



Unveiling the memorial bust to King Edward VII at Mile End Waste

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Editorial Note:

The Committee members are as follows:
Philip Mernick, Chairman, Doreen Kendall,
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David Behr, Programme, Ann Sansom,
Doreen Osborne, Howard Isenberg and
Rosemary Taylor.

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Check out the History Society's website at
www.eastlondonhistory.org.uk.

Our grateful thanks go to all the contributors
of this edition of the newsletter, and especially
to David Webb, who has provided another
fascinating account in his series on East End
Photographers. Letters and articles on East
End history and reminiscences are always
welcome and we make every effort to publish
suitable material. Whilst hand-written articles
are acceptable, items of interest, and any
queries can be emailed to Philip Mernick.

The Newsletter is edited and typeset by
Rosemary Taylor with assistance of Philip
Mernick, and an editorial team comprising,
Doreen Kendall, David Behr, and Doreen
Osborne.



MEMORIAL RESEARCH

Members of the East London History Society
are in the Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park,
known locally as Bow Cemetery on the second
Sunday of every month, recording memorials
off gravestones. Every memorial yields clues
to the family interred such as relationships and
careers. With modern technology it is possible
to call up at the L.M.A. all leading newspapers
till 1900. The thrill of discovering another
fascinating nugget of information and
uncovering yet another facet of history hidden
within the walls of the cemetery keeps our
members working away. You are most
welcome to join in this work, though be
warned – it can become addictive!

Doreen Kendall

HAROLD FINCH 1913 - 2010

Harold Finch, who died on Easter Day April 4
2010 at the age of 96, was a former Youth
Officer with the London County Council and
the Inner London Education Authority until
his retirement at the end of the 1970s. He was
then able to devote himself to local history,
particularly that relating to the East End of
London writing a series of articles for the East
London Record, including biographies of
George Howell, Thomas Fowell Buxton and
James Bedford, as well as a short history of
the Tower Hamlets Youth Service. These
articles formed the basis for his biographical
dictionary of the Borough "The Tower
Hamlets connection", published in 1996 by the
Library in association with Stepney Books.

Material had been collected for a second
edition, but is not known how far this had been
taken. Harold's friends will long remember his
outgoing personality, as well as his solid
research. His book is still available from local
bookshops, price £7.99.

David Webb

East London History Society Programme 2009-2010

**Thursday May 13th
Open Evening, Aldgate Markets**

The lectures are held on Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm in the Latimer Congregational Church Hall, Ernest Street, E1. Ernest Street is between Harford Street and Whitehorse Lane, off Mile End Road (Opposite Queen Mary and Westfield College). The nearest Underground Stations are Mile End and Stepney Green. Bus No. 25.

Suggestions and ideas for future topics and/or speakers for our Lecture Programme are always welcomed. If you can suggest someone or indeed if you would like to give a talk yourself, please get in touch with David Behr, our Programme co-ordinator, either at one of our lectures or, alternatively, email our Chairman Philip Mernick with your comments and suggestions. Email: phil@mernicks.com

Olympic Site Update

Olympics update but "Legacy" query.

The lighting gantries are now up on the stadium and the surrounding area is being tidied. The aquatic centre has its roof but as yet no walls and the view from the A12 of the velodrome is spectacular. The East London Line extension has now opened with "four" new stations claimed for Hackney – I don't know where the fourth one is because Shoreditch High Street Station is in Tower Hamlets as far as I can tell! The new Hoxton Station is immediately behind the Geoffrey Museum making visits to that excellent establishment far easier. The new Dalston Junction Station should also make visits to Ridley Road more practical for TH residents.

Not everything is hunky dory, however as the "legacy" aspect of 2012 must be questioned if what has happened with Bow Back Rivers is anything to go by. "They" were very quick to close off access to the river walk from Three Mills to Greenway to enable construction of the new Prescott Channel lock. For a long time the posters said reopening September 2008. The lock is complete and in use but no sign of restored access and those 2008 signs have gone. If they can't restore access in that area what chance is there for the rest of the "Legacy". Newham residents lost a major industrial complex, allotments, access to other river walks etc. and the whole multi-billion scheme is funded directly or indirectly by the UK's taxpayers. Consultations and pretty pictures of gardens may be quietly forgotten once the games themselves are over.

Our Olympic Site images can be seen on the ELHS web site at:

<http://www.mernick.org.uk/elhs/Stadium/Stadium.htm>

Victoria Park Funding Success

Victoria Park is in line for a massive £12 million make over in time for the 2012 Olympics. The Park will provide part of the walking course for athletes, as well as form a key cycle route for the Olympic Park.

The new plans envisage a revival of Pennethorne's designs, constructing a new Chinese bridge, which was never built, and a replacement Chinese pagoda on the same site as the original pagoda. Other elements include the restoration of the Dogs of Alcibiades, which guard the Bonner Gate on the west side of the park, and refurbishment of the Burdett-Coutts Fountain. There will also be new community facilities including a viewing platform and toilets. Excellent news for us, and we will all wait to see just how successful the refurbishments and improvements will be.

Correspondence

The following comes from Philip's email correspondence. The topics are varied, but Philip has managed to solve quite a number of mysteries!

Peter Tann wrote:

I am descended from the Tann safe making company, founded in 1795 and prominent in BG and Hackney throughout the 19th C. I am keen to know if any of your members have done any research on the company / companies? I am aware of the Edward Tann Sales Ledger 1829-1841 in the BG archives. The safe making hobbyists have written useful articles for their journal and on the web, but it's local knowledge that I really want.

Philip replied:

Dear Peter, I would be happy to put your enquiry into our next newsletter. Have you been in contact with Tower Hamlets Local history Library?

Peter:

Many thanks for your quick reply. Yes, I'd be pleased if you would put my request into the next newsletter. And yes, I have been in contact with the TH Local history library and archives – it was they I meant when I said Bethnal Green. They are very friendly and helpful people; a small piece on my use of their Tann archive will appear in their next newsletter!

Philip:

Have you ever spoken with Tom Ridge? Although primarily concerned with the preservation of existing buildings his knowledge of Tower Hamlets' industrial past is tremendous.

Peter:

Thanks Philip. I've now chatted to Tom, and he was able to give me a few ideas to follow up.

Val Maquaire wrote:

Apologies for contacting you in this manner. I had seen your web-site and felt it was almost an "eureka" moment. I have been trying to trace further information about my great grandmother who lived in Brunswick Road, Bromley (by-bow) in 1903. My grandmother was Harriett Mary Jones, nee Newton. At only 46 years of age, and with a young family, she was knocked down by a bicycle on the Brunswick Road. She was hospitalised, but died from her injuries. I have the Coroners report on the death certificate. I feel sure that a mention must have been made in one of the local newspapers, but can find nothing.

