'Lore and Ware' Situated Practice Project

By Paul V. Dudman

Archivist at the University of East London

Session Overview

- The aims for this presentation will include:
- An introduction to my role and the Archives at the University of East London
- An exploration of the Archives that we hold at UEL.
- Exploring the role and power of life histories and how they exist within the Archival environment.
- Use of testimonies as a means of bringing “humanity” into the Archives and the role of ethics in how we engage with participants and develop a “living” archive.
- To introduce some examples of the archival materials that we hold via the Living Refugee Archive at www.livingrefugeearchive.org/

Archives as Stories

- Archives can represent "the basis and validation of the stories we tell ourselves, the story-telling narratives that give cohesion and meaning to individuals, groups and societies." (Schwartz and Cook, 2002, p.13).
- Archives have the power to present a narrative determined by the documentary evidence that has survived and to empower a certain representation through language.
- Archives incorporate Notions of memory and identity; shared histories, community and belonging.

Archival Silences

- But what of those stories that never make it into the Archives. Those lives deemed to unimportant or mundane to be represented int the corpus of our shared history?
- How do we record their stories; their history? How do we bring their experiences into the fabric of history and empower their voices to be heard?
- What methods and tools are available to us to undertake this work, and what should we consider when looking to document a lived experience?

Reclaiming Voice …

- "…. What we want is our voice to be heard in the world…. We just want our voice to be heard in the world." (KOS1.02A, woman from Syria, Kos).
- "Am I not useless? Anything that is useless is thrown out. When I see that I am useless in my country, useless in Europe, useless in other countries, then who am I? A hidden pronoun? In the Arabic language we call it a hidden pronoun. An invisible subject." (IST2.28, man from Iraq, Istanbul).
- Squire, V. *et al.* (2021) *Reclaiming migration: voices from Europe's 'migrant crisis'*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

Archives at UEL

- Physical Archive Collections held at UEL:
  - Refugee Archive Collections
    - Inc. Refugee Council Archive; Northern Refugee Centre Archive, & UNHCR Audio-Visual Collection, CARA Archive.
  - British Olympic Association Archive & Library
  - Eastside Community Heritage Oral History Collection
  - East London Studies Collection
  - UEL Institutional Archive
  - When Saturday Comes Football Fanzine collection.
  - Hackney Empire Theatre Archive

Refugee Archive Collections @ UEL

- Our refugee and migration physical collections include:

- The Refugee Council Archive
- Council for Assisting At-Risk Academics (CARA) Archive
- Northern Refugee Centre Archive
- UNHCR (London Office) Audio-Visual Library
- Information Centre for Asylum and Refugees (ICAR) Archive
- Charter 87
- Cambridge Refugee Support Group Archive
- Association of Ukrainian Women Archive (forthcoming)

History of the Refugee Council Archive

- The Refugee Council originated from two independent organisations, British Council for Aid to Refugees (BCAR) and the Standing Conference on Refugees (SCOR), which were both founded in 1951 following the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.
- Archive of the Refugee Council as an organisation, including correspondence, minutes, of meetings, case files and related materials.
- Thematic special collection of published books and journals, reports and grey literature incorporating working papers, conference papers, leaflets, newsletters, case studies, field reports, statistical data, press cuttings and audio-visual materials.
- Over 35,000 items have now been catalogued and we are still trying to add new materials to the collection.

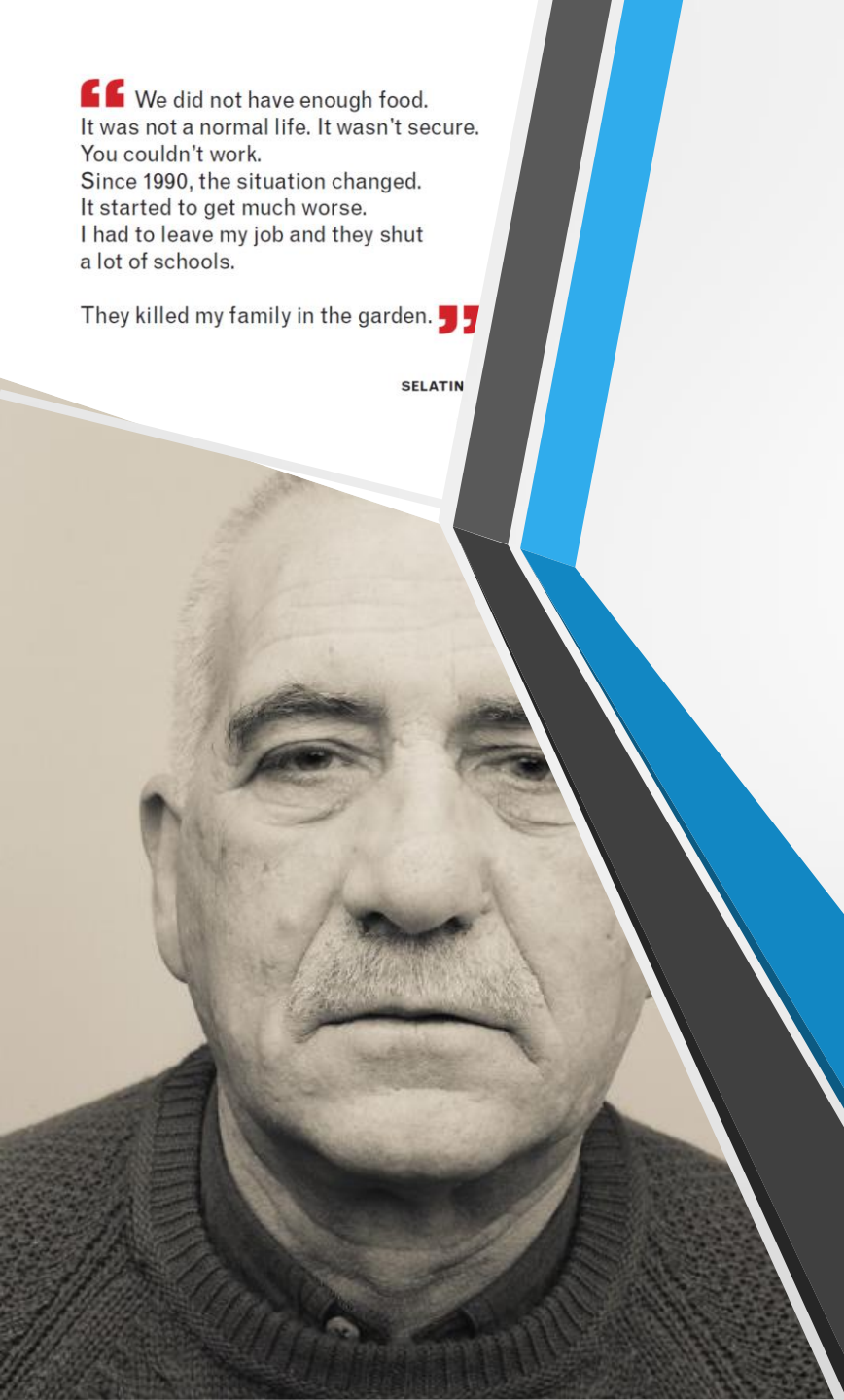


Refugee Archives – Oral History

- Oral history-based collections:
- Gujarati Yatra Oral History Collection. Exhibition held at the Museum of Croydon.
- VOKIM: Voices of Kosovo in Manchester Oral History Archive. Manchester Aid to Kosovo.
- Healing the Wounds. Irish Community Services Oral History Project documenting the Irish community in South East London.
- Crossing the Borders Oral History Archive. Documenting the Chinese community in Manchester.
  The Wai Yin Society
- Eastside Community Heritage: Projects on Somali Seafarers ;
  Ugandan Asians; refugees from the Hungarian Revolution.





