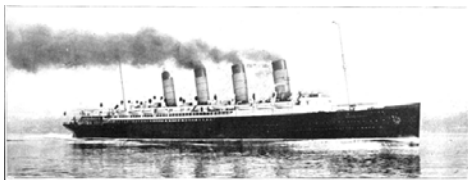


Ship Constructors' and Shipwright' Association

In 1882 the Associated Society of Shipwrights was formed from many of the local shipwrights' societies that existed around the country. In 1908, after several major amalgamations, it became the Ship Constructive and Shipwrights' Association



**:: Shipconstructive and ::
Shipwrights' Association.**

and later changed its name to the Ship Constructors' and Shipwrights' Association. The records form part of the GMB archive and give us a great insight into the shipbuilding trade of the late

The Clarions

The Clarion movement is more a loose affiliation of like-minded organisations than an organised movement. First came The Clarion newspaper, founded by Robert Blatchford and a like-minded group of friends and family in 1891. This inspired the setting up in 1895 of the National Clarion Cycling Club with the aim of combining the founders' love of cycling with their love of socialism. The Scout was also launched in 1895 to promote, and report on, the activities of the different Clarion groups (of which there were many), and to provide activists with information which would assist them in "making Socialists". Together with the political and social welfare work, The Scout covered the camera clubs, the field

studies and the drawing groups, and each issue had a song sheet insert. The Clarion also published a series of pamphlets giving a socialist perspective on a variety of subjects. The library has a collection of Clarion movement publications including issues of The Scout, Clarion Cycling Club handbooks and Clarion pamphlets. We also have a collection of Sheffield Clarion Ramblers handbooks dating back to 1915. And if you want to visit the library to look at the material you could even sit on a Clarion Club chair to do so! You may also be interested to know that the National Clarion Cycling Club is still active today and their Web site is at www.clarioncc.org

19th and early 20th century. There were many demarcation issues between the shipwrights, carpenters and boilermakers. This can be seen in the reports and papers of the Association and several arbitration reports from shipyards around the country. These awards go into great detail about each individual job to be done and who should carry it out, such as who makes racks for capstan bars, or who makes spar beds?

The Executive Committee's reports and papers contain a wealth of information unrelated to shipbuilding collected by Alexander Wilkie, General Secretary of the Shipwrights' Society and later an early Labour Party MP for Dundee. There are pamphlets on subjects such as pensions, housing, the Boer War, National Insurance Act 1911 and anti-vivisection. Other interesting items include a speech by Alexander Wilkie as part of the enquiry into the sinking of the Titanic.



Trade Union Support



Trade Union support continues unabated. You will recall that in the last edition of 'Shelf Life' 49 Unite branches had become friends of the library. Since then a further 37 branches have come on board giving a grand total of 95 Unite branches nationally associating themselves with the library. Following on their heels are 21 GMB branches newly added to our mailing list. Readers who've been with us a while will remember the GMB's decision to contribute towards our ever-increasing energy bill. This contribution is paid twice yearly and our mid year support of just under £3,000 was received in September. We would also like to thank for their continuing support regions or branches of the CWU, FBU, NUJ and UNISON.

For the fourth year running we've had the usual annual donation from the NASUWT and recently donations from the national office of the FBU and a separate one from its National Women's Committee. The total this quarter has been just over £9,000. We would love to give all of you something in return but all we have is the collection so if you want to embark on some educational projects and think you could make use of our material please let us know.



It started in America with folding banks and rising unemployment spreading rapidly throughout the world until Britain too was in crisis. 2,300,000 people were registered as out of work and a £120,000,000 budget deficit was predicted for the following year. Not 2008 but 1931 when the National Government responded to the crisis by an act which reduced all benefits by 10% and removed 852,000 claimants from benefits altogether through the mechanism of the detested 'Means Test'. In response the 'National Unemployed Workers' Movement' (NUWM) organized protest demonstrations throughout the country. One of these was a Salford march which formed the subject for this year's contribution by the WCML to Salford's Local History Day in Peel Park. Our display stand

told the story of the Battle of Bexley Square which took place on October 1st 1931. A peaceful, well ordered march set off from a croft on

Liverpool St to deliver a

charter to Salford Town Hall in Bexley Square where the local response to the cuts in expenditure was to be debated in the Council Chamber. There was a serious delay caused by the police forcing the march to deviate from their intended route.