Philip asked:

Where have you looked for local newspaper reports? Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives has them on microfilm but they tended to be very parochial. So for an accident in Poplar you need East End News rather than Advertiser. I can check it out for you if you give me the date of death and, if possible the date of the accident.

Val replied:

According to the Death Certificate my g/grandmother, Harriett Mary Jones, died a violent death having been hit by a bicycle in Brunswick Road, Bromley (Poplar) on 3rd June 1903, I believe that the accident can have occurred only within the previous few hours.

Philip found and emailed the following from East End News of Tuesday June 9th 1903.

At the Poplar Coroner's Court on Friday, Mr W.E. Baxter held an inquest touching the death of Harriet Mary Jones, aged 46, the wife of a salesman, residing at 161 Brunswick road, who died in Poplar Hospital from a fractured skull. On the 15th May the deceased was returning home from an errand when she was knocked down by a youth riding a bicycle, who rode away without attempting to render any assistance. The jury commented on his cowardly conduct and returned a verdict of accidental death.

Ann Barrett enquired:

I am sure you must be very busy with the East London History Newsletter, but if you have a moment I would be very grateful for your help.

I am trying to reconstruct my childhood and am at a loss to find where I used to live. I have no-one to ask so perhaps you or someone you know of might be able to help? I would be grateful if you could.

I used to live in flats on Commercial Road, next to a canal. The address was (as far as I can remember) Private Way, Commercial Road, somewhere in the Ratcliff Area. I went there once recently but everything is so different now, all tarted up like most places.. I remember standing on the balcony throwing bread to the gulls flying over the canal. Not that I have very many memories I must say. Do you or anyone you know of know anything about the flats and what happened to them?

Philip replied:

Dear Ann, two canals cross Commercial Road, the Regents Canal and the Limehouse Cut. When you mentioned Private Way I immediately thought you were talking about a private passage of some kind but Mike Elliston's unpublished Topography of Tower Hamlets mentions a Private Road. He says "A site on the south side at the eastern end of Dixon Street was originally a small private park or garden. This was redeveloped as housing with a small narrow lane running from Dixon Street to Copenhagen Place which was simply known as Private Road. This Private Road was renamed Ropner Place 23/01/1894, possibly the choice of the owner or residents. It was closed in the early 1950s for the first stages of the Locksley Estate." Copenhagen Place is immediately to the north of The Limehouse Cut so maybe your flats were part of the Locksley Estate or its predecessor. Although Private Road was renamed in 1894 it could still have been used locally.

Ann:

I bought a facsimile edition of the first A to Z and found it very useful in stirring the old memory cells. I looked up Commercial Road and saw the cut in the canal that I remembered, it's much clearer in this edition than the modern one. Thought you might find it useful yourself, although you have probably got one of these A to Zs. How simple life was then!

Christine Osborn wrote:

I am very interested in the Old Nicholl area of Bethnal Green. I know they changed Nelson Street to Fournier Street and a few others - but I don't know the date of these changes? Also Fournier Street Spitalfields that used to be Church Street?

Philip replied:

Nelson Street was renamed Fournier Street in 1874 and cleared in the 1890s for the Boundary Estate.

Church Street was renamed Christabel Street in July 1893 and then Fournier Street in November of the same year (different Fournier Street).

Information from A Topography of Tower Hamlets by Mike Elliston (2007, unpublished).

Rick Burgess wrote:

I am hoping you will be able to help me find a map with Starch Yard on it. I know my nan's family lived there early 1900s. Think it's off Old Gravel Lane which is on a lot of old maps but can't find Starch Yard on any maps at all. Not sure if you can help me or point me in the right direction please

Philip replied:

Starch Yard must have been very small as it doesn't appear on normal scale maps. I have checked the reprinted old survey maps of London and it isn't named. It was at the very top of Old Gravel Lane on the east side and survived until quite recently. You will need a large scale map to find it, Tower Hamlets

Local History Library & Archives has a full set of such maps and may be able to help you.

Ben Miles wrote:

I am trying to trace anything about the Miles family. They had a business called Samuel Miles outdoor advertising. Samuel Miles and Son headed paper attached. It was started by Samuel and then passed to Rowland Henry and then to Eric Rowland Miles. I think the company started late 188? and in the family till it was sold in 1986 by Eric Rowland Miles. The main address is on the attachment but the other address that might be relevant is 2a Longnor road. They were all Masons. Any thing you could tell me about the business or the family would be greatly appreciated as there is no one alive to give me any info.

Philip replied:

I can't tell you anything beyond what can be found in the Post office Directory. This is what I have from those immediately to hand.

1895 not listed

1899 Samuel Miles, Advertising Agents, 2A Longnor Road, Bancroft Road

1902 Samuel Miles & Son, Advertising Agents, 2A Longnor Road, Bancroft Road

1934 Samuel Miles & Son, Bill Posters, 61 Bancroft Road

Samuel Miles would appear to have started some time between 1895 (not listed) and 1899. You could fill in the gaps from places with good runs of directories.

Guildhall Library, fullest run of directories but awkward to access as on microfilm.

Bishopsgate Institute, again an almost complete run but currently closed for building works.

Tower Hamlets Local History Library, not a complete collection but very easy to access and as they are in Bancroft Road they may have some information on the company itself.

Victor Graves wrote:

I was recently with a group of people reminiscing about our childhood when I remembered something we used to do as children, which lots of children did then but which I have never seen or heard about since. What's more, I don't know why we did it. I am talking about a day in the year on which we would gather the heads of flowers and plants, arrange them on the pavement outside our houses in a bed of sand or light soil, and put down a little saucer or dish in which passers by would put a little change if they were impressed by the display or felt sorry for us.

We lived near Orient Football Club and I remember having a garden display on the day of a match because I collected lots of cash, this makes me think that it may have been either a spring or autumn thing.

I don't know if this was an east end thing, a religious thing or what - do you have any members over 55 who can relate to this?

Thank you in advance for any light you can throw on this to help me prove to my friends that I am not making it up.

Philip forwarded the message to Rosemary who replied:

I'm certain that this relates to the creating of 'grottoes'. Two books, 'Poplar in the 20s' by John Hector, and 'Mother Knew Best' by Dolly Scannell, both give details of this activity. We have also had this featured in our Newsletters in the past, and Cockney Ancestor also did a feature about this custom. It is related to the Feast of St James (or Santiago) whose Feast Day is 25th July. His emblem is a shell, and the grottoes were often decorated with shells of all descriptions, besides flowers.

