

# Hackney Wick Fish Island | Cultural Interest Group

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Minutes of the meeting on Friday 11th of April 2014  
Held at: The White Building, Queens Yard, Hackney Wick E9 5EN

*"Helping to establish a permanent, sustainable, creative community in Hackney Wick."*

## **In attendance:**

Timmy Sampson (Swan Wharf)  
William Chamberlain (Chair)  
Coby Walsh (Stour Space – secretary)  
Paddy Looney (Cadplan Ltd)  
Gill Wildman (Plot London)  
Emily Keightley (Loughborough University)  
Tobias Hug (LPC)  
Lee Murrell (E20.org)  
Robin Nicholson (Cullinan Studio)  
Leanne Hoogwaerts (Legacy List)  
Rebecca Marshall (Random Dance)  
Micheal Spinks (Essex Flour & Grain)  
Jona Ahearne (Secret Productions)  
Lucy Oliver-Harrison (The Yard Theatre)  
Will Teasdale (LB Hackney)  
Justine Collins (Boomerang/The Clare Balding Show)  
Anna Maloney (Hackney Wicked)  
Christi Hamrogue (BT Sport)  
Simon Cole (Hackney Tours)  
Katy Baird (This Is Live Art)  
Sven Mundner (McGraths)  
Reuben Preston (St Mary of Eton Church)  
Lance Forman (H Forman & Son)  
Nancy Stevenson (University of Westminster)  
Paddy Looney (CadPlan)

Items discussed:

**News: 90 Main Yard Bar & Restaurant recently won the Mayor of Hackney's People's Choice Business Award, with a public vote in which they won by a majority of 650 votes!**

## **1. Introduction: Father Reuben – St Mary of Eton Church, Hackney Wick**

- Reuben talked about the church's on-going renovations due to be finished in the summer. Half of the church building will operate as a church and the other half is a new church hall with a courtyard garden that will be available for events/exhibitions etc. The rest of the site has been developed into flats.
- The idea is to link up the church with Wick Green, to connect the areas together once again, as reflected in historic maps. Reuben also talked about the history of the church and how the new brickwork reflects designs from Eton College circa 1884.
- After the renovation is finished there will be an opening in September, date not yet set but possibly in time for the Hackney Wick Festival on September 20/21.

### **Q&A:**

**Q:** Are there any ways in which the HWFI creative community can develop closer relationships with the wider community through the church?

**A:** The renovated space will be available for use for events by the local creative community. Fees for this have yet to be established. There have already been 2 open calls for events and there will be more in the future. Unfortunately the relationship between the church and local artists has been rocky due to past issues with artists using the space as a squat and leaving the church with large debts/bills.

The church organ is being also restored - it is known as one of the best in London and has been used in the past in recordings by the music label EMI. Reuben has asked that you get in touch if you would like to practice, or would like to use the organ in some way. There is also an opportunity to set up a choir if anyone is interested.

Father Reuben Preston can be contacted on: [vicar@stmaryofeton.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmaryofeton.org.uk)

## **2. White Building – Rachel Falconer: Update**

- Rachel gave us an update on the White Building's list of upcoming events and programming.
- The open call for residencies has just gone out, with the deadline of the 25th April.
- Upcoming residencies include Karen Palmer who will be creating a piece of wearable art, launching at the V&A.
- Lucy from The Yard let the CIG know that they are now working with SPACE more, and are now using The White Building for certain aspects of their work, for example holding interviews and other uses that The Yard are currently unable to do onsite.

## **3. LLDC – Map and signage issues**

- It was briefly highlighted that due to the recent Park opening on the 5<sup>th</sup>, a new map of the Park and the surrounding area was in distribution. Will flagged up that the map doesn't include any Hackney Wick links other than the Overground Station and that this was concerning, especially as The White Building is an LLDC venture it

seems an oversight for it not to be included on the map. He asked that if the map is to be reprinted, this is taken into consideration.

**As noted by several CIG attendees, signage in the Park leading to Hackney Wick is still either non-existent or very unclear. We ask that this be looked into, as a matter of urgency. NB LLDC were not represented at the meeting although Leanne Hoogwaerts, ex LLDC and now with Legacy List agreed to feedback this issue.**

#### **4. Introduction: Lee Murrell of E20.org**

- Lee lived in Hackney Wick from 2007 and recently relocated to the East Village. A driving influence behind the move being that it would mean having access to the local school Chobham Academy.
- Lee has now set up E20.org (<http://e20.org>) A community and cultural interest organisation for residents and local businesses in and around the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. To join the mailing list, please visit the website link above.
- The idea is to create an inclusive community and cultural interest organization, to give local residents/businesses an independent voice.
- E20 are also working with the Chobham Academy PTA committee, and are also in contact with Rachel Kuhn who runs the onsite shop at the ArcelorMittal Orbit: They are looking for local makers and designers to be stocked in the Orbit shop so please get in touch if you fit the bill.

Rachel can be contacted on Rachel Kuhn ([rachel.kuhn@arcelormittalorbit.com](mailto:rachel.kuhn@arcelormittalorbit.com))

- Lee also runs a graphic design agency, Eject (<http://www.eject.co.uk/>) and is happy to offer design/creative advice to anyone that's interested.

