

SE1

LRB admits to County Hall fire sale

At the public inquiry into the future redevelopment of County Hall, which re-opened last month, the London Residuary Body, the present custodians of the building following the abolition of the GLC, admitted that they had never considered keeping the building in public use as an option for the building's future. They also said that they had pursued a policy of forcing the users of County Hall to leave in order to sell the building off as quickly as possible to the highest bidder.

The LRB also came clean on their plans to sell off Jubilee Gardens. They admitted that it would have been possible to transfer ownership of Jubilee Gardens to Lambeth for use as a public park. Instead, they decided to sell it off as part of County Hall to make the building more attractive to a private developer, although there would still be restricted public access to the Gardens.

As the plan is to convert part of County Hall into luxury flats, opponents of the LRB have argued that many public events presently held in Jubilee Gardens, such as

Thamesday and the London Marathon, would be unlikely to be allowed under the new situation.

Until last October, the LRB had a buyer for the complex, the County Hall Development Group. However, this company went into liquidation late last year following the recession in the property market and the deal with the LRB fell through. CHDG originally said that it would allow fair public access to Jubilee Gardens, but the LRB has come back at the present public inquiry with even tighter restrictions on the future use of Jubilee Gardens once a new buyer for County Hall is found.

At the present public inquiry, the LRB has come forward with proposals for less new office floorspace in the County Hall redevelopment. Before its collapse, however, County Hall Development Group had argued for a massive amount of new office space behind County Hall in order to pay for the restoration and maintenance of the famous County Hall main riverside building. There is no guarantee that whoever buys the complex in future for redevelopment will

be able to afford to look after the main building funded by the reduced office floorspace now sought by the LRB.

Waterloo Community Development Group, which has been opposing the LRB at the inquiry, fears that County Hall may become another Battersea Power Station, a forlorn hulk on London's riverside left to deteriorate following the collapse of a developer's dreams.

As an alternative to the LRB's plans, WCDG and local MPs Simon Hughes and Kate Hoey, have argued that County Hall should remain in public use, and eventually be restored as the seat of London Government, and that Jubilee Gardens should be expanded as a resource for all Londoners.

The old LCC once planned to build a park dedicated to all those who died during the blitz. Their preferred site was next to London's Town Hall where Jubilee Gardens is now. WCDG would like to see these plans resurrected. Local residents, with the support of these two MPs, have formed the Queens Walk Park Society with the aim of enlarging Jubilee Gardens.

In the meantime, London Underground's threat to dig up part of Jubilee Gardens to use as a worksite during the construction of the Jubilee Line extension remains. The part they want is in the middle of the Gardens and would prevent events taking place here for the duration of the works.

London Underground's preferred work site, however, in order to allow Jubilee Gardens to remain in public use, is the County Hall car park. But the London Residuary Body is preventing them because this is the proposed site of the luxury flats in the redevelopment of County Hall - though there still remains no planning permission and no developer.

SE1 to cease publication

With this issue, SE1 newspaper is ceasing publication, a victim of the present days of austerity and cuts in local government aid to voluntary groups.

SE1, one of London's longest surviving community newspapers, was first published in July 1975. Though from that time there have been several gaps in publication, since December 1984, when the local community organisation North Southwark Community Development Group assumed responsibility for producing the paper, SE1 has been published uninterruptedly as a free community newspaper with a circulation of 3,500.

While the printing costs of SE1, around £4,000 a year, have been met through revenue from advertisements and subscriptions, and by donations, the cost of the labour time invested in each issue of the paper has been met in the past six years by North Southwark Community Development Group (NSCDG) whose paid Community Worker is SE1's effective editor, amongst his other responsibilities for the Group. Naturally, a community newspaper could not survive without a lot of voluntary effort, and many individuals and community organisations freely contribute time, articles and photographs to the newspaper. SE1 here expresses its grateful thanks for these efforts.

However, it has been our experience that a community newspaper cannot be sustained by voluntary effort alone. The many tasks involved in producing, to a regular deadline, a free, quality local newspaper require the assistance of paid staff, however small. Now, due to Southwark Council cutting its annual grant to NSCDG, and in the absence of any anyone to take over the publication, SE1 will henceforth cease to appear.



Part of the County Hall riverside building, overlooking Jubilee Gardens, where the LRB wants luxury flats

New playground will replace Leathermarket swing park

Southwark Council's Housing Committee Chair, Cllr Mark Howarth, has given a pledge to residents in the Leathermarket Gardens area that £50,000 will be spent to replace Leathermarket Gardens Swing Park, recently cleared to make way for a new decentralised housing office.

The pledge came at a packed meeting of local residents at Bermondsey Village Hall at the end of December, organised by the Hall's community worker Andrew Richardson, called to protest at the lack of public consultation on the decision to replace the swing park with a housing office.

In November, with no word of warning, the Council cleared the swing park of its play equipment and fenced off the site, leaving only a toddlers' play area open to the public. Angry local residents then attended a meeting of Southwark's Planning Committee at the beginning of December where planning permission was expected to be granted to the Housing Department for the construction of its new premises in Leathermarket Street. Councillors agreed to postpone a decision on planning permission pending the outcome of a public meeting to allow local people their say on the proposal.

Prior to this meeting, Bermondsey Village Hall sent a questionnaire to local tenants associations and community groups asking them what they would like to see done with the site. There was unanimous agreement that a new swing park should be built, at least the same size as the previous one which had become run down since the park keeper was withdrawn by the Council last year.

The Housing Department did have plans to provide a replacement swing park next to the new housing office which were outlined at the meeting, but there was criticism that its size park was too small and that local people had not been asked what they wanted to see in the park. One parent complained that play facilities in the area for children were very scarce and that the playground on the Kipling Estate was crumbling. Another resident complained that in clearing the swing park in November, council workers had uprooted wildflowers and wild blackberries.

