

SE1

A Free Community Newspaper

Rumours fly at Lower Marsh market

A packed meeting, called by local market trader, David Ingrams, at the Waterloo Action Centre on 22nd November, heard that parking problems in the area were threatening the closure of Lower Marsh market. Other rumours had been circulating about plans to close the market in the New Year so that Lambeth Council could pedestrianise the street.

The truth, when it finally emerged, was somewhat different. The meeting heard a report from a representative of Waterloo Community Development Group that two separate issues were being confused.

Firstly, the Council does have a scheme to put money into the improvement of Lower Marsh market. This may involve pedestrianisation of the street but would allow continued access for traders. This scheme, however, is still on the drawing board and traders and residents will be consulted before the scheme is finalised. The aim is to make the market more attractive for shoppers and thus encourage a thriving market. So, the meeting heard, Lambeth Council does not intend to bulldoze the market in January.

Secondly, there is the separate issue of parking enforcement. The police have recently been enforcing parking restrictions in Lower Marsh with a considerable presence of traffic wardens. Traders are no longer being allowed to keep their vans all day by their pitches. Up to now, lack of enforcement has allowed traders to keep their vans in the market during trading hours even though this was illegal.

While it is understandable that the police have become concerned about the lack of emergency access to Lower Marsh market during trading, it has been suggested, according to Waterloo Community Development Group, that the developers of the office building on the Westminster Bridge Road end of the market, Central and City, have put pressure on the police to crack down on illegal parking which they consider detracts from their office scheme.

It is further suggested that Central and City would like the market closed so that they can carry out a comprehensive redevelopment of the area to tie in with the Channel Tunnel terminal at Waterloo Station. Through

property agents Nigel King Lumsden, Central and City have bought a considerable amount of property in Lower Marsh, apparently with the aim of assembling a potential development site.

The meeting, however, spent most of the time discussing the immediate problem of parking. The police had previously stated that they would begin towing vehicles away from 2nd January. Very helpfully though, at the meeting, they agreed to postpone this deadline and traders at the meeting agreed to press Lambeth Council for

a limited relaxation of parking restrictions in streets surrounding Lower Marsh in order to guarantee traders somewhere to offload their goods.

On this point, the police said they would back Lambeth Council if it did decide to allow more parking on these streets. It was pointed out, however, that removal of existing parking restrictions would require the approval of local residents. Further meetings have been arranged with local councillors to find a way around the parking problems at Lower Marsh.

LOWER MARSH, SE1

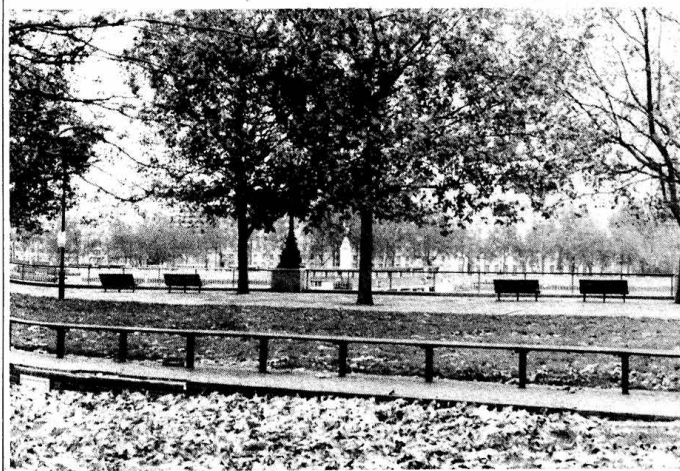
SHOPS TO LET

Please telephone or write to:

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18 Finsbury Circus
London EC2M 7BP

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Greater Jubilee Gardens plan takes step forward



The campaign to save Jubilee Gardens from redevelopment and then build a bigger park, has taken a significant step forward. Queens Walk Park Society and Waterloo Community Development Group, who are behind the proposal for a new park, were recently invited to present their scheme to the Royal Fine Arts Commission, a body of people who give opinions on important planning issues.

The community representatives were very well received and they are hoping that the Commission commends the proposal to Lambeth Council which is presently considering an application from

Queens Walk Park Society to enlarge Jubilee Gardens. Lambeth Council has recently said that they wanted to designate the whole of the area between County Hall and Hungerford Bridge as a park in their local plan.

The threat to close Jubilee Gardens during the construction of the Jubilee Line extension also appears to be receding. Now that the County Hall developers have gone bankrupt, London Underground appears to be willing to consider relocating their worksite from Jubilee Gardens to the car park of County Hall, allowing the park to remain open.

Queensborough Playgroup fills pressing need

Tucked away on the Scovell Estate, off Southwark Bridge Road, is the Queensborough Community Centre, home for the past four years to Queensborough Playgroup. It was established by Pauline Farries, who used to work for the Save the Children Fund, with the help of management committee members of the Community Centre to provide play facilities for under 5's in North Southwark, an area short of pre-school provision for children.

The aim of the Playgroup, according to Pauline, the Senior Playleader, is to "create an atmosphere where under 5's can learn and play with each other and develop individually. We aim to provide the children with a safe, happy, caring and stimulating environment with varied play and educational activities." Activities include cooking, and arts and crafts. The children also play educational games, and work with numbers and identifying objects. Visits are sometimes arranged to other playgroups in the area.

