

# Hackney Wick Fish Island | Cultural Interest Group

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Minutes of the meeting on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Held at: **Mick's Garage, 8 Queen's Yard, Hackney Wick, E9 5EN**

***'Working to establish a permanent, sustainable, creative economy in Hackney Wick and Fish Island***

**In attendance:**

Marta Rossi (Goldsmiths)  
Laura May Lewis (Chats Palace)  
Anna Maloney (Hackney Wicked)  
Mike Wilson (Burst TV)  
Coby Walsh (Stour Space)  
James Morgan (Hackney Pearl)  
Kirstin Macguire (Moving Shapes)  
Hannah Andrews (The Trampery)  
Victoria Stonebridge (LLDC)  
Leyre (Resident)  
Erik Perera (Resident)  
Jarek Piotrowski (Resident)  
Francois Bourdil (resident)  
Cat Gray (The Yard Theatre)  
Lucy Oliver-Harrison (The Yard Theatre)  
Tom Seaton (Crate Brewery)  
Tara Cranswick (V22)  
Surannit Chit (London School of Economics)  
Helena Oliveira (London School of Economics)  
Gill Wildman (Plot London / Vice Chair)  
Panos Tsakiris (University of Loughborough in London)  
Alessandra Tomassi (University of Loughborough in London)  
Juliana Posterini (Laing O'Rourke)  
Natalia Camacho (Resident)  
Saif Uddin (Balfour Beatty (East Wick/Sweetwater)  
Fabricio Mendes (Social Entrepreneur)  
Pam Henson (Resident)  
Nicolas Freytag (resident)

Jasper Hossak (Truman Brewery)  
Peter Holt (Resident)  
Katie Sheasby (Howling Hops)  
Cecil Sagoe (University College London)  
James Kellow (Crate Brewery)  
William Chamberlain (Creative Wick / Chair/ Founder)

## **Agenda:**

### **1) V22 Studios – Tara Cranswick**

V22 Studios is an arts organisation with a large art collection that runs exhibitions and events in their various studio buildings. They operate 7 studios in London, and the most recent has opened next to Big Yellow Storage on Crown Close in Hackney Wick. The move in date is Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November and as new tenants they have a 10-year lease with a 15-year option to renew.

The rate for artists will be £1.68 per sq. foot per month all-inclusive. For business it will be £2 per sq. foot per month all-inclusive. The next phase will involve shared workspace (per-desk rates).

<http://www.v22collection.com/v22-crown-close/>

### **2) Stour Space Lates – Joe Foote**

Joe has been with Stour Space for 1 year. He was attracted to the space because he'd become familiar with what was going on there. In the past the space only really catered to people who could afford the bar at Counter Cafe. So for past 6 months Stour have been working towards setting up their own bar which is now installed.

The bar has been open since October 2015 as a soft launch and they are working towards creating a creative hub for the local community with film screenings, book clubs etc. Going forward there will be spot dates from now until April, in order to test the waters a little bit more in terms of numbers etc. From April 2016 there will be a re-launch and it is hoped the space will cater for all areas of the creative community and become a space for locals to showcase their work without paying for space.

Joe came to the CIG to say hello, show his face and also look out for collaborators and ideas.

His contact details are [joe@stour.space](mailto:joe@stour.space)

### **3) Anti-social behavior in HWFI – Erik Perera**

Erik presented this issue during the October CIG meeting as a non-agenda point. CIG represents good opportunity to raise the issue.

In recent times there has been a massive influx of people to the area because of the rise of the night-time economy. The main issues are problems with sound inside buildings (i.e. buildings not suitable for noisy music events) and problems with sound outside of buildings (i.e. people leaving venues) until 3am-5am in the morning. Specifically, the dispersion of intoxicated people from the area needs managing better because they pose the following problems: litter, shouting, urination, drug dealing, broken glass, mayhem.

Erik noted that this used to happen once every few months in HWFI and that it is now happening up to 4 days a week (Thursday to Sunday). The problem is the movement of people and that HWFI looks like a post industrial playground. Unfortunately people treat it as such.

Erik has spoken to the police, and they don't want to go down the Hoxton and Shoreditch route so they are looking at doing more restrictions in the area. This might curtail businesses in Hackney Wick. However, Erik wants to see the baton of responsibility passed to the businesses. Residents of HWFI aren't generally the type to complain but residents have gotten to a point where they want to see some responsibility being taken for looking after the area in a more neighbourly way. There has even been fighting due to residents catching revelers out when they are urinating and this shouldn't have to be suffered.