In addition to the pledge from Cllr Howarth for a £50,000 replacement park, those present at the meeting were assured that a joint management committee would be established, comprising residents and council officers, to administer the £50,000 play equipment budget and manage the future playground for everyone's benefit. It was agreed too that in future proper consultation of local residents and community groups would take place before any other council plans for the area went ahead.

Construction work on the new decentralised housing office, for which approval was given at last month's planning committee meeting, is expected to begin in March and last for 12 months, after which the new playground will be built on part of the remainder of the site. It was also agreed at the meeting that a rent collection facility be incorporated in the new housing office when it opens, which should operate in the same way as existing payment offices.



Cllr Howarth, left, on the defensive at Bermondsey Village Hall

Tabard Health Project promotes local health awareness

Tabard Health Project is a community health scheme working for the Tabard Estate and based at Charterhouse-in-Southwark. This innovative new project started in March 1990 and employs two part-time community workers, Anne Keane and Sarah Bell and Carol Hallil as part-time secretary.

The project aims to improve communication between health services and the community by finding out through questionnaires health needs as defined by local people.

The workers have joined the Tabard Tenants Association and support them on health issues and campaigns and provided assistance in particular on the cockroach and rubbish sagas on the estate.

The workers plan to open a community drop-in at St Hugh's Church, Rainbow Building, in Crosby Row, off Long Lane, where people can meet to exchange experiences on health issues. They will also be offering advice and information. Health awareness

days and open days will be held at the Tabard Tenants Hall in Hankey Place at regular intervals.

The Health Project are still looking for help with their questionnaires, drop-in and giving help to others. If you feel you can help in any way or want more information about the Project, contact Anne or Sarah, at The Health Project, 40 Tabard Street, SE1, or ring 407 1123.

Womens Get Safe Day

The Health Project, together with the Tabard TA is holding a 'Womens Safety Awareness Day' at Hankey Place Tenants Hall on Monday 4th February from 12-2pm.

The Project and TA are concerned about Womens personal safety on the estate and have organised this event with the presence of WPC Ann Howell from Camberwell. There will be advice, video and displays. There will also be free creche facilities and refreshments. For more information, ring Anne or Sarah on 407 1123.

Southwark Libraries invite residents to meet Harry Bowling

On Monday 11th February, SE1 residents are invited to meet local best-selling author Harry Bowling who will be talking about his work at Borough Road Library. Harry will be familiar to many local residents as the author of such works as 'Tuppence to Tooley Street', 'Conner Street's War', and 'Paragon Place', all of which are centred around the SE1 area.

The talk commences at 11.00 am at the Library, located at 7-12 Borough Road. Refreshments will be provided. There is disabled access to the library and Southwark Libraries, which is arranging the talk, can provide transport if requested for people with disabilities. For further information, ring Mike Prendergast or Adrian White on 407 0807.

Harry Bowling's talk is part of a series of activities being organised by Southwark Libraries new outreach team of librarians, based at John Harvard Library. Activities already underway, and which may be of interest to

readers, include an over 60's club at Harper Road Library every Thursday 10am-12noon, and sessions for under-5's at John Harvard, Harper Road and Borough Road Libraries, including stories and craft activities, every Monday morning from 10am-12 noon for parents, carers and children.

Forthcoming activities include a number of events to celebrate the Chinese New Year. On 18th February there are crafts and activities for under 5's at Borough Road Library, on 19th February, at John Harvard Library, in the afternoon, there is Chinese song and dance, and at Harper Road Library on 21st February, from 2-7pm there is an exhibition of Chinese crafts followed by a party. On 7th March, in commemoration of International Womens Day, the Alcohol Recovery Project is holding a 'drink wise' session, open to all women, at John Harvard Library from 12-2.00pm.

For further information on all of the above events, ring Adrian or Mike on 407 0807.

Housing training centre opens in North Southwark

An organisation to have settled recently in SE1, in Valentine Place, off Southwark Street, is HERA, Housing Employment Register and Advice, and its sister organisation, Careers for Women. HERA was the Greek goddess, the protectress of women.

HERA has its roots in the 1930's, a time when women were struggling to establish their footholds in an employment market dominated by men. Two organisations to assist women were created at the time, the Women's Employment Federation and the Over Thirty Association for Unemployed Women. The former is now known as Careers for Women and although for the past 20 years has concentrated its work in schools, advising girls on careers, it is now developing once more a service for adults.

HERA itself is split into two parts, HERA Recruitment and HERA for Women. HERA Recruitment is an employment agency, for both men and women, which finds staff for permanent and temporary posts in the housing field, frequently for local authorities and housing associations. These posts cover the entire range of housing services, including maintenance and finance and administration.

The recruitment service is available to individuals and employers, and in the six years that it has been operating, HERA Recruitment has emerged as one of the leading employment agencies

in housing. Any surplus income from the fees for services it provides is ploughed back by HERA into HERA for Women and Careers for Women.

HERA for Women offers a range of services which are open to both women and men, but which are particularly geared towards women working in housing and related fields. The housing profession is one that was actually started by women and by the 1930's there were three groups of professional women working in the housing field. Today over half of those working in housing are women, although there are now fewer women at the top in housing than in the first decades of the profession.

Last December, an opening ceremony was held at HERA's offices to launch its new training centre and a range of training courses. The centre will be used to run a programme of short courses, conferences and workshops organised jointly by HERA and Careers for Women. Training includes courses on communication skills, personnel and employment practices and an innovative series of courses for women on personal and career development. There is also a series of short courses for women in building maintenance.

For further information about the services and courses offered by HERA and Careers for Women, readers can phone Amanda Moss on 928 6141.

This is your life

How important is your local area to you? Is it changing too much or too little? Do you feel that there is any community life in SE1? Do you feel part of it?