There are twenty children on the register, which is the maximum number who can be cared for by the two playworkers, Pauline and Maureen Cousins, and a parent. Parents are encouraged to participate in the running of the Playgroup and each day, on a rota, a different parent assists the playworkers. Parents participate in other ways as well. There is a Parents Committee which organises fundraising events, parties



Queensborough Playgroup at play

and trips out. The parents are very supportive of the Playgroup says Pauline.

Resources are very scarce for pre-school playgroups all over London, and Queensborough Playgroup is no exception. The Playgroup receives no grants and exists on the children's fees for attending, which are £5 a week, and on donations, which are always welcome, and fundraising. It is a mark of the dedication of Pauline and Maureen that they work for wages which are not in accord with the responsibilities and skills of the job.

All of the children, aged from two and a half to five years, who attend the Playgroup, come from the local area, usually within walking distance. A number of the children, at the age of

three and a half years, go on to one of the local primary schools which all have nursery classes, though there aren't enough places for all the area's children.

Some of the children attend the Playgroup in the mornings and go on to the school nursery class in the afternoons. "We get them over the nasty bit, leaving mum and going to the toilet by themselves. We get reports that the children settle into school well", says Pauline of her charges.

The Playgroup is open every day Monday to Friday during school term times from 9.30-12.00. There are no vacancies at present, but there is a waiting list. Enquiries can be made directly at the Playgroup at the Queensborough Centre.

New Principal for Morley College

At last Morley College has a new Principal. He is Mr Beverley Walters, who takes up his duties on 1st January 1991. Since the departure of Ms Janet Roberts this famous centre of adult education has been without a Principal. However, sterling work has been done by the acting Principal David Normand-Harris.

Mr Walters comes to Morley from the Costain Group where he is Head of Management and Organisation Development and has been responsible for their links with education and the community. In the late 1970's he was Dean of the Faculty of Administrative Studies at the Polytechnic of the South Bank.

Lady Seear, Morley College President and Chairman of the College Council said: "I am delighted that Beverley Walters has been appointed. He possesses a unique blend of management skills acquired both in education and in the private sector. He is fully aware of the educational and economic challenges that lie ahead for the College and is well equipped to provide the necessary leadership to enable the College to meet them."

Gordon E. Gompers

MEP selected to fight Bermondsey

On 15th November, Richard Balfe MEP (Member of the European Parliament), was selected as the Labour Party Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Southwark and Bermondsey at the next General Election.

Housing loss

The stagnant residential property market in Docklands has obliged the developers of Butler's Wharf, owned by former Storehouse boss Terence Conran, to convert 88 riverside apartments into offices.

Southwark Council opposed the change of use of the 19th century former warehouse but the London Docklands Development Corporation, gave planning approval.

In the summer, Conran's Butler's Wharf Limited, owners of a thirteen acre development which stretches 1/4 mile along the Thames east of Tower Bridge, was on the brink of financial collapse.

Hayles Estate tenants reject change of landlord

One hundred tenants on the Hayles Estate at Elephant & Castle have signed a petition saying they want to stay as secure tenants of Southwark Council. Two-thirds of the households on the estate have already decided they are not interested in a proposal by a group of residents of the estate, Hayles Estate Residents Action Group (HERAG), to set up a Neighbourhood Housing Association to buy the estate off the Council.

Presenting the petition to the Chair and Director of Southwark Housing at a local community hall on 20th November, Denis Bewick, Chair of HERAG (Hayles Estate Against Takeover) said: "I was recently evicted by a private landlord. I went to Southwark Council and they gave me the keys to my ground floor flat in Hayles Buildings which was already partially adapted for disabled use." Denis, who is recovering from Guillain Barre's syndrome, went on: "I know I was very lucky to get this flat, but I believe the Council will always look after disabled and disadvantaged people better than other landlords. I want to stay as a Council tenant and our petition shows that most tenants on Hayles Estate feel the same."

"Another group of residents want to form a Neighbourhood Housing Association and buy our estate off Southwark Council. They are using the property investment company, PIC, to help them knock on doors, and now their surveyors are trying to do a sample survey of our homes. Tenants are worried. The housing association would have to rely heavily on private finance which is likely to force our rents up,

and we believe the new assured tenancy agreement we would have to sign gives tenants fewer legal guarantees."

As the majority of Hayles tenants want to stay with Southwark Council, HEAT have asked the Housing Corporation, which has provided HERAG with funding, for the proposal to set up a Neighbourhood Housing Association to be withdrawn. "It would be a waste of time and money for it to go ahead when tenants don't want it, and it could prove very divisive", said Denis.

"The Government has already spent over a million pounds using PIC Services on projects which have fallen apart, like the HAT proposal on Southwark's North Peckham and Gloucester Grove estates. Now they seem prepared to inject thousands more pounds into a scheme which Hayles tenants do not want. HEAT thinks that Government money would be far better spent on real improvements to estates like Hayles - on repairs, safety and cleaning - improvements which all tenants agree are needed."

The Director of Housing, John Broomfield, receiving HEAT's petition, expressed his pleasure that so many tenants on the Hayles Estate wanted to stay with the Council. He promised to honour their loyalty by ensuring that the improvements already taking place on the estate would continue and that the Council would cooperate fully with Hayles tenants. The Chair of the Housing Committee, Cllr Mark Howarth, promised to take up with the Housing Corporation the tenants' desire to remain with the Council.



