

SHARED ROOTS IN FAITH

Interview by Maryiam Hussain

Tony Fisher - a retired Jewish man

My encounter with Tony Fisher was an enlightening one as his care-free personality was captivated immediately, even after repeating my interview several times due to disruptions Mr Fisher was still as positive from the start. The need for aspirations in the generation we live in now has shown to be stressful but in Mr Fisher's

words we should take each day as it comes because life is too short to worry about such things. The dire pressure we put on ourselves is unnecessary as he has proven with his life as a prime example that happiness is not drawn from which career we pursue or the number of people we know.

Mr Fisher's life in the East-End was not as smooth as he let on but his attitude towards others even in the event of being forced out of his own home due to others is not common in this day. Living within a crowded building filled with a variation of 'different colours' as Mr Fisher described. To then be



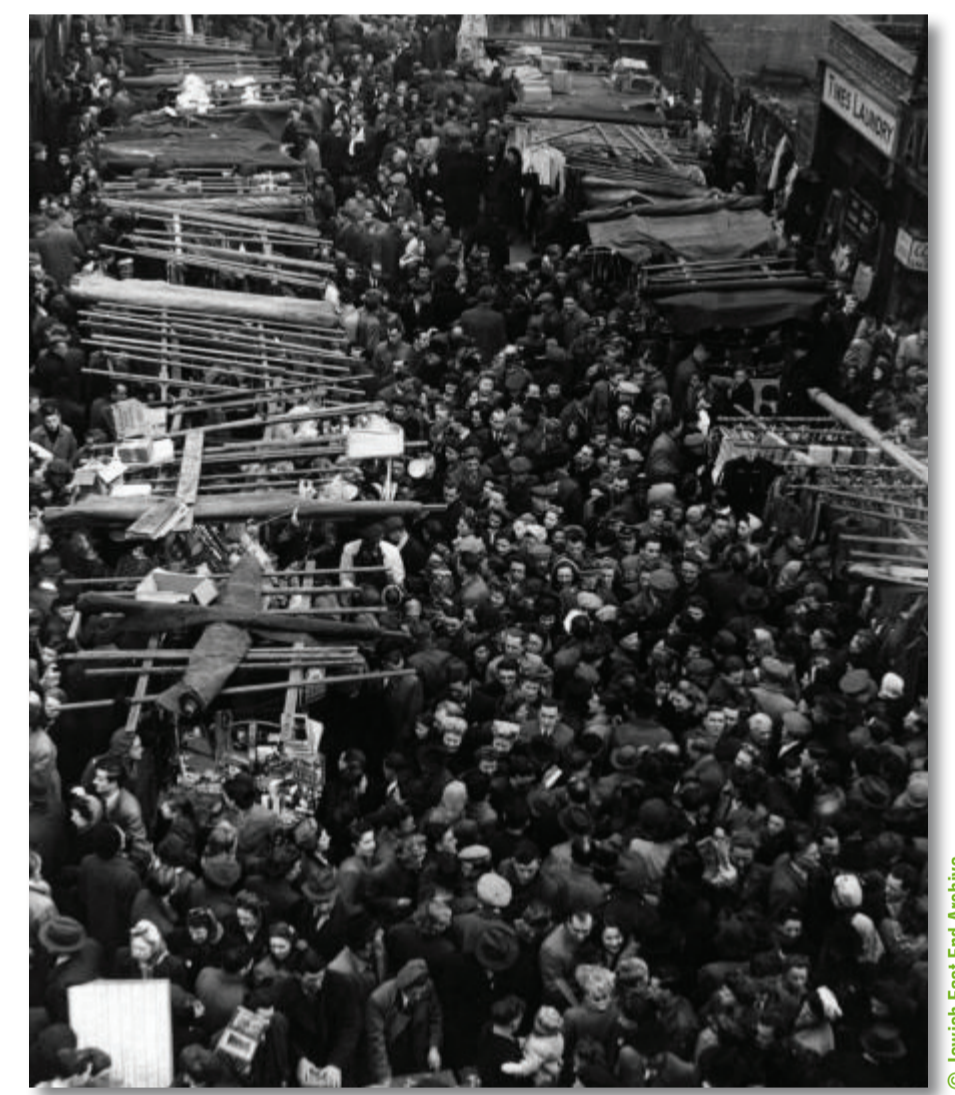
A group of Jewish children about to set off on a coach outing from Gt Garden St Synagogue

out casted for being different until closing his front door locking out the abuse, returning to the comfort of his family. Mr Fisher's maturity at such a young age allowed him to look past abuse directed towards him by others because of who he was, Jewish. Although he does not claim to be overly religious his understanding of people and reliance on family has grown stronger through his years. ."

Searching for peace, meaning and motivation is common in all people in different shapes and forms, for Mr Fisher his confidence in a brighter day was enough to get through the roughest days.

When an individual realises that the thing they've been searching for all their lives has been right there in front of them allowing them to finally be at peace is a beautiful concept to me. People search so far for answers and Tony found peace at home, with family and friends. There are of course extraneous

variables that affect all our lives, Mr Fisher is not exempt from these but the way in which we overcome the difficulties is what defines us. People will be people and opinions may vary but putting aside differences and still following the path you believe in is the



Petticoat Lane in 1946

only thing that matters. Reputation is achieved through excellence and to overcome racial issues that appear to still occur within the East-End an attitude of poise must be undertaken. Tony Fisher has demonstrated to me the spirit of the East-End through his character, acceptance and consideration of others. It appears that throughout the East-End this attitude is shared not only by age or ethnicity but by experience in living in such a diverse communi-



Middlesex Street 1959

ty. History is said to be a record of things thought, said and done. The reputation we gain is achieved through actions rather than words and the legacy we leave behind is captured to be retold by others.

Aldgate East