

HACKNEY MOSAIC TRAIL

THE SOUTH WALK (approximately 2 1/2 hours)

- 6. Hoxton Varieties, Old Street - Hoxton**, close to the City, was famous as a place of entertainment for Londoners in the 18th and 19th centuries. There were pleasure Gardens and Music Halls showing all kinds of acts. The mosaic shows a troupe of Acrobats with performing dogs.
- 7. Wenlock Orchard** - This panel is a sign for the local community project that has planted a grove of fruit trees on a neglected patch of grass on Wenlock Street.
- 8. Shepherdess Walk** - The first mosaic made by the Project in 2012 to celebrate the year of the London Olympics. Inspired by Roman mosaics, particularly from North Africa, the seasons panels show how ordinary people, not just athletes, enjoy outdoor activities and exercise. At first glance it looks like an ancient mosaic but there are lots of clues that show it is the modern world. Hackney has more parks than any other London Borough and most of them are named on the mosaic.
- 9. Canalside Square, Packington Estate** - This circular mosaic shows the wildlife that can be found on the nearby Regents Canal. The birds, including an Egyptian goose and a proud cormorant, surround the amazing variety of fish and other water creatures.
- 10. Kingsland Basin** - Another sign for the urban oasis that is the Kingsland Basin. Although surrounded by buildings the basin is home to a variety of wildlife and is maintained to encourage more creatures to take up residence. There are already bats and one day, perhaps, there will be otters.
- 11. Haggerston Square** - A large pavement illustrating the history of this part of Hackney. Up until the 19th century Hackney was still countryside but the nearby city was a good market for farm produce of all kinds. The mosaic shows the fruit trees and livestock that would have occupied the land in the 18th century.
- 12. Fellows Court** - Two signs made with older residents the Estate, brightening up the Square and illustrating the lovely autumn berries of the trees opposite.
- 14. St. Leonards Church, Shakespeare Garden** - A small paving mosaic celebrating the fact that the Globe Theatre as originally located in this part of Shoreditch. The story goes that the landlord raised the ground rent so the theatre troupe, including William Shakespeare, dismantled the building at dead of night, carried all the timbers across the river, and re-erected it on the site in Borough where it now stands again.



MOSAICS BY THE HACKNEY MOSAIC PROJECT

The project began in 2011 to celebrate the year of the London Olympics. It brings vulnerable and isolated adults together with other members of the local community to make large public mosaics that brighten up neglected corners of the city. As well as creating pictures from broken fragments we aim to help piece back together fragmented lives by working together on productive and therapeutic projects that can be enjoyed by everyone.

You can see more of our work and read more about us at www.hackney-mosaic.co.uk
Instagram@hackneymosaicproject.

THE NORTH WALK (approximately 2 hours)

- 1. Hackney Downs Childrens Playground**
This mosaic is inspired by Roman mosaics, particularly in Jordan, which often show exotic animals. On the back wall the elephant is startled by the mouse and this starts a great chase involving the bear, the monkey and many others. On the side walls the other animals look on in surprise. Only the okapi is unknown in Roman mosaics. A native of the Congo it was first seen by a European in 1891.
- 2. Hounds of Hackney Downs** - A series of portraits of the local residents with a longer wall showing them racing across the open spaces of the Park. In between are the wildflowers that grow in the meadow on the other side of the Park in the summer. There is also a poem written by Ken Edwards, Secretary of the Project.
- 3. West Hackney Recreation Ground**
The number panel was done first and then joined by the alphabet. The aim was to give children and parents something else to look at apart from gravestones. The Project was kindly supported by the West Hackney Parochial Charity.
- 4. Bayston Road, Garden Path** - The mosaic is just off the map further up the road. It shows the owner's dogs chasing a wily fox that is just about to escape into the next door garden. The chase is observed by a collection of local birds including an egret and a kestrel.
- 5. Albion Parade** - The mosaic illustrates the old story that when the Romans first came to Britain the only inhabitants were two giants, Gog and Magog. They were so aggressive and fond of fighting they had wiped out the rest of their race, leaving Albion, as the Romans named it, easy to conquer. The mosaic was made with the help of children from the local Grasmere Primary School.