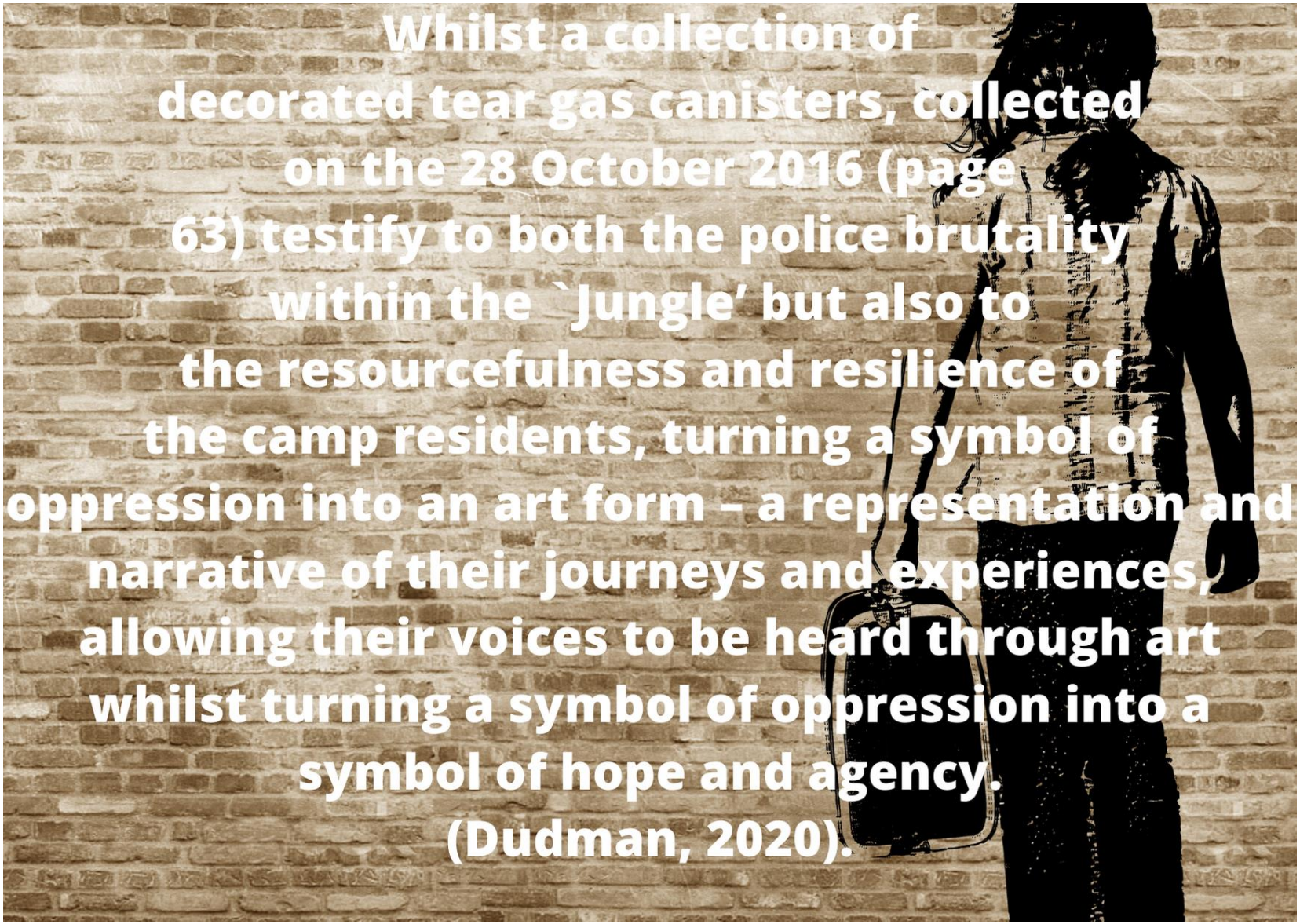


Voices of Kosovo in Manchester oral history testimonies and accompanying exhibition images.

Dzhangal by Gideon Mendel

- Documenting the experiences of asylum seekers and refugees in the former `Calais' jungle through photographs of the items they left behind.
- 'Made in Migration' exhibition part of the `Migrant Materialities' by Dr Racheal Kiddey which looks at the role of material culture in situations of forced migration. Link: https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/displacement-studies/made-in-migration-mim




Whilst a collection of
decorated tear gas canisters, collected
on the 28 October 2016 (page
63) testify to both the police brutality
within the `Jungle' but also to
the resourcefulness and resilience of
the camp residents, turning a symbol of
oppression into an art form – a representation and
narrative of their journeys and experiences,
allowing their voices to be heard through art
whilst turning a symbol of oppression into a
symbol of hope and agency.
(Dudman, 2020).

Disrupting Traditional Archival Paradigms

- What constitutes an `Archive?' Documents, Manuscripts, Paper, Old Stuff, Dust?
- Challenging paradigms through our "living archive" approach to how we collect and document communities.
- Project with Vietnamese performance artist Moi Tran to document the Vietnamese community in Hackney through performance and song.
- Project documenting the Chilean exile community in London through objects and material cultures.
- Looking beyond the manuscript to see what other artefacts can tell us?

ABOUT MOI TRAN



Moi Tran is a visual artist, performance maker, and designer. She is also a scenographer and costume designer in theatre, dance and opera. Her practice explores the intersection between contemporary art live performance.

Born in Vietnam with Chinese heritage, her work examines theorisations on emotional experience as valued knowledge in the politics of East and South Ea Asian (ESEA) communities.

Tran's practice is guided by research, live performanc theatre, text, sound, installation and video to explor how social and cultural codes challenge ways of bein together as sites of learning and knowledge producti

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Hackney Chinese Community Services
克尼華人社會服務中心

CIVIC VOICE ARCHIVE

CONTRIBUTE TO AN ONGOING ARCHIVE OF SONGS & POEMS IN ESEA LANGUAGES & DIALECTS

HOW TO SUBMIT

1. *Record yourself or someone you know singing a song or reading a poem in an ESEA language or dialect*

- A cappella is preferred. If there is accompanying background music, please ensure it does not overpower the voice.
- Video is preferred. This could be the performer performing directly to the camera or recording something as they sing. Audio files will be accepted.