Over the coming weeks one of SE1's community group's, North Southwark Community Development Group, will be carrying out a survey of SE1 residents around the Borough area to find out what you have to say about your area.

The survey is for a project called 'Your Place Comes First', examining what has happened to the area's communities. NSCDG hopes to discover if there is still any sense of community in the Borough, and use the survey as a model for other surveys which could ask the same questions anywhere in the country.

NSCDG believes that the council should ask questions about local communities when making decisions about your area. NSCDG will be asking these questions through questionnaires and interviews, at community centres and meeting places, and they also hope to interview as many residents as possible on their doorsteps in the coming months.

If councils listen to the results of the survey it could make the decisions they make about development in your area much more sensitive to community life. NSCDG are attempting to interview hundreds of residents so they would be grateful for all the co-operation they can get.

If you would like more information contact Deborah on 928 0711.

Stonesend looking for volunteers

Stonesend Day Centre for the Elderly and Elderly Disabled is looking for volunteer retired and unemployed people with time on their hands. The Centre provides a range of activities for its users, including arts and crafts. If you have a skill that you would like to share with a group of lively elderly people, Stonesend Day Centre would like to hear from you. Ring Nell or Barbara on 403 5336.

Stonesend Day Centre is a purpose built centre run by Southwark Social Services and has been operating from its

present base in Scovell Road for over five years now. Recently, the forecourt of the building has been landscaped and where once there was barren concrete, there are now planters, brickwork, garden seats and a magnificent pergola.

The scheme was designed by Rupert King, a landscape architect with Southwark Council, who has paid much attention to detail and generously provided for plants and climbers. Centre staff and users are looking forward to a beautiful floral display in the coming Summer.

Lambeth CDA offers business course

Lambeth Co-operative Development Agency is offering a 'Co-operative Business Management Skills Course' to unemployed persons over the age of 25 years.

The 11 week BTEC Certificate in Business Administration course is run by South West London College in conjunction with Lambeth CDA.

Those attending the course will learn the skills needed to set up and work in a co-operative business, including financial

management, marketing, business planning, working with people, communication skills, computer skills and organisational skills. Those who complete the course will gain a recognised qualification.

The course is free for people who are over 25 and not in work. Assistance will be given with transport and childcare. The course commences on 11th April 1991.

For more information, contact Lambeth CDA on 071 582 0003.

Opportunity bolts at Stables Gardens

Local residents have finally given up hope of a major environmental improvement in the Borough Market area. Two years ago a plan was launched to use a derelict piece of land, Stables Gardens, in Winchester Walk, for use as a community garden. Residents raised almost £17,000 with money from the Department of the Environment and private donations.

However, with the continued threat of four major trans

port proposals for the area, the project was thought to be in danger of abrupt demolition if the garden was ever built.

It was with great reluctance that the scheme was abandoned and donations returned. It now seems that instead of working for improvements in the area, residents may well be forced to fight to save their homes and environment.

Jackie Power

Preserving Lower Marsh market

Following recent speculation about the future of Lower Marsh market, which SE1 reported in its last issue, Waterloo Community Development Group has called on Lambeth Council to designate Lower Marsh as a core shopping zone in its new local plan.

Lambeth Council, which is aware of the threat to the market, is now preparing the draft of its new 'Unitary Development Plan', which will replace the Waterloo Local Plan, and will guide development in the borough in the years to come.

In order to ensure the future of Lower Marsh as a street to shop and live in, WCDG has suggested that additional office developments in the area must be ruled out. Otherwise, says the group, the Channel Tunnel terminal at Waterloo and the office developments which could follow in its wake will destroy one of the last street markets in SE1.

In the meantime, talks have started between the police, Lambeth Council, traders and community groups to reach a solution to the parking problem on market days.

DR ALFRED SALTER — LIFE IN BERMONDSEY

The Ministry of Health raised its usual objections to the Salters' use of their seventeenth century farmhouse in Kent, Fairby Grange, for use as a convalescent home for the people of Bermondsey, but following the General Election of 1923 when Sir Arthur Griffiths-Boscawen was defeated, his successor proved far more reasonable. The magnitude of the success of Fairby is reflected by its register during the first three years, where its hospitality was enjoyed by 1,246 mothers, 732 babies under one year, 582 infants (1-5 years) and 53 convalescent women.

Salter's Bermondsey practice continued to grow in size and the next years were marked by the confidence his patients gained in him. He was never content that the poor should have less than the rich and he insisted that his patients should have the best treatment available. As an example of his persistence he marked large numbers of panel prescriptions 'urgent' and successfully managed to defend this extra expense to the insurance committee against the Ministry's action.

The medical partnership suffered a severe loss in December 1919 when Dr George Lowe died suddenly with a profound septicaemia following a throat infection. Dr Lowe was succeeded by Dr Westlake and in 1921 Dr Gillison joined the team as well.

Having served his apprenticeship as Borough Councillor and on the London County Council, Alfred Salter was finally elected as MP for West Bermondsey in 1922 and it was Ada Salter, London's first woman mayor, who announced the results. This Labour majority made changes of enormous social consequence and with Dr Salter as their leader and inspiration applied themselves remorselessly to realise this social revolution.

Mrs Salter on her initiative set up a Beautification Committee whose aim was to have trees in every street and flowers in every open space. Mr W H Johns who was appointed borough garden superintendent, had planted striplings of elms, poplars, and acacias in the grounds of Fairby Grange and within the year was replanting them to the streets of Bermondsey. In 1926 he found an extensive plantation of seedlings,

birch, ash, yew, and wild cherry, in the woodlands close by to Fairby and brought them to Bermondsey.

