

East
London
History
Society
Newsletter

December 1989



St. Mary's, Bow.

Bow Church dates from the early fourteenth century, built to prevent parishioners in the eastern part of the parish from having to travel on flooded roads in winter to reach St. Dunstan's, Stepney. The damage seen here was caused by an air raid in 1941. Now restored, St. Mary's, Bow is still a landmark in the middle of the main road leaving Lower Hamlets for Essex.

photo reduced

The East London History Societys Calender.
for 1990.

Our first calender contains 14 black and white Photographs.
Size 9 by 11ins, rarely seen, of local places in the East End.
With colour front cover of Victoria Parks Clock Fountain.
By the well known Photographer WHIFFEIL.

Price /3-99 plus postage from-
Erad Snooks, 20 Pulteney Close, Armagh Rd, London E.3 5lj.

or from the Societys Bookstall at the following meetings-

24 Oct	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	Queen Marys College
Tues:	followed by members evening	7-30pm Mile End Rd.
22 NOV	JEWS and the EAST. EMM. HOSPITAL	"
Wed:	by Jerry Black	"
6 DEC	THE ORIGINS OF LONDON, THE FOUNDING	"
Wed:	of the CITY and its early development	"
	by Charles Poulson	

THE IDEAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO YOURSELF OR FRIENDS.

reading has been suggested by Mr Spittal of Bristol.

Sam Hepworth Dixon: Spiritual Wives.
Hurst and Blackett, vol 1, 1868
pp.226-231

Wald Matthews: English Messiahs: Studies of six English
religious pretenders 1656 - 1927
Methun, 1936 pp.163-195

Charles Maunder The Reverend Prince and his Abode of Love
EP Publishing Ltd, East Ardley. Wakefield
1976.

Brey Menen The Abode of Love (novel)
Chatto and Windus 1957

Church Records Those that do survive. Mr Spittal
believes are in Somerset County Library
Bridgewater Branch. With some of
the pamphlets J.H.Prince wrote.

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Does anyone have a spare copy of East of Algate?. No details of
printer or author. It contains an account of meeting of the
Eccentric People in Limehouse by the author. Mr Spittal would be
pleased to buy or photo copy the article.

LECTURE PROGRAMME FOR 1990

24 January	Growing Up Between The Wars Robert Barltrop	7.30 p.m.	QMC
21 February	Writing A Local History: Stepney and Victoria Country History Patricia Croot	7.30 p.m.	QMC
7 March	From Over The Seas; Foreign Sailors Ashore In The Royal Docks Howard Bloch	7.30p.m.	QMC
4 April	Free For All; Woolwich Ferry Services Since The Middle Ages Julian Watson	7.30p.m.	QMC
9 June	Visit To Cardinal Pole School Formerly French Protestant Hospital Guide: Joan Hardinges	3.00p.m.	School Gates Victoria Par Road E9

If you have suggestions for future lectures or would like
to give a lecture, please do not hesitate to contact David
Behr, our Programme Secretary or any other member of the
Committee. We would be very pleased to hear from you.

EAST LONDON HISTORY SERIES

Limited Edition Postcards - nos 1 - 6

Photographs of places in the Borough of special significance
to Women's History in Poplar and Bow.

This is the first set in a series of Limited Edition Postcards -
only 1,000 of each have been printed.

1. **Drinking Fountain, Victoria Park**
Built by Baroness Angela Burdett-Coutts - 1862
 2. **Fairfield Works - Bryant & Mays Match Factory - Bow**
Scene of Match Girls Strike - 1888
 3. **Gladstone's Statue outside Bow Church - Bow**
Erected by Bryant and Mays - paid for by Match Girls - 1882
 4. **Gunmaker's Lane, Old Ford Road - Bow**
*Looking towards site of 'Mother's Arms',
Mother & Baby Clinic run by Sylvia Fankhurst - 1914*
 5. **Memorial in Poplar Recreation Park - Poplar.**
*In memory of 18 children killed in an Air Raid at
Upper North Street School - 1917*
 6. **St Matthias Church, off East India Dock Road - Poplar**
First built as the East India Company Chapel - 1554
-

Special Price - Set of 6 for £1.00 OR 20p each.
Discounts for Bulk Orders.