2. *Make a word document with the following:*

- Name of the original singer/poet
- Name of the song/poem
- Song/poem text
- Name, gender and age of community performer (optional)
- Language/dialect of the piece
- Country/region of the piece
- Memory/feeling of the community member when singing the song

3. *Email the recording and word document to* ***moitrandesign@gmail.com***

- with subject 'Civic Voice Archive - Submission'
- The recording will be kept in a community-led archive which artist, Moi Tran hopes to exhibit.
- Participants may withdraw their submission at any time.

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Crafting Resistance Living Exhibition

- Project working with the Chilean diaspora community in London and beyond exploring ways in which we can develop and collection an Exile Archive of Memory reflecting on the experiences of Chileans as political prisoners following the 1973 Military Coup in Chile and also as exiles abroad.
- Exhibition focusing on over 100 individual items brought together for the `Crafting Resistance' exhibition. "These artefacts are now testimony to the mental endurance of all those who were political prisoners under the Pinochet regime."
- Link: https://www.livingrefugeearchive.org/crafting-resistance-living-exhibition/



Narrative Engagement in the Archive

- Archives are home to a multitude of interacting stories, narratives and testimonies. Some rise to the surface easily, others are hidden.
- Opening the Archive to life histories of vulnerable communities raise a number of key issues
  - Engagement: Engendering trust with communities and individuals to enable and facilitate life history work.
  - Representation: How do communities and individuals want their story to represented within the Archive?
  - Ethics: Ensuring that any life history work undertaken is ethical in its approach, ensuring participants are informed of the process from initial engagement through life history process and ending up with archiving and issues of accessibility.
  - The Archivist Researcher: An awareness of your own situated practice in relation to the Archive and the outreach work you are undertaking. Challenging yourself and the Archive.

Narrative Engagement in the Archive: Situated Practice

- Reflecting on your own situated practice in relation to the Archive and the projects you are undertaking.

We as archivists, must continue to be aware that we `wield power over those very records central to memory and identity formation through active management of records before they come to archives, their appraisal and selection as archives, and afterwards, their constantly evolving description, preservation, and use.' (Schwartz and Cook, 2002, p. 2).

Life Histories in the Archive: Ethics

- Ensuring that any life history work undertaken is ethical in its approach, ensuring participants are informed of the process from initial engagement through life history process and ending up with archiving and issues of accessibility.
- We have obtained official UEL Research Ethics approval for all of the projects we have undertaken, funded both internally and externally.
- This has required us to meet stringent requirements for how participants are recruited and informed about the project and what their rights are in terms of how their life histories are collected, stored, processed, archived and made accessible.
- Engenders confidence with organisations and individuals that we work with.

How can archives document life history narratives?

- Multi-modal approaches to collecting life histories. Think holistically – life histories are not just oral histories or written testimonies, they can be represented in other formats, e.g. theatre, dance, art, design, textiles and objects. Disrupting traditional paradigms.
- Be open to collaboration and be prepared to challenge hierarchies in support of projects that break the mode in terms of how often marginalised voices can be represented and showcased in new and different ways.
- Understanding that silences can be equally as important and respecting that some participants may not want to share their story or have their experiences recorded in an archive.

Community Engagement Projects – Tate Lives

- Tate Lives: Salvaging the Oral History of the Tate Institute

- A civic engagement project focusing on the community history of the now derelict Tate Institute, the former sports and social club built for the workers of the Tate and Lyle sugar refinery in Silvertown, East London.
- Funded from the University of East London's internal civic engagement fund, the project was established in collaboration with community partners from the inception of the project.

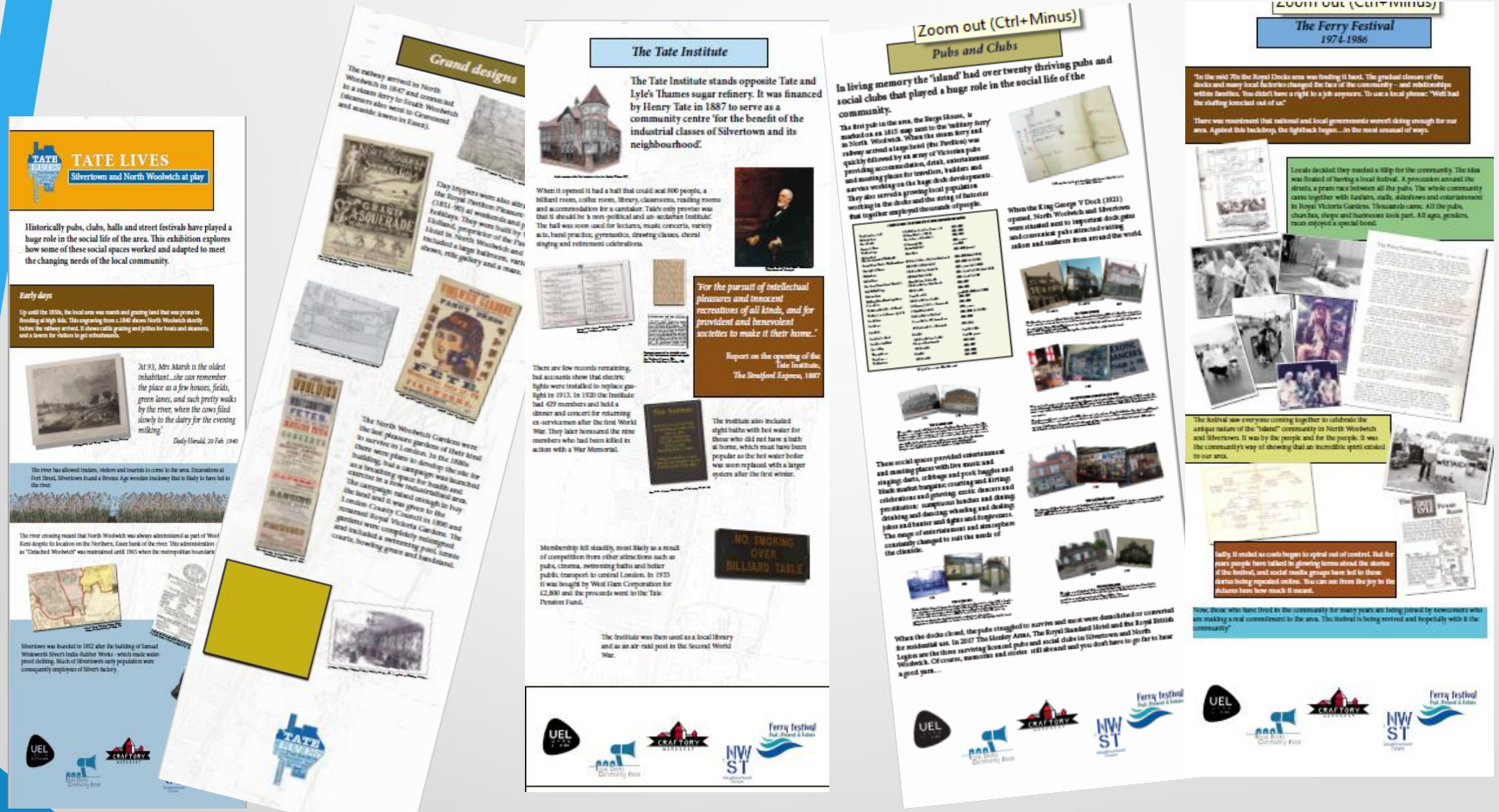


Mapping Memories

- "Neighbourhoods are made up of many communities with precious memories in locals' hearts and minds. Spaces and places for residents to meet are often the glue that holds neighbourhoods together, bringing a sense of belonging and support. What is valued are places open in the evenings and weekends to relax, socialise and build local relationships in an organic way."

