

# ELHG

# Bulletin

Issued by the East London History Group  
.....

No.2. January/February 1967  
.....

## BULLETIN BLUES

Your editors have recently been plagued with questions regarding the issue of this Bulletin .... when is the next issue appearing? .... why the delay? etc. etc.

When we launched this Bulletin we were agreed that its success could only be assured by the active co-operation of members in assisting in its production. The Bulletin cannot exist without plenty of written material by anyone who has news or views to impart. Your editors cannot get too much material - their job is to select suitable available items for publication - they don't intend to reach the state where they will be writing most of it themselves.

We are most pleased to report that during the past few months our membership has rapidly risen from 35 to over 100 members. BUT if such interest is to be maintained we must keep good communications between the three main elements concerned (a) Members, (b) Officers and (c) The Public. It is in this respect that the Bulletin can play a major role.

It is still early days in the New Year - so, without pressing the obvious, can we expect a contribution from you for Bulletin No.3? Send it to us - address c/o Town Hall, Bow Road, E.3.

All best wishes for 1967.

E. J. DOBSON }  
K. R. ROYDEN } Editors

The views expressed herein are those of individuals and are not necessarily those of the Group.

THANKS

Our thanks are due to:

The Librarian and Staff of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets for their kind assistance in the production of this Bulletin.

Mr. L. WARDER, one of our members, for his contribution of many local photographs to the "ELHG Collection" to be deposited with the Local History Collection in the Central Library, Bancroft Road.

FUTURE ELHG PROGRAMME ARRANGED BY THE PROGRAMME SECRETARY, MR.S.C. TONGUE

Wednesday  
8th February "THE PAROCHIAL SCHOOL IN EAST LONDON"  
A symposium to be held at Shoreditch Library,  
Pitfield Street, N.1. (Old Street Underground Station)  
6.30 p.m.

Wednesday  
8th March "THE ISLE OF DOGS"  
Speaker A. H. French Esq., C.B.E.  
Chairman, East London History Group,  
at Queen Mary College. 6.30 p.m.

Wednesday  
19th April "CANALS OF LONDON"  
Speaker J. H. Boyes,  
at Shoreditch Library, Pitfield Street, N.1.  
6.30 p.m.

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THESE EVENTS IN YOUR DIARY

THE BAYNES STREET MYSTERY

Messrs. Mears and Stainbank (Whitechapel Bell Foundry) in course of renovating their Fieldgate Street frontage have uncovered an ancient stone sign reading "This is Baynes Street", and are seeking further information relating to this matter.

ELHG willingly responds to the challenge and offers these rough notes.

Rocque's Map, 1746 (Section Fl.b) marks the "Fieldgate" and shows Plumbers Row as "Ropewalk".

Horwood's Map, 1799 marks Plumbers Row very distinctly indicating a line of dwellings numbered 1-27 on the West side of the street, followed by a clear space, and continued onwards towards "Whitechapel Street", and terminating in a blurred mass which might be taken to represent an undefinable buildings space. This could include the premises of the Bell Foundry, which claims to have been on the site in 1720.

But there is no street mentioned other than "Fieldgate", and "Plumbers Row".

What has happened to Baynes Street ?

In Boyle's "View of London, and its Environs", a complete list of streets, etc., published in 1799, Baynes Street, Whitechapel, is mentioned, p.29; Fieldgate Street, p.106; and Plumbers Row, p.194, and James Elmes', Topographical Dictionary of London, 1831, includes Fieldgate Street, p.191; and Plumbers Row, p.339 - but no Baynes Street!

Further references to Maps, e.g. Styype's and Lyson's (a) editions of Stow's "Survey of London", and Maitland's (b) "History of London", and the "Street Names" lists in (a) and (b), likewise yield negative results.

A study of Whitechapel Church Tithe Books at County Hall Records Department, has so far proved unsuccessful.

Meanwhile, what has happened to Baynes Street?

So we are thrown back on speculation.