The main problem for the Beautification Committee was the absence of sites on which to plant their flowers. In fact the borough was so built up that the Council did not have any sites on which to plant flowers. Southwark Park was at this time the only open space in Bermondsey. The Council turned to the churchyards, and every piece of wasteground they could find. The result of their efforts was that the borough became a place scattered with unexpected beauty spots.

The progress was remarkable in proportion. Within two years 9,000 trees had been planted in the streets of Bermondsey; and by the spring of 1924 60,000 cuttings of flowering plants had been grown at Fairby to transplant to Bermondsey. Bermondsey of all places had the rare distinction of creating two new varieties of dahlia, the 'Bermondsey Gem' and the 'Rotherhithe Gem'. At the time, the Daily Telegraph spoke of 'an object lesson in what can be done to beautify even the poorest neighbourhood.'

Salter was very concerned with recreational facilities for children. However, because of the absence of open spaces, providing these facilities was extremely difficult. At Long Lane swings were constructed and at Tooley Street there was just room for soft ball games, but to get more space the Council had to promote a Bill in Parliament. The Council asked Parliament for permission to sell half of the site of St Olaves and its churchyard, which had been handed over to the Borough to be sold and demolished, to purchase the site of the old workhouse in Tanner Street for conversion into a new playground. Salter in his powerful and emotional speech pleaded 'not to disappoint the thousands of eager and expectant children who are looking forward to using this new open space.'

The Bill was carried. Cages for football and netball were constructed and of course the paths were lined with a radiance of colour, the famous Bermondsey flowers. Meanwhile, the Tanner Street site became the 'Wembley of Bermondsey' with particular time allocated to boys and girls clubs, sports clubs, boy scouts and girl guides.

Salter had always known that to reduce infant mortality and morbidity and to lower the general rate of infectious disease, the borough slum areas would have to be demolished. Rehousing was always first in his Bermondsey plan because it was the basis for human living. The perfection of the public health service had to be second. The borough had become entirely populated by the poorest working people and nearly everybody who could afford to move out had done so. Salter wrote:

"A large part of Bermondsey needs pulling down and rebuilding. Thousands of dark, wretched, out of date hovels, erected 150 or 180 years ago are totally unfit to house a growing family and ought to be demolished and replaced by well-lighted and well-planned modern cottage homes. Many thousands of people at present live two, three, or four families in a house built originally to accommodate one only. There is no real privacy, there is only one WC, one scullery, one copper, and one water supply between them all."

Salter planned to demolish nearly two thirds of the Borough and rebuild it with a garden city, with wide avenues, detached and semi-detached cottages. Salter realised that this would involve a dramatic reduction in the population, but he considered this essential for all of the inner city, if any progress was to be made in public health.

The worst of the slums was the Salisbury Street area where there was a population of 1,035 living in only 155 houses. This area had been condemned as totally unfit for human habitation on at least six occasions but no action had been taken, probably due to the magnitude of the problem. According to figures of the Medical Officer for Health, the general death rate was nearly double the rest of London, five times as many children died of measles, and three times as many people died of respiratory diseases.

After the election of 1924 when the Labour government took office and John Wheatley became Minister of Health, rapid progress for re-housing was at last made. The Ministry not only authorised the 'garden village project' but offered financial assistance. Salisbury demolition proceeded. Meanwhile the

Council bought some vacant land in Rotherhithe Street and proceeded to build ten cottages of the garden village prototype, shortly followed by the Wilson Grove Estate. Salter's plan for the new Bermondsey Garden City had finally begun.

Unfortunately Dr Salter's plan suffered a very substantial set-back after only nine months when a Conservative government was re-elected. The Tory Minister of Health for the second time refused permission for the Salisbury Street plan as the cost was too great. Part of the land was sold for commercial purposes and blocks of flats were constructed on the remainder, not cottages, as the council was faced with the alternative of either building flats or leaving the overcrowded slums as they were.

All schemes subsequently adopted by the Council made provision for re-housing by means of four-storey flats. But while Bermondsey had to build flats, they were built in a way that had not been seen before for working class people and were somewhat of a revolution in housing reform.

Nevertheless Dr Salter was deeply disappointed that his idea of the Bermondsey Garden City could not be fulfilled. "We shall," he said, "neither extinguish tuberculosis nor many other infectious diseases while our residents are warehoused in great tenement buildings. Overcrowding per acre though not so serious as overcrowding per room is nonetheless the cause of sickness, chronic ill health, low vitality, and the death rate far above the average of more open districts."

By 1933 the Council's building programme was unequalled anywhere else in England. Dr Salter continued to sustain his enthusiasm for rehousing for he maintained it was the only way forward towards better health in Bermondsey.

Salter's plans for the perfection of the public health services also met with opposition, and his attempts to establish a rheumatology clinic provide an example. Dr Salter estimated that 7,000 in Bermondsey were suffering from chronic arthritis or rheumatic fever and that at least 1,000 children were afflicted with its sequelae of valvular heart disease. The outpatients' departments at Guy's and St Thomas'

Hospitals were constantly overcrowded and there were no other facilities available for treatment in South London.

The plans for this scheme had been completed in 1920 and Salter was still a member of the Borough Council but the LCC had vetoed them. The Borough County Council subsequently appealed to the Ministry of Health who agreed to hold an inquiry. Evidence was submitted by the Bermondsey Medical Officer of Health, Dr Conan, Dr Salter and Dr Fortescue Fox, a specialist in rheumatic fever. Between them they presented unquestionable evidence as to the seriousness of the disease and its complications and the absence of adequate treatment facilities. The LCC reluctantly acknowledged the need, but were opposed to Bermondsey meeting it. When finally consent was given by the Ministry of Health yet more difficulties arose. Despite these disappointments, considerable progress was made.