  Emma-Jane Crace, Community Wellbeing Practitioner.

Tate Lives


TATE LIVES
Silvertown and North Woolwich at play
Historically pubs, clubs, halls and street festivals have played a huge role in the social life of the area. This exhibition explores how some of these social spaces worked and adapted to meet the changing needs of the local community.
Early days
Grand designs
The Tate Institute
The Tate Institute stands opposite Tate and Lyle's Thames sugar refinery. It was financed by Henry Tate in 1887 to serve as a community centre 'for the benefit of the industrial classes of Silvertown and its neighbourhood'.
'For the pursuit of intellectual pleasures and innocent recreations of all kinds, and for provident and benevolent societies to make it their home...'
Report on the opening of the Tate Institute, The Stratford Express, 1887
NO SWORN OVER BILLIARD TABLE
Zoom out (Ctrl+Minus)
Pubs and Clubs
In living memory the 'island' had over twenty thriving pubs and social clubs that played a huge role in the social life of the community.
The Ferry Festival
1974-1986

Why the Tate Institute?

- The Tate Institute Sports and Social Club was established by Sir Henry Tate in 1887 as a secular social venue for Silvertown and in particular for the workers at his sugar factory at a cost of £5,000.
- The Institute included an 800-seat hall, billiard room, reading room and nine bathrooms. It soon became an important meeting venue for the local community hosting lectures, popular musical entertainments, celebrations and even political meetings. The Institute also had sports teams including boxing, and in the former Tate and Lyle sports ground cricket, football and much more.
- In 1933 the Tate Institute closed and from 1938-61 housed the Silvertown library. It then became a community-based social club with a bar, stage and dance floor and the billiard room was put back into use upstairs. In 2002 the Tate Institute building was sold to the London Borough of Newham and since then has been closed.
- In 2016 the Institute was occupied by the Craftory Workshop, a community arts-based project. With the assistance of sympathetic local councilors, Craftory are working to bring life back into the abandoned Tate Institute and hope to transform it into an arts and craft centre for the local community.

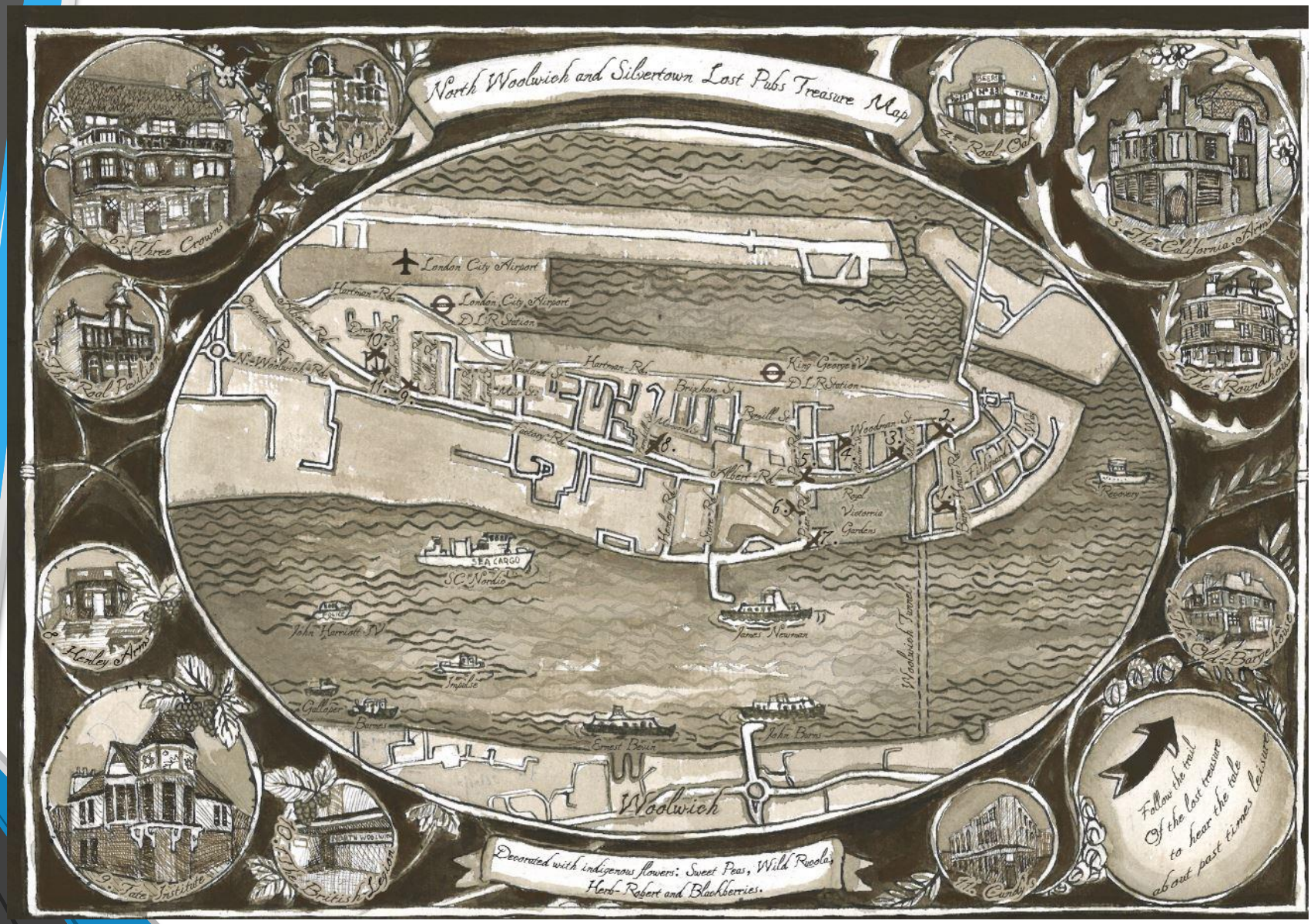


North Woolwich and Silvertown 1

- This area of East London has experienced a mixed cultural history over the past century. Issues of decline, regeneration and immigration combined with the policies and interventions of local government in the region have subsequently contributed to growing community isolation and a loss of community spirit, contributing to a decline of sense of community and neighbourhood in these areas.
- Decline of the tight knit original island community. It became known as a "dumping ground" during the social housing policy from the 1990's. During this time there has been 76 plans for the regeneration of the Royal Docks over a 40 year period until the present.
- Project undertook a participatory approach of the Tate Lives project, developed by incorporating a bottom up oral history methodology, has enabled positive community engagement and interaction to help facilitate a community (re-) connection with their collective memory of both the Tate Institute and more broadly a shared sense of history and community within the local area.