Denis Bewick presents Hayles tenants' petition to John Broomfield and Cllr Mark Howarth

Young Vic Spring Season

Following the outstanding support for the Save the Young Vic Campaign, which raised £250,000 to keep the theatre going, the Young Vic last month announced its forthcoming plays for Spring 1991. The acclaimed Shakespearean theatre director, Trevor Nunn, will direct Shakespeare's little known play 'Timon of Athens', starring David Suchet. Sam Mendes will direct Judi Dench in Sean O'Casey's 'The Plough and the Stars', and David Thacker will direct Tom Kempinski's new comedy 'Sex Please We're Italian'.

The £250,000 raised will allow urgent building work to be carried out at the Young Vic, a theatre originally built to last a few years but which, despite that, has emerged as one of London's most intimate and innovative theatres attracting a very diverse audience.

Young Vic Director, David Thacker, said that they had been overwhelmed with the response to save the theatre. Many actors, who frequently spend periods out of work, had pledged £100 each to the campaign. Local people had also responded generously, he said, citing pensioners who had sent in 50p pieces through the post. For further details about the Young Vic's Spring Season, contact the Box Office on 928 6363.

BCC AGM

The Borough Community Centre will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 23rd January 1991 at 6.30pm in the main hall at 56 Southwark Bridge Road. The meeting will include election of the Management Committee and presentation of the Audited Accounts. The meeting is open to all local residents and representatives of community groups. Refreshments will be served. For further information telephone 928 6476.

Clyde fundraising

In its main annual fundraising event for the Evelina Children's Unit at Guy's Hospital, the Lord Clyde pub in Clenham Street raised a magnificent £1,500 from the proceeds of a raffle. As usual, it was Dolly, a member of the bar staff at the pub, who managed to sell most of the tickets. Prizes were drawn at the Clyde's Guy Fawkes party last month. First prize was a colour TV donated by Clyde landlords Lucy and Michael Patrick.

GARDENING WITH JACKIE POWER



With the leaves mostly gone from the trees, there is little to do in the garden now except to clear away the remaining fallen leaves and to finish off digging the soil.

During the Winter months, flower interest is minimal and it is now that the bold shapes and foliage colour of evergreens such as conifers, holly, ivy, Mahonia and the spotted laurel come into their own. The colours and textures of twigs, branches, bark and berries of deciduous trees will also provide some visual interest during the Winter.

However there will be a few flowering plants in the garden and some will be suitable for window boxes and tubs. The Christmas rose is slow growing and has a lovely white flower and evergreen leaves. If there are no heavy and prolonged frosts, Cyclamen and late primroses will continue to flower.

As the festive season approaches it is time to think of indoor displays. Poinsettia, Winter cherry, and Cyclamen are always available but they should be kept fairly cool and in a bright place. If you planted Hyacinth bulbs in late September for indoor flowering at Christmastime they should have been brought out of the dark by now and will be making good growth providing they are kept in a moderately warm and light place.

If you are thinking of buying a potted Christmas tree this year, remember they do need to be kept fairly cool - a warm stuffy room will not suit them. However it is possible to keep them alive even in a warm environment if you leave the tree in a cool place until a few days before Christmas and then water everyday during the time it is inside. If these trees are returned to a garden, patio, balcony or window tub early in the New Year they stand a good chance of surviving, providing you report them and water thoroughly throughout the Summer months.

Play places

Tadworth Playgroup, located in Tadworth House on the corner of Blackfriars Road and Webber Street, has places available after Christmas for children between the ages of two and a half and five years. The playgroup runs from 9.30am-2.30pm Monday to Friday. For further information, ring 928 7048.

Windsor Wharf wall on Bankside rebuilt

Work is underway on Bankside, at Windsor Wharf as it is known, to rebuild a crumbling stretch of river wall, at the same time adding a further extension to the river walkway.

New paving, a seating area and landscaping promises to brighten up this stretch of the river which has deteriorated badly under the impact of redevelopment due to the all too often unfortunate disregard for the area by some of the building contractors. The road itself is also being resurfaced.

The work is being carried out under the supervision of Southwark's Department of Engineering and Public Works.

There are future plans at this point of the river, in

front of the proposed new Shakespeare Globe theatre,

for a passenger and recreational jetty.



Windsor Wharf, Bankside

Construction of Jubilee Line extension will have big

As SE1 reported last month, final approval has been given for two new Underground stations in Blackfriars and Bermondsey on the proposed extension to Docklands of the Jubilee Line. There will be further stops at Waterloo and London Bridge.

The Bill which will give final approval to the new Underground line is expected to receive Royal Assent in the middle of next year, in which case construction work could start towards the end on 1991 and continue until the opening of the line in 1996.

The construction of the new underground line, even though much of the work evidently is beneath the surface, will bring considerable disruption to the Waterloo, North Southwark and Bermondsey areas, particularly in Waterloo and the Borough Market areas where other rail developments will be under construction at the same time.

In the stretch between the South Bank of the river Thames and Bermondsey, London Underground has identified up to twenty sites where works will take place. Below, we give brief details of these sites and the nature of the works which will be carried out there.

One of the most controversial sites is Jubilee Gardens, Waterloo's premier open space. London Underground is proposing to occupy up to 65% of the site to be used as a tunnelling site for the 1700 metre tunnelling drive to Green Park and for the excavation of a crossover junction

on the Jubilee line to the west of Waterloo Station. Spoil would be removed by barge from a pontoon on the Thames adjacent to the site.