Stephany Steggall

I have before me a copy of my maternal grandmother's birth certificate. According to it, Georgina May Dunford was born in 'Tooke Street, Poplar' on 19 March, 1885. Her father's

address is listed as 56 Tooke Street, Poplar, so presumably it was a home birth.

Are you able to tell me please if Tooke Street still exists? If not, has it been re-named or absorbed into a changed locality? I am visiting London in June and hope to trace my grandmother's life before she emigrated to Australia (year unknown).

Philip replied:

Tooke Street was off West Ferry Road on the Isle of Dogs. It vanished under new construction about 1971. If you enter Malabar Street (which was the next one south) into Multimap you will get a current map of the area. Tooke Street was between Malabar Street and Havana Street which both still (just) exist. If you then look at the equivalent area on the maps section (Bow, Bromley and Poplar) of our web site <http://www.mernick.org.uk/elhs/mapgallery.htm> you can see how the area filled in.

Don Egremont wrote:

I hope you can help me. I'm trying to locate the position of the White Horse public house in Hare Street (now part of Cheshire Street) in 1810 and what is there today. I have found websites that list its address in the mid-nineteenth century as both 44 and 92 Hare Street. I have scoured on-line maps for house numbering but have had no luck so far.

Philip replied:

Mike Elliston's unpublished "A Topography of Tower Hamlets" states that Hare Street was renumbered in 1869 and became the western end of Cheshire Street in 1939. 44 Hare Street is still The White Horse in 1915 but a cabinet makers by 1934. It was on the south side of Cheshire Street at east side of the junction with St John's Street (renamed Grimsby Street in 1909). Grimsby Street is still there. Much of Cheshire Street has been rebuilt but some Victorian buildings remain and the former White Horse may well be one of them.

Katie Ellis wrote:

I am currently working on an MA dissertation regarding poverty in the East End of London in the later nineteenth century (1860-1900). I am considering why it was at this particular time that people finally decided that poverty was an issue that needed addressing. I have visited the THHOL website, which I found to be very helpful, and was wondering if you could recommend any books to me that are specific to my area of research?

Philip replied:

Dear Katie, there were plenty of books arising from the subject from Mears' Bitter Cry pamphlet through Walter Besant and Charles Booth. Greater scientific knowledge indicated how poor conditions lead to the spread of diseases like cholera and a major concern was the fear of contagion spreading from the east to west. This certainly lay behind the opening of Victoria Park. The fear of revolution as experienced in Europe may also have lead to the realisation that educating the poor was a good idea! I would suggest you contact Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives. Not only do they have a huge collection of books on East End History but they would almost certainly be better able to explain their significance.

Philip comments: *ELHS member Mike Elliston's Topography of Tower Hamlets (unpublished) has proved invaluable for answering many enquiries. He retains copyright and this information has been used with his presumed consent.*

More Correspondence:

Mrs B L Humphries, 19 Browning Avenue, Bournemouth wrote:

After reading William Wright's article (that should be David Webb's article on William Wright), might he know the date of tin photos, having found two recently.

Also can you help as to where my great grand father may be buried. In 1867 he was living at St Thomas's Road South Hackney (when his son Arthur was born). I have failed to find his death certificate. In the 1871 census his widow Jane Esther Gibbens, is living over a haberdashers shop with he four young children at 22 Field View Dalston, Hackney. Tower Hamlets Library were unable to help. Is there any information, either books or archives on workers in the Docks – he was a warehouseman/silk.

(Doreen was able to advise on the cemeteries, can anyone else advise Mrs Humphreys in her search?)

Francis James of Yarlton farm, May, Hill, Longhope, Gloucester CIA 7 ORF writes:

Dear Doreen - Thank you very much indeed for the Walter Hancock details, and the guided tour you so kindly gave us when we met. Please forgive the delay in replying it is entirely due to circumstances I could control i.e. builders who are working here. If you have ever had builders you will understand exactly what I mean.

The James Hancock buried with Walter was his eldest brother — a full apprenticed carpenter/joiner, about whom we know very little, except that he was the father of James Lyne Hancock. who inherited the Thomas Hancock rubber business, and built it into a company of national and even international importance.

My brother Tom will be sending you a copy of my 1974 book on Walter Hancock, which contains a reprint of his original book of 1838. At the end of last year I wrote a further book with John Loadman on the Hancock family which OUP published which gives a much fuller picture of this amazing family's genius, but if you want to read it, get it from the library, as it is rather expensive.

Thanks too for the ELHS newsletter. I have found some difficulty with estimating the length of the article I promised you - but I have made a guess and enclose the result. I have tried to focus as much as possible on the local details of Walter's life as I guess this is where your readers' main interest lies, and I hope you agree.

You may care to get one of your members to review "The Hancocks of Marlborough" the title of the latest book, and this will answer any further interests anyone may have.

Thank you again, for a most interesting afternoon. We should never have found the plot without you.

WALTER HANCOCK 1799—1852

Walter Hancock was buried in Bow Cemetery on May 21st 1852. His grave lies unmarked today, and it is not known whether any memorial was raised over him, even though his contribution to the world's knowledge surely deserves some recognition.

He was born into a Marl borough family of extraordinary genius, and unlike his elder brothers he did not serve an apprenticeship into his father trade of cabinet maker and timber merchant. His connection with London did not come until about 1813 when he was apprenticed to a clockmaker in Clerkenwell. believed to be the then well known firm of Cutmore.

He set himself up in the first place as a jeweller in King Street, just off Northampton Square. But the apprenticeship he had served in clock making was the best training then for a career in engineering, so why he should begin an independent career as a jeweller remains a mystery. However, his elder brother Thomas had by 1819 taken a keen interest in rubber, and by 1820 had started a business in Goswell Mews just of City Road and Thomas

needed someone to make his experimental machinery. Walter was drawn into this growing business, and was to remain closely associated with his brother for the whole of his life. He rented a premises in High Road Stratford.

His mechanical interests soon took him along a quite different path. He had invented a completely revolutionary design for a steam engine to drive the lathe that he required for making bass valves for Thomas' inflatable air cushions. It consisted of two "lungs" inflating alternatively to turn a crankshaft. The "lungs" were made of a rubber compound which gave them elasticity, and the machine was a great success. In due course, he had to invent a boiler to produce the steam for his engine, and once he had settled on a design that worked consistently, he turned his mind to using the combination "lung" engine and boiler to power a simple road vehicle. He told of his experiments in a book he wrote in 1838. The prospect of a mechanically driven vehicle was then in its infancy. - Many people tried, and all failed, but Walter persevered until 1840 by which time speculation in railway shares diverted interest from road vehicles and he could no longer afford to continue his passionate interest.