North Woolwich and Silvertown 2

- Through our work we created a space for the local community who felt a sense of ownership and engagement with the project as the project was intended to give a voice back to the community and to genuinely document their own narratives, testimonies and memories to which they felt have been overlooked for a long time.
- Multi-layered project focusing on honouring the loss and sourcing the experience of the rich life of the original community and inspiring and educating the newer residents of all ages about the land they live.
- Creation of the Tate Lives Trail in conjunction with a community-based illustrator documenting the lost pubs of the Royal Docks. Link: http://www.tatelivestrail.org.uk/en/


North Woolwich and Silvertown Lost Pubs Treasure Map
1. The Three Crowns
2. The Royal Standard
3. The Royal Oak
4. The California Arms
5. The Royal Pavilion
6. The Roundhouse
7. The Hanley Arms
8. The Old Barge House
9. The Tate Institute
10. The British Legion
11. The Cundy's
London City Airport
London City Airport DLR Station
King George V DLR Station
Hartman Rd.
Grand Parade
Albert Rd.
Royal Victoria Gardens
Woodman St.
Brigham St.
Pyrmill St.
Tidpany Rd.
Hanley Rd.
Store Rd.
Barge House Rd.
Woolwich Tunnel
Woolwich
SEA CARGO
SC Nordic
John Harriatt IV
Impalie
Galleper
Burmes
Ernest Bevin
John Burns
Recovery
James Newman
Decorated with indigenous flowers: Sweet Peas, Wild Roses, Herb-Robert and Blackberries.
Follow the trail
Of the lost treasure
to hear the tale
about past times leisure

Newham Trackside Wall Archive

- The Newham Trackside Wall is a major new public artwork by artist Sonia Boyce, commissioned by Crossrail and curated by Up Projects.
- The 1.9km long artwork runs through Custom House, Silvertown and North Woolwich in the London Borough of Newham and is one of the longest ever commissioned in the UK.
- The artwork features over 170 stories contributed by local people of all ages.
- Link: https://upprojects.com/projects/newham-trackside-wall