Whilst we can understand omission of the name of the street on Rocque's Map (1746 was the publishing date for work which was completed between 1743-1745), it is not so clear, however, why Horwood who so plainly marked the building progress on the west side of Plumbers Row should present a blurred space at the Whitechapel end. We rashly hazard the following conclusions. It was customary for local builders to name streets and dwellings after themselves; for example, we are familiar in Stepney with Redmans Road and Dempsey Street and elsewhere, with Mays' Buildings, and Satchwell Rents.

Mr. Baynes might easily have speculated with property in a seemingly developing area - Whitechapel was growing fast, at this period, in 1746. He may, also, have failed by 1799; his property dilapidated, and perhaps derelict; to the point where Horwood could not make up his mind whether to ignore it entirely or to leave it as a blurred impression !

C. S. TRUMAN

THE FOREST GROUP FOR LOCAL HISTORY

At a Committee meeting during 1966 it was decided to seek admission to membership of The Forest Group which offered for a very modest annual subscription association with the member societies of this Group which comprises all Societies centred around and about Epping Forest. Your Committee felt that although we were centred on the wrong side of the Lea all East Londoners felt a proprietary interest in the Forest which had afforded them a lung for many years. I am happy to say that the delegates sent by your Committee (Miss Sansom, Messrs. Dobson and Royden) were very kindly received at the meeting of the Group held at Walthamstow Museum and the acceptance of the ELHG to membership was unanimous. This means that any member of the ELHG may attend any meeting of the following societies:

Barking Historical Society  
Chigwell Local History Society  
Chingford Historical Society  
Edmonton Hundred Historical Society  
Hornchurch Historical Society  
Romford and District Historical Society  
Waltham Abbey Historical Society  
Walthamstow Antiquarian Society  
Wanstead Local History Society  
West Essex Archaeological Group  
Woodford and District Historical Society

The programmes of these societies will be available from the Editors as they are received.

Apart from this the Group forms a strong band of opposition to threatened demolitions of buildings of importance, and for the preservation of the Forest and other antiquities in the area.

The Group also sponsor an annual lecture by a person eminent in his field. The lecture for 1966 was entitled "Essex or Seax : Hidden or Open Treasure". It so happened that the date of this concurred with that of the ELHG Annual Meeting and will no doubt help to explain the departure of two of your delegates as soon as the elections of Officers were over. (This explanation will now cause all rumours to cease). They went perplexed by the title and nature of the lecture, but knowing the brilliance of Mr. F.G. Emmison F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S. (Essex County Archivist) were prepared for anything. They were however treated to an interesting and humorous description of the County Records and the method of using them. The Lecture was rendered more intelligible by the enormous quantities of material which Mr. Emmison had transported from Chelmsford.

E. J. D.

MEETINGS

It was pleasing to see the Annual Lecture at Stepney on 10th November so well supported. Miss Joan Sturton gave an interesting and moving account of the foundation of Dr. Barnardo's and the struggles of the early days, following this with an excellent colour film of the work of the various Barnardo's Homes today. Question time was sufficient evidence of the interest which she had aroused and a most enjoyable evening was rounded off by refreshments by courtesy of the Libraries Committee of Tower Hamlets.

On Thursday, 24th November, fourteen members were welcomed to the Greater London Record Office by the Archivist, Miss Ida Darlington. In her talk, Miss Darlington outlined the nature and functions of the predecessors of the present G.L.C. from the Commissioners of Sewers, temp. Henry VIII, down to the Metropolitan Building Office, Asylum Board, Board of Works and L.C.C. An interesting display of records was put out for us and considerable interest was aroused also in the map collection, from which treasure trove photo-stats were displayed for sale at surprisingly low cost and a number of orders were placed. Two hours was, of course, far too short a time to do more than touch the fringe of this great collection of records but those members who were able to be present are now aware of the potential which is stored there and will surely be calling again on their own initiative to do further research, both personal and on behalf of the East London History Group as our studies increase both in breadth and depth.

\*\* Let it be said now that fifteen members out of a total of one hundred was a little disappointing and this despite publicity on posters, in the Bulletin and an announcement at the A.G.M. If the membership feel that, despite the cost of posting individual reminders, it would nevertheless be worthwhile, I will undertake to raise this at the earliest possible Committee meeting upon hearing from individuals who may care to write to me on the subject.