There was a suggestion that a subcommittee should be formed to deal with these matters. It was raised there already exists a subgroup for the area called Pubwatch. George from Bloc chairs this group and in the last 6 months there have been two meetings with borough licensing officers. Separate meetings also occurred between the Queen's Yard tenants. Something that has come out of that is that there is a Whatsapp group through which users can alert one another to issues in real-time. There was an incident towards the end of the summer with an illegal party in Queen's Yard – this brought the businesses together to deal with the problem and ideally that's how they want to move forward. There is currently a policy in place that if you're barred from one venue, you're barred from all the other establishments in the Yard.

James from Hackney Pearl raised the issue that private parties in the area contribute to the worries. He suggested a change in attitude needs to come from HWFI residents themselves as well. Dumping of rubbish in alleyways, for example, creates an environment where rubbish is seen as natural and can therefore encourage further littering and urinating. James also raised the issue of Hackney Pearl's terrace being used after 11pm when the Pearl shuts.

- Erik brought the discussion back to ways of actively dealing with people who behave anti-socially.

- Tara suggested yes it is difficult because its bars and residents responsibility together. In Dalston for example as profits went up businesses hired extra bouncers and cleaners were hired.

- It was acknowledged that during the Kopparberg event, they did have solutions in place but that these failed on occasion.

- James said personal attacks on businesses are quite high and that a phone call should be the first port of call if there is an issue.

- Erik acknowledged that HW is on the verge of a passive aggressive precipice and that that should change. To sum up, Erik said that opening up communication between all users would be a useful place to start.

- Joe mentioned that Stour Space employed a community liaison officer in October 2015. She was the point of contact for local residents. Erik suggested this was an incredibly positive step and one that surely could be replicated by other businesses.

- It was felt that Pubwatch would be a good platform to resolve this BEFORE next Spring when HWFI gets busier again. Although, it was acknowledged that Pubwatch is quarterly and that this might not be a speedy enough resolution. Details of Pubwatch will be circulated through the CIG network.

- It was suggested that it might be a good idea for someone to paint murals in HWFI that nudge visitors towards behaving more responsibly in the area.

- There was a question to Joe about Stour Space regulations. He revealed the following:

- Stour have a dedicated taxi firm with waiting space inside the venue.
- There are two or three members of staff to make sure nobody is waiting outside the venue.
- There is security on the pontoon to make sure nobody goes down the canal bank to gain access to neighbouring premises.
- They try to communicate with local residents as best they can.

- Finally Hinde, a White Post Lane resident with a recording studio wants a sound limit imposed because music regularly disturbs people working late at night at 92 White Post Lane. She suggested a maximum of 4am or 5am licenses in the future and reiterated that noise pollution was a big problem at White Post Lane which inhibited the ability to master sound levels during a recording. Lucy from the Yard responded and said that they are trying to communicate.

**NB: The follow up meeting with Pubwatch will be on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm at The Yard Theatre. All welcome!**

#### **4) Chat's Palace – Laura May Lewis**

Chat's Palace is on Brooksby's Walk, just outside of Hackney Wick in Homerton. Artists and community activists set it up in the 1970s and now the centre has a new director. Laura wanted to talk about opportunities next year for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event they are planning. For this, Chat's Palace are working with the Institute of Imagination, and working with children and families to create opportunities. They are looking for funding for school groups and other visits. There is a Makers Market on 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> December and they are holding a fundraiser on 4<sup>th</sup> of December.

Contact are: [lauramay@chatspalace.com](mailto:lauramay@chatspalace.com)

## 5) Hey Big Man – Hannah and Mark Bennett

Hey Big Man is a creative agency based in Swan Wharf. They are developing an idea to put on a festival called **Cause to Create**, looking at how creative projects can be used to create awareness for good causes. It is based around inspiration from reciprocal relationships between artists and charities/good causes. The plan is to have a 3-day event with installations and artworks etc. which should appeal to many different groups. The festival idea is very much in its infancy but it is hoped Swan Wharf will be fully taken over for the three days. Ideas include:

- To dredge the canal and create something out of what can be found there.
- Projection mapping, immersive musical experiences.
- Talks by artists.
- Workshops

It is not a fundraiser, and not for profit. Neither is it an opportunity for charities to collect and fundraise. They are open to requests for collaboration etc.