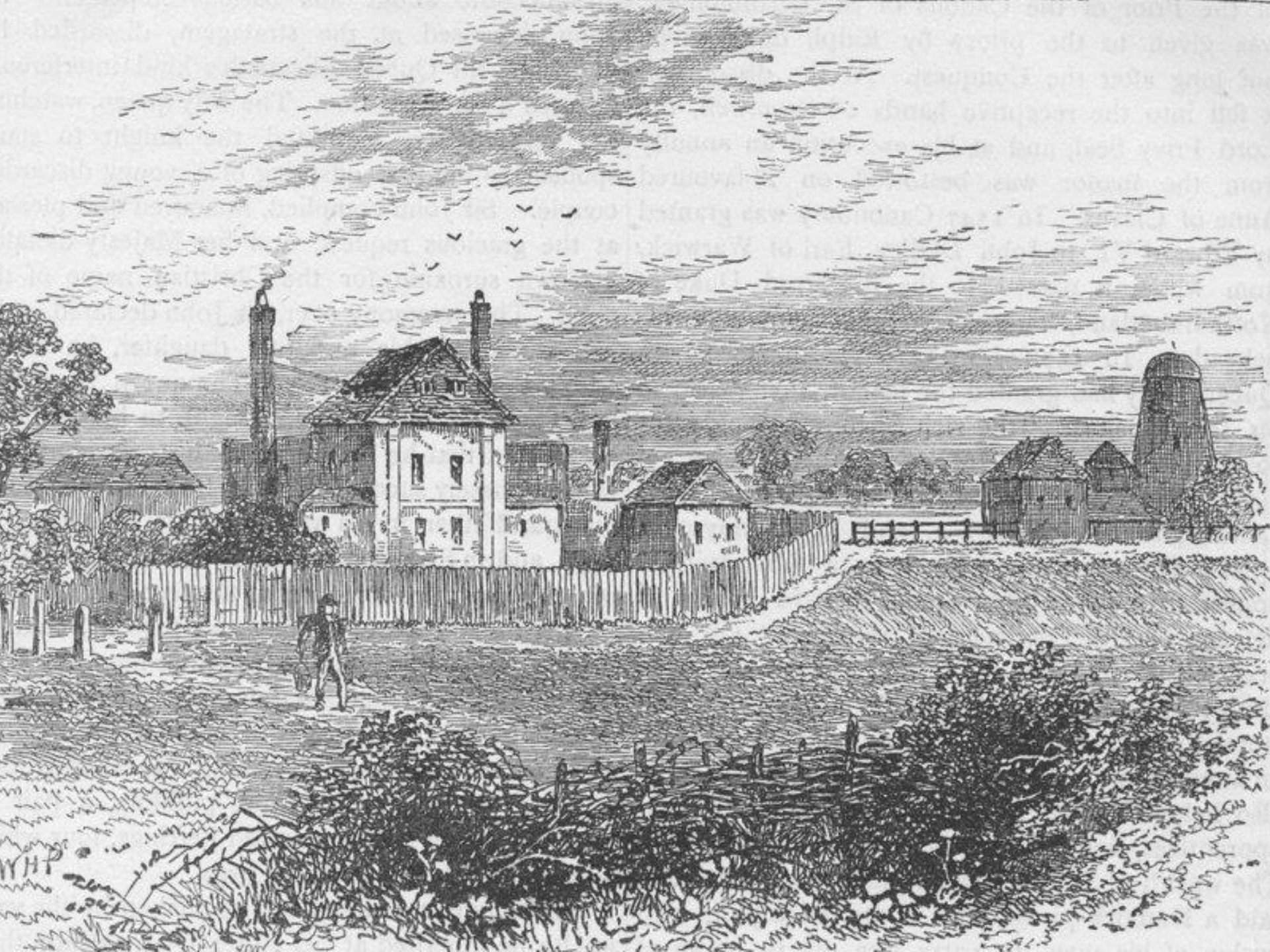


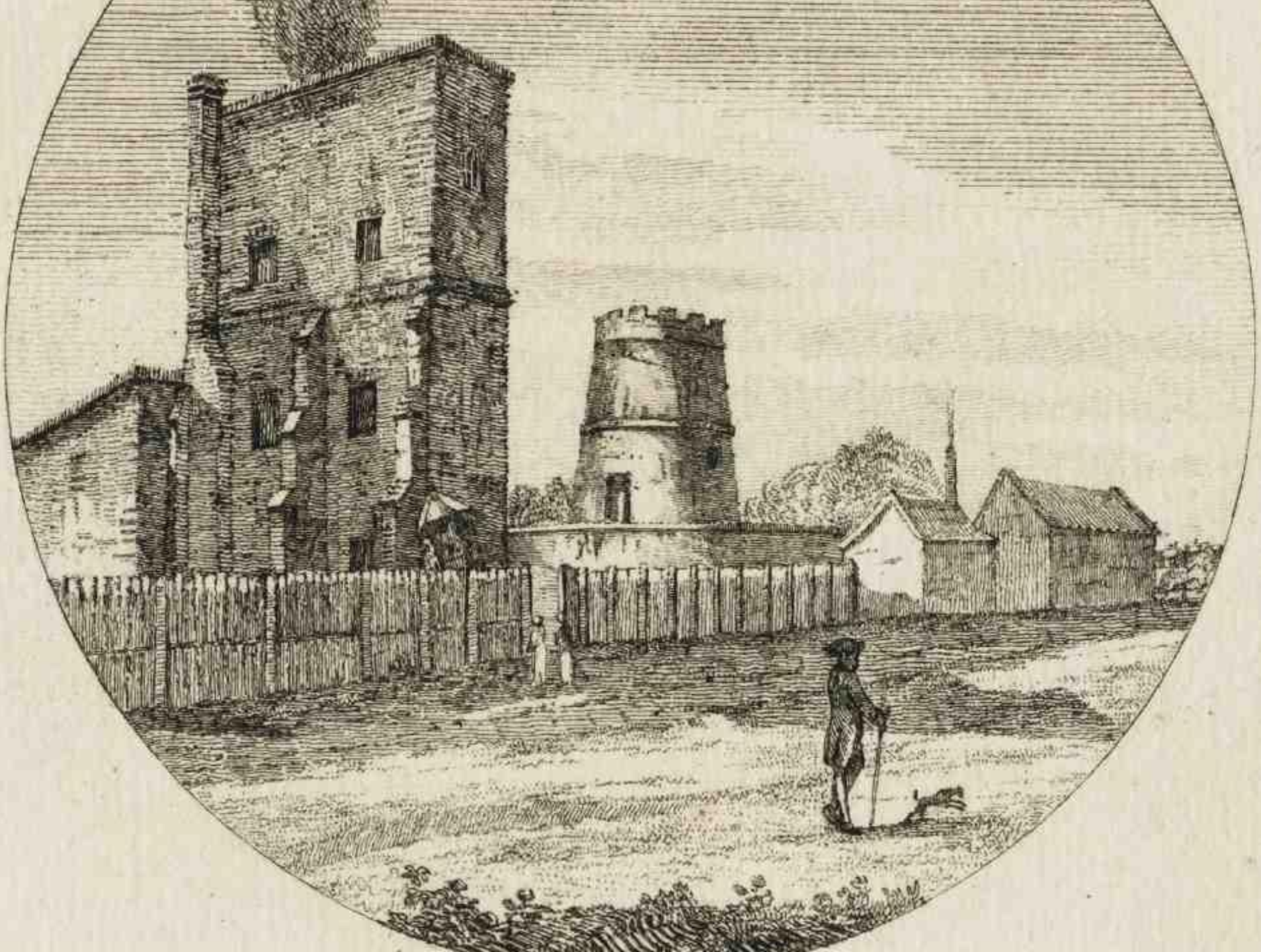
UP PROJECTS · Crossrail · A NEW DIRECTION We create opportunity · SNC·LAVALIN · ATKINS · arts award

