

# Hackney Wick Fish Island | Cultural Interest Group

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Minutes of the meeting of Friday 11th July 2014  
Held at: The Cygnet Bar, Swan Wharf, E3

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

## **In attendance:**

Ashton Mullins (Hackney Wicked)  
William Chamberlain (The Trampery - Chair)  
Gill Wildman (Plot London)  
Lucy Oliver-Harrison (The Yard Theatre)  
Will Teasdale (LB Hackney)  
Paddy Looney (CadPlan)  
Isaac Marrero (The Wick Newspaper)  
Anna Maloney (Hackney Wicked)  
Graeme Evans (HydroCitizenship)  
Ozlem Edizel (HydroCitizenship)  
Vilmar Pellisson (Urban Village Network)  
Cllr Nick Sharman (LB Hackney)  
John Boak (Prototype 21)  
Lee Wilshire (Stour Space)  
Neil Howden (Stour Space)  
Graham Ridley (Things Fashions)  
Adriana Marques (LLDC)  
Dick Vincent (Canal & River Trust)  
Coby Walsh (Stour Space, secretary)  
Tom McDonagh (Fish Island Labs)  
Jia Xuan Hon (Fish Island Labs)  
Sasha Andrews (E20 Eastenders Fishing Trust)  
Mark Kennedy (E20 Eastenders Fishing Trust)  
Dr Hilary Powell (Pop Up, Pop Up)  
Hajni Semsei (Arebyte)  
Lorenza Peragine (Spontaneous Combustion Festival)

I'm afraid that this is incomplete as the attendance list wasn't filled in.

## **Items discussed:**

### **1. E20 EastEnders fishing trust – Mark Kennedy**

Mark attended this month's CIG to raise awareness of his petition to save the E20 Fishing Club. Please see their website for full details <http://www.e20fishingclub.org>

The owners of the building, the Canal and River Trust (CRT) have issued Mark/the E20 Fishing Club with an eviction notice, dating from the 1<sup>st</sup> June they now have one month to vacate the building. Mark has set up a petition to fight this, and to keep the Club for various reasons, most importantly being that the club has become a vital part of the community and offers numerous community benefits, and it is his life's work and passion.

Dick Vincent of the CRT's initial response during the meeting: The building has been leased to the club for a very long time, at which point the CRT was British Waterways. They have since become a charitable organization and have different goals for the future. Their objectives have now changed and they want to change the building into a community space with a whole range of events. They do not want to sell the building. He recognises that the area has changed and credits this to the Olympics.

#### **Q&A**

Neil (Stour Space), Q: "Does the CRT have any prior experience of running a community venue?"

Dick Vincent, A: "We are an organization that owns/manages 2000 miles of canals and various projects."

Lucy (The Yard), Q: "What are you going to do with the space that isn't already there?"

Dick Vincent, A: "A range of community events"

Will, (CIG Chair), Q: "Are you terminating their lease, and not offering a new one?"

Dick Vincent, A: "At the point we are at now, yes."

Graham Ridley "You should be looking to have people like Mark onsite to help run the space, not kick them out."

Further comments from Mark:

He has been working to secure funding for the building but due to these issues with the CRT there have been significant side effects (to the detriment of the Club), such as their charity number application being declined. He notes that since the Club has been in operation, the area surrounding the building has become notably safer, in particular for women in the community.

Q: "Why is the CRT not working with Mark directly, as he has such a compelling case? Or is this just a case closed situation?"

Dick Vincent, A: "There are many things that Mark has not provided, such as details of funders. They have also asked Mark for a proposal, which has not been received."

Q: "What was asked of Mark, please state very clearly"

Dick Vincent, A: "As they have served notice to Mark, they feel this point is invalid."

Outcomes:

- It was made very clear that the community present at the CIG were in support of Mark/the E20 Fishing Club, and are willing to support him in formalizing a proposal/business outline and putting together a plan to put forth to the CRT.
- Dick Vincent of CRT will feedback the community's thoughts to CRT and Lee Wilshire will seek to act as liaison between the CRT and Mark/community.

## **2. Adriana Marques – LLDC – Update on the Local Programme and Great British Carnival**

- The Local Programme – Brief to be issued this summer

Since the park opened in April, the LLDC Culture team are looking to build the local ownership of the park in terms of events. They are looking for local organizations (not just within the arts) to put on events to form a calendar called The Local Programme. The local aspect of this was highlighted as strictly the boroughs surrounding the Park. \*\* The LLDC will be issuing a brief this summer for proposals to The Local Programme \*\*

They will be looking to have a member of their staff working with organizations to provide skill share and training such as fire safety.

There is a budget for The Local Programme; events will be commissioned. Proposals should include a detailed financial aspect.

They are looking to see what can be done year round, and will be looking for short-term events to begin with, but will also consider long-term events.

#### Great British Carnival – 27<sup>th</sup> July

Showcasing the best in UK carnival arts this is a 3 day event starting on the 27<sup>th</sup> July, featuring local carnival groups, in the South Park. More info

<http://queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/whats-on/events/2014/6/great-british-carnival-at-the-park>

#### Open House Weekend 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> September

The LLDC are doing a project that celebrates mobile vehicle art, coinciding with the Open House Weekend. Working with lots of people on this project, they ask that anything on wheels + art get in touch!

#### **Q&A:**

Vilmar, Q: “Residents of the Park are currently suffering disruption due to the regeneration of certain areas of the Park, i.e. morning building work.”

