



WELLINGTON MILLS HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE

newsletter

SUMMER 2005



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Editors: Geoff and Lynn Holman and Dolly Thompson.

Contact us via the Estate Office with your contributions, suggestions or requests for the subject of future articles

CHAIR - E - O

This will be my last piece as Chair of the Management Committee. I have only served two years but I am getting a bit long in the tooth for the job. By the way, did you know that getting long in the tooth is literally true. The gums recede as we get older so the teeth really do look longer. And there's another reason for not standing again for the chairmanship. I'm starting to ramble!

We are in the middle of some important negotiations on behalf of our Co-operative. Lynn Holman and Sheila Smith are working on a new Management Agreement with Lambeth. Yes, finally after, what, 20 years we are on the brink of having a proper agreement with our landlord.

Meanwhile Veena and I are part of the ALMO Forum group which is engaged in the preparations for the Arms Length Management Organisation. A project manager has been appointed and soon a Shadow Board will be convened. The timetable is for the ALMO to become a reality in January 2006 so we shall have to decide soon whether we want to stay on

board or get off before the ship sets sail.

The estate gardens are looking good, IMHO. (In my humble opinion). The Oakey Lane security gates are in place and the Holst Court ones will soon be going in too. The wiring of the estate for digital television is complete and the next phase, connecting each household to the new service, will have started by the time you read this. The refurbishment of the Holst Court lift will start soon and is expected to finish around Christmas time.

So there's lots going on and the estate is looking good thanks to Veena's hard work.

What we need to back up Veena and keep all these things going forward is a vigorous Management Committee under a new chairperson. The elections are in September. Please do seriously consider volunteering.

Richard Craig

DOING THE LAMBETH WALK



Lambeth's active walks scheme is open to everyone from complete beginners to seasoned walkers. There are currently six led active walks throughout Lambeth. They help you to keep active, stay healthy and meet new people. Anyone, including children, can turn up

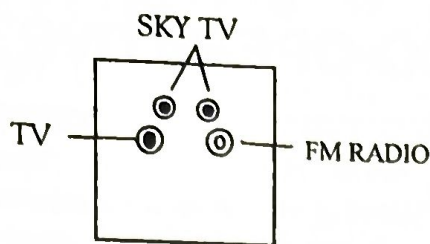
without notice wearing suitable, comfy shoes. Walks last about an hour and cover two miles avoiding roads.

Walks start from Kennington Park Cafe at 1 pm on Mondays and from other locations the rest of the week, regardless of the weather.

Ring 020 7926 0761 for more information including a leaflet.

SOCKET AND SEE - AN AERIAL VIEW

The new TV/Radio sockets



The two top sockets are for Sky TV. The left hand lower socket is for your normal TV. The right hand lower for FM or digital radio.

TV

No change.

By connecting your existing TV aerial lead to the new socket rather than the old one, you can use it as before to receive BBC1 & 2, ITV and Channels 4 & 5.

Viewing digital channels

To view the extra free digital channels now available, including BBC3 & 4, ITV 2 & 3, UKTV History and many others, you will need either to buy a digital TV (expensive) or a digibox (from

£50) which plugs in between the new wall socket and your TV. However the May 2005 'Which' magazine's best buys are the Humax F2 Fox T at £85 or the Sony VTXD800 at £100. Veena has a copy of the report.



If your existing TV only has an aerial socket you must buy a digibox with that type of connection.

Most new equipment uses a multi-pin Scart socket. If buying a new TV make sure it has a Scart connection.

SKY

You must subscribe (from £13.50 a month) to Sky to receive any of their programmes. These include sports, movies and documentaries. Sky will supply and install the necessary connection box for free. Sky+ has many additional features, but you will need to buy a £99 box and again pay to use it.

You can view Sky on 2 different TV sets using the 2 Sky sockets, but you would have to run aerial cables to wherever they were sited. Sky+ needs to use both top sockets. Contact Sky on 0800 028 5864 for full details.

RADIO

The aerial from any radio or hi-fi can be plugged into the bottom right hand socket. To receive the new digital stations, you must have a digital radio. You can get a portable digital radio with its own extendable aerial, but reception will vary from very good to very poor depending on how you position the aerial and how strong the signal is. To use the new digital aerial, your radio must be capable of having a co-axial lead plugged into it. 'Which' magazine (August 2005) recommends the table-top Pure Evoke-2 at £130.

Techie

AROUND MY OLD HAUNTS - WATERLOO ROAD

Mr Lacey who is not a resident but is a friend of Patsy Brady, has given us his kind permission to reproduce his interesting memoirs of the local area, as he remembers it in the 30s and 40s. This is the first of three parts.

I was thinking about how the walk from Waterloo Station to the Elephant & Castle has changed during the 60 or so years of my conscious memory. It was a very familiar walk for me as a youngster in the 1930s and 1940s, and I still recall many of the businesses and buildings from those days.