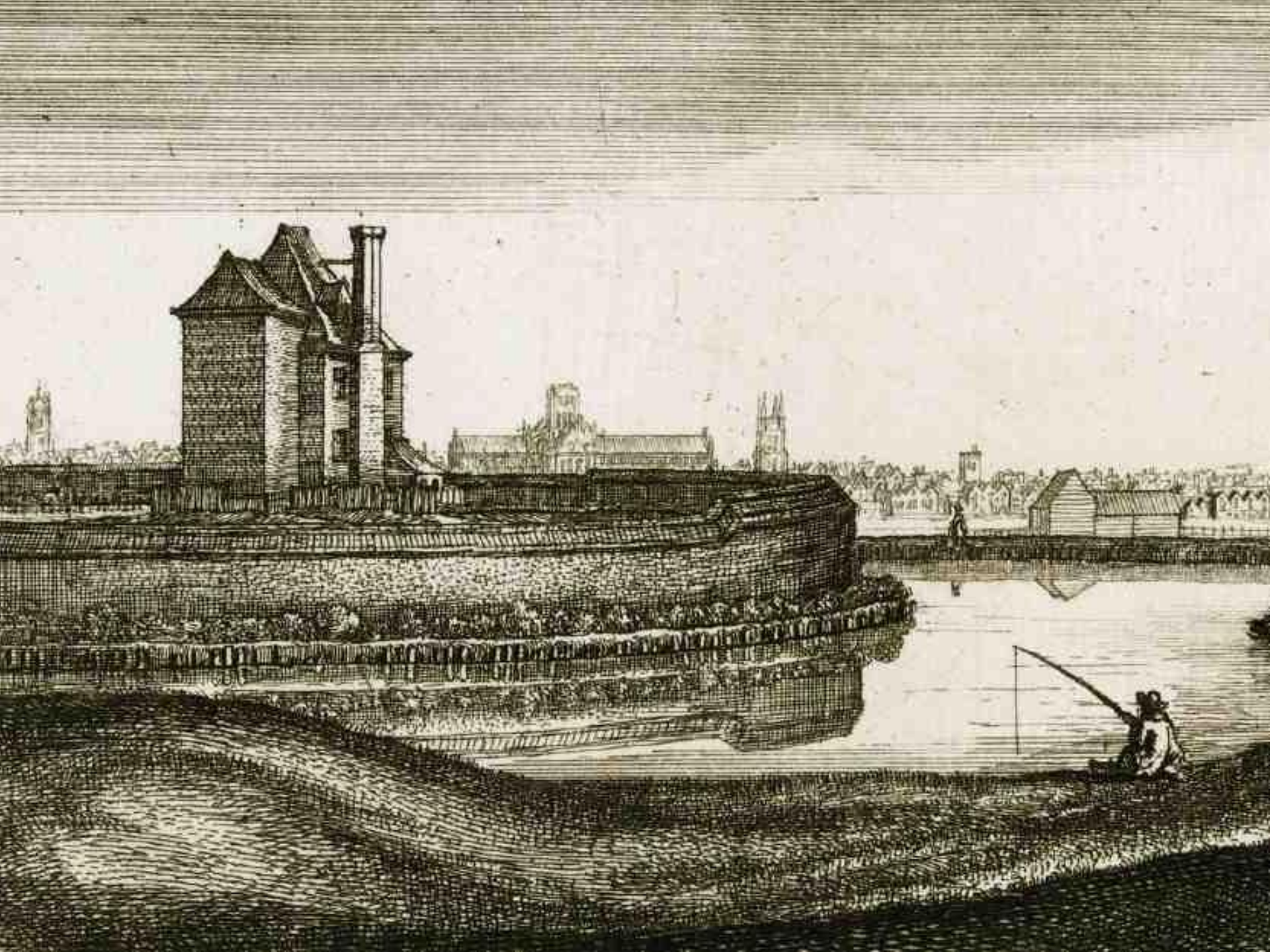

SUGAR

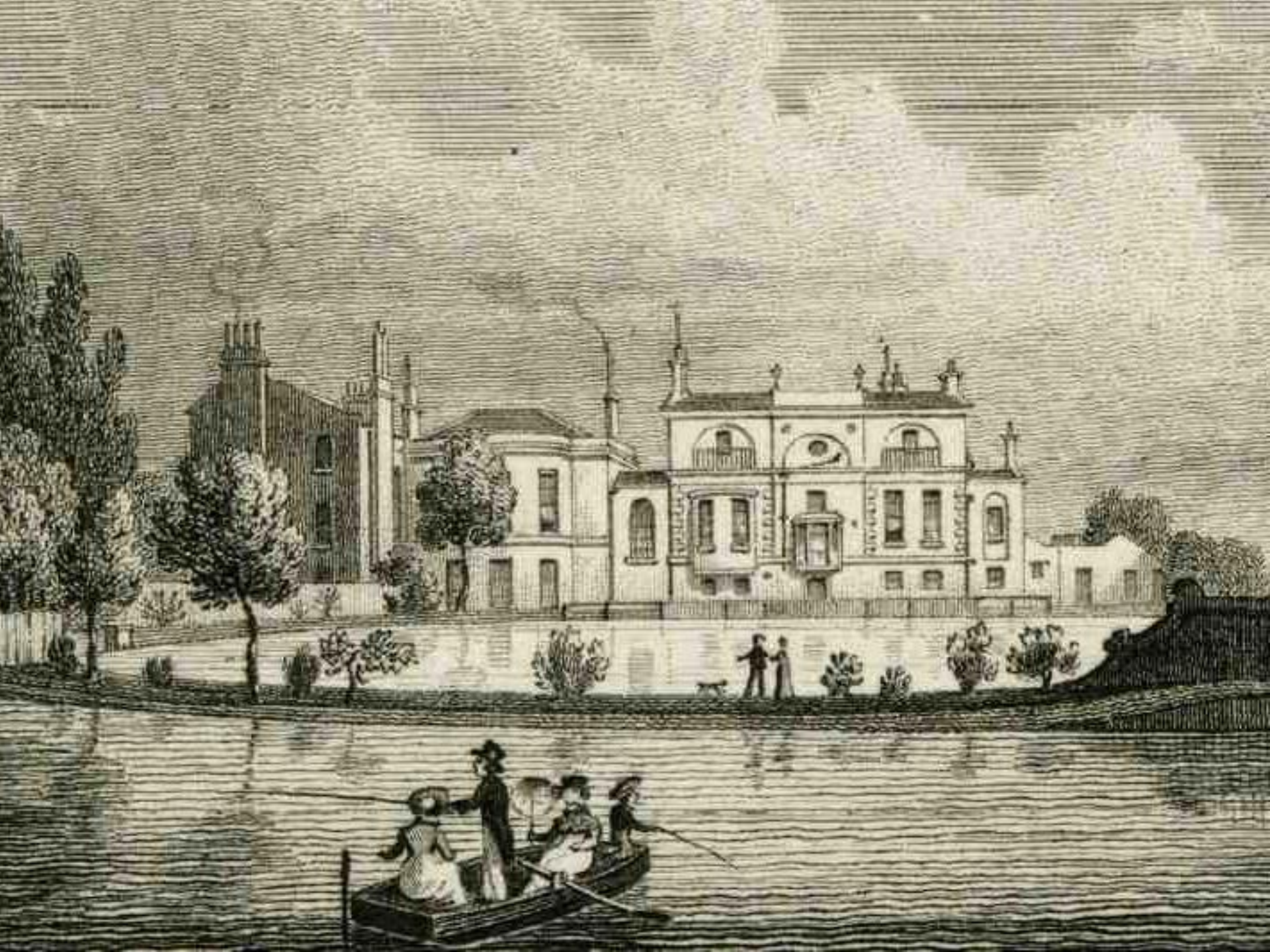
New River Head

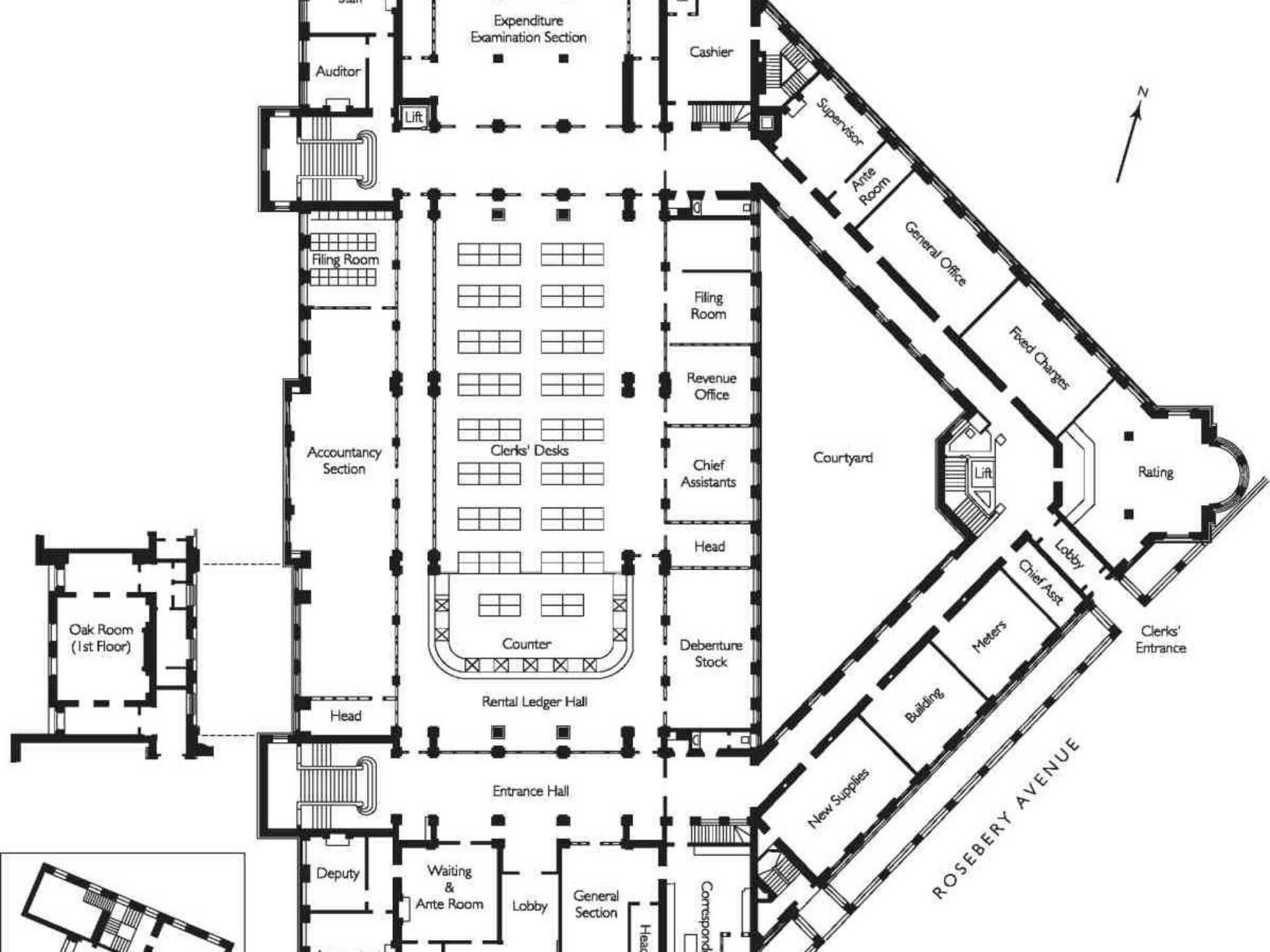
- As this will be a key area of focus for the Lore and Ware brief this year, a very brief introduction.
- Many of the archive resources you may need will be accessible through the House of Illustration and LMA Archives.
- However, there also useful sources available online including the Survey of London and British History Online which can provide contextual background materials for your research.
- The following includes a selection of images that I was able to find and which are also accessible on the New River Head resources page on our Living Refugee Archive.