It was also suggested that it might be a good idea to open up discussions with Hackney WickED. Anna from Hackney WickED said Hackney WickED will not be coming back in its previous form due to the element of social responsibility in the area and the issue of anti-social behavior.

Please see this from Hannah:

### **Cause to Create**

Cause to Create is a unique new event celebrating fusion and collaboration between the creative and charitable sectors. A mixture of talks, workshops, installations, demonstrations, and entertainment, the three day festival will explore what it exactly it means to create for the greater good.

It will both draw on the local artist community, and upon a national and international network of creatives that are changing the way in which good causes can engage audiences.

If you are an artist or creative and think your work would be appropriate for the festival, please do get in contact. Equally if you are interested in learning more or getting involved down the line, do drop us a line.

Summer 2016, Dates TBC

Email: [contact@causetocreate.co.uk](mailto:contact@causetocreate.co.uk) Number: 07584 907 922

## 6) Crate, Mick's Garage – Tom Seaton

Crate took over 'Mick's Garage' building in April 2015 with a plan to use the space for storage but also to let it out to other businesses, however the previous tenant moved on and plans have changed. As a result they needed something to pay the rent and have

teamed up with Berber and Q to provide a Middle Eastern style Smokehouse. The venue will be open 5pm-midnight Friday and on weekends 12-midnight.

The area upstairs will be a mess hall and dining area. Kombucha will also be served at the Jarr Bar a dedicated Kombucha bar (Kombucha is a fermented tea, healthy probiotic drink). Tom sees the product as an alternative to beer and alcohol in the area. The idea is that moderate level background music will happen. There will also be market stalls dotted around the space, Christmas trees being sold, and a workshop creating wood and steel products. The overall aim is to change the space weekly creating a moving feast.

If anyone is interested in coming down to be a part of it, Tom is not looking for payment they just need to help the place pay the rent.

There have been two parties in the space since April 2015 and they are looking to expand to one late night every 6 weeks although they are aware licensing rules for businesses in the area are set to change.

Before doing any more events Tom is aware soundproofing needs to be done to the front door as the first event was too loud. Tom also said on record they are not going to do 2000 person raves. He also said they are currently on a short lease so the future of the venue is unclear.

Anna from Hackney WickED commented that influx of arts is really great and gave thumbs up for bringing the arts into the venue.

Contact to: [events@cratebrewery.com](mailto:events@cratebrewery.com)

There are a couple of bookings already, including one film screening. Mick will be at the launch, and it will be called Mick's Garage after him (the launch was on the 20<sup>th</sup> November).

## **7) Digital Placemaking – Alessandra Tomassi and Panos Tsakiris-Topouzelis**

Alessandra and her colleague are students at Loughborough University campus at Here East in Hackney Wick. Their research involves offering a platform for digital place making to create a sense of place through everything that is available online. They decided to study Hackney Wick and want to open up a relationship between residents of Hackney Wick or people who move here. They want to get to know the community.

- Trowbridge Senior Citizens Club – more of a residential community in the North.
- Tracie Trimmer and other residents of Leabank Square.
- [space] also did a project about this previously.
- Gainsborough Primary School also useful contact.

### **Project Outline**

- At the Loughborough University London we are part of one of the groups of students collaborating with a company based in London, City-Insights (<http://city-insights.com/>). City-Insights offers a platform to connect, inform and create a "sense

of place". It has already been used in museums like the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford or the campus of The University of Cambridge during the University Open Days. Now, they are proposing us a new challenge: to create a new use of the platform in a changing and fast evolving place, like Hackney Wick. Our proposal is the following: we aspire in creating "Emotional Maps", path in Hackney Wick following the emotions, the moods and the most important memories of people that live or used to live here and that, maybe, had to change their old habits and adapt to a new face of Hackney. These information could then be used by both tourists and locals, that could use the web platform to find their new favourite place to listen to music in company, to have a beer with their soulmate, to read a book in solitude, to concentrate on work in a stimulating environment, to have fun with their kids. To realize this, we need to connect and talk with people and gather thoughts, tales and personal life stories. We would be glad of any help. If you want to talk with us, do not hesitate to contact us.