When they finally arrived at the Town Hall the meeting had started and the delegation found their access barred by a cordon of mounted police. The square soon became a battlefield with mounted

police wielding truncheons charging at unarmed demonstrators. Twelve people were arrested and four of them received custodial sentences. One of these was Edmund Frow, our co-founder, who had his nose broken by the police and served five months' hard labour in Strangeways gaol. The display stand is now in the



hall at the Library where visitors will be able to see it until the re-launch of the ground floor space in January 2009.

Shelf Life

The Newsletter of the Working Class Movement Library

Registered Charity No.1115731



Issue No. 21 Winter 2008

Revamp Launch - Open Weekend Invitation

We're finally getting there, after many months of planning and preparation and are almost ready to launch our revamped library in the new year. Finger post signs have been strategically placed in the vicinity so that, if you don't know already, when you get off the bus or train you will be directed straight to the front door. Inside has undergone quite a transformation now that the redecoration has been completed and new lighting system installed in the ground floor area.



Working class movement library

What was an under-used reception area will become a small permanent exhibition space displaying examples from the various facets of our holdings. There will be a corner dedicated to the memory of our founders, Eddie and Ruth Frow, with a short history of the birth of the library. Other themes

will reflect the main purpose of the collection which is about recording and preserving the records of the significant working class movements for change over the last 200 plus years. There will be examples of trade union struggles in the workplace, items from our vast solidarity material including remembering the International Brigaders, and display objects reflecting our large Irish collection. Our not inconsiderable cultural material will also be in evidence. The NALGO room, also on the ground floor and presently used as a meeting room, will double up and be the home for occasional exhibitions based on

particular themes. The first one to be mounted will coincide with our launch and commemorate the centenary of the coming into force of the 1908 Pensions Act, which ushered in the birth of the state pension scheme.



Library Launch

Whilst we will be celebrating our new image with our open weekend we couldn't resist the temptation to have a formal launch. Tony Benn has very kindly agreed to cut the proverbial ribbon the previous Sunday, the 18th January. It's a bit awkward for us because we would have loved to have been able to make an open invitation to all our hundreds of friends and supporters, but Jubilee House space dictates a maximum number of not many more than 50. Regretfully we have had to restrict invitations for the day and hope you all agree that initial invites should go out to those most involved in keeping the show on the road and those who have put in a lot of hard work over the last few months helping us to put things together. With over 40 active volunteers at the moment it doesn't give us much left over.



Charcoal Image of Tony Benn from the Collection

Movements For Peace

Our 'Movements for Peace' exhibition organised jointly with Greater Manchester & District CND was officially opened on the 26th November by the Mayor of Salford, Councillor Margaret Morris. Guest speaker was Kate Hudson, chairperson of National CND. Kate reflected on the 50-year history of CND and, picking up from the title of the exhibition, pointed out the many political, religious and social movements that make up the CND family and the range of activities in which members participate in the struggle against nuclear weapons. Whilst CND has

Finally she spoke about the immediate need to campaign against the replacement of the Trident nuclear Arms system. One of the many highlights of the exhibition is a huge 'Tree of Peace' under which is a bucket full of 'leaves'. Members of the public are invited to write on a leaf their wishes for peace and have them added to the tree. There are also banners, campaigning placards, films, audio recordings and much more. Running parallel with the exhibition will be other activities, including a series of workshops involving peace activists, local students and schoolchildren. The image on the front of this year's library greetings card was designed by a Salford schoolchild from amongst many submissions to our peace card competition.



AND WE SHALL BUILD
JERUSALEM IN ENGLAND'S
GREENHAM
PLEASANT LAND



Failed to rid the world of weapons during the 50 years of its existence, Kate referred to a number of successful campaigns including the signing of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty by Gorbachev and Reagan and the removal of cruise missiles from Greenham Common.

The exhibition is in Salford Museum and Art Gallery across the road from the library and runs till 25th January. We hope that many of you will be able to make a visit and perhaps call in at the library for a cup of tea, afterwards.

All Friends and Supporters are invited to visit the library between 1.00 pm and 5.00 pm 25th and 26th January 2009 on our Special Open Weekend.