During the first ten years that Dr Salter had been involved with his Bermondsey practice he was appalled by the prevalence of tuberculosis and estimated that there had been one case in every three houses in the borough. His own personal investigation revealed that nearly half of the tubercular cases shared a bed with others. Total deaths were between 200 and 250 a year. He considered that tuberculosis was a direct result of overcrowding and malnutrition. Therefore it can be understood why he rejoiced in John Wheatley's Housing Bill of 1924.

A second preventive measure by the council was the encouragement of the rise of tuberculin tested milk. Licenses were given to 34 dairymen in the Borough to sell T.T. milk and to augment this, there was a campaign promoting the use of T.T. milk. Also at this time the medical journals were beginning to report the beneficial effects of sun treatment for tuberculosis and particular attention was placed on the results from the sanatorium at Leysin in Switzerland.

Dr Salter had already campaigned successfully for a scheme to send tuberculous bone cases to Switzerland, at public expense. Now he pressed to get a solarium in Bermondsey. Dr King-Brown and

Dr Conan were instructed "to investigate the report on the best way of adapting the treatment to Bermondsey." The resulting decision was to establish the first municipal solarium in Britain. Following a long drawn out battle with the Council a site was finally found for the solarium in Grange Road and it became one of the best equipped light treatment centres in the country. Salter reported in 1927 after the solarium had been open for a year:

"Wonderful cures are being effected under the skilled direction of Dr Conan ... miserable ailing children, delicate anaemic and flabby are being turned into plump, rosy-cheeked youngsters full of life and spirit. Tubercular discharges from bones and joints are dried up, enlarged glands in the neck subside and disappear. The treatment was also found of value for other diseases; skin disease, rickets, neuritis and some forms of chronic rheumatism and other diseases are also being treated, in many cases with great and growing success."

In addition to the solarium for tuberculosis there were dental clinics, foot clinics, antenatal and child welfare clinics established. In total the Public Health department treated nearly 4,000 individuals. As the clinics grew in size and number, the houses in which they took place were from being barely adequate to totally unacceptable. Salter wanted a central clinical headquarters, a health centre that would serve as 'Harley Street to Bermondsey'. He was very keen that the service available for the poor of Bermondsey would be equal to that for the wealthy from the West End.

The public health activities of Bermondsey did eventually unite in 1936 with astonishing results. These were reflected by the death rate which, between 1901 and 1935 fell from 21 to 11.7. During 1937 every woman who had a baby attended the clinic, a record for the whole country.

The Public Health department, indeed like every other department of the borough, was keen to gain the cooperation of the people in its work. The medical officers would conduct street corner meetings promoting health issues, with an enthusiasm reminiscent of Salter's socialist speeches.

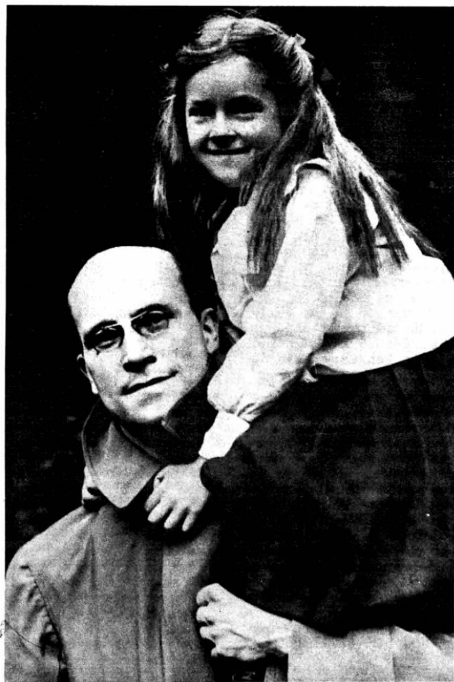
Thousands of leaflets by the medical officers were distributed on subjects varying from babies, bugs and breast feeding, to scabies, scarlet fever and smallpox. Dr Conan, the medical officer of health at that time, had produced 16 health education films and a projector van took these films to the people.

Dr Salter's final years were marked by illness, he had suffered from angina pectoris for some years, which necessitated his resignation from the medical partnership which he founded. He had then been a general medical practitioner in Bermondsey continuously for 30 years. Salter spent his final days at Guy's Hospital and it was typical of Salter that following a stroke at a King's Cross meeting he went home by bus and tube. He lived for only two days following this stroke and died on August 24th 1945.

By way of conclusion, Salter's goal was always to replace the hovel and the filth of Bermondsey by a garden city, to clean up the slum and give the people of

Bermondsey a new life. He was first and foremost a Christian and all his actions were inspired by his unshakable faith. Despite Salter's disappointment of not being able to complete his vision of a garden city and the devastation he suffered when his life's work crumbled all around him during the Second World War, he succeeded in bringing colour to the borough from London Bridge to Surrey Docks, both the place and its people. He initiated a revolution in Bermondsey's health care and provided its people with one of the most progressive and efficient health services this country has ever known which did indeed transform the lives of local people. As Lord Brockway remarks, "Bermondsey remains his monument".

The above article concludes 'Dr Alfred Salter: his work in the community health and social reformation of Bermondsey', written by Dr T M Illidge. The author wishes to thank Dr Mervyn Rosser, who works in the group practice formerly run by Dr Salter, for the loan of books, advice and contacts.



Dr Salter with daughter Joyce

UNITY WORKSHOPS

Tucked away in Renfrew Road off Kennington Lane is a magnificently restored Victorian building which may, until recently, have been known only to residents familiar with the old Lambeth Hospital complex. The building is known as the Masters House and where once, before the war, it served as a workhouse and later as a hospital, today it is part of an adventurous policy of the health service to reintegrate into everyday life, people with psychiatric disabilities.

