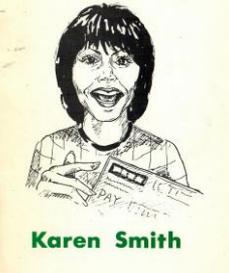


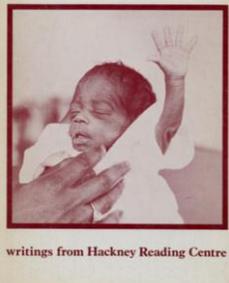
I Got it Right



Karen Smith, I Got it Right (Centerprise, 1983)

Karen Smith's book I Got it Right was part of the second set of books for beginning readers which Hackney Reading Centre produced. Karen, a pseudonym, was a young white woman who studied at the Hackney Reading Centre for a short period in the early 1980s. The book was selected for publication by others in the group.

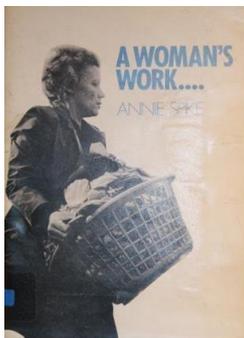
Every birth it comes different



Ngusi Thompson, 'Navel String' from Hackney Reading Centre's edited collection Every Birth It Comes Different (Centerprise, 1980)

Ngusi, of Igbo ethnicity, was born in Nigeria in 1934. She came to the UK in 1959. She had seven children, five born in Nigeria and two in the UK. Ngusi was 46 when Every Birth It Comes Different was published. The book was unusual for the Hackney Reading Centre in being a collection of works rather

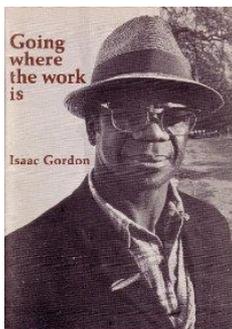
than by a single author.



Annie Spike, excerpt from 'A Woman's Job', a chapter in her book A Woman's Work... (Centerprise, 1978)

Annie Spike was born in Dublin in 1943, moving to Stoke Newington in 1964. Over the years, Annie worked as a machinist, shop assistant, home-help and office cleaner.

This book was an adapted, easier-to-read version of Annie's account in Working Lives: Volume Two, a collection of oral histories of working people in Hackney put together by the 'A People's Autobiography of Hackney' group, and published by Centerprise in 1977.



Isaac Gordon, excerpt from 'The accident', a chapter of his book Going Where the Work Is (Centerprise, 1983)

Isaac came to the UK from Jamaica in 1960. He worked in a scrap metal yard, the setting of the incident he narrates in 'The accident', and later as a gardener at Kenwood House in Hampstead.

He wrote Going Where the Work Is whilst attending the Hackney Reading Centre in the 1970s.