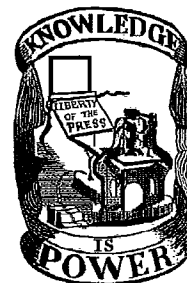


# Shelf Life

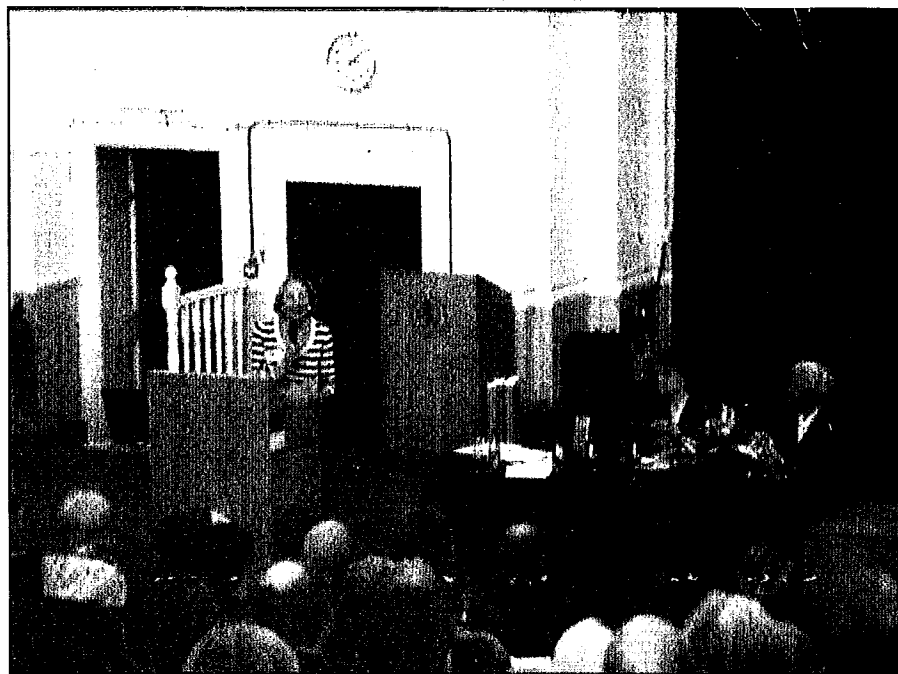
The Newsletter of the Working Class Movement Library

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## What a Send Off



Most times, when someone dies, friends and relatives are given the opportunity to express their grief and show their respect at a funeral. By donating her body to research Ruth Frow denied her family, friends and many admirers this traditional opportunity. The esteem in which she was held meant that Ruth was not going to get away with it so lightly. Those who had known and loved her were not to be denied the opportunity to get together to celebrate her life.

Close family held a private celebration at the end of March and we followed with our public event the following week on Saturday 5th April.

More than 300 people crammed into Peel Hall, across the road

from the library, to celebrate her life and pay their last respects. As people gathered they were met by some of the joys of Ruth's life, the sound of her favourite music, images of the many banners held in her beloved library and a bright display of flowers, another of her many passions. Individuals, representing the many facets of her busy and rich life, paid tribute. Those attending were also given the opportunity to contribute their own reminiscences.

Her niece, Coral, said to us 'You think Ruth belonged to you, we think she belonged to us'. How many people in different walks of life who had been touched by her can say the same thing about Ruth Frow? What a woman.

## How Do We Preserve Their Memory?

The Trustees invite the Friends of the Library to send us ideas on the best ways of remembering Ruth and Eddie. They would have hated the idea of a plaque or statue. It seems much more appropriate therefore to invite suggestions for initiatives, projects or events that will reflect their life-long passion for working-class history and will keep their name before the public for many years to come as the founders of the library. We are particular keen to invite suggestions that would involve the public in some way. Please send your ideas to the library, either by letter or email.

### Donations

About £5,000 has been sent to the library in memory of Ruth. We would once again like to thank all those who contributed. We have decided that the money should not be lost in our general funds but should go into our book fund so that it will be used to purchase additional material for the library or help to preserve our existing deposits.

# The Past Meets the Present



Heritage  
LOTTERY FUNDED

**H**ow time flies. It doesn't seem five minutes since we reported that our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund had been successful, yet here we are with the project well underway. We had a fantastic response to the adverts for all three posts to be funded under the project allowing us to select strong shortlists and appoint three really good people to the team.

## Our Team

**J**ane Taylor is our Project Librarian and started at the end of May. Originally hailing from Bath she has been in this area a while working for Manchester Community Information Network looking after web based community portals which provide information for local community groups. Very relevant to what Jane will be doing here, making the contents of our collection come alive and available.

Previous to that Jane was the first ever national librarian to be appointed by the CWU and worked for 12 years getting and keeping their trade union library in order.



**K**ate Hart is our Project Archivist and was the first to take up post, starting at the beginning of May. Originally from Oxford but her previous job was with Rotherham local authority, carrying out work on another HLF project that was drawing to a close. The project there was called 'Rolling Out the Archives'. Much of the material in Rotherham was uncatalogued and the project was about cataloguing, preservation and outreach work. Much of the archive is now available online for anyone to see. Very much what she'll be doing at the library so plenty of experience already.

**L**ike Kate, funnily enough Caroline Hunt also comes originally from Oxford, and like Kate also worked previously on a HLF-funded project. Caroline is our Community Learning Co-ordinator and started with us in mid-June. She worked for the National Wild Flower Centre based in Liverpool. Their project 'Wildflower Heroes' aimed to increase audience diversity, environmental learning and inclusion through a creative mix of arts and science activities. Again, whilst the subject matter may be different the objectives are very much the same as ours.



