

1. "RECORD" No.5.- is now on sale at Bancroft Road Library and book-stalls, price 75p.
2. PROGRAMME : On the 20th January, the East London Family History Workshop will be giving us an insight into "Scandals in the Work-house". On the 17th February Dr.K.Bascombe will be talking to us on "Waltham Abbey's Medieval Heritage" - to such East Londoners as there were in the Middle Ages, Waltham Abbey must have been very much on their minds as pilgrims passed through on their way to the shrine of King Harold. We shall have a first-hand account of the building of Rotherhithe Tunnel on the 24th March from Mr.R.J.Barnes, and our Hackney evening on the 14th April at the Rose Lipman Library will be looked after by Miss Wait, the Archivist; actual subject will be announced later. The old Tilling coaches which used to ply through East London taking parties to the hopfields and the forest will be the subject of our talk on the 17th May from Colin Curties. The season will close with a Members' Evening on the 22nd June. With the exception of the Hackney Evening, all meetings will be at Queen Mary College at 7.30 p.m.
3. "GARDINER'S CORNER" : The Summer Newsletter 1982 contained a remarkably detailed article reviewing in retrospect the environmental changes covering the vicinity east of Aldgate Pump. As a veteran resident of the East End, I relished with profound interest and nostalgia the description of Gardiner's Corner, a grand structure symbolic of decades in demise.

Mr.C.J.Lloyd, the Local History Librarian, in his article conveyed a correct assessment of the status, and maritime departmental features which attained international repute with patronage and custom from every category of seafaring personnel, both Royal Navy and Merchant seamen. The military insignias department exhibited a spectacular window display portraying topical events, and I recall the Hendon Air Pageants, the Schneider Trophy races, Lindbergh's solo flight, Amy Johnson, the Aldershot Tattoo, to name but a few. These vivid displays attracted a considerable business. Strangely, one rarely applied the term "store" to this renowned establishment, though "The Scotch House" failed to achieve East End recognition, the firm being accepted as family outfitters. The tailoring and hosiery sections maintained a consistent and successful custom being recognised for civility and quality, which in view of the intensive modern-style hosiers of the 1920's and 30's, confirmed their ability to override the competition and rivalry from the 'modernists' such as Cecil Gee, N.Devis Ltd., and the inimitable "May's Ways always Pays", the sole East End survivor being N.Devis of New Road - Whitechapel Road. In addition to their successful maritime sales, the juvenile outfit section supplied the needs of local schools, blazers, badges and school-caps, all equally lucrative.

Finally, the reputable quality of the "Scotch House" with emphasis on Scottish Isles woollen products, achieved merited recognition. The building has been demolished - no tower-block landmark remains, the foreign clientele has gone, yet the memories of White-Chapel High Street remain. Nevill's Aldgate Turkish Baths (adjacent to Gardiner's) with an elite patronage for the exclusive and luxurious steams, the Hay Market opposite with its central road loadings with the inevitable farmyard aroma!

The "Elephant & Castle" public house at the junction between Leman Street and Commercial Road, is remembered for its seafaring relics on museum-style display. Wood's, the famous Butchers and Provision purveyors in Whitechapel High Street were also suppliers to Shipping. The noted Tripe and Black Pudding kiosks come to mind

also Hawkins, the Coffee bean specialists. Then there were the original '56 Stoney Lane' Assenheims 'hokey pokey' ice manufact. using stores, whilst in close by Mansell Street, the premier 'coffee shop', Lockhart's, subsequently John Pearce (J.P. Restaurants), Manzi's sausage and mash, Levy's Gramophone records and studios, which together with the numerous wholesale hosiery warehouses contributed to the character and role of the now gradually diminishing Whitechapel High Street... sans Gardeners 'The Scotch House' Louis Behr.

4. EAST LONDON CHURCHYARDS

The Society is frequently called upon to express a view on proposed developments which involve East London Churchyards. Church Authorities are unable to afford the heavy costs of maintenance and we have to remember what happened in the City where by the turn of the century the local population had virtually disappeared leaving one sufficiently interested in preserving these sacred places from high-rise office blocks now occupying many of them. One imagines that it was a solve to the conscience which left a few tiny postage-stamp courtyards with an explanatory blue plaque (like St. Martin, Outwich) as a sole reminder of a former extensive burial ground.

It has to be admitted that something has to be done to make better use of space and to make churchyards attractive. It is unlikely that we shall ever see people gathering hay in a City churchyard between Gracechurch Street and the Tower as Dickens did ("The City of the absent" but it seems sensible to remove long-forgotten and broken tombstones to the perimeter and grass over the central areas, where possibly a few more trees and seats could be provided for the elderly.

The G.L.C. promised, after slicing the 1000-year old churchyard of St. Leonard's, Bow, in half to make the Blackwall Tunnel Underpass, that they would grass over the remaining area as a recreational area. So far nothing has been done and for years hideous galvanised sheeting has hidden the churchyard from view. The Docklands Development Corporation now intends to build a right of access to the Shadwell recreation area through the churchyard of St. Paul's, Shadwell. We can only hope it will not become a dumping ground for rubbish, such as old mattresses, tyres and cans, as we have already seen in 'redeveloped' churchyards such as St. Matthias, Poplar, St. Mary Matfelon, Whitechapel, and those in the Lea Conservancy Area. A.H.F.

5. A History of Tower Hamlets. - This excellent book by Colm Kerrigan, one of our Committee members, is on sale at the Tower Hamlets Library, Bancroft Road, price £2.50. It will not only give you pleasurable reading during the winter evenings, but is useful as a work of reference.

6. YOU ARE WELCOME TO :

- "Newham before 1914" by Mr. Frank Sainsbury. 22/2/83
 - "Epping Forest" - The last hundred years" 26/4/83
Mr. Paul Moxey.
 - "The beauty of East London" Mr. J.H. Boyes 15/2/83
 - "The work of the Museum of London" Dr. Christine Johnstone 15/3/83
 - "A round trip from Newham" - slides from old postcards by Mr. Victor Barham.
- } Both 8 p.m.
} Central Library
} Traps Hill,
} Loughton.
} All at 7.45 p.m.
} Central Library
} Town Hall, Epping
} Ham.

The Society is arranging a coach-trip for early May, 1983. Details will be given shortly.

There will be an evening walk round the Hamlet of Ratcliff on Thursday, 16th June 1983. Meet Stepney Station (not Stepney Green) Commercial Road, 6.30 p.m. The walk will be led by Mr. French.

Environmental education both for local schools and for adults and would house various relevant facilities, probably including a library museum. We shall follow this with interest.

We are considering a River Trip in May to the Thames Barrier when an explanation of its operation will be given. Further information will be given at the April Meeting.