The Masters House now houses Unity Workshops, part of West Lambeth Health Authority Priority Services Unit. Sing Siong Teoh, the Manager of the Workshops, explained to SEI that they are a group of four workshops "where our purpose is to provide a structured, purposeful work environment for people with psychiatric disabilities. The people we offer places to are people who are resident within the West Lambeth HA catchment area. They could be in a hospital, at home living with family, or in hostels and supported houses."

The workshops originated at Tooting Bec Hospital with the opening of an industrial unit there in 1976, of the type which existed in large psychiatric hospitals all over the country. With the gradual closure of Tooting Bec Hospital, begun some years ago under the health service's 'care in the community' policy for rehabilitating those with psychiatric disabilities, the workshops began a search for new premises. These were eventually found at the Masters House, which had lain derelict since the closure of Lambeth Hospital in the early 1980's. It was refurbished at a cost of £1.5 million and opened in February 1990 as Unity Workshops.

Explaining the philosophy of the Workshops, Teoh said that "the idea is to provide clients with an opportunity to be involved with work. We look to the concept of work as a highly valued activity. This is in the line with transition into the community through the concept of care in the community. Secondly, we also offer vocational rehabilitation, which is a change in operational policy. In other words we allow people who have psychiatric problems to be able to test their skills out here to see if they have the potential to move on to open employment.

There are 84 full-time places here of which 25% go to vocational rehabilitation. To the other 75% we offer work in which you will then maintain people with psychiatric disabilities in as far as a normal life as possible. Research has shown that activity like this does prevent relapses and readmissions to hospital. That is the crux of the whole thing. The emphasis then is to deinstitutionalise and to prevent relapses and allow people the opportunity to re-enter the community."

There are four separate workshops at the Masters House, comprising Unity Workshops. There is horticulture, where house plants are grown in green houses and sold to the public. There is a silkscreen printing workshop which prints a variety of greetings and business cards. There is a catering workshop which bakes bread and cakes, makes pickles, etc which are sold to the public. This workshop also offers a commercial buffet service. Finally, there is an industrial unit where light machinery work, like plastic welding, shrink wrapping, takes place, as well as light assembly, collating printed matter, and counting cards into batches. The Workshops take contracts for this type of work from outside.

All of the clients are involved in all these tasks and as far as possible they are involved at every stage according to their abilities. "From the management side", explains Teoh, "we have professional staff. We have managers for each workshop and a technical instructor who has the expertise. We also have a project worker, who is interested in working with people with psychiatric disabilities, in each workshop area."

In order to familiarise clients with the real world of work, the Workshops try and offer as close to a business environment as possible. Working hours are 9.30 to 4.00pm. Most come to work by themselves which is a good test of their commitment, according to Teoh. For the older users who are unable to make their own way, the workshops have their own minibus.

The equation is rather complex though admits Teoh, "in the sense that on the one hand it is a business and on



Screen printing at Unity Workshops

the other hand we are talking about helping people to re-enter the community and enabling them to make decisions. So our prerequisite is that someone must want to come. They must then apply. We have application forms. Then we interview users as any other company does. The client must want to be involved otherwise we would not accept them."

The clients get paid according to DSS rules. The users are on income support and they are allowed to earn up to £10 a week. Then there are those on therapeutic earnings who can earn around £30 a week. "On top of that", says Teoh, "if we generate a lot of money the clients get bonuses three times a year."

Explaining further the functioning of the workshops, Teoh told SEI that "there is no compulsion to make a profit as we are non-profit making. Any money we make we plough back into equipment or return it to the clients. Any business takes care of its employees. As far as possible I would like to offer the same facilities to clients that any other company would. For instance, we have had a haloween party, day trips, we have visited a commercial printing workshop to see how they do things. There is a canteen and they issue luncheon vouchers which we issue."

What have the benefits been so far of the move out of the hospital to the Masters House, we asked Teoh? "I would say that we are so much better off than we were at the hospital. For a start, when people are discharged from hospital, they don't want to go back there for activities, especially a psychiatric hospital, so

they were so happy to come here. Then there is the fact that we are community based as any other factory is, so that they come to work here. Then there is the advantage of making your own trip to the workshops, meeting people as you go along. They also sell the products and they are interacting with the public in a normal way. They are treated as a worker and thus the interaction is as it would be in any other workshop."

The workshops are only one element in the rehabilitation of people with psychiatric disabilities. Teoh sees the Workshops as part of a complete package of care. The clients, he says, "have carers. I need a referring agent who could be the consulting psychiatrist, the GP or a social worker. They are the carers, we are providing a service. What we hope to be able to do is look at what it is that the client wants. We assess the client to get a baseline of the skills and abilities and then see which direction they want to go in. We get a vast range of problems. If someone is fairly capable, I have an in-house employment officer who will be looking around for employment opportunities and so on, at the same time testing them out here to see if they can do certain tasks. While we were operating at Tooting Bec we got some of the clients into normal jobs."

After just one year at Renfrew Road, Teoh is keen for the workshop activities to expand. "We have done some expansion of the workshops because we have little room and the only way to expand is into the community. The green plotters, in horticulture with two greenhouses, have taken on a contract from a

computer centre nearby to look after their indoor plants. That has been very successful. Now they are saying we have a garden which we want you to look after, so we are negotiating another contract with them. The clients do all the work there. That is an example of us expanding into the community and providing a service just as any other company or organisation would

provide a service in the community."

Unity Workshops continue also to look for venues to sell their products. They sell plants to the public every day at the Masters House at Renfrew Road and also have a variety of greetings cards for sale. For details of sales and services offered by the Workshops, readers can ring there on 071 587 1403.

THE MASTER'S HOUSE

The Master's House was once part of the Lambeth Workhouse, Renfrew Road, built in 1871 by the Lambeth Board of Guardians to replace the overcrowded and dilapidated Prince's Road Workhouse and its Vauxhall annexe.