Contact:

- Alessandra Tomassi, [a.tomassi-15@student.lboro.ac.uk](mailto:a.tomassi-15@student.lboro.ac.uk)
- Panos Tsakiris, [p.tsakiris-topouzelis-15@student.lboro.ac.uk](mailto:p.tsakiris-topouzelis-15@student.lboro.ac.uk)

## **8) SOAK – Adam Taffler**

'Soak' hot tubs (previously Suppertubs) at Bar 90 have been running since July. Previous events have included ladies only nights, local football teams, moo canoes and standing paddle boarders. Adam is losing the space in January and would like to move into a new space. Ideally he wants to be housed for a 6 month period. Adam also wants to start a series of TUB talks (springboarding off TED talks).

Get in touch with Adam for more info: [adam@adamotions.com](mailto:adam@adamotions.com)

## **9) LSE Cities Design**

Researchers from LSE are studying the area, in particular the waterways as a site of use. They want to talk to business owners, residents etc. about what the relationship is between them and the canal.

At the end of the term the researchers have to come up with an output. They are interested in ideas of boundary making and are aware that the area has more issues than the canal such as rent rises etc.

They are looking to find more out about the canal as a piece of local infrastructure and the relationship between the canal and the residents. They are still in the process of finding out what the problems are in terms of developments and the Olympic Park.

- Marta suggested getting in touch with Graham from Middlesex University (Hydrocitizenship).
- James from the Pearl suggested findings Marek who used to live in Hackney Wick and made boats.

Please contact: Oliveira,H (pgt) <H.Oliveira@lse.ac.uk>

### **Announcements:**

#### **Lucy Harrison from The Yard theatre:**

Lucy Harrison from the Yard wanted to touch briefly on the chat regarding anti-social behavior in HWFI and wanted to set the record straight in regard to The Yard. The Yard has worked really hard to support the work that they do in light of the recent national arts cuts. The only way to raise money to keep the venue open is through the bar and through the music acts that get booked. Lucy wants to set the record straight and tell everyone that they are working hard, working with the LLDC to secure a creative offer in HW and beyond 2018. If there isn't a theatre here that will have a huge impact on the area. Lucy wanted to rally support in the face of criticism and illustrate how The Yard is working hard to deliver the long-term stability for itself as a business.

Gill said Lucy was caught in crossfire and gave support for Lucy.

#### **Anthropology research – Marta Rossie, Goldsmiths:**

Update from last months October CIG meeting to provide contact details for people interested in conducting interviews for her research.

Contact details: 07464706094  
[namichan91@hotmail.it](mailto:namichan91@hotmail.it)

#### **Moving Shapes, introduction:**

Moving Shapes are bringing creativity, conscious thinking and the community together. They are keen on doing a joint event with as many venues as possible in the February half term and are keen on each venue putting on a different activity.

They have an event at 6pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December at GROW. It will be a meeting to bat some ideas to-and-fro. No money attached.

#### **AOB**

- There will be a '**Wick Winter Wonderland**' event at HUB67 on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> and Sat 12<sup>th</sup> December 10am-10pm. There will be 25 stalls in the skate park and around that area.

[lucy@theyardtheatre.co.uk](mailto:lucy@theyardtheatre.co.uk) is the contact for the Wick Winter Wonderland.

- **Mother Studios Christmas Open Studios and Stour Space Christmas Market:** Friday 4th Dec - Sunday 6th Dec

**Open hours:**

**Friday 6.30pm - 9pm**

**Saturday 12pm -6pm**

**Sunday 12pm - 5pm**

- **Eastwick and Sweetwater Scheme**

Consultation will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> December for Phase 1. Residents and businesses are encouraged to attend. Flyers will be distributed and will include info including location of consultations. There will be various time slots across the evening, day and then the Saturday as well.

- **William Chamberlain – Guest chairs of CIG meetings**

William would like to open up the meetings to guest chairs. Anna from Hackney WickED welcomed the initiative as a positive step. Hannah Andrews from The Trampery/Fish Island Labs will chair December's CIG meeting.

The next CIG meeting is at 9.30am on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> December at Hub 67 and everyone is invited to stay behind at the end to help put up the Christmas decorations for the Wick Winter Wonderland!