It still seems amazing that at the height of his powers, he had a fleet of steam buses running regularly and reliably in London well before Queen Victoria came to the throne. He can also claim to have been the first person to have built and run a reliable steam car, which he demonstrated in 1838 in Hyde Park on numerous occasions to the nobility. It could run at up to 30 mph in almost complete silence but he was so far ahead of his time, that the concept of private steam propulsion did not catch on.

After his experiments ended and the carriages were broken up and sold in pieces by the commissioners in bankruptcy, he was lured into a business with his youngest brother Charles, a popular sporting artist. He made the machinery which enabled a newly discovered

substance called gutta percha to be turned into the first plastics, and he invented the machinery which enabled the first submarine telegraph cable to be manufactured.

Thus in Bow cemetery lies one of the earliest and perhaps the most distinguished of all the motoring pioneers, long forgotten by the world.. Not many people can claim to have been a pioneer in motoring, a founder of the plastics industry, and inventor of the submarine telegraph cable.

As a footnote. he died at his home in West Ham lane, West Ham in May 1852, twice bankrupt, and owing his brother Thomas £ 15,000. He left a wife Rebecca and a daughter Elizabeth.

Francis James

The whole story of this extraordinary family can be found in:

"The Hancocks of Marlborough... - a family of inventive genius" by John Loadman and Francis James OUP £25)

Cover Picture

King Edward VII died 100 years ago on 6th May 1910.

On Thursday 12 October 1911 a bronze bust on an 8 foot high pedestal was unveiled in the gardens on Mile End Waste.

It was executed by Henry Harris & Son of Mile End and the inscription on the pedestal read " Edward VII. Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war. Erected by a few Freemasons of the Eastern District of London 1911".

The unveiling was performed by Mr Edward White, Chairman of the London County Council.. Alderman Kearsley accepted it on behalf of Stepney Borough Council. The Council, he said, would cherish it in memory of a great King who was the friend of the poor in the East End. (The Times, Friday 13th October 1911).

THE GOOD OLD BOYS

Philip's reference, in the January *Newsletter*, to *The Coopers' Company's School in Frome 1939-1945*, set me thinking about the impact the school had locally until its removal to Upminster.

Originally founded in Ratcliffe, in 1536, by City merchant, Nicholas Gibson; administration passed to the Worshipful Company of Coopers' in 1553. The new building, in Tredegar Square, was first used in 1878 and the boys from Ratcliffe moved in, in 1891. George Perry's compilation deals mainly with the period of the Second World War, when the School was removed to Frome, in Somerset. George's entry group was unique in that many of the boys (those who left after the Fifth Form) were never actually taught in Bow. My own experience was of four years in Frome and the final year in Bow.

The aim of Gibson was to provide an all-round education, something he achieved admirably, as a quick look at some of those who benefited will show. Coopers' Old Boys could, and still can, be found in all walks of life - the Church, Entertainment, Medicine and so much more.

The Church

Lancelot Andrewes, born in 1555, in Lower Thames Street, was sent to Coopers' Free School at the age of eight; the Headmaster being Dr. Ward. The Head recognised the boy's potential and persuaded Andrewes Senior that an academic path was best. In 1565 Lancelot moved to Merchant Taylors' School, under Richard Mulcaster. Pembroke College, Cambridge, followed; then came a series of Church appointments until, in 1605, with James I/VI now on the throne, he accepted the post of Bishop of Chichester. Then came Ely, in 1609, and, finally, in 1618, Winchester, where he remained until his death in 1626. Andrewes was also a leading figure in the translation for the King James Bible, the work running from 1604 until 1611.

Stuart K. Hine (1899-1989) In the early 1950s, with the Billy Graham campaigns at their height, the words of *O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder (How Great Thou Art)* would have been heard regularly at the Harringay Arena, North London. Those words were the work of translation by ex-Coopers' boy, Stuart Hine, who was at the school prior to World War 1. In the army during the war, he eventually worked as a Missionary in Poland, Russia and Czechoslovakia. The original hymn, *O Store Gud*, was written in Swedish but Stuart first learnt it in Russian. His full English version was not completed, and published, until 1949. In 1974 it was voted number one hymn in the U.S.A. and, at the end of the twentieth century, was chosen the nation's favourite hymn by U.K. *Songs of Praise* viewers.

Alan John (Bob) Tanner was School Captain in 1942/3, winning a State Science Bursary to Sydney Sussex College, Cambridge. After service in the Royal Navy, he obtained B.A. at Lincoln College, Oxford, in 1952 (M.A. 1965). Ordained in 1954 he served in a number of Parishes, particularly in the City of London, where he was Archdeacon from 1990-97 and Prebendary at St. Paul's Cathedral from 1991-97. Appointed O.B.E. 1997. From eleven years old pupil he progressed to become Chairman of the Board of Governors of Coopers' Company's School.

Entertainment

Bernard Bresslaw (1934-93) was among the first entry to the school, in 1945, on its return from Frome. Obtaining a scholarship to RADA, he won the Emile Littler Award for Most Promising Actor. Two years National Service, in the R.A.S.C., were followed by numerous stage roles, including the Old Vic, and a part in *Educating Archie* on the radio. Then came *The Army Game*, in 1957; his career peaking during the course of fourteen 'Carry On' films. A solo record *Mad Passionate Love*, in 1958, made No.6 in the

British charts. In 1988, Bernard was King Rat in the Grand Order of Water Rats.

Lee Montague. “*M Goldberg gave a mature performance as Lysander, speaking his lines beautifully.*” That notice, of a 1941 school performance of *A Midsummer Night 's Dream*, was, possibly, the first theatrical review of the ability of the young man who would become Lee Montague. He trained at the Old Vic School and appeared on stage from 1950 and in films from 1953, when he was in *Moulin Rouge*. Other films included *Billy Bud*(1961) and there were Television films of *Jesus of Nazareth* (1977) and *Holocaust* (1978), and much more.

