

## **Introduction**

From colourful East End markets to a Victorian Music Hall, the new London Overground extension weaves its way through some of the most fascinating areas of London. For Walk the line, London Transport Museum worked with local community groups to create audio walking tours that allow you to explore beyond the railway.

There are 5 different walks to try: Dalston Junction to Hoxton; Shoreditch High Street to Whitechapel; Shadwell to Wapping; Rotherhithe to Surrey Quays; New Cross to New Cross Gate.

### **Dalston Junction to Hoxton:**

Head to Hackney and let the Senior Building Exploratory Explorers (BEES) show you around. Many of the group have lived in this area all their lives and always have a story to tell. This walk mixes the past with the present and touches on Hoxton's trendy cultural scene



## **Rio Cinema**

Hello I'm standing in front of the Rio Cinema, located at 105 Kingsland Road close to the Dalston Kingsland Station. The only surviving cinema in Hackney where, there was once over 15.

Their program is designed to reflect modern vogue as well as dipping in to the past for films with a cinematic interest. The interior has a wonderful art décor feel and prices are very reasonable.

I'll finish off with an interesting little snippet. The word 'Rio' was coined by one of the owners Paul Theodoren thus reducing the cost of neon lights spelling out its name as the original name was called the 'Classic'.



## **St. Mark's Church**

When you reach the junction at Sandringham Road, and St Mark Rise opposite to you right you will see The Tower of St Marks rising above the trees. The parish church of St Mark is the largest church in London, if not England, seating 1800 up to 2000 people. It's larger than Southwark Cathedral. Locally called the Cathedral of the East End, this is a large imposing plot surrounded by trees and iron railings.

Originally it was an iron chapel in Ridley Road in 1860, which was destroyed by a violent storm in 1865. This building was designed by Chester Chesterton Junior, and it was built in 1864 to 65 by Dub Brothers Ltd on this large plot which was donated by W.H Tyson Amherst. It opened in 1866 but was not consecrated until 1870 because of its large debt. With churches the alter end is always called the east end no matter what the true compass bearing is.

On the west front to the right is the tower of four stages it has angled turrets from which spread out symbols of the four evangelists with the tallest central turret with a high octagonal pointed roof. Clock stage has a working barometer the only one in England and in 1979 it was the only working one in Europe. An automatic carillon is in the tower but it is not working at the moment. To the left front is a small spire. As you walk round the site you can see all the windows are of stained glass by Lavisom Barod.





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**Dalston Junction to Hoxton**  
Down side of the road back of the church is the vicarage, on the other side of the site is Colveston Crescent, as you walk along you can see the

aisle with its pairs lancet of windows and at the east end is the hexagonal vestry leading into the church halls. The interior of this church is absolutely beautiful with its stained glass and original listed Henry Speechley organ and can be seen on a Tuesday between 9 and 1 when they open for reflection. The inside, the lights, which were originally gas lights were turned upside down when they were electrified.



[www.ltmuseum.co.uk/learning](http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk/learning)

## **De Beauvoir Square**

You're now in De Beauvoir Square, there are other pronunciations but at least De Beauvoir is the one I'm familiar with. It was conceived in 1821 as the centrepiece of De Beauvoir Town. Clergyman Peter De Beauvoir, leased the area to William Rhodes, later turned out the Rhode's obtained the lease unfairly, and the area reverted back to De Beauvoir family. The design was by James Burton the heyday of the squares was the 1840s.

After that inhabitanicies to become poor and many of the houses were sub-divided. This is a common pattern in lots of neighbourhoods and this part of London and probably other parts as well, and as in common with other things that have happened in the neighbourhood has now revived and I would guess that most of these houses are now single family homes and no longer divided. On the far side of the square is St Peters Church, which is one of the major features in the neighbourhood and a centre of community life.

De Beauvoir town is home to William Little, a 75 year old retired electrical engineer, known as the mole man of Hackney. During this time Mr. Little has been digging a series of tunnels, under his property, on the corner of Mortimer Road and Stanford Road. In 2001 his tunnelling caught an 8 foot hole to appear on the pavement on Stamford Road, reports that the tunnelling had started going in 2006 were confirmed when, Hackney council found a web of tunnels and caverns some 8 meters which is 26 foot deep, spreading up to 20 metres in every direction from his house. In





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August 2006 the council succeeded in getting a court order banning Mr. Hoxton from Dalston Junction to Hoxton Little from his property, while they carry out emergency repairs.



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## **Haggerston Baths**

In 1897, the government put an act together to permit local authorities to provide cleansing and disinfection for persons infested with vermin, and that was on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August. As a consequence, local authorities may expend on any reasonable funds on buildings, appliances and attendance that maybe required for the carrying out of the act, and any expenses for these purposes may be defrayed out of any rate or fund applicable by the authority for general sanitary purposes, or for the relief of the poor.