Depending on whether the Gardens were required for tunnelling, they could be closed to the public for up to three years. Waterloo Community Development Group has insisted with London Underground that their excavation and tunnelling site be located at the County Hall car park. London Underground has resisted this because they would have to pay compensation to possible future developers of County Hall. Following construction works, Jubilee Gardens would be reinstated to its present use.

For construction of the new Jubilee Line platforms at Waterloo Station, three sites would be required. The worst blow for the local area will be the loss of the fifteen shops on Tenison Way which would be demolished for use as a work site. The Bull Ring would also be taken over for works as well as a larger area of arches beneath the main concourse of Waterloo Station.

These sites will be used for the construction of a new ticket hall, access stairways and escalators and draught relief shafts associated with the Jubilee Line interchange at Waterloo. Major works at these sites will last up to four years.

Apart from the loss of recreational and shopping amenities in Waterloo, residents will have to put up with disturbances such as



Tenison Way shops to be demolished

noise, dirt and traffic generated by these construction sites.

Removing spoil from Jubilee Gardens by river will obviously reduce movement of construction vehicles although about 25 trucks a day will be moving on and off Jubilee Gardens via York Road and Belvedere Road, while around 65 vehicles a day will need access to construction sites via Waterloo Road and Mepharm Street. Whichcote Street and Buckley Street will be closed during works at the Tenison way site.

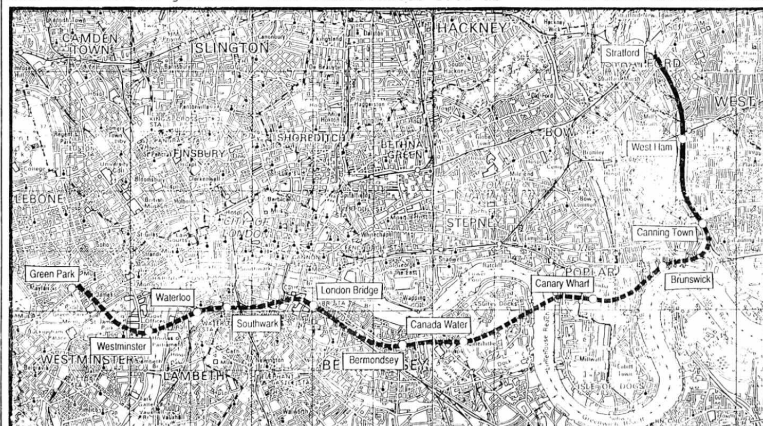
On the stretch of line from Waterloo to London Bridge, there are three main work sites required for the construction of the new station at Blackfriars, or Southwark as it will be called. The main site is on the corner of Joan Street and The Cut where the station will

be located. Works will involve the construction of the station entrance, ticket hall, escalator and stair access and underground platforms. Several buildings, including the British Telecom offices at the junction of The Cut and Blackfriars Road and the South of the Border restaurant would be demolished.

Two areas of railway arches either side of this site, at Joan Street and Scoresby Street, will be used to build and house the station draught relief shafts. The Joan Street site will probably also be used to build a passenger escalator link between the Jubilee Line Southwark Station and the existing BR Waterloo East Station, where work is already underway to lengthen the central station platforms to accommodate 12 car trains. These works would take up to four years.

A large site on the corner of Ewer Street and Great Suffolk Street, may be used as a tunnelling site for the western section of the route. The main activities at the site would therefore include support to tunnelling activity, spoil removal, tunnel lining and track delivery. This site includes an upper level site known as the Grande Vitesse site, a now abandoned railway goods siding.

The site at the corner of Union Street and Gambia Street, presently used as a car park, would be used for the Ewer Street site as offices. Two railway arches at Wards Grove will be used to build a combined ventilation and escape shaft. The arches presently house panel beaters and spray painters.



Route of the new Jubilee Line extension

impact in Waterloo and North Southwark

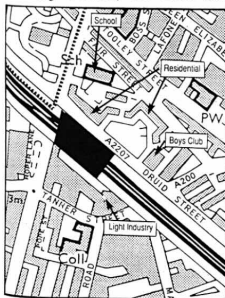


Scoresby Street arches

Lorry movements in this stretch of line will be quite considerable with an estimated 100 vehicle movements a day at the Southwark Station site and over 200 a day at Ewer Street.

At London Bridge Station itself, the main works will be associated with the enlargement of the existing Northern Line ticket hall and the construction of an intermediate concourse to serve the new Jubilee Line platforms. Most of the work will take place within the station complex, although the work sites will spill out into surrounding streets, including Duke Street Hill where part of the footpath will be taken.

Joiner Street, Duke Street Hill, London Bridge Station and Railway Approach are the means of vehicular access to the work sites at London Bridge Station. Total lorry movements in and out of this area at the peak of the construction work are expected to be around 160 a day which will add to the traffic congestion along Borough High Street and Tooley Street. Railway Approach will be closed during works, as will the



Druid Street work site

north footpath of London Bridge Street.

From London Bridge to Old Jamaica Road, the route of the new underground line follows the existing BR railway viaduct. Along this heavily residential stretch of line, sites will be required at Druid Street, for the construction of a ventilation and escape shaft, and at Old Jamaica Road, for a tunnelling site.

The tunnelling site lies immediately south of Old Jamaica Road and is currently used as a depot and vehicles yard, and for warehousing and storage under some 25 BR railway arches. Most of the site is BR-owned. The site also includes Grace Kimmins Gardens, a small area of open space opposite the Rising Sun pub. Works at the site, lasting up to four years, will involve tunnelling west to London Bridge and east to Surrey Docks.