Starting from opposite the Waterloo Road entrance to the railway station, the first place I recall was an Italian Restaurant, still represented by a similar business to this day. At about 1947, when Iris and I were about 17, it went under the name of Rabbiotti's, and

we had a supper there after going to the pictures in the West End.

Next along the road was the famous Union Jack Club, which remains but has been rebuilt. The

HE MADE MANY SUITS FOR THE

LOCAL SPIVS AND CROOKS OF

THE UNDERWORLD

old building was constructed of red brick and had a somewhat sombre appearance. Any serving soldier, sailor or airman could get a dormitory bed there in pre-war days for 1 shilling, or have a single room for 2 shillings and 6 pence, but that did not include any food. Nowadays the accommodation is all of single rooms, like a proper hotel, but it still only takes service personnel. During the Second World War it was the common billeting place for offi-

cers called up to London for meetings at the War Office.

As we head further along the Waterloo Road, just past the station on the right-hand side of the road stands the old London County Council Fire Station, with the fireman's flats built above, now a wine bar and restaurant.

Back on the left-hand side of the road, just before the turn into Lower Marsh (The Cut), stood a Gentleman's Tailors run by a large Jewish man Hymie Jacobs. He was good at his trade and made many suits for the local spivs and crooks of the underworld. His suits were between about £3. 10 shillings to £4, but you have to bear in mind that my Dad was only earning around £2 per week in those days. In the days of wartime shortages it



was necessary to have 26 Clothing Coupons for a suit, but Hymie was openly happy to take cash to make up any deficit, but that of course did not show up on the bill!

Crossing The Cut we come to the Old Vic Theatre, which I recall looked quite run down in my childhood days. Past that there was the Head Office of David Greig's, a famous firm of grocers with hundreds of branches all over the country. Although the company was a poor payer, it was a regular 'job for life'. Mr. David Greig himself was a staunch Methodist preacher, and did much for the poor of the area.

On the subject of charity, opposite David Greig's stood six blocks of buildings known as Paragon Buildings. These had been built during Victorian times as housing for the poor. Most consisted of two bedrooms, a kitchen and a toilet. Although they lacked a bathroom, they were charged at a reasonable rent, and were certainly much better than the slum cottages their occupants had left behind. These buildings suffered badly during the war, being hit by an aerial land-mine, rockets and an oil-bomb, destroying the whole of the front blocks.

Back on the left-hand side, we next come to where a Dentist had his blue-painted shop window. In it he had his infamous sign 'teeth pulled with gas 2s 6d, without gas 1s 6d'. I knew a man called Bill Hopkins who went for the cheaper 'without' treatment with Mr. Wise, but he suffered from bad bleeding and a swollen face for many days after, as the dentist was not known for his gentleness!



Next came a greengrocer's shop run by a Greek at sometime, but I have only seen it listed as Frank Harper. I recall that, during pre-war days, it had a large stove-enamelled sign for Ffyfe's Ba-

nanas. It was taken down for scrap for the war effort, which caused quite a stir at the time, but soon afterwards a bomb fell on the shop and so settled its fate anyway. Opposite the ill-fated greengrocer stood the Blind School, another sombre-looking building, where blind people could learn skills such as basket-making and thereby earn a living.



Back on the left side again there was a Gents Hairdressers, run by the smooth little Italian, Enrico Campari. His wife ran the adjacent Grocer's shop, with the family living in the rooms above there. They had two daughters, the eldest being Maria who worked for Mrs. Evans the Florist. Her shop was in nearby Newington Butts, and Mrs. Evans was an old school-friend of my Mother, Daisy. I cannot recall the younger girl's name, but I know she worked as a secretary for the boot wholesaler, Thomas P. Headland.

The Camparis were very proud of their children. Enrico had earlier served in the Italian Army during the First World War, when Italy had sided with the British, and had subsequently taken British citizenship. All their children had been born here, including the son Paulo, who was a friend of mine. He was known as Pee Wee to us, but I forget why he got that name. He was very dark, with thick black wavy hair, and had come to my school after the St. George the Martyr School was flattened by a bomb early in the war. He was a good mate of mine, but left a term before me, and I never knew what became of him - though I recall that the shops were pulled down about 1948.

Just past the Camparis was a Salvation Army Hostel, a very poor-looking place where only the old dossers went, as it was regarded as the lowest a man could fall then. The Royal Eye Hospital was

on the corner of Waterloo Road and St. George's Circus, and it was a famous hospital in those days.

Looking across from the hospital you could see Barnett's the Pawnbroker. My mother or me would regularly take my Dad's blue suit there to be pawned for 2s 6d a time in order to get enough money to buy some food. So often did we take this brown paper wrapped parcel there that he didn't even bother to open it up. He would just write out a triplicate

- TAKE MY DAD'S BLUE SUIT

THERE TO BE PAWNED

FOR 2s 6d

slip, one copy for us, one on the parcel and one for the file. At times we were so hard up we would wrap up a blanket instead, taking Dad's suit to Harvey & Thompson's pawnbrokers instead - how times have changed!