Workhouses originated with the Poor Law. At the beginning of the eighteenth century an estimated fifth of Britain's population was being supported by the Parish Rates; in 1722 an Act of Parliament authorised the establishment of residential institutions to provide work for the indigent. At the same time institutional care for the sick, rather than haphazard treatment at home, was favoured.

When the Lambeth Workhouse was built it was one of the largest in London and possibly in Britain with 1,400 occupants. It was a model of the latest thinking in hospital planning; men, women, children, 'people of good character' and 'people of bad'; the able bodied and the infirm were strictly segregated.

The Master's House at the centre of the design contained the Master's living quarters and offices and committee rooms for the Guardians.

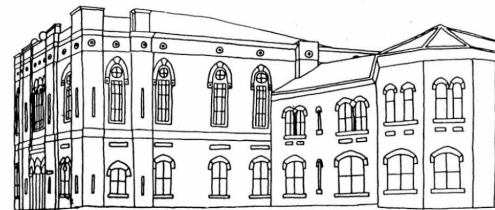
Construction of the adjacent 'Lambeth New Infirmary' (later known as the Lambeth Hospital) began in 1874 to a design by Frances Fowler and Richard Hill. It was opened four years later; the commemorative plaque survives and is on display in the Lambeth Wing foyer at St Thomas' Hospital.

Workhouse and Infirmary remained under the control of the Lambeth Board of Guardians until 1930 when their responsibilities were taken over by the London County Council. Many 'workhouse practices' were later abolished as the Council attempted to bring more dignity into the residents' lives. In 1948 control of the site passed to the National Health Service.

The Infirmary had been severely damaged by bombs in 1940-41 and much of the Workhouse was destroyed or later demolished. By 1984 the Master's House, the gate houses and flanking 'receiving wards' together with the Water Tower and Ward Block were all that remained. The Master's House was virtually undamaged and retained many of its original features including the double height hall on the first floor with a splendid open timber ceiling.

In summer 1989 the exterior was restored by the architectural firm of Greenhill Jenner following advice from the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. The windows were returned to their original state; the building was pointed and the parapet was lowered and given ball finials. In 1990 the ceilings of the first floor hall were restored and repaired and paint covering the internal brickwork was removed. The whole of the interior was renovated and sympathetically adapted to the demands of the busy Unity Workshops.

Moir Ockrim, Art Historian to St Thomas' Hospital



The Master's House, drawn by a user of Unity Workshops

Gardening with Jackie Power

Crocus and snowdrops will soon start to appear and are a reminder that Spring is not too far away. There are also trees and shrubs in bloom - Winter Jasmijn, Daphne and the Hamamelis (witch hazel) giving a contrast to the leafless backdrop of Winter.

Window boxes and tubs need tidying, take off dead leaves and dead head flowering plants such as the primroses and cyclamen, which are still doing well due to the mild spell of windy weather. Clear away fallen leaves and flower heads from the surface of boxes and tubs since they encourage mould and fungus disease, especially in very wet conditions.

Houseplants will need some attention. Trim off dead foliage, check for pests and repot plants that look cramped (except the bizzzy lizzy who flowers better if pot bound). If you are unsure about repotting top dress with a good proprietary brand of compost. Remove a layer of soil from the pot and discard then top up with the new compost. As the evenings get slowly lighter, increase watering to houseplants, but still keep them on the dry side.

Christmas plants such as the

Meeting Friends of the Earth

Friends of the Earth are active in the SE1 area and they welcome anyone concerned about the environment, locally or globally, to come along to whichever local group is most convenient, irrespective of borough boundaries.

The Southwark group meets on the 2nd Monday of the month 7.30pm at Cambridge House, 131 Camberwell Road. The

Poinsettia and Christmas cactus will need some special treatment. The leaves on the Poinsettia will probably have dropped by now, (this doesn't mean you have killed it). Cut the stems down to about four inches and move the pot to a light position, keep fairly dry. At the first sign of new buds, repot and increase watering. These plants usually turn into attractive specimens, but it is almost impossible to make them bloom or produce the coloured leaves again in time for Christmas, without going through a complicated procedure, still if you feel like a challenge - from September onwards these plants must be given fourteen hours of total darkness per day. Cover with a black plastic bag in the early evening and remove again in the morning.

The Christmas cactus will probably have finished flowering by now. After it has produced its new leaves, which come very quickly after the flowers drop, repot and water sparingly. Feed and increase watering in the Summer months and allow to 'rest' in the few months before its usual flowering time, which is November, December or January, depending on how you have 'trained' it previously.

Waterloo group meets on the 3rd Monday of the month 7pm at Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road. The Clapham and Brixton group meets on the last Thursday of the month 7.30pm at Brixton Library.

To get in touch with FoE, you can write to Friends of the Earth, Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, SE1, or leave a message on 071 928 3899 (ansaphone).

Mint Street Adventure

Chris and Imogen, workers at Mint Street Adventure Playground, would like to encourage more younger children onto the playground. They would also like parents to be involved.

The opening times for play at Mint Street are 3.30pm-7.00pm Mon-Fri, and 10.00am-5.00pm Sat during school term times, and 10.00am-5.00pm Mon-Fri during the school holidays. The age group at Mint Street is 5-16 years.

They also do quite a lot of activities which include adventure play, pool, table tennis, cooking, badminton, arts and crafts, camp

building, sports and trips. The playground is looking for a second hand tape recorder. If you have one please phone 403-3747 and ask for Imogen or Chris.

The playground staff and kids are planning a sponsored sports events at a leisure centre. Chris thinks that he will be able to attempt 1000, yes 1000 press ups! They are looking for individuals and companies to sponsor them in order to raise money for the playground, which is a local charity. The playground is free, safe and has supervised play.