The opening of the baths was in 1904, on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June. It was erected at the total cost of £60,000, and the building designed in the English renaissance style the elevations being faced in red brick and Portland stone. The purchase of Haggerston site within a week of the council hearing about it was one of the smartest things Shoreditch had ever done. Its total cost was £6, 330 where as at Hoxton it was £15,700.

In the alluding of the need of the baths he stated, that's Counsellor Davis, Doctor Davis there's scarcely one house in the whole Haggerston that had a bath.



## **Hackney City Farm**

Hackney City Farm started in the 1984, in a 1.5 acre of land. Visitors can expect to see pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, chicken, ducks, gees, turkeys, rabbits, and guinea pigs.

Throughout the year there is a number of special events including; pig racing, the East London sheep and wool fare, barn dancing, flower shows, sheep sharing, and parties. It's also a large garden where you can help to plant and to grow things by volunteering to help. They do fruit trees, flowers and vegetables. On Sundays there is a canteen run by volunteers offering light refreshments.



## **Hoxton Square**

Hoxton was a hamlet just outside London when Hoxton Square was laid out, around 1684. It followed the pattern of the new squares in the West End, but it never quite took off. I first saw it about 25 years ago when it had a run down light industrial look, but Hoxton Square has always been changing and its prime time maybe now. Standing here in the square we can glimpse signs of its history.

Over to the right on the east side at number 32, there's a recreation of the 1680s frontage; a modest 2 story brick house, with an attic floor, the type of house that would have lined much of the square. And over at the north side is St Monica's Roman Catholic Church from the 1860s, and worth a look inside. It can be taken to represent the vast increase in population in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in this vast growing area and the changing population of immigrants, and also the emancipation of Roman Catholic church in England at that century.

On the west side at numbers 8 and 9 are two late 19<sup>th</sup> century furniture workshops buildings narrow with large windows. Most noticeable it as the for the café bars spilling out towards the greenery of the square. And next door at number 10 is perhaps the most picturesque building here. The 1870s vicarage, for St Peters Anglican Church that once stood next to it on the corner. And at the south side at number 48 is the White Cube art gallery almost a monument to the most recent change in Hoxton and Shoreditch; the influx of artists and galleries in to the area along with



trendy cafes, bars, shops, and luxury flats. Hoxton Square is now a place to be, and to be seen.

## Dalston Junction to Hoxton

Coming in to Hoxton square you passed by the electricity showroom but now a café-bar but once indeed a Hoxton council showroom for electric lighting appliances. By leaving the square and turning in towards Coronet Street you can see the source of that electric power.



## **Circus Space**

We're now outside the Circus Space which is quite unique building which was originally a very unique. It was the first of its kind to be a combined station *um*, that converted all the waste in the area into electricity. It was built in 1897.

They were going to build refuse destructor as a more cost effective way of disposing of 20 thousand tonnes of rubbish per year, then barging it away. A consulting engineer called E Manville called in as an advisor for the electricity supply station. He recommended combining the two services, advising that the steam required for the estimated electrical output could be got from a properly designed destructor without need of other fuel.

His proposal was quite expensive and it looked like at one time it wasn't going to take effect, but the building we are standing in front of now was used as staff quarters, part of it and part of it was offices and stores and mess rooms and then that stopped being in use 1964 or around about then. It laid empty for 30 years, started to be redeveloped in 1994 then it was finished in 2007 into the unique Circus Space. At the moment I believe they are training some of the people for the opening of the Olympics.



## **Geffrye Museum**

Sir Geffrye Lord Mayor of London in 1686, by his will dated 1703 – 4 bequeathed to the Wardens of Commonality of the Ministry of Art of ironmongers of London. Certain rule for the personal estate for the erection and maintenance of alms houses for poor people. The bequest amounted to £1,534, 13 shillings and 9 pence.

In 1712 two adjoining sites on the east side of Kingsland Road, Shoreditch were purchased by the company. The southern one of W. Hunt for £200, and the northern for £20. About the year 1715, the alms houses were erected at a cost of nearly £4,500. April 1914, Geffrye's Museum became a museum, and the history of it as a museum is a museum of furniture as this area was considered to be near Curtain Road which was the centre for furniture making.

So they decided that they would *um*, have the museum as a furniture museum. It's had a grand extension, and the extension is for all to see, quite a grand place. It's decided of course that we would have to build a bit more on to it, because it will become redundant in a way because you need furniture making goes on through the years so another extension would possibly be needed and that is another story.