For further information please contact:

Rosemary Taylor
5 Pusey House
Saracen Street
Poplar
London E14 6HG

Tele: 01 515 2960 (Evenings)

ORDER FORM

Please send me.....sets of Limited Edition Postcards at the
Special Price of £1.00 per set. I enclose a cheque for.....

Name.....

Address.....

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.....

Just a reminder - Record No 12 is now available and costs £1.90 plus 30p postage.

We hope you will enjoy our latest edition and copies can be obtained from:

Mrs D Kendall
20 Puteaux House
Cranbrook Estate
London E2 0RF

Please make cheques payable to 'East London History Society'. If you are unable to pay by cheque we are quite happy to accept stamps, which will save on the cost of a postal order.

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SPRING COACH OUTING

Unfortunately, the autumn trip had to be cancelled because of poor bookings, but I hope we shall be able to run a spring one. I regret that those who had booked for the autumn trip were disappointed.

The trip is planned for Saturday 12 May. The main visit will be to St Osyth Priory, near Clacton in north east Essex. Originally a mediaeval nunnery, now a private house, it includes buildings from various periods, 13th Century to 18th, grouped round a quadrangle, like an Oxford or Cambridge college. It's most striking feature is the splendid gatehouse. There is a collection of paintings and tapestries in the Georgian wing, including works by Stubbs and Van Dyke. The state rooms are also on view, and there are fine gardens.

The village church of St Osyth is also interesting. Tea will be arranged in the village.

Before this, we shall visit Manningtree and Mistley on the Stour estuary. Manningtree has an attractive town centre with Georgian houses. A quayside road with good views, runs to Mistley, which has two towers remaining from a church designed by Robert Adam. There are also craft workshops open to the public (free). We shall have time here to look round and have lunch or a picnic. I also hope to arrange a visit to the fine church at Lawford, nearby.

The coach fare will be £6.00. Entry to the Priory is extra - normal rates are £2.00 full price, £1.00 for OAPs and 50p for children. I hope to get some reduction for a party.

The pick-up is at Mile End, opposite the station at 9.30a.m. Please send bookings to me on the form below, or I will also be taking bookings at the Society's meetings.

Ann Sansom

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To: Ann Sansom, 18 Hawkdene, Chingford E4

Please reserve me seats on the coach outing to St Osyth Priory on Saturday 12 May 1990, at £6.00 per seat.

I enclose a cheque/PO for £

Please make all cheques payable to 'East London History Society'

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About 20 members were welcomed by Mr Hughes, Managing Director of The Whitechapel Bell Foundry. The talk and tour were great, we all enjoyed ourselves. We learnt that the Whitechapel Bell Foundry had made bells for four hundred years. It was originally on the other side of the road and in 1738 moved to its present site, occupying the ground and some of the buildings of the Artichoke Inn (c.1670) The coach house yard has dwindled, under the demand for more workshops, and in 1970, began a major reconstruction of the old back foundry, a brick and timber building which over the centuries, had seen the casting of cannon and cocks as well as tower and hand bells, and the construction of bell frames in timber, iron, and steel.

Family Name Historians would love the board with all Foundry Craftsmen listed down the years, and up on the top floor were the hand bells are made, in the roof supports are the names and dates of all employees who died while working for the Foundry, on cast memorials. The building is listed for historic and architectural interest, and is a gem in such a unlikely area of re development. Although I think the real history lies in the bells in the U.K. and through out the world. I was delighted to see a bell in its final stages for the Cathedral Church in Colombo Sri-Lanka, were the firm I work for has offices. I copied down the inscription and sent it out to Sri-Lanka, and two friends then went to the dedication at the Cathedral.

Mr Hughes who gave the fascinating lecture and tour was semi retired and has given hundreds of hours of talks to tourists and locals like us, free of charge because having worked all his life at the foundry, he loves sharing its history with everyone.