Tracey O'Brien

THE PARISH OF WATERLOO

Invite YOU to
COME and JOIN our Waysiders Sunday School
Every Sunday Morning 10.30am
at St John's Church Waterloo Road

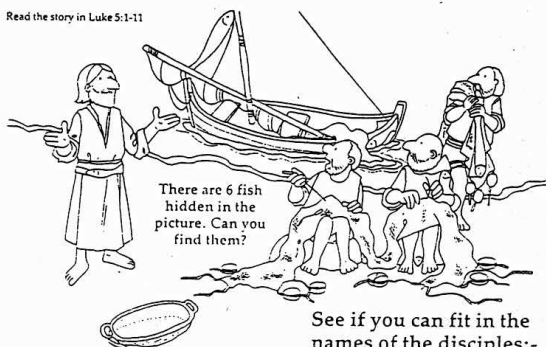


Sunday School

Below is a picture to colour and a puzzle to try.
When you have finished, fill in the bottom part with your Name etc, and bring this page to
St John's Church any Sunday at 10.30am.
If you want to enter your picture and/or puzzle for the competition, they must be returned by Sunday
3rd March, so that PRIZES can be presented at the Mothering Sunday Service on 10th March.

Call of the Disciples

Read the story in Luke 5:1-11

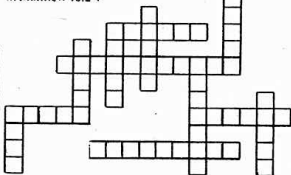


See if you can fit in the
names of the disciples:-

They left everything
and followed Jesus

ANDREW
BARTHOLOMEW
JAMES
JAMES
JOHN
JUDAS
MATTHEW
PETER
PHILIP
SIMON
THADDAEUS
THOMAS

These names are listed
in Matthew 10:2-4



NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____ AGE _____



Richard Balfe
Prospective Parliamentary
candidate for Southwark
and Bermondsey

Bermondsey needs a Labour Government, you can help it
get one by joining the Labour Party now.

Fill in the form below or write to:
Richard balfe, Herbert Morrison House,
195 Walworth Road, London SE17 1RP

Join Labour today

I wish to become a member of The Labour Party.
BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE. Tick as applicable.

Surname _____ Title _____

Forename(s) _____ Sex ☐ M ☐ F

Address _____

Town _____

County _____ Postcode _____
(Your full postcode is essential)

Date of birth _____ Telephone number _____

Trade union (if eligible) _____

Annual membership subscription ☐ £10 ordinary
☐ £3 reduced ☐ £5 trade union (if union is affiliated to
the Labour Party).

If reduced, I am: ☐ unwaged ☐ on a government training
scheme ☐ student ☐ retired ☐ in paid employment less
than 16 hours per week.

I enclose an extra
donation of £ _____ towards ☐ national campaigning
☐ local campaigning

☐ I enclose cheque/PO made payable to
"The Labour Party" to the value of £ _____

☐ I wish to pay by Access/
Visa/Amex/Diners Club. Expiry date _____

☐ I wish to pay by Direct Debit. Please send details.

I agree to abide by the rules.

Signed _____ Date _____

Send this form to: Membership Processing,
The Labour Party,
FREEPOST, 150 Walworth Road,
London SE17 1BR (no stamp needed
but if you use one it will save us money).



DOREEN RAMSAY 1918-1991



Doreen Ramsay, one of
Waterloo's best loved
characters, died peacefully
at St Thomas' Hospital on 5th
January. She was well-known
for her work with the
Waterloo Health Project,
local pensioners' groups,
Coin Street Community
Builders, the New Cut Housing
Co-operative, Waterloo
Amenities Group, the Mothers
and Toddlers Group, the
Bernie Spain Family Centre
Trust and many other local
groups. Visitors to Waterloo
Action Centre will remember
her working on the advice
desk and organising regular
jumble sales. She was an
active member of the
Association of Waterloo
Groups and of the
congregation of St John's
Church.

Over 250 friends and
relations attended Doreen's
funeral at St John's on 15th
January. Many went on to a
reception organised by Coin
Street Community Builders at
which people recalled the
time and care she devoted to
her community. Former health
worker Jane Miller described
how Doreen, a 'determined and
tenacious person', campaigned
for improvements to local
health services. Waterloo's
first professional community
development worker, Jenny
Stiles, spoke of how much
Doreen had done for the
Waterloo Action Centre
following her retirement as
manageress of the Baker's
shop in The Cut. John 'Ernie'
Hearn described how Doreen
devoted her life to helping
others.

Doreen was born in College
Street (just off York Road)
in 1918. She also lived in
Paisley Road (off Manor
Place), Walworth, and

latterly in Mitre Road.

Her Mitre Road neighbours
Julie and Earnie Fisher
write:

'Doreen, how we miss you, but
thank you so much for the
treasured memories you have
left Julie and myself, like
popping in every morning for
a cup of tea and a cigarette,
and time permitting before
you went off to one of your
clubs or meetings, you would
complete a piece of Julie's
jig-saw puzzle, then off
you'd go leaving us with your
infectious smile and the
words "see you later".

Thank you also for the
permanent memorials you have
left the community with, viz
Coin Street, WAC and lastly
The Cut housing site in all
of which you took such an
active part. Thank you again
Doreen. All our love and God
Bless.'

In 1980 within a matter of
days Doreen tragically lost
her only son, Billy, and then
her husband Don. Her
sister-in-law Nellie and her
friends helped her through a
period when it must have
seemed that there was no
point in going on. But she
did, and all of us in the
Waterloo area must be
thankful. Her close friend
Lou Shepherd writes 'knowing
her has been an influence in
many ways to me in all our
activities together. Her
kindness, her generosity and
her affection for the
well-being of others will
make her sorely missed not
only by myself but many
others who have known her'.

Thanks Doreen.

IAIN TUCKETT