S.C.T.

### NEWHAM NOTES

East Ham Library has a special Historic Commercial Vehicles Collection. This consists of the history of road transport, including stagecoaches, buses and tramways, and is not confined to London. There are books and timetables, and a collection of road fund licences from the East Ham licensing department, for all kinds of commercial vehicles. This can be used to trace the number of vehicles operated by bus companies, their type, and even their colour.

Examples of books in this collection:

"The Grey-Green story", by T. McLachlan. This company developed from a cartage business started by George Ewer in Shoreditch in 1888, and their Mile End garage will be well known to members.

"Great British Tramway Networks", by W.H. Bett and J.C. Gillham. 4th ed. 1962.

"Turnpikes and Tollbars", by Mark Searle. 2 vols. n.d. This includes London tollbars and tolls on London bridges.

Jack Cornwell V.C. This boy hero of the 1st World War, killed in the battle of Jutland at the age of 16, was born in Leyton but lived later on at Manor Park. The library possessed a collection of material relating to him, and Mr. Green, the Borough Librarian, is hoping to produce a pamphlet on his life - the only existing book on him consists of more fancy than fact!

Recent enquiries: We have had enquiries both at Stratford and East Ham for details of the bombing and other events of the Second World War. Both libraries possess material on Civil Defence, evacuees, rationing, and similar topics. The Civil Defence official file of incidents for East Ham has now been deposited at the library.

Anne Sansum.

### AROUND THE SECTIONS

#### The Population Study Section

The study group has met twice. We have decided to tackle the registers of St. Dunstan's Stepney to discover what we can about the population of Stepney. The first attempt will be confined to a short period, the years 1590-1620. We hope to find the answer to such questions as the effect of epidemic and food shortage on baptisms and burials, the seasonal variation in births, marriages and burials, the proportion of men and women dying, the proportion of male and female births, where marriage partners were drawn from if not from Stepney, and how many wives, widows and spinsters there were in the female population. In addition we hope to discover the occupation and area of residence of all those being born, marrying and dying. All this information can be analysed and it is hoped to write it up and distribute our findings to all the members of the group.

At present we are trying to get the registers of St. Dunstan's transferred for a short period to Bancroft Road library where we can work on them in comfort. Work will probably commence in January. I shall let everyone who expressed interest in the study of population know the exact date and time when it is fixed. If anyone else would like to help please contact me at 2, Hargrave Park, London N.19.

Michael Power.

Recording and Buildings Section

The preliminary meeting of this section has taken place and discussion centred around proposed limits of our activities as a team. We considered our approach to the study and survey of buildings along the following lines:

- (a) A survey of all buildings
- (b) A survey of all buildings about to be demolished
- (c) A special survey e.g. of those built before a certain date or those of a certain type or those in certain areas.

It was finally agreed that we would centre our activities around (b) and (c) as we felt that to attempt a survey of all buildings within our area would prove to be too great a task for our small group to tackle.

We have set up a system of speedy communication in respect of those buildings scheduled for demolition and will attempt to the best of our ability to record such buildings. Our immediate interests with regard to the recording of certain areas will be the "Spitalfields Area" and the "Regents Canal"

The section also agreed that our researches and resultant photographs and drawings would form the basis of a special collection to be deposited with each Library Authority within our area, to be known as "The East London History Group Collection" to which would be added the work of the other special activity sections.

It is hoped that the results of our labours during the next few months will be exhibited to the Group sometime during June 1967.

Finally we felt that the section should also be concerned with regard to the preservation of buildings and that we should be energetic in watching for wanton destruction of buildings in order that ELHG can take appropriate action.

K.R.R.

In our next Bulletin we hope to record news of the "Map" Section and the "Famous People" Section.

BOOKLIST

The issue of "The Amateur Historian" Vol.7, No.3, 1966 (shortly to be re-named "The Local Historian") is particularly valuable for a reprint from several years back of K.C. Newton's article on "Reading Medieval Local Records". The ten facsimile plates are alone worth a subscription to this excellent journal and Alan Harris's note on the ridge and furrow controversy is also very helpful.