Tunnelling spoil will be removed by road and 250 lorry movements a day are expected during peak construction times. According to a London Underground commissioned Environmental Study, "this will cause noticeable increases in traffic noise, congestion, conflict between pedestrians/cyclists and vehicles, and lorry nuisance to residents and people working or passing through the area."

The Bermondsey Station will be built on Jamaica Road, at the junction of Major Road and John Roll Way where seven currently derelict shops and their yards will be demolished to build the ground level ticket hall, escalators and a disabled persons lift to platform level. The site will be required for around four years.

The Ben Smith Way site, off Jamaica Road behind Broomfield Court, will be used to build a draught relief shaft for Bermondsey Station and will be used for major works for up to two years. A concrete play area and seven garages will be lost during the construction period.

Southwark Park will also be affected by the construction works. Here, on the northwest corner of the park, near the junction of Lower Road and Culling Road, a ventilation and escape shaft will be built. This section of the park will be closed for two years but will be reinstated at the end of the works.



Grande Vitesse site on Great Suffolk Street

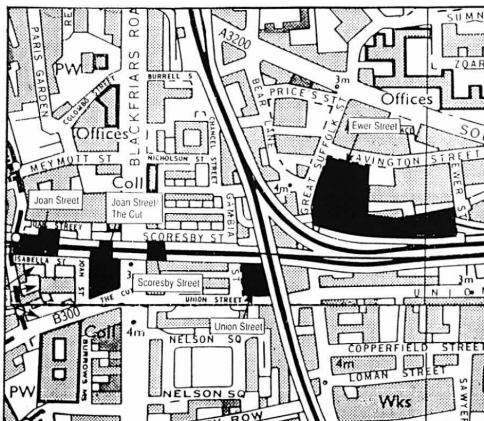
A number of public meetings have been held in recent weeks, at the Borough Community and Beorund Centres, among other venues, by Southwark Council and London Underground to explain the proposals and the impact that construction of the Jubilee Line will have on the local area.

Consultants have drawn up an Environmental Statement which states how London Underground must minimise the impact of noise, dust, traffic and nuisance to the community

arising during the construction and operation of the line. A Code of Construction Practice is also being drawn up in consultation with Southwark Council, which will govern working hours for instance.

Many residents, however, have expressed anxiety at the public meetings about how the impacts of construction on the community will be monitored and standards enforced to ensure minimum to the community. So far this question remains unanswered.

Much of the information for the above article has been taken from 'Jubilee Line Extension: Environmental Statement', prepared for London Underground by planning consultants BRL and published in March 1990.



Southwark Station work sites

DR ALFRED SALTER - LIFE IN BERMONDSEY

Alfred Salter was born on 16th June 1873 in South Street, Greenwich, the eldest of four children. His father was an administrative officer of the Metropolitan Gas Company and following an increase in the father's modest salary the family moved from Greenwich to Wemyss Road which descends from Blackheath Village, to be closer to the open spaces of the heath.

Whilst at school he does not seem to have particularly excelled at his studies and the idea of studying medicine must have seemed an impossibility. Although his parents did provide the help for his wish to become a doctor, the cost of the medical course was well beyond them.

Fortunately, however, the Roan School where he was studying had an exhibition of £50 a year for three years at Guy's Hospital Medical School. He duly applied himself to the task and despite being the youngest competitor won it. As he himself said later on in his life, without the help of the exhibition it would not have been possible for him to enter the medical profession.

He started at Guy's Medical School in 1889 commuting each day across the slums and squalor of Bermondsey from Blackheath. As a student he was extremely dedicated to his work and spent the entire summer vacation learning German so that he could understand the best original research of the time. Salter's achievements at Guy's were exceptional. The Hospital Gazette comments, 10th April, 1887:

"To him that hath shall be given; and Dr Alfred Salter, having already won scholarships prizes and two gold medals at London University has now been examined in the sanitation of our college and kindred matters, and having reported enthusiastically in favour of the first and with equal accuracy on the other subjects, has been awarded the Golding-Bird Gold Medal and Scholarship."

Whilst performing his student duties as part of the obstetrics course, Salter began to visit Bermondsey homes. Here he was brought face to face for the first time with mothers at childbirth in damp oppressive rooms, without a proper water supply, with children, who if they survived infancy, had no opportunities of education.

These experiences made a profound impression upon him. He was angry at the injustice of poverty and the appalling housing conditions in the borough. These emotions may well have provoked the idea of devoting his life to the people of Bermondsey. Salter's student days were certainly marked by a great development of his political convictions and activities. His extreme socialist opinions earned him the nickname 'citizen Salter' by his fellow students.

In 1897 he was appointed house physician and resident obstetric physician at Guy's and for the first time he left his parents' home at Lewisham Hill. He had long wanted to emulate Joseph Lister whose discoveries he had marvelled at while a student and following his house-jobs he realised his earlier ambitions and was invited by Lister to become bacteriologist to the anti-toxin department of the British Institute of Preventive Medicine at Sudbury.

The appointment was accompanied by another success when he won the Gull research scholarship in pathology. His research was establishing his name in England as well as abroad. In particular the paper on 'The functions of nerve cells' which won the Treasurer's prize of the Physical Society in 1896 attracted attention not only in Britain but in Germany, Austria and France.