## Hardware and Software

The human element to the project is all in place and the hardware is slowly starting to come together. Readers will recall that we have appointed Adlib Information Systems to provide our new integrated archive and library cataloguing system. They are busily working away transferring information stored on our current system, TALIS, onto the new one. So far, fingers crossed, with only a few small glitches, this seems to be progressing smoothly.

We have also appointed our new Web site designers 'ichameleon', a Manchester-based firm specialising in digital communications. They are working with us designing and building a new content managed Web site. We hope you will enjoy using it when it is launched later this year.

The new Web site and cataloguing system require a much more up to date and integrated networking system to ensure their effective use. Here we would like to give special thanks to Steve Lawton, one of our volunteers, who has already spent many hours advising on, ordering and overseeing the purchase and installation of extensive new cabling, hardware and software. What would we do without our volunteers?

Work on improving physical and qualitative access to the library and its contents is also underway. Planning permission has been granted to erect external signage so that we can be found more easily. Internally our reception area will be revamped and turned into a much better, extended display area.

## Library Budget

The Trustees met earlier in the year to decide on the budget for everyday expenditure at the library for this present year running from 1st April through to 31st March 2009. Knowing that overall expenditure exceeded income by £7,000 last year and that energy prices were rising at a tremendous rate of knots things were going to be a bit tight. Remember, that we are talking about day to day running costs that the Trust incurs, whether or not we have grant funding for specific projects.

Certain of our costs are fixed, like staffing, cleaning, insurance and energy which means that all optional expenditure has to be carefully thought through before being added to the list. After making some difficult decisions the Trustees decided on a budgeted expenditure of £91,000.

On the income side we will have Salford Council's grant of almost £38,000 and an anticipated income of £34,000 from donations. After adding other bits like gift aid and sales we anticipate that we will still need about a further £16,000 to balance our £91,000 outgoings and so will need to dip into the interest our reserves are making and draw off some of the reserves themselves. How important those significant bequests we received last year are proving to be. Obviously the more we can increase the level of donations the less we will need to call on our reserves and so the longer they will last or be released to expand the service we can provide.

We are working hard to increase and broaden the base of our friends and supporters on whom the library quite clearly will always heavily depend.

## librarian's lines

We've had a fascinating range of visitors to the library lately. We welcomed two artists who were touring the North of England in a camper van, and who featured us in their blog at [www.thewonderfulnorth.com](http://www.thewonderfulnorth.com). We've had actors visiting, researching background information before performing the David Edgar play 'Wreckers', which is set during the 1972 dock strikes. There's also been an unexplained - but welcome - surge of interest from both students and family historians in our material relating to the International Brigades in the Spanish Civil War.

Equally appealing has been the kind donation, by the trade union Community, of material from the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives and allied unions. This includes a run of monthly reports from 1883 all the way through to 1969, which offers a rich range of documentation relating to the union's administration and concerns.

## Trade Union Support

A brief report of what has been happening in the last six months. Brief this article may be but we have not been short on donations coming in. Since the turn of the year the library has received the fabulous sum of almost £11,000 from the movement. We don't want to do pride of place things, but a special mention has to be to the GMB who are now contributing £4,000 a year towards our energy bill. The contribution made this time was towards last year's cost, but in future they will send their donation half yearly. Thanks indeed to Paul Kenny for recommending it to his Executive and to them for agreeing. Thanks as well to the local Town Hall branch of UNISON

for their annual £1,000 contribution.

In addition we have received financial help from national, regional, or branch parts of Community, CWU, FBU, GMB, NASUWT, NUJ, NUT, PCS, the PFA, RMT, TSSA, UCU, UNISON, URTU, USDAW, and Unite. That and five Trades Councils.

We also received £250 from UCATT in memory of Albert Williams, a former General Secretary of the union and one of the founding Trustees of the library who sadly passed away in late November.

## 50 Years Old and Still Campaigning

2008 marks the 50th anniversary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) and so the library has joined forces with Greater Manchester CND and Salford University to plan a local celebration of the event at the back end of the year. An application has been made to the MLA (the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council) for funding under its 'Their Past Your Future' grants scheme. If the bid is successful it

will trigger a very exciting programme of events reminding the public of the reasons for CND's continuing existence and raising awareness of the dangers of conflict in its broadest sense and more specifically the ever present threat to the world whilst nuclear armament mentality persists.

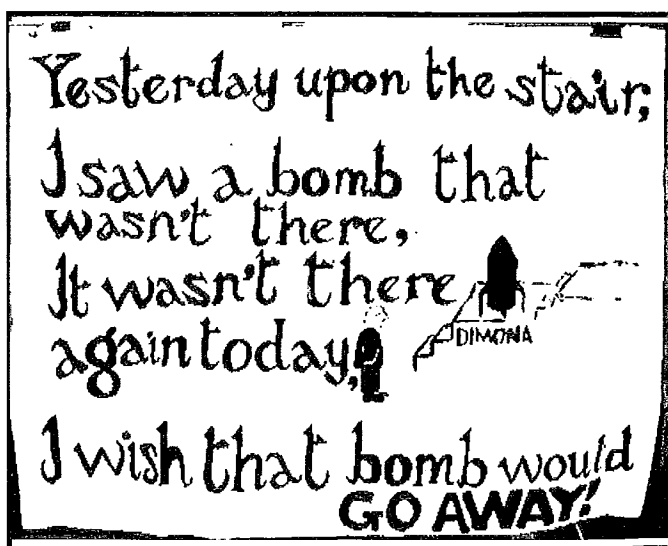
The programme will start pