Community matters

A FREE exhibition at Hackney Museum explores the meaning of community for people who live in the Cazenove ward of the borough. ‘Side by Side: Living in Cazenove’ is part of a three year project funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. It features a range of installations created by artists, filmmakers and photographers from the area, as well as by community groups.

The exhibition is an opportunity to learn about the history and development of an area which is a microcosm of Hackney. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, many mansions in Cazenove were demolished to make way for higher-density accommodation and affordable housing. This led to more people moving into the area. Jewish immigrants started arriving, fleeing persecution in Eastern Europe, and by 1945, an Orthodox Jewish community was well established.

In recent years, other groups have moved in (and out of) Cazenove including a Muslim community of South-Asian origin, Buddhist monks, people from Africa and the Caribbean, squatters and artists.

The exhibition includes a series of portrat photographs and sound recordings capturing life in Cazenove today. "Side by Side" in Cazenove is a microcosm of today's society. Artistic representations of Jewish customs and traditions, as well as experiences of squatting in the 1980s, have also been recreated.

Screenings of short films made by young people from the Boiler House Community Space and The Edge Young Hackney Centre are also on show, investigating how community is perceived in today's society. Stoke Newington Common Users Group have contributed by knitting a 3D version of the green, and people are invited to take part in a knitting workshop to finish it.

Pupils from the Jubilee and Simon Marks Jewish primary schools examined the differences between communities.

The North London Muslim Community Centre teamed up with an artist to create a mosaic and film for the exhibition, and residents have shared recipes at the Made in Hackney food kitchen on Cazenove Road, N16.

The exhibition is open from 21 January to 17 May.

MORE INFO
For more info, visit: www.hackney.gov.uk/cm-museum or call: 020 8356 3500