to captain a new ship, *Earl of Mansfield*, for three more voyages under the same owners before he retired from the sea in 1785.



Many of the East India Company officials and administrators came home from India to build luxury homes and become Members of Parliament, J.Ps etc. However the captains, being used to command and making instant decisions, often wanted a life with more challenges. Many of them continued their connection with the sea by managing ships for voyages carrying the East India Company cargoes. Fraser continued in this way for 25 years, managing nine ships making 34 voyages. He was a little unlucky early on in this venture: *Ocean (1)* struck a reef in the Banda Sea (east of Indonesia) and was scuttled on 5 February 1797, while two years later *Earl Fitzwilliam* was burnt in the Hugli River on 23 February 1799.

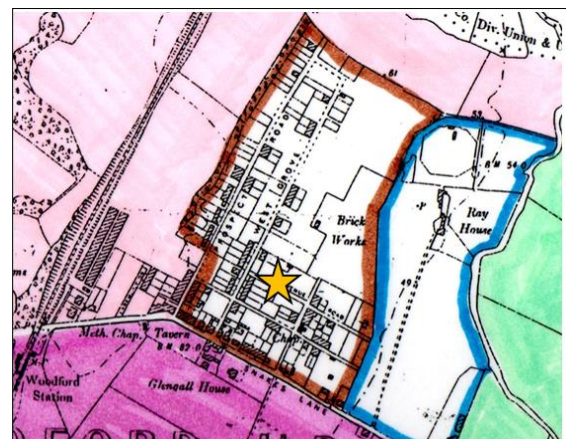
On 26 September 1786, almost exactly a year after he retired as a captain, William Fraser married Elizabeth (Betty) Farquharson at St Giles, Camberwell. She was the daughter of James Farquharson, merchant of Camberwell, London, who was also a shipowner. On his death in 1795, his financial interests with the East India Company passed to executors including his son-in-law William Fraser. William and Betty went on to produce a large family – 28 children according to one source!² Their first son was baptised at Camberwell but he was followed by a string of siblings baptised at St George the Martyr, Queen Square, Camden. I haven't attempted to trace them all!



While Fraser conducted his business from premises at New City Chambers, Bishopsgate, he also had a home for his family beyond the City. By 1804 Fraser was paying rates on Ray Lodge at Woodford. The previous owner, Sir James Wright of Ray House, started to build Ray Lodge on part of his land in 1793. He commissioned John Papworth (later John Buonarotti Papworth), who was then only 18 years old, as architect for the house which was intended for his son George. This was a splendid new home for Fraser's growing family, with a 64-acre park out in the country

air but an easy ride to the shipyards at Wapping and his business interests in the City. The site was approximately at the junction of West Grove and Avenue Road, with the park stretching from Snakes Lane northwards.

Incidentally, Fraser was contemporary with another EIC captain with Scottish origins, Sir Robert Preston (1740-1834). Fraser may not have moved to Woodford until Preston had inherited Valleyfield in Scotland but they were both Elder Brethren of Trinity House and it is possible that Preston suggested the Fraser family moved to Woodford. Preston was also on a ship



The site of Ray Lodge shown on the 6in OS Map 2nd edn, 1897-8. The estate is outlined in brown.

which founded in the mud of the Hugli River. (see WHS newsletter Spring 2019)

Fraser was made a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1791 and was created 1st Baronet of Ledeclyne in 1806. He attended the Prince Regent's Levee on 12 February 1818 in good health, but he died suddenly the next day, 'in a fit of apoplexy' at Bedford Square, London. He was buried at St Marylebone where his memorial tells us he left a widow, with 3 sons and 11 daughters still living. Lady Fraser died in 1834 and was buried at Langton Long in Dorset, where the Farquharson family had a country estate.

© Georgina Green, 28 September 2021

¹ The records of the East India Company say he was aged 35 on 7 Oct 1772 when he was approved as captain, but his memorial says he was in the 78th year of his age when he died in 1818.

¹ GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE Vol.88 p.379-380 (1818)

Ray Lodge from Lysons Environs of London designed by Papworth, image © London Metropolitan Archives (City of London) Pictorial Record 32210

Portrait of Sir William Fraser by George Romney

T Baker, Woodford, Water Mineral Manufacturers

David Baker

Our family business was located at 6 Grove End (at the top of Grove Hill, where the bus stop on the A406 is now) until about 1958 (2 years after my father died). Tom Baker and his wife, Anne started the business making ginger beer in about 1875 and my father, Arthur continued and expanded it.