Adriana, A: She will take this feedback to the LLDC, and noted that standard building hours are 8am-1pm.

Paddy, Q: “Who is cleaning the canal rubbish?”

Adriana, A: Feedback relating to the canals should be directed to the Canal and River Trust.

Dick Vincent, A: The CRT do genuinely struggle with the amount of rubbish on the canals, the large influx of boaters over the past few years is a fantastic development all round, but it does mean that with this influx there is also a rise in the amount of rubbish.

### **3. Pop Up, Pop Up - Dr Hilary Powell**

Hilary has been working in the area for 12 years, and is currently a studio holder at Mother Studios. Her current project, Pop Up Pop Up explores urban change using pop up books. Titled ‘Legend: A-Z of the Lea Valley’ it will go through the alphabet featuring the local area, for example B is for Bream Street. Production of the pop up books and the process of making them is something Hilary is going to incorporate into a performance art piece during Open House 2014. Creating a public production line, she and volunteers will produce as many books as they can over 3 days. 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> September.

Hilary is currently looking for pop up apprentices; they will receive minimal pay but will receive training at the London Centre for Book Arts the week prior to the event (12<sup>th</sup> September) and

a copy of the book. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please get in touch with Hilary: [hilaryspowell@googlemail.com](mailto:hilaryspowell@googlemail.com)

Hilary is also keen to debate the books content and use it as a melting pot of discussion, they will be making a film about the process and book and possibly interested in developing a workshop also.

#### **4. Spontaneous Combustion Festival - Lorenza Peragine/Hajni Semsei**

Running for 4 years in Bethnal Green, the Festival took place in Hackney Wick for the first time in 2013 and is back for 2014. Running as an event both in Hackney Wick and Bethnal Green, the festival takes place outdoors and feature performance art, live art and dance.

They have been working with local businesses, and this year some performances will be held outside venues such as the Hackney Pearl, Central Books and the German Deli.

There will be a mobile app to download that takes people around the area of the festival using GPS. It will highlight interesting spots in the area and let you know what's happening and where.

There will be workshops open to the public, and performances aimed at families. The festival is also working with local collective Clusterbomb and Hackney Wicked Festival to debut a Clusterbomb piece ahead of the HW Festival in August.

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July

#### **5. Hydrocitizenship Project - results of the cultural mapping exercise - Graeme Evans**

As introduced in last month's meeting, Graeme gave a brief introduction to the Hydrocitizenship project, and had the results of last month's mapping exercise to hand (a digital version to be included with the minutes)

He is keen to send out a basic questionnaire to the local community (potentially could work with Hilary Powell?) and would also like to work with the local schools. They will use the maps to document peoples uses of the canals, ie exercise, dog walking etc. They also have a couple of practise based artists involved in the project, see <http://adri.mdx.ac.uk.contentcurator.net/hydrocitizenship> for further info

#### **6. Gill, Plot London: Hackney Wick CIG Website Update**

The CIG website is soon to be relaunched, and they will be asking for a couple of people to help to manage the site. Lee Murrell from E20.org has very kindly offered to host the website, and Embryonic and Ross Butler have also offered their services.

#### **7. Hackney Wicked Art Festival 2014 – Anna Maloney**

Anna gave an update to the Festival planning, it has been going well with lots of support from the community. Normal issues with the council etc.

There will be a meeting this week (week starting 14<sup>th</sup> July) to tackle some issues.

Kirsty Dixon is currently swamped with artist applications, so artists who haven't yet heard back from her please do send a reminder email.

Fete for the Wicked will take place at Swan Wharf this year, with the focus for 2014 being on the Fish Island side of Hackney Wick, as historically this has been known as the quieter part of the Festival in past years.

A big thanks to Crate Brewery who are a sponsor of the Festival again for 2014.

The Festival has for the first time received Arts Council funding, Laura May Lewis is in charge of using a portion of this funding to commission artists for the festival.

The official Hackney Wicked 2014 programme will be available from mid-July, and everyone is invited to the opening night at Forman's on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 6-9pm.

### **8. Vilmar – Towpath Safety Campaign Update**

Lightposts are now installed on the canal towpath between The White Building and the bridge. The overall idea was to have lights on the canal towpath the whole way to Cadogan Terrace, but Vilmar has recently received the news that there is now a budget issue, and the option of having both the rest of the lights fitted AND CCTV installed is now not an option.

Vilmar would like to hold a public consultation on whether the community would prefer lights or CCTV. There was a quick show of hands during the meeting for either option, and the majority was in favour of lighting.

Vilmar also runs a campaign for local safety signage and has recently noticed that a number of the signs have been removed. They need to be replaced but Vilmar would like to know if the group feels this is needed, or if the signs were in fact detrimental to the cause. He has spare signs and can put them back up as soon as possible if requested.

### **9. Fish Island Labs – Will Chamberlain/JiaXuan**

Quick announcement from Will to say that the Labs are now open. More updates to come in future meetings.

Reminder: Please send any email addresses to add to the CIG mailing list to [info@hackneywick.org](mailto:info@hackneywick.org) and please remember to circulate the CIG emails to your own contacts.

**The next CIG meeting is at 9.30am on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August at The Yard Theatre, Unit 2a Queen's Yard, London E9 5EN.**

**Please send any agenda items to Lucy Oliver-Harrison at [lucy@the-yard.co.uk](mailto:lucy@the-yard.co.uk) and as ever, please tell anyone you think should be there to join us.**