Jack Warner (1895-1981) has featured in the *E.L.H.S. Newsletter* on previous occasions. He was at Coopers' before WW1, when he was still Horace John Waters, making his mark by winning the Slow Bicycle Race, at the School Sports, two years in succession. Served as a Senior N.C.O. in the Royal Flying Corps/R.A.F. and was awarded the R.A.F. Meritorious Service Medal for ‘valuable services rendered in the field’ (non-flying). After demobilisation embarked on a career in entertainment, playing revues, seaside concert parties, etc., until WW2 brought him to a much wider audience on the wireless. In *Garrison Theatre* he made his appearance with his bicycle, ringing the bell and chanting his catch phrase, “Mind my bike”. Films included the Huggett family series, *Final Test*(1953) and *The Blue Lamp* (1949), the latter being his first appearance as George Dixon, leading to the television series *Dixon of Dock Green*, which ran from 1955 until 1976. O.B.E. in 1965.

R.D. (Rodney) Wingfield (1928-2007) was another who first made his mark in school theatricals. “In Wingfield there is a mixture of impishness, satire and slap-stick with, perhaps, a touch of the macabre.”, wrote the school ‘critic’. On leaving Coopers' he wrote radio plays in his spare time. *Compensating Error* was broadcast by the B.B.C. in 1968 and the

commission for two more enabled Rodney to become a full time writer. DI Frost first appeared in a Radio 4 play, *Three Days of Frost*, in 1977. ‘Frost’ novels eventually appeared, first published in Canada in the 1980s, but it was the 1990s before Britain had them. The rest, as they, is history; the I.T.V. series, *A Touch of Frost*, has been on our screens since 1992.

Medicine

Many Old Coopers' attended Medical School but it is only possible, here, to make a representative selection.

Russell.John Howard MS, FRCS (1875-1942), a pupil when the school was still at Ratcliffe, he attended King's College Medical School, eventually becoming Senior Surgeon at the London Hospital and at Poplar Hospital. Author of a number of medical publications, including *Practice of Surgery*, *Surgical Emergencies* and many more. C.B.E. 1919.

Bertram Arthur Joseph Barrow, MB MRCS, LRCP, DPM (1929-2008). School Captain 1947/48, on qualifying was commissioned into the R.A.F. Medical Branch in 1954. Served sixteen years, becoming Senior Medical Officer at R.A.F. Uxbridge, retiring in rank of Wing Commander. A career as a G.P. in South London followed, accompanied by membership of various medical boards and committees.

In one year, during my time at the School, three pupils were awarded Gibson Exhibitions for Medical School and all eventually qualified. **Drs. H.S. Glatt, Norman Kaye and Laurence Phillips** all achieved success in the profession, as did many others.

One, not in any of the above categories, who must be mentioned, is **Sir Allen Mawer**, M.A., Litt.D., F.B.A. (1879-1942) although it is impossible to list all of his achievements. His chief area of expertise was in English place names, on which he published many of

the 'standard' works, as well as contributing on Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian subjects for the Encyclopaedia Britannica. Knighted 1937.

So, the list continues - in Sport, **Fred Rumsey** County cricketer with Worcestershire, Somerset and Derbyshire; five 'Test' appearances, v. Australia (1964), South Africa (1965) and 3x New Zealand (1965). In Commerce - **Robertson Fyffe Gibb** (1868-1944), Chairman Union Castle Steamship Co., member of Committee of Lloyds' Register. In Music, **Karl Oberweger** was First Violin and Deputy Conductor whilst still at school, in 1943, going on to qualify as a Forensic Scientist. **D. Ellenberg** conducted a concert of Russian music at the Royal Albert Hall. **Arthur Godman** (1916-2004) wrote more than fifty textbooks on Mathematics and Science as well as the story of his time as a Japanese prisoner of war, *The Will To Survive*.

Roy Hayes

From Stan Newens:

Attached is a brief biography of the Rev. Richard Cynfyn Jones, in response to the letter from Mrs. P. J. Trotter of Margate published in the January 2010 issue of the East London History Society Newsletter. Mrs. Trotter asks for a copy of the article entitled 'Welsh Connection - Richard Jones' by David Sullivan, but I believe this article is about a completely different person - a footballer.

I have other material, including letters from people who knew Rev. Jones. I understood he died in a Balham nursing home in 1964, which equates with the Hostel of God in Clapham, Wandsworth, quoted in Mrs. Trotter's letter.

I should be interested in any research done by Mrs. Trotter which may be supplementary to the information I have.

Richard Cynfyn Jones (1873-1964)

Richard Cynfyn Jones was born in 1873 in Ponterwyd, Cardiganshire, son of a miner, Isaac Jones. The name Cynfyn was probably

added at his confirmation at Ysbyty Cynfyn, near his home. He trained as a minister at St. Michael's Theological College, Aberdare, and was ordained at Llandaff Cathedral in 1899. It was found in 1903 that his listing as holding a degree at the Royal University of Ireland was false, but that he was the innocent victim of a fraud.

He held a curacy in Wales and then moved to Marylebone in London. Subsequently he was attached to the East End Mission, Stepney. He was Vicar of Mayland, Essex, for seven years and then moved to St. Pancras. He was Rector of Millbrook, Bedfordshire, and then St. Mark's, Ampfield, Hants. Here his strong teetotal views offended the Faber family of Ampfield House, who were linked to Strong's Brewery in Romsey. He also offended parishioners in other ways.

From 1921 to 1952 he became Vicar of St. Paul's Church, Virginia Road, Bethnal Green, by exchange with the Rev. H. M. Lake, who took his place at Ampfield.

In the 1930s, St. Paul's was described as the poorest parish in London and he was initially regarded with hostility by local people. At the beginning of his ministry there were only six members in his Sunday congregation, but he set to work to change this and even involved himself in local politics. In 1931 he gained election to Bethnal Green Council as a Progressive Party member, but he lost his seat in 1934.

His Sunday evening congregation grew to 700, it was said, but collections were very small, e.g. 16s.6d. on one occasion. He spent a lot of money in providing amenities for his parishioners and was said to have mortgaged his own property to help provide an annual fortnight's holiday for children in his parish. Originally, he used a small farm at Lotwood, near Billingshurst, Sussex, but moved to Priory Farm, Bicknacre in Essex, where there was more space. Here he created a holiday home on the site of Bicknacre Priory.

The Bicknacre Home was opened in early July 1933 and included a hut for the boys and a hut for the girls, a hut for a dining room and two huts for carers. There was a roundabout, swings and ponies. There was also a chapel. Sir Percy Harris, MP, and Cllr. C. Bennett, Mayor of Bethnal Green, and others, were present at the opening.

My father, Arthur E. Newens, a small haulage contractor, was chartered each year to provide vans to transport equipment and some of the holiday-makers. Others went to Bicknacre by coach. The Rev. R. Jones used to visit our home at 31 Quilter Street, Bethnal Green, to make the arrangements.