Stock included half pints of Cherryade, American Ice Cream Soda, Lemonade, Ginger Beer and Limeade in cases of



2 dozen, splits (7 fl oz) of Tonic Water, Ginger Ale, Cola and Cydrax also in cases of 2 dozen. There were screw stopper topped pints of Lemonade and Ginger Beer, quarts of Ginger Beer by the half-dozen and screw stoppered stone Ginger Beer in long cases of 2 dozen. Retained in the main shed were stocks of 26 fl. oz. bottles of Lemon and Orange Squash and Lime Juice Cordial as well as half-dozen of soda siphons.

Our customers were retailers such as the green hut in the forest opposite the Rising Sun (now RS Lounge or probably yet another name!), The Village Rest Cafe at Woodford Bridge and the Forest School Tuck Shop.

The first thing to note is that visitors did not call at the front door. The only use for the front door was to accept a parcel or telegram or to allow passage of a coffin. Visitors walked down the side of this two-up-two down end of terrace cottage, between the delivery van (open backed) and the flank wall, and then knocked on the back door or window. Since visitors could be seen from the backroom window or the scullery window over the sink they were answered promptly.

To begin the manufacturing process for sparkling soft drinks a syrup is needed which is mixed with flavourings, colourants, preservatives etc. The syrup is made by mixing granulated sugar with boiling hot water in a 5-gallon stainless steel pail. When it has cooled it is transferred into a stainless-steel mixing vat in the shed and combined with a solution of saccharine (to economise on sugar). The necessary quantities of essences etc. are then thoroughly mixed in. This mixture is now called "syrup" and transferred to the syruling tank further down the shed. Crates of the correctly labelled bottles from clean empties are brought to the syruling tank.

The syruling tank is white ceramic and rectangular with 4 partially covered ladles, with hollow handles, suspended from an axle running horizontally across the inside of the tank with their open ends pointing out through 4 vertical slots in the front side of the tank. Each "ladle" holds 1.5fl. ozs. so by picking up from the box of clean empties a bottle in each hand and inserting the hollow ends of 2 ladles into their necks and resting their bottoms on the bench in front of the syruling tank each bottle receives 1.5 fl. ozs. of syrup. The adjacent 2 nozzles having already been so treated, their bottles are now removed and placed (neck up!) in the box and 2 more empties picked out. When the box has been fully "syruped" a sheet of paper is laid over the top to keep dirt and insects out and the box stacked adjacent to the filler.

A filling session starts by priming the carbonator and filling machine. We shall assume these technicalities have been satisfied and that there is a good supply of the right coloured crown corks in the tray in front of the crown corker. We also need someone to operate the carbonator to supply the filler with soda water. All that is required is to turn the handle at a slow and steady rate to maintain the water in the indicator glass on the side of the tall copper domed tank at about 1 inch.

The operator's actions during filling are as follows.

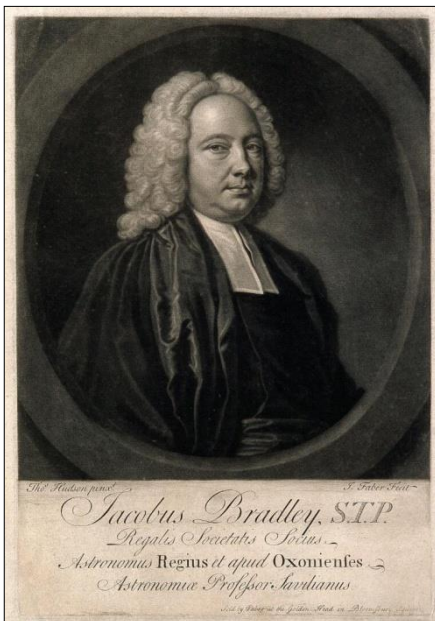
1. Press a crown cork up the mouth of the crown corker with left hand
2. Take a syruped bottle from the case, insert in filler, close lid and push round 60°
3. Open lid of next full position and remove bottle with left hand
4. Place on stand of crown corker and pull lever with right hand
5. Remove full bottle from crown corker with right hand and invert into case
6. Go back to 1.

As each case is filled it is taken out to the yard for sighting. Sighting (or specking) involves lifting 2 bottles out of the crate, turning them right way up towards the light and checking that there are no foreign bodies in the bottles. Then replacing them, right way up in the crate. Apart from the obvious purpose of rejecting sub-standard

goods this action further mixes the syrup with the soda water in the bottles. The crates are then stacked beneath and behind the rest of the filled stock under the covered area opposite the main shed.

Bottles without labels are retained in the main shed until they can be labelled. This is a very low-tech process. Labels are laid face-down on newspaper and flour paste applied to their backs with a 1 inch paint brush. Each label is applied to its bottle and wiped clean with a damp cloth. Sighting is accomplished at the same time.