Once appointed as the bacteriologist at the Lister Institute he was able to give some practical form to his idea of serving the people of Bermondsey. He did this via Sir Cooper Perry, Guy's medical superintendent and asked for an introduction to Dr Scott Lidgett, the head of Bermondsey Settlement (who retired in 1945 at the age of 95). Salter had great admiration for Dr Lidgett because he knew he had sacrificed an academic and ministerial career to serve the poor of Bermondsey.

Salter's first move in his longstanding connection with Bermondsey was to take up residence at the Settlement in September 1898, while still continuing his researches at the Lister Institute during the day. His spare hours were now occupied with the varied social welfare activities of the Settlement. Almost immediately he made significant changes to

Bermondsey, establishing a dividing insurance society which gave allowances to members during ill-health and distributed the surplus at Christmas. The security of payment during illness proved of enormous benefit to many families; in this connection it must be remembered that there was no State insurance at this time.

Very shortly after joining the Settlement Salter met a young woman who had also just joined. Ada Brown had come from a middle-class background in Northamptonshire and so that she might identify herself completely with the people of Bermondsey, was living in a working-class tenement. From the beginning they showed a common enthusiasm for political, social and economic changes and both felt the need to live and work in Bermondsey. Salter became a Christian not long after meeting Ada following a series of lectures in Southwark Park by Dr Lidgett.

With only a few months remaining at the Lister Institute, the post of bacteriologist at Charing Cross fell vacant. Salter then made a life-changing decision to give himself to Bermondsey, a working-class practice, politics and social reform. He made his first surgery in a vacant shop on the corner of Keentons Road

and Jamaica Road. Ada Brown and Salter, once married, lived upstairs to the surgery.

During his time at the Settlement he had become very aware of the miserably low wages and unemployment relief on which the riverside population existed. He decided much to the annoyance and, in some cases, outright opposition of his professional colleagues, to bring medical advice and treatment nearer to their needs. Consultations were only sixpence. Within only a matter of weeks he attracted crowds. The Lancet later reports "he worked prodigious hours" and queues waited for his arrival. It was not only his low charges which attracted patients, but his treatment and dynamism whereby he insisted on a bed in hospital for urgent cases. He would also campaign for action by the public authorities in cases of bad sanitation and unhealthy accommodation.

Within 18 months his practice had grown so large that he found it necessary to take a partner. Once again medical history was made when a Guy's Hospital friend, Dr Benjamin A Richmond joined him. Dr Richmond himself was a gold medallist; never before had two gold medallists become partners in general practice and the fact that they should

do so made it that much more noteworthy. The practice continued to grow and within two years Dr Stratton and shortly afterwards Dr Goldie, a colleague of Salter's at Guy's and Bermondsey Settlement, and Dr George Carter Lowe joined the practice. The five doctors ran the practice on cooperative lines sharing their takings equally.

The next few years were marked by the birth of their daughter Joyce in June 1902 and his election to the Bermondsey Borough Council. He was one of the Liberal Whips serving on six committees: Public Health, Education, Unemployment, Works, Valuation and General Purposes.

Salter's concern for the children of Bermondsey was increased by the affection for his own child. As Joyce grew out of infancy, so that schooling became a problem, most of Salter's friends assumed that she would be sheltered from the harsh and indeed unhealthy environment of Bermondsey. The Salter's were faced with a difficult decision and by way of proof for their sincerity to identify themselves with the people of Bermondsey, had Joyce educated locally. Meanwhile Salter had made progress from the Borough Council to London County Council and had become a

Justice of the Peace. He was widely tipped as the next MP for West Bermondsey when he resigned from the Liberal Party and joined the ILP (Independent Labour Party) and along with fourteen others who he invited to join, formed the Socialist Movement of Bermondsey.

As the ILP seemed to be slowly gaining political momentum, events were abruptly interrupted by a personal tragedy for the Salter's. This was to be the most terrible blow of their lives. Their only child, Joyce, caught scarlet fever for the third time and died. This seemed to directly challenge their convictions about their work in Bermondsey, for they both knew that the chances would have been remote for Joyce contracting scarlet fever three times in a healthy suburb.

The death of their daughter had two immediate effects: it brought a great sense of identification with the people of Bermondsey, and made Salter's desire to save life the overwhelming motive in all his thoughts and subsequent work. When involved in public speaking, Salter seemed no longer to talk down to his audience.

His overriding concern became not only to prevent unnecessary mortality and morbidity but to make life healthy and full of vitality. He believed that in the twentieth century mortality due to infectious disease caused by over-crowding was indeed a social crime. From this point onwards he applied himself to his medical practice with a new and remarkable endeavour; astonishing even his partners with his long list and the personal care he devoted to his patients. His expertise as a doctor had already become a legend in the borough. As a result of the unfailing accuracy of his diagnoses he continued to add to his reputation at Guy's.

Despite his embarrassingly large practice, Salter still managed to find time to write on medical subjects. He was disturbed about the class basis of the medical profession and wrote in Reynolds's News 12th April, 1914 "It has been recruited from the upper middle classes with the result, that its members have been allied in sympathy with the privileged and governing classes." The reason for this was the heavy cost of qualification, which

he estimated was £1500. As a solution, he urged that the state should provide the opportunities for young people to go to medical school, irrespective of their class or financial status of their parents.