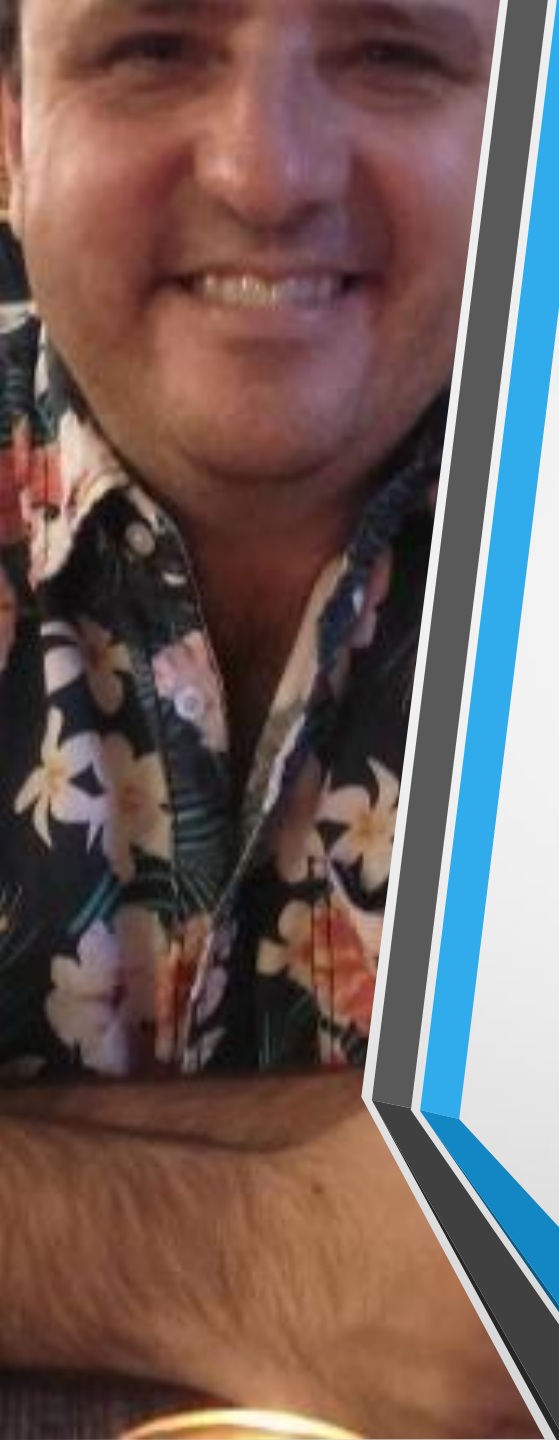

Expenditure
Examination Section
Auditor
Lift
Cashier
Supervisor
Ante Room
General Office
Fixed Charges
Rating
Filing Room
Filing Room
Revenue Office
Accountancy Section
Clerks' Desks
Chief Assistants
Courtyard
Lift
Lobby
Chief Asst
Clerks' Entrance
Head
Oak Room
(1st Floor)
Counter
Debenture Stock
Meters
Building
Rental Ledger Hall
Head
New Supplies
ROSEBERY AVENUE
Entrance Hall
Deputy
Waiting
&
Ante Room
Lobby
General
Section
N

New River Head – Today's Histories

- *New River Head homes - https://www.newriverhead.co.uk/*
- *The New River Action Group. Website - http://newriver.org.uk/nr/index.php*
- A Walking Tour of the New River - https://londongardenstrust.org/features/NewRiver.htm https://shelford.org/walks/newriver.pdf (13 page guide)
- *Thames Water Archive available at the London Metropolitan Archives and with a website at: https://archive.thameswater.co.uk/*

'Lore and Ware' Situated Practice Activities

- Lore and Ware Online Resources on the Living Refugee Archive: https://www.livingrefugeearchive.org/teaching-resources/lore-and-ware-situated-practice-project/
- Group/Activity 1: New River Head.
- Group/Activity 2: Voices from the Jungle Digital Testimony Archive
- Group/Activity 3: Photographs from Gideon Mendel from his book Dzhangal.
- Group/Activity 4: Crafting Resistance Exhibition and Documenting Chile Project.
- Group/Activity 5: Voices of Kosovo in Manchester oral history testimonies and accompanying exhibition images.
- Group/Activity 6: Hackney Empire Theatre Posters.
- Group/Activity 7: David Oluwale. Individual Narrative Reflections.



Contact Details

- Appointments:
- I am happy to make virtual appointments during this semester to help with any enquiries that you may have.
- Contact Me via Teams
- Contact me, Paul Dudman, on:
  - Email – p.v.dudman@uel.ac.uk
  - Telephone – 020 8223 7676
  - Twitter - @refugee_archive / @pauldudman

Key References

- Dudman, Paul V. (2020c). *`Book Review: Mendel, Gideon (2017): Dzhangal. London: GOST Books ISBN: 978-1-910401.15-6.' Displaced Voices: A Journal of Migration, Archives and Cultural Heritage*, Volume 1, pp. 6-11. Available at: https://www.livingrefugeearchive.org/displaced-voices-volume-1/ [Accessed: 23/07/2020].
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