Rev. James Pound – The Amateur Astronomer of Wanstead

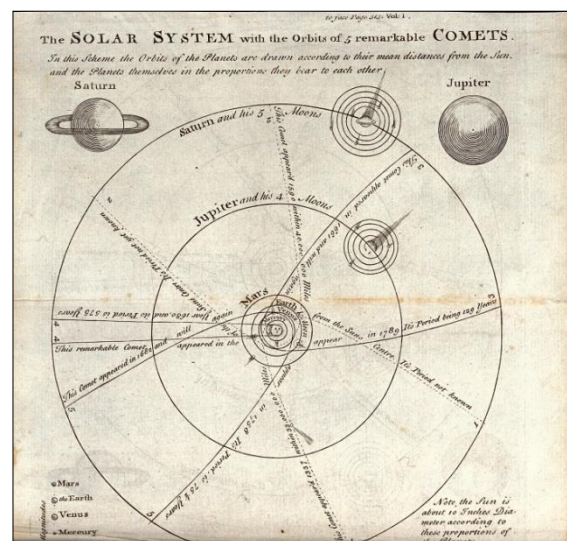


Few people know who James Pound was, let alone his connection to Wanstead but for 13 years, Pound made Wanstead an important scientific centre whilst training one of the greatest astronomers of the eighteenth century.

Not much is known about Pound's early life. The son of John Pound, he was born in Bishops Canning in Wiltshire in 1669. On the conclusion of his education at Oxford, where he received his BA, MA and his medical diploma, he entered the Church. In 1699 he sailed on behalf of the East India Company to Madras, eventually becoming chaplain to the doomed British colony of Pulo Condor, whose settlers were tragically massacred by the Malay mercenaries that had been hired to protect them. Pound was one of only 11 survivors, escaping through pirate infested waters on the sloop Rose.

Not surprisingly, soon after, he decided to return to England. In July 1707, a year after his return, Pound was presented by Sir Richard Child to the rectory of the parish of Wanstead.

Pound's living in Wanstead, gave him the opportunity to indulge in his passion, astronomy. Pound was a well-respected amateur astronomer, a fellow of the Royal Society and good friends with two of the leading scientific minds of the day: Isaac Newton and Edmund Halley. Both Newton and Halley used Pound's calculations and observations of Saturn's five known satellites, disc and rings to correct their research into Halley's comet. Pound's research into lunar eclipses and Jupiter was further aided when in 1717, the Royal Society lent him, Huygen's 123-foot focal length object glass, which he had mounted in the grounds of Wanstead House. The esteem that Pound was held in by his peers



was also shown when the Royal Society asked him to test John Hadley's reflecting telescope. The honour of which would not have been lost on Pound.

Despite Pound's own achievements, possibly his greatest legacy was the love of astronomy and knowledge he passed onto his nephew, James Bradley, who lived for a number of years with him in Wanstead. Bradley went on to be one of the most celebrated astronomers of his day and is credited with two of the most brilliant and important discoveries of his century; that of the aberration of light and rotation of the Earth's Axis.



Pound married twice, his first wife Sarah, with whom he had two children died in 1715. His second wife, the wealthy Elizabeth Wymondesold, was the sister of Matthew, a successful South Sea Stock speculator and proprietor of the Wanstead Estate. In 1720, Pound received the living of Burstow in Surrey but sadly died only four years later, on 16 November 1724, in Wanstead at the age of 55. He was buried at St Mary the Virgin in Wanstead. In 1910, a stone was laid by some Fellows of the Royal Astronomical Society to commemorate Pound's *“early instruction and fatherly care”* of Rev. James Bradley.

Although Pound has fallen into obscurity compared to his famous nephew, friends and peers, his important contributions to the early study of astronomy should not be forgotten.

Ilana Barnett

Photo attributions

James Pound grave, St Mary the Virgin, Wanstead by The wub - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=109944590>

James Bradley. Mezzotint by J. Faber after Thomas Hudson, Wellcome Collection, Public Domain Mark

Astronomy: diagram of the path of comets. Engraving, Wellcome Collection, Public Domain Mark

To the north-east of central London, the London Borough of Hackney is an inner London borough created in 1965 by the amalgamation of three former metropolitan boroughs, and before that, the ancient parishes of Stoke Newington, Shoreditch and Hackney.

Stoke Newington was the most northerly of the three old parishes, furthest from London and the most isolated. Whereas Hackney and Shoreditch are not mentioned in the Domesday Book, Stoke Newington is. In its centre it has two parish churches. Old St Mary's, with its graveyard, gives the place an 'English village' feel. This unique Tudor church, whose origins go back before 1066, was built in 1563. The Victorian church across the road was erected in 1858 for a growing population.