We have since learnt that Mr Hughes has retired and his son has taken over the Foundry. We wish Mr Hughes a long and happy retirement, and if he could find the time to write an article for the Record, we would all be very interested to read it.

Rosemary Taylor, who has taken the six local photos for the new postcard series of Tower Hamletts, spent one Saturday morning trying hard to take a picture of the listed offices of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Which ever angle Rosemary tried street furniture got in the way, so there is still no postcard to buy of this well preserved building. Maybe Tower Hamletts Highways or Historical Department could re-think the area, so we could have another tourist attraction for all the snap happy photographers who come into the east-end.

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light up on its suburban fringe. members east London in the 19th. After Oriel College, Oxford schoolmaster. He has written on Hitler, Tsar Alexander I, Kaiser Wilhelm II as well as books and two Penguin titles of History.



From Hulton Picture Library. Spotted in his pigeon loft. In 1900, an East Ender enjoys a busy day popular for over a century. London

THE EAST END

Four Centuries of London Life



ALAN PALMER

They must be in the turbulent eastern edge of the City, a counter balance or anchor for the wealth and glitter of the West End. This book spans four centuries of life, work, conflict and humour in this tough environment.

The East End is on the seaward side of the capital and its history is linked inextricably with the most complex docklands of any industrial society, serving what was also a great trading nation and an imperial power. People as well as goods have flowed in - Protestant Huguenots from France in the seventeenth century, Irish labourers fleeing the potato blight, Jews escaping Russian pogroms, Indians, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis. Many men and women of outstanding personality, whether indigenous or new arrivals, have emerged from this melting pot.



The story of the Tower Hamlets - Bethnal Green, Poplar, Hackney and Stepney - sits reality from legend in an area notorious for violent crime, political demonstrations and hardship. It is also a microcosm of evolving Britain where the impact of the Industrial Revolution, the Railway Age, two world wars and the current yuppie invasion are highlighted on the smaller stage and in its close community.

REDUCED TO 81% TO PHOTO COPY.

THE BOOK JACKET. ON HARD BACK COVERS.

THE EAST END.

Author: ALAN PALMER
 Publisher: John Murray (Publishers) Ltd
 50 Aldermate St. London.W.1.

Price 14.95

Four Centuries of London Life

The book covers four centuries of life, work, and conflict, in a very clear, humorous, and understandable way. People from Huguenots, to Bangladeshis, and Yuppies, how they have all helped to make the colourfull heritage that belongs to all East Enders. The growth of the docks, the industrial revolution, the railway age, the war years, it is all here, its a history you are unable to stop reading, because we are all part of it.

The authors wife was responsible for a very full and comprehensive notes on sources and index. Which to me makes the book so enjoyable and should be on everyones Christmas Book List.

D.Kendall.

The leading article in this year's edition of the East London Record is by David Leaback, Managing Director of Biolink Technology Ltd. "Discovery in the East End" chronicles the rise to fame of the eminent scientist Sir William Henry Perkin, from his birth at No. 3 King David Lane, Shadwell, through his career which began with his major discovery in 1856 of what is known as Perkins Mauve - the first synthetic dye to be used commercially.

Other articles include:

The influence of the Anglo Catholic Socialist Clergy in East London,

a charming tale of a Bethnal Green Childhood by Sam Vincent,

and a short history of the Old Five Bells Temperance Pub in St Leonards Street, Bromley By Bow.

As usual, the Record includes several book reviews of recent publications of local interest, as well as other items relating to East London.

The Society would like to thank Jean Kerrigan for her invaluable work on the Record. When Colm became ill she took on the enormous task of seeing the Record through its final stages and got it out on time. For this the Society is most grateful. We are very pleased to say Colm hopes to be back at work in the New Year and we all wish him well.

Out thanks also go to John Curtis for doing two jobs; membership secretary and Newsletter editor, over the past six years. The Newsletter was always looked forward to as 'a good read' and John spent many hours collating material sent to him by members. His presence on the Committee will be missed but we look forward to seeing him at future lectures.