At the end of the Waterloo Road we come to the Westminster Bridge Road, where there stood the Seaman's Home. This was a much better type of hostel than the Salvation Army one down the road, and provided basic facilities for merchant seamen who were travelling through London, on leave or between ships.



At one time I recall there being some 40 fishermen from Norway and other countries in Scandinavia who had escaped the advance of the Germans during the war. One of the Norwegians was the skipper of a fishing trawler, and had escaped with his own family and those of two others. His son Erik came to our school, being a very fair-haired boy who spoke good English. I don't know what happened to him after the war.

Next door to the Seaman's Home was a company by the name of Frank Love. They were Plumber's

'OH I DO LIKE...'



Day trip to Brighton
Saturday 9th July
2005.

We all climbed onto the coach outside the police station at 9.30 a.m. - no latecomers which was appreciated by the early birds. Off down Kennington Road towards the Oval, the more travelled amongst us whispering, 'I bet he (the driver) takes the A23'. If the poor driver had dared to take a different route there may have been a crisis!

Through the scenic sights of Brixton and Streatham, then through Surrey into Sussex. 'The cows are beginning to stand up, that's a good sign', a whisper was heard. Now entering Brighton a shout goes up, 'Hooray, the sun has come out. I told you so'. Past the beautiful flower beds and George IV's pavilion to the sea front.

Off we all go, the more agile making a quick run to the toilets. The next most important thing on the agenda being, 'Let's have a nice cup of tea'. Then what most people do on a day trip to Brighton,

'Let's have a walk down the pier', some to sit on deck chairs with an ice cream cornet watching the world go by - and others to the large open air bar at the end of the pier for a pint of alcoholic revival.



What to do next? 'How about some nice fish and chips along the front?' There's a nice restaurant - cod and chips, bread and butter and a cup of tea all for £4.50, called an OAP special. 'That'll do for me.'

'What about a look around the antique shops?'

'No, my feet are killing me.'

'Let's have a ride on the little train. It goes past the nudist beach, you know.'

Showing our London OAP bus pass (just in case of a concession) we board the train. Past the nudist beach.

'Where's my glasses?'

'Oh, I say, shouldn't be allowed.'

Need another cup of tea after all that excitement. The first battle of the day ensues, over who was go-

ing to eat a toasted teacake, myself or a huge seagull - we made it a draw and had half each. Just in time for a quick dash to the souvenir shop. 'Don't forget the grandchildren's sticks of rock.'

'Hurry up or the coach will go, everyone else is on and they are staring at us'. Off we go - 'Good-bye Brighton' - the journey home

'OH, I SAY, SHOULDN'T

BE ALLOWED'

was spent discussing what we had all done during the day. 'How about a whip round for the driver'. A plastic bag was produced and poor Jackie had the job of lurching up and down the coach collecting coins. A big grin appeared on the driver's face as the bag of money was plonked on his dashboard. Here we are, almost home, tired but happy.

On behalf of everyone who went on the Brighton trip, thank you, Social Comm. for a very enjoyable day.

Dolly Thompson

AROUND MY HAUNTS (CONT)

Engineers and, amongst their products was a patented 'Supertap' which was very modern for its day. As it was I later worked at Self Engineering in Crampton Road, Walworth, which was the firm owned by the inventor of the tap mentioned above. He had sold the patent to Love's and took a royalty on each one made. He was a clever inventor and produced many patented ideas, retiring at an early age as a result. He was a proper gentleman and went to live at Beer on the South Devon coast.

A. Lacey

WELCOME TO

Maria Stubbs, 21 Oakey Lane
Bridget Shields, 19 Holst Court
Josa & Nigel Winfield with baby
Thomas, 5 Mead Row

UP AND AWAY

If you are over 70 you can get a concessionary (free) passport - brought in for veterans to enable them to celebrate the end of the war in France, they are available to all this year. Ask at the Post Office or ring 0870 521 0410.

CONTACTING YOUR COUNCILLOR

In Bishops Ward we have three Liberal Democrat councillors, Charlotte Parry, Clive Parry and Peter Truesdale. Their surgeries are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, from 6.30-7.00 pm at Waterloo Action Centre, Baylis Road and on the 4th Wednesday from 6.30-7.00 pm on the ground floor of Briant House in Hercules Road.

Our MP is Kate Hoey (Labour) whose address is House of Commons, SW1A 0AA

MONEY MAZE

£ Age Concern Lambeth & Southwark is offering a new, free, confidential service to help you now that state pension and benefits order books are no longer being issued.

They can help you make the choice about how best to receive your money. Tel: 020 7346 6813.

Age Concern offers a great many other services including home-based care and support groups. You can ask for leaflets.

BLACK & WHITE & RED ALL OVER

Lambeth has recently updated its website - www.lambeth.gov.uk Have a look and tell us if you like it.