The home was closed after the outbreak of the war and, subsequently, the huts were used by the Home Guard and for social events, and for storage by Bonds of Chelmsford. The farm was then sold.

The Rev. Richard Jones married Alice Gruss in St. James the Less, Bethnal Green, in 1897. Relatives (his niece and her son) were still living in Wales in 1991, and former parishioners at St. Paul's remembered him long after he left the East End. He continued as the Vicar of St. Paul's until his retirement in 1952 and died at 91 years of age in 1964 in a Balham nursing home. He was held in great affection, despite his eccentricities.

Publications

The Journal of William Morris Studies, Volume XVIII Number 3 Winter 2009
Published by the William Morris Society, ISSN: 1756-1353. Printed by the Short Run Press, Exeter. Editor Patrick O'Sullivan, (editor@morrissociety.org)

From the Editorial by Patrick O'Sullivan:
According to *The William Morris Chronology*, between December 1877 and January 1896,

William Morris gave well over five hundred lectures and political addresses, the vast majority of them, (more than four hundred) during the years 1883-1890, when he was active in the (Social) Democratic Federation and the Socialist League. During this time, he lectured often in the Midlands, the North and Scotland, but most often, of course, in London – in Hammersmith, in Hyde Park, or in the East End, that mortar of humanity and political ideas. In this issue, Rosemary Taylor reviews this period in Morris's political life, and in particular discusses the various locations in which he delivered his speeches (including several which do not appear in the *Chronology*), and explores the link between Morris's political activities, and the environment of the old East End.

The Cable, the magazine of the Jewish East End Celebration Society, Issue 10, 2009, editor David Walker. Price £2.00

I was pleased to receive a copy of this magazine, as it has been some time since I last read it. I was overwhelmed by the sheer variety of interesting articles, on a range of subjects, from Israel Zangwill, whose graces the front cover, to the Bethnal Green Tube Disaster. There is an informative article on musician and entertainer, Alan Kane, the Popular Voice of Radio, wonderfully evocative, which takes you down a musical memory lane. There is an appeal to save two drinking fountains, a subject close to my heart, as several years ago I made an attempt to search out as many drinking fountains as I could find, and was rather dismayed to see the dilapidated state of so many of these commemorative fountains. The topics covered in this issue are so many and varied, it is well worth trying to get hold of a copy. Try their website www.jeecs.org.uk. I promise you, it will not disappoint.

Rosemary Taylor

NOTES AND NEWS

BANCROFT LIBRARY UPDATE

Reduced opening hours

As discussed at the last steering group meeting, the Local History Library & Archives will be offering a reduced service in advance of the commencement of the building works to enable staff sufficient time to prepare for the rearrangement of the reading room.

Following further discussion with staff, it has been decided to close for just one rather than two days, to ensure the extra pressure on the reading room is manageable, and not to offer a late evening opening, as that is the least busy time of day for the service. Saturday opening is retained. The dates and times have therefore now been fixed as follows:

From w/c Monday June 14th:

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday – Closed.
Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9 am to 5 pm
Sunday - Closed

This reduced service will operate until the building works commence onsite, whereupon the service will close down temporarily for their duration. The dates for this are still not certain, but the latest estimate is that they will begin in late July/early August, and finish in late September. The building and service will then re-open with a refreshed and rearranged reading room, providing a much cleaner, clearer, clutter-free environment for staff and visitors.

The London Borough of Waltham Forest has successfully bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a first stage grant to draw up plans to further develop the William Morris Gallery. The Friends have been asked to help raise the money needed to turn the dream into a reality. The aim is to create a first class visitor facility and a centre of excellence for

the study of William Morris and the Arts and Crafts Movement. It is an exciting opportunity to see the development of the Gallery with extended exhibition space, better storage facilities for the reserve collection and an enhanced educational space and programme of activities. The project will help to create a sustainable future for this beautiful building and its highly important collections.

We are aiming to raise funding of £1 million by Spring 2010 so dig deep and spread the word! Substantial matched funding is necessary if a second stage HLF grant is to be obtained which would enable a more extensive redevelopment to be undertaken, but a project will go ahead in any event even if not on the scale that the HLF grant would allow. We have already agreed to donate £10,000 from the Friends' funds and we will be making approaches to a variety of funding bodies. However individual donations are essential if we are to reach the target.

The William Morris Gallery is the only museum in the world specifically devoted to the life, work and influence of William Morris (1834-1896), the artist, craftsman, writer, socialist and environmental campaigner.

William Morris was born in Walthamstow and the Gallery is housed in his former family home, Water House, where he spent his formative years in the 1840s and 50s. The Gallery was established by the Borough of Walthamstow (now the London Borough of Waltham Forest) and was opened in 1950 by the then Prime Minister and local MP, Clement Attlee. The Gallery has one of the finest public collections of work by William Morris and his associates in the firms of Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co and Morris & Co, and has an important archive of manuscripts and printed material. In addition the Gallery has very significant and in some cases unique collections of artefacts and designs by Morris's followers, the protagonists of the Arts and Crafts Movement, the only major art movement to have originated in

Britain. It also houses the Brangwyn Gift (donated by the artist Sir Frank Brangwyn RA (1867-1956) of paintings, prints, drawings and sculpture by 19th and early 20th century British and Continental artists, which include some major Pre-Raphaelite works.

Please see our website for details of our current events and lectures:
www.friendsofthewmg.org.uk

Cheques for standalone donations should be made out to the Friends of the William Morris Gallery and sent (together with a completed Gift Aid declaration if one has not previously been completed) to the Treasurer: John Philpott, 50 Cranston Gardens, Chingford, London E4 9BQ

ARNOLD CIRCUS

I have just discovered your website while looking around for organisations interested in East London Heritage.

I am a volunteer for the Friends of Arnold Circus, a charity dedicated to the preservation of Arnold Circus bandstand and gardens and it's inclusion in today's community of the Boundary Estate. This year, the bandstand celebrates it's Centenary, and we are also very proud to celebrate the achievement of the renovation works we've been working to get done by Tower Hamlet's council - the works are currently on, being carefully performed to the standards of this listed building, and involving schools and local groups to learn more about the site, whether green or built. This year is special, and comes with a series of celebration events, Sunday concerts in the bandstand - including Klezmer music to remember that the Estate used to be a major Jewish neighbourhood, and Bengali music to emphasise the roots of the majority of today's resident, there will also be a Sharing Picnic to involve all parts of the community, and we'll open the season with Arnold Day in honour of Arthur Arnold, social campaigner, and a brass

band playing on the restored bandstand.