The major landowner in Stoke Newington was the Church, which held the manor of Stoke Newington since pre-Norman times. The parish had three areas of settlement: Stoke Newington Church Street running through the village along a ridge overlooking the valley of the Hackney Brook; the High Street at the junction of Church Street and the road into London, which was laid out by the Romans (Ermine Street). The third area of settlement was the north side of Newington Green, on the borders with Islington. The northern part of the parish, which was largely in the Lord of the Manor's 'demesne,' remained open countryside until it started to be built on for housing in the 1860s. Strangely, within the south of the parish were three detached parts of Hornsey parish, further north. They became a separate local government authority of South Hornsey from 1865 until merged into the borough of Stoke Newington in 1900.

Shoreditch parish was the closest to the City. Built up early on, it became one of London's first suburbs. The current St. Leonard's Church (of the 'Oranges and Lemons' nursery rhyme) was designed by George Dance the Elder in 1740. It replaced an earlier medieval church where William Shakespeare probably worshipped with his acting colleagues. Shoreditch was London's original 'Theatreland.' London's first theatre, 'The Theatre' opened not far from the church in 1576. Twenty years later it was moved to the South Bank to be rebuilt as the Globe Theatre. Unlike Stoke Newington, Shoreditch had no one major landowner. In the first half of the 19th century Shoreditch grew faster than any other London parish. By the end of the 19th century, despite poverty amongst an overcrowded population, Shoreditch was recognised as "a model vestry." Apart from the LCC, with its Boundary Estate in neighbouring Bethnal Green, Shoreditch was the first London local authority to build social housing. Shoreditch also had three areas of settlement. Shoreditch High St was largely built-up by 1745. Hoxton in the north-west of the parish was mentioned in the Domesday Book. So was Haggerston, in the north-east of the parish, which remained the most rural part of Shoreditch longest and through which the Regent's Canal was dug in 1820, immediately attracting gas works and other industry along its banks.

Hackney was the largest of the three parishes: five times as big as each of the other two. The tower of Hackney's original 13th century St Augustine's Church remains and can still be climbed to the top, free, on the last afternoon of each month January-

November. The 'new', and current, parish church of St John's was consecrated in 1797 to accommodate a growing population. Hackney's largest landowners were the Tyssen family, of Dutch origin and later Barons Amhurst, who by the end of the 1600s had bought up the three manors that made up Hackney.

The village of Hackney grew around St Augustine's church, on ground rising up from the Hackney Brook. Other areas of settlement developed over the centuries at Stamford Hill (furthest north), Upper Clapton, Lower Clapton, Shacklewell, Kingsland, Dalston, Homerton (the most prosperous part of Hackney in the 16th and 17th centuries), Hackney Wick in the east by the River Lea, De Beauvoir, London Fields and, in the south of the parish, Well Street and Grove Street. Down the centuries Hackney's, and Hoxton's, pubs and pleasure gardens would provide for Londoners' entertainment.

Mostly flat, the area rises to the north and north-east to overlook the valley of the River Lea, always Hackney's eastern border. Hackney's fertile ground has provided for the needs of London down the centuries: food for its markets, fodder for its horses, growing exotic plants for Londoners' gardens in world-leading nurseries, the most famous being Loddiges.

Humans first left traces of their activity in this area 200,000 years ago, around what is today's Stoke Newington Common. Growing from Saxon settlements over 1000 years ago, during the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, the area was a popular retreat for royal courtiers and then London merchants, with their large mansions and estates. As the merchants moved out, their houses became schools and asylums to care for the mentally ill. By the 18th century, Homerton, Hoxton and in particular Newington Green were notable for their dissenting chapels, academies and non-conformist residents, active in national campaigns for social reform. For a time, Mary Wollstonecraft lived at Newington Green, where a statue was erected in her honour in 2020. For the past 400 years the area has also been a refuge for immigrants. The first were Jews in the late 1600s. In 1845 a hospital was opened in Dalston for Germans, London's largest immigrant community at that time. The coming of the railways in the mid-19th century brought industry to Hackney (furniture, chemicals, shoes, confectionary, iron works) and turned the area's country villages into a bustling, crowded London suburb. Into the 20th century Hackney became a less desirable place to live. The population declined as people moved to London's outer suburbs. After WW2 Hackney became run-down, with threats of motorways driven through the area. Cheap rents and squats attracted artists and immigrants from South-East Asia, Turkey, Cyprus, the West Indies and Africa leading to a diversity, reflected in the different languages heard on the streets, the vibrant markets and variety of restaurants.

Hackney started to change again with the Millennium; the 2012 Olympics was a great stimulus for change. Recent development of art galleries, bars and clubs in Shoreditch, Hoxton and Dalston has given Hackney a new attraction, making it a "des-res" for those who can afford it. Whilst the average Hackney house price is £550k and rising, the borough still has high levels of poverty: in March 2020, of all London's boroughs, Hackney had the highest percentage of working population claiming some sort of out of work benefit.