Following the new administration of the Health Insurance Act he gained respect in the medical world by the way in which he consistently campaigned for doctors' rights. Salter was also strongly in favour of the State providing during illness but resolutely refused to submit to bureaucracy, which meant that instead of going about attending to his patients, he would have to spend time completing innumerable forms. He protested on the grounds that he was a doctor and not a clerk.

With the introduction of the Health Insurance Act, there was by necessity a revolution in the status of medical men. Subsequently, doctors became employees of the State and the struggle with Mr Lloyd George regarding payment ensued. Initially the Minister offered a capitation fee of four shillings and sixpence advancing this to seven shillings and sixpence when the proposal was flatly refused. The British Medical Association advised against acceptance of the revised fee but despite this lead the majority of doctors signed on. The BMA then refused to offer further advice.

However, so strong was the opposition to a State service by some doctors that they refused to serve on local medical committees, which had been appointed under the Act. Accordingly, an amending Bill was hurried through Parliament authorising the appointment of committees of medical practitioners. This led to the suggestion of an organisation to represent them.

Dr Salter was among the thirteen who met in the House of Commons, under the Chairmanship of Dr Addison to set up the medico-political unit, later to be renamed the Medical Practitioners' Union. As a result of his unique knowledge of trade union law (gained from the 1911 Bermondsey strikes) and medicine, Salter was instrumental in the organisation becoming a union.

The medical practitioners' union did serve to break down barriers between doctors and

working class trade unionists and partly for this reason Salter held it as a priority. However, during the First World War even this was incidental in comparison with his major concern, which was to serve the cause of peace.

Salter was in the habit of retreating to the Kent countryside, away from the grime of London. During one of these Sunday afternoon strolls with his wife, Salter came across Fairby Grange, a beautiful seventeenth century farmhouse. He immediately realised its opportunities and promptly bought it. Amidst 20 acres of gardens, lawns, fruit orchards, and woodlands it was a beautiful recluse.

He bought it for the people of Bermondsey, which surely emphasises his decision to turn from personal ambition to their service. Dr Salter used Fairby to create a remarkable convalescent home for his Bermondsey patients. Initially it was used for the poor of Bermondsey, and for those women who were exhausted from the endless rigours of caring a rearing a family in the slum.

There were also patients who were consumed with galloping tuberculosis for whom sleeping places were constructed, not indoors, but in the grounds of the house. In the summer months it was used for the Bermondsey boys' clubs as a holiday club and during the First World War for conscientious objectors who had been physically broken in prison.

Mrs Salter made it her practice to visit Fairby two or three days a week and Dr Salter somehow always managed to spend one afternoon a week there. In later years it became the first municipal convalescent home in Britain, used primarily for mothers after childbirth. From November to February when pressure for accommodation was less, women recovering from operations or illnesses were admitted. Two beds were retained for this purpose and patients from Guy's, New Cross and St Olave's were also sent there.

The above article is taken from 'Dr Alfred Salter: his work in the community health and social reformation of Bermondsey', written by Dr T M Illidge. For this essay, Dr Illidge was awarded the St Thomas' and Guy's Historical Essay Prize, 1986. The essay will be continued in the February issue of SEI.



Dr Alfred Salter pictured at his Bermondsey office

ART AT ST. THOMAS' HOSPITAL

St Thomas' Hospital has its roots in the early 12th century priory of St Mary Overie which stood on the site of Southwark Cathedral. At some time after 1173 it took the name of St Thomas the Martyr, in honour of St Thomas a Becket.

In 1215, following a disastrous fire, the hospital separated from the religious foundation and established itself on another Southwark site between the present St Thomas Street and the Thames. Henry VIII closed it in 1540 but in 1551, on the prompting of the Bishop of London, it was refounded by the boy King Edward VI.

The hospital grew in size and reputation; during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries there were several major building campaigns. The present site was acquired in 1862. Henry Currey was appointed architect and the new hospital was opened by Queen Victoria in 1871. The northernmost buildings were extensively bombed in 1940-44. In 1963 the architects Yorke Rosenberg Mardall were appointed and their 12 storey North Wing and four storey Lambeth Wing were opened in 1976.

The stainless steel fountain in the hospital gardens, on permanent loan from the Tate, was designed by the Russian born constructivist, Naum Gabo, based on his 1929 sketch 'Torison'. It is his only large scale public work in Britain. When slowly revolving, its 1200 water jets create a 'living sculpture' of great beauty.

The entrance to the North Wing is guarded by four historic statues. The stone sculpture of the boy Edward VI was originally displayed in Southwark hospital's main gateway, surrounded by the four 'Cripples'. All five are said to have been carved by the hospital's mason, Thomas Cartwright, in 1682.

The second Edward VI statue, by the Flemish sculptor, Peter Scheemakers (born Anvers 1681), was given to St Thomas' Hospital by Charles Joye, Treasurer, 1724-38. It is remarkable for its fine detailing, relaxed stance and the 'Dutch Metal' (an alloy of copper and zinc) of which it is made.

The large statue of Sir Robert Clayton was commissioned by the Governors in 1702, during his lifetime. In 1693 Clayton, a Lord Mayor of London and President of the

Governors, paid for extensive rebuilding at Southwark; on his death he left the large sum of £2,300 to the hospital. The statue is by Grinling Gibbons, one of only four known marble works by him.