I am contacting you for several reasons. First I was thinking that our organisation and events might be of interest to you and your members, whether to come and attend some of the concerts and celebrations, or maybe come and volunteer with us this season. We have put together two free short courses for people willing to know more about participatory arts and running arts events; we are actively looking for enthusiastic people to help us on the events' days. And maybe we could discuss other possibilities... for instance, we have just started putting things together to organise a training for young people to learn how to use a video-camera, and do some reporting on the estate, interviewing residents, and filming during the events. I come to think that we could have an interview about the history of the Circus and Estate, or maybe a tour...

So if you were inclined and interested to know more and discuss further, please do get in touch - I'll be pleased to talk over the phone and/or come and meet with you.

Marine Shah

Volunteer for the Friends of Arnold Circus
100friends.arnoldcircus@googlemail.com

07989 470 926 (at weekend or after 6pm please!)

<http://friendsofarnoldcircus.wordpress.com/summer-events-2010/>

Exploring 20th century London

<http://www.20thcenturylondon.org.uk>

This is a new web site coordinated by The Museum of London, incorporating the 20th century collections of 19 London museums into what they hope to be a primary resource for the study of London in the 20th century. They hope it will be especially useful for the study of local and family history in the East End as MOL has a substantial East End collection.

East End Photographers - 8 Eliza Burrows and Elias Gottheil



The trail leading to the first photographic studio to be opened in the East End eventually peters out in the early 1850s - and astonishingly, it ends up with a woman photographer, working on her own resources rather than as an assistant to her husband. At a time when photography was not considered a decent, nor even dignified career for a woman - in the public perception, the early studios, especially those in side streets, were little better than dens of vice, where dubious characters lurked ready to fleece innocent passersby, enticed in by smooth-talking touts. Ladies could be safely permitted to preside over milliners, fancy stationers or even confectionery shops - but in the first couple of decades of its existence (1840 - 1860), a photographic studio was no place to find a woman in charge. So Eliza Burrows must have caused something of a sensation when she opened a studio in Somerset Place, a long - vanished terrace off Commercial Road in the summer of 1854.

It was a defining year in photography in Britain; the collapse of Richard Beard's all - restricting patent had finally opened the practice of photography to all comers. The principal form of photography available at this period was the daguerreotype, characterised by a long and awkward exposure time, a tendency

to fade, the impossibility of duplicating, and the high unit costs. A daguerreotype in the 1850s would cost about a guinea (double the weekly wage), with special plush or velvet - lined case to protect against inadvertent handling, and colour tinting, to imitate a miniature, doubling the price again.

Despite all these disadvantages, Eliza Burrows presumably calculated that she could attract sufficient local trade to make the venture profitable. There must have been days when she would have been lucky to have photographed 2 or 3 people only. Even in a good week, it is unlikely that she would have found more than a couple of dozen customers. It must all have seemed very distant when the young Eliza Lee, from Southwark's New Kent Road, married Walter Burrows in 1836. Burrows ran a dentist's surgery, initially in Mount Place, Whitechapel, before moving to Somerset Place in the late 1840s. It was therefore possible, in the late 1850s, for Mr Burrows to pull your bad tooth on the ground floor, before mounting the stairs to the first floor where Mrs Burrows would daguerreotype your toothless grin. There is nothing to indicate that Eliza had any outside help, but the sheer strain of keeping an admittedly luxury business functioning in an area of extreme poverty must have been a factor in her decision to close the studio at the end of the 1850s, and thus she was never able to take advantage of the cheaper photographic processes which ushered in the cartes de visite during the next decade. At least she was spared the patronising advice offered by the photographer Cornelius Jabez Hughes in his article in the *Victoria Magazine* of 1873 "Photography as an industrial occupation for women": As to the class of women that find work in photography, I may compare them with three grades that are met with in everyday life; the "maid-of-all-work" class, the "shopwoman" class, and the "governess" class. The subdivisions of labour in the

production of photographs permit these kinds of female skill to have adequate scope". Eliza Burrows would probably have been relegated to the last of Hughes' three classes.

As far as we know, Eliza Burrows took no further part in photography after the closure of her studio. Sadly, hardly any of her work has survived - she is totally unrepresented in the major public collections. She died in 1879, not long after her husband had moved the surgery to Mile End. She remains a lost pioneer and deserves a commemorative plaque on the site of her studio.

The pioneer days of Eliza Burrows were fast disappearing by the time the investigative journalist Henry Mayhew was writing his *London Labour and the London Poor* in the 1860s.

Mayhew talked to one operator in the East End who told him "I have been told that there are near upon 250 houses in London now getting a livelihood taking sixpenny portraits. There's ninety of 'em I'm personally acquainted with, and one man I know has ten different shops of his own. There's eight in the Whitechapel Road alone, from Butcher Row to the Mile End turnpike. Bless you, yes ! They all make a good living at it. Why, I could go tomorrow and they would be glad to employ me at £2 a week – indeed they have told me so". Among the East End photographers who opened studios at this period was the first foreigner, Elias Gottheil, a refugee from the mid - century revolutions who washed up in London several decades ahead of the Jewish diaspora in the 1890s.

Foreign photographers were no strangers to London studios - the pioneer here was the French man, Antoine Claudet, only the second photographer to open a studio in London's West End in 1841. The revolutions across

Europe in 1848 - notably in Germany, Italy and France, with even England facing political turmoil with the Chartist movement - resulted in a flood of political refugees landing in London, including several who turned to photography to earn a living while waiting an opportunity to return - which rarely occurred. Gottheil was one such "displaced person", born in Prussia in 1820, and forced to flee when the movement was crushed. In 1850, he initially went into business as a shoemaker, but by the end of the decade had opened a photographic studio in Jubilee Street, Mile End, which lasted seven years. He had married a local girl, Ann Levy from Whitechapel, which no doubt helped him to integrate with the local inhabitants.

Gottheil's first studio was able to bridge the gap between daguerreotype and carte de visite, and he seems to have found it so lucrative that in 1862 he opened a second studio in Assembly Row, part of Mile End Road; in 1863 the address became 120 Mile End Road, and Gottheil named it Assembly House, in memory of its former location. It was an area with a substantial German population, known at least as early as the 1830s as "Little Germany". An article in the *East London Observer* of March 30 1912 notes "In one part the parish people of this (i.e. German) nationality most did congregate. Their speech, dress and habits differed from those around them; the very babies were wrapped up in a strange manner, and many of the shops bore German names". It was not just the sugar refineries which proved a magnet to German refugees, but as the *London City Mission Magazine* pointed out in 1865 "(it is) surrounded by the various docks, and consequently the landing place of almost all foreigners. Very frequently they take up their abode in this locality on arriving here, and for many years remain unchanged inhabitants; and it is no rare occurrence to meet with Germans

in this district who have lived here for several years without either knowing, or having seen, any other part of the metropolis". As late as 1901, out of 135,377 foreigners in the capital, some 54,310 were German.