#### **5. Introduction: BT Sport – Christi Hamrogue**

- Christi Hamrogue who heads up BT Sport's social committee brought us up to speed on BT Sport's recent move to Here East (iCity and Olympic Broadcast Centre) in the Olympic Park.
- They attended the meeting to meet the neighbours and are very keen to find out what's going on locally and to make connections – Christi is keen for BT Sport staff to be integrated into the local area.
- Christi and her team would like local businesses to keep her informed of local events and news, and is planning to set up a community board in the BT Sport centre so please do email over any updates and add their details to your contact list.
- BT Sport has approx. 400 staff; with their regular audience attendees and talent they can have as many as 600 people in their building on a single day.
- BT Sport has an onsite café that is primarily a staff lunchroom but is also open to the public and everyone is welcome to use it.
- BT Sport often needs to use outside venues for various functions and would be keen to get a list of available venues in Hackney Wick, with clear venue sizes, prices etc. Will has recommended visiting [hackneywick.org](http://hackneywick.org) but if BT Sport could have access to a very simple list of venues? Could this be something that could be added to [hackneywick.org](http://hackneywick.org)?

Q&A:

Q: “Could BT Sport staff members be encouraged to use the Hackney Wick Overground station as opposed to using the BT Sport shuttle bus?”

A: A good percentage already use Hackney Wick station, the bus is there to get staff from A to B from Stratford Station as efficiently as possible. The bus was only meant to be used for a number of months but has now been kept on. They will consider producing travel plans so that staff have choices on how to travel into the Olympic Park.

Q: “What are BT Sport’s plans for the World Cup?”

A: No plans as of yet but they will definitely be holding an event in connection with it. They will not be holding a public viewing of the World Cup.

Christi said that BT Sport is always interested in sourcing original music for its productions. Tobias Hug offered to make the connections between BT Sport and the music community in HWFI.

Christi can be contacted on Christi Hamrogue [christi.hamrogue@btsport.com](mailto:christi.hamrogue@btsport.com)

Tobias Hug can be contacted on Tobias Hug [blackforestghetto@googlemail.com](mailto:blackforestghetto@googlemail.com)

**Note: Ican Studios are planning to set up big screen public viewing of the World Cup with a beach etc.**

## 6. V&A Takeback – Feedback from Rebecca Feiner

- Feedback regarding the Takeback was that everything considered it was a brilliant event. Participants and organisers should be commended for their hard work and energy in bringing the event to realisation in such a short space of time – 3 weeks from concept to delivery. The event was just under 3 weeks in the making and pulled in a crowd of over 2000 visitors. The event was well managed and fully under control throughout.
- Rebecca Feiner spoke about the DIY nature of the event, and how impressed she was by the local residents and participants support and involvement in all aspects of the event from helping to publicize the event and general participation/assistance.
- **Rebecca also emphasized how pulling such a successful event together in only 3 weeks without financial support from local stakeholder organisations should now prove to the funding bodies and those organizations (LLDC and Legacy List) that the creative community in the area aren’t separate from the community but are firmly part of it, and should be trusted to deliver events that deliver exactly the ambitions of those stakeholders. Rebecca went on to say that providing support/funding for such events should be a straightforward process.** This idea was supported by others, including Hackney Wicked’s Anna Maloney, who also talked about the difficulties of gaining support from local funders for creative projects and events.

Q&A:

Q: "How was the event for Swan Wharf?"

A: Swan Wharf had to invest a significant portion of time and money into the event due to it being a completely unfunded by local stakeholders. Costs ran to approx. £2000, which they suggested could have been contributed to and they felt that there definitely could have been more support. However, Swan Wharf felt that supporting the event was well worth their time and upfront costs. Swan Wharf's neighbours at Iron Works were happy and they felt it went well overall.

Swan Wharf now has a premises licence and are open to ideas from musicians etc, and are also looking for an events organiser so please email them if you would like to know more. They are currently refurbishing the space and have pencilled in an opening date of 9<sup>th</sup> May.

Timmy at Swan Wharf can be contacted on Timmy <timmy@thehiveuk.com>

Notes:

-Hackney Wicked are still looking for volunteers, funding ideas and submissions are now open so please email the following:

[Submissions@hackneywicked.co.uk](mailto:Submissions@hackneywicked.co.uk) - Deadline 1<sup>st</sup> June

[Volunteers@hackneywicked.co.uk](mailto:Volunteers@hackneywicked.co.uk)

**AOB**

-Opportunity for Hackney Wick artists – a group mural project in Jersey: An artists opportunity to visit Jersey and paint a mural on the front of a prominent Jersey building. Art materials and travel paid for, and accommodation provided. Email Karen Le Roy Harris at [karen@arts.je](mailto:karen@arts.je) for more information.

Reminder: Please send Will emails to add to the CIG mailing list, and please remember to circulate the CIG emails to your own contacts.

**The next CIG meeting is at 9.30am on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at Here East (iCity) inside the Olympic Park. Please send any agenda items to me and as ever, please tell anyone you think should be there to come along.**