The statue of Florence Nightingale, cold cast in a composite material in 1975 by Mancini-Tozer, from Mancini's original plaster model, replaces an identical bronze of 1958 which had been commissioned by the Nightingale Fellowship as a memorial to Dame Alicia Lloyd-Still, Matron in 1913-35. This was stolen and the replica was placed outside the North Wing in 1978. Florence Nightingale founded the first general training school at St Thomas' Hospital in 1860 with the money raised in gratitude for her work in the Crimea.

The four statues of the 'Cripples' at the foot of the main stair of the North Wing Entrance Foyer are wearing typical dress of the poor at the end of Charles II's reign. Though probably modelled on patients of the Southwark hospital, they are shown with respect for their poverty and afflictions and form a dignified group.

Several examples of the delightful Nursery Rhyme and Fairy Tale Panels by the Doulton designers Margaret Thompson and William Rowe, are to be found here, in the South Wing Main Corridor and in the Lambeth Wing. They were from Lillian and Seymour Wards, the former children's wards, opened in 1901 and 1903 respectively, and were removed and resited when the wards were demolished. Doultons produced many similar panels intended for hospitals between 1900 and 1910. There are few survivals.

St Thomas' Hospital has a large contemporary collection. This was started in 1974 when Mr Rosenberg of the architects Yorke Rosenberg Mardall suggested the creation of a collection to complement his new buildings. It was funded by the Special Trustees for St Thomas' Hospital with the help of a grant from the Arts Council and other donations. No money is spent on art which would otherwise go on medical equipment or staff.

The early collection is interesting as it spans a busy artistic period in Britain and some splendid examples are to be seen in

the North Wing. In the Entrance Foyer, the striking enamel on steel 'St Thomas' Suite' by Robyn Denny were especially commissioned in 1975 for their present sites on the columns. The idea suggested to the artist was a combination of art, architecture and industry though they have been referred to as 'heraldic'.

The Bronze Head of Queen Elizabeth II by the Czech born sculptor, Franta Belsky, was commissioned by the History and Works of Art Committee of St Thomas' Hospital and commemorates the opening of the new buildings in 1976.

Paul Feiler's early oil, Florence in Springtime (1953), with its silvery half tones shows a vigorous use of palette knife.

The North Wing Lift Lobby, Ground Floor, is dominated by a mixture of modern and historical works. On the right, a historical progress which begins with a replica of the Royal Letters Patent with which Edward VI refounded the hospital. This is followed by Henry Curry's Original Perspective of the Victorian Hospital which was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1866. David Gentleman's St Thomas' Hospital under construction is another specially commissioned work showing vignettes of the old and new buildings. Examples are displayed in all the North Wing Life Lobbies. He brings to this print a sense of tight-knit design, also evident in his designs for postage stamps.



Edward VI, Peter Scheemakers

On both the left and right hand walls are Paolozzi's highly decorative and wonderfully colourful prints 'Universal Electronic Vacuum'. Though they can be

interpreted as a scathing attack on a consumer society, their effect is cheerful and even rather cheeky. Mickey Mouse and Pluto hide among the mass of images.

If the visitor follows the signs to the South Wing, central Hall is reached next. This was the original entrance hall to the nineteenth century hospital and is marked by the over life size marble statue of Queen Victoria, given by Sir John Musgrove, President, in 1871.

The 'Marble Worthies' represent past members of St Thomas' Hospital staff. The Model of St Thomas' Hospital gives a clear idea of the juxtaposition of old and new buildings and the London Transport Poster shows bomb damage to the northernmost block.

The Chapel was restored in 1987-8 when the interior was completely decorated according to the original colour scheme and the great terracotta reliefs, behind the altar and to the side aisle, were cleaned. The reredos, like the memorial to Sarah Elizabeth Wardroper in the side aisle, was designed and executed by George Tinworth who was an active Governor and Almoner of the hospital. The scenes represented are: the conversion of St Thomas the Apostle, the Ascension and Christ and Mary Magdalene.

In the lift lobbies are works by William Scott and Patrick Caulfield in which everyday items assume a classic simplicity and importance. Gordon House's prints are geometric and architectural, their uncluttered lines entirely in keeping with the new buildings. John Piper's 'Eye and Camera' series, show images seen with the rapidity of a camera shutter; John Hayland's radically coloured works are characterised by a concentrated force and energy.

On the way out via the Lambeth Wing Foyer can be seen Antanas Brazdy's 'Silver Bird', a stylized bird form in polished stainless steel which reflects the viewer and its surroundings from a number of different viewpoints.

Written by Dr Moira Ockram, Art Historian to St Thomas' Hospital. Dr Ockram wishes to acknowledge the help and suggestions of the History and Works of Art Committee and the Selection Committee, St Thomas' Hospital.

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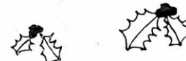
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NEXT COPY DATE

There will be no January edition of SE1 newspaper. Copy date for the February issue is Wed 23rd January. Publication date is 1st February. All contributions and correspondence of any kind concerning the paper should be sent to: The Editor, SE1 newspaper, 56 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1 OAS.

SE1 AVAILABLE AT

If you want to receive your copy of SE1 regularly, it is available from the Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Rd, from the Borough Community Centre at 56 Southwark Bridge Road, Charterhouse-in-Southwark at 40 Tabard Street, John Harvard Library, Borough Road Library, Morley College, and Blackfriars Settlement at 44 Nelson Square.

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Mary Dimond, Gerry Vignola

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We will re-open on Monday
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