Gottheil's revolutionary tendencies no doubt led him to associate, in his early days in London, with various anti - government organisations, not least of which was the East End Secular Society. This was an offshoot of the main society, founded and run by the pioneer Cooperative Movement organiser George Jacob Holyoake, and for some years in the 1850s Gottheil helped to raise funds for the

movement and its journal, *The Reasoner*, by contributing photographs for the 'bring and buy" sales which Holyoake used to keep the movement afloat. A note in *The Reasoner* of May 3 1857 thanks Gottheil for his contribution of six portraits of Holyoake for the Reasoner Bazaar; these would probably have fetched £2 - more if signed. In time Gottheil was appointed secretary of the East London Secular Society, and he briefly edited another of their journals, *The Secularist*. After 8 years of living in London, Gottheil was granted British naturalization in November 1858; he now felt able to join the local masonic lodge, Faith Lodge 141, from which he joined the Doric Lodge in 1863.

Gottheil operated the Mile End Road studios for a quarter of a century, assisted at various times by his four daughters. It was put up for sale in November 1882, by which time Gottheil was in his early 60s, and was finally bought early the following year by Harry Carpenter. The studio passed through a number of hands during the next few decades, and was still in operation almost down to World War II.

Gottheil moved out of the East End after the studio closure, taking new accommodation in Amhurst Road, Stoke Newington where he continued to work as a photographer in a private capacity until shortly before his death. He died there on February 21 1899, just before his 80th birthday; his widow Ann moved to Summerfield Avenue, in Kilburn after her husband's death and died there in 1905.

During his tenure of the Mile End Road studio, Gottheil probably took tens of thousands of cartes de visite, as well as lesser numbers of cabinet cards, and even today examples are very common. It is certainly true to say that both Eliza Burrows and Elias Gottheil left their mark on the Victorian East End.

DAVID WEBB

Fancy a Chinese Takeaway?

Many of us will recall the dire food rationing during World War Two, nonetheless, certain food outlets somehow managed to survive, continuing to offer their services to the public, supplementing the frugal limits of ration books.

I'm thinking in particular of the many fish and chip shops dotted around the East End. As a young lad in Poplar, I considered myself particularly lucky, because at the top of my road, in Stainsby Road, was Joe Lyons Fish and Chip Shop run by a husband and wife team, where for a couple of shillings (10p) it was possible to buy fish and chips fit for a king!

Of course due to the shortage of just about everything, including paper, it was necessary to supply your own newspaper to wrap the fish and chips in. (No public hygiene worries in those days!) At the bottom of the road, in Upper North Street, on the corner of Cordelia Street, was Bran's Fish and Chip Shop, run by another couple, where every evening, except Sunday, the queue stretched out through the door.

For those who enjoyed a little variety, there was also the Pie and Mash Shop in Chrisp Street, next to Woolworth's. This shop did a roaring trade on Friday and Saturday in particular, when shoppers routinely rounded off their shopping spree with pie and mash covered in delicious liquor. Somehow, the scrubbed wooden tables and a stone floor covered in sawdust simply added to the ambience. In those days the market stretched along Chrisp Street itself, all the way from East India Dock Road to Cordelia Street, with stall lining each side of the road.

But for me there was another special treat that topped them all, and that was a jugful of Chow Mein or Chop Suey from Charlie Ching's restaurant in Oriental Street, Limehouse. The Chinese influence in the East End during and before WW2 is easily explained by the close proximity of West India Docks, where Tea Clippers arrived regularly with their precious

cargoes from China, and many crew members, feeling a reluctance to return home, settled in the area. I have no access to the Chinese population figures of that time, but a glance at local street names, Canton Street, Ming Street,

Oriental Street, Nankin Street, makes the Chinese influence very obvious. So much so, that the approach to West India Docks was indeed called China Town, long before Soho days.

In retrospect I am inclined to think that Charlie Ching's may have been one of the first Chinese Takeaways because it was the norm for locals to collect their food in a jug to enjoy at home. Charlie's little restaurant consisted of a small shop on the left of Oriental Street, inside which was a collection of scrubbed wooden tables and benches, and on the flagstone floor a daily layer of sawdust. The air reeked of Chinese cooking, and from almost any table it was possible to watch the Chinese chefs bustling around in the kitchen, incessantly gabbling away in their 'inscrutable' language.

Normally seated in the corner of the restaurant was a rather rotund lady called Rosie, who wore lots of make up and a permanent smile for customers. She took your order, and made you welcome, especially if you were a regular.

For those who preferred to eat at home, however, you didn't have to go inside, because there was a convenient hatch in the wall outside, where one could knock loudly for attention. The hatch would fly open to reveal the grinning face of a Chinese chef, complete with gold tooth, anxious to take your order. Passing him the jug you had brought with you, he took your order and disappeared once more behind the hatch.

Now with jug wrapped in a tea towel to keep it warm, there followed the hurried walk back home before it got cold. It all sounds rather primitive now, but in those days, it was a luxury to look forward to! Those were simple but happy days!

Bill Langworth



AUTUMN COACH TRIP

25TH SEPTEMBER 2010

WHITCHURCH SILK MILL

WHITCHURCH SILK MILL was built on the River Test in Hampshire in 1800, during the reign of King George III. Silk has been woven here since the 1820/1830s. The mill produces high quality silks to order for theatrical costume, interior designers and historic houses.

The entrance fee will be £4.50 or £4 for Senior Citizens and includes guided tour. Our payment will be required in advance, so please send with the coach fare.

Food will be available for lunch and tea, or you can bring a picnic.

The coach fare will be £14 and it would save time if you could send your payment with your reservation. To reserve seats please send me the form below.

The pick-up will be at the bus pull-in in Grove Road, round the corner from Mile End Station, at the slightly earlier time of 9.00 am.

Please fill in the booking slip below and send to me, Ann Sansom, 18 Hawkdene, London E4 7PF. Tel. 020 8524 4506 for enquiries. (Photocopy it if you don't wish to spoil your newsletter.)



AUTUMN COACH TRIP
25TH SEPTEMBER 2010

I/We would like _____ Ticket/s for the forthcoming coach trip.

NAME/S _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL. NO. _____ I enclose a cheque for £ _____

(Cheques to be made payable to East London History Society)