The most distinguished item to land on my desk during 1966 was "Trumans: the Brewers" - the story of Truman, Hanbury, Buxton & Co. Ltd. Published in celebration of their tercentenary, this handsomely produced volume is a tribute to the founders, a delight to the recipient - as indeed a Brewer's products should be - and a triumphant exposition of the art of the book-printer. Published privately, but Messrs. Truman have been kind enough to donate copies to local public libraries.

Another good-looking "house-history" to come my way is "Artist and Colour man" by Michael Goodwin, published by him for Messrs. Reeves & Sons Ltd., formerly of Hackney, now of Enfield. From their invention of the "Water colour cake" in 1770 to their eminence today, this first-rate account of the rise of the House of Reeves holds the attention and gratifies the connoisseur of fine printing. (from Reeves, Lincoln Road, Enfield, 10/6d).

Briefly listed as of interest are the following :

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| CHRIMES, Stanley Bertram. | An introduction to the administrative history of mediaeval England. 3rd ed. Blackwell 35/-.            |
| BRYANT, Sir Arthur        | The mediaeval foundation. Colling 30/-.  |
| NEFF, Wanda Fraiken.      | Victorian working women; an historical and literary study....1832-1850. (a 1929 reprint by Cass) 45/-. |
| PRIESTLEY, H.E.           | London: the years of change. Muller 30/-.  |
| SMITH, F.B.               | The making of the second Reform Bill. C.U.P. 55/-.   |

Before leaving the subject of publishing, some of our members beyond the circulation area of the East London Advertiser may have missed the excellent centenary issue which formed a 48 page supplement to the newspaper of Friday, November 18th, 1966. Beg, buy, borrow or steal one (but not mine!)

S.C.T.

EVENTS ARRANGED BY NEIGHBOURING SOCIETIES

- (1) Woodford & District Historical Society  
Meetings held at the United Free Church, Woodford Green,  
at 8.15 p.m.  
Monday - February 20th: "Woodford National School" -  
Miss M.M.Smith  
Monday - March 20th: "The Royal Gunpowder Factory" -  
Malcolm McLaren Esq.
- (2) Waltham Abbey Historical Society  
Meetings held at Lychgate House at 8 p.m.  
Thursday - February 2nd: "The Epping & Ongar Turnpike Trust" -  
W.G.S. Tonkin Esq.  
Monday - March 6th: "Some problems in the repair and  
conservation of Historic Buildings" -  
A.Reed Esq. A.R.I.B.A.(of the  
Society for the protection of  
Ancient Buildings).
- (3) Wanstead Local History Society  
Meetings held at the Wanstead and Woodford Community Centre,  
Wanstead House, The Green, Wanstead, E.11 at 8 p.m.  
Thursday - February 16th: "Bridges" - J.Boyes Esq.  
(Member of ELHG).

The above Societies are pleased to welcome our members  
to these meetings.

STOP PRESS

1. It was most pleasing to see a good attendance of members at the meeting held 11th January 1967 when Miss Marjorie Honeybourne, M.A. gave a most interesting lecture, illustrated by slides, on "The Religious Foundations of Mediaeval London".
2. The attention of ELHG members is especially drawn to The Local History Exhibition being held at Hackney Town Hall, March 11th-18th 1967, open daily during the hours 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
3. Make a point of reserving this date in your diary - Saturday April 8th 1967 - and await further details of the Walk around the Isle of Dogs to be led by our Chairman, Mr. A. H. French.
4. ELHG Transactions. The first Transaction entitled "Notes on the Anglican Churches of Stepney" by Gordon Barnes, Esq. is being prepared for publication through the good offices of Tower Hamlets Borough Librarian, Mr.H.Ward, and members of his staff. We are most grateful to Mr. Barnes who has kindly presented the manuscript to ELHG.

Your editors are now exploring other possible sources for ELHG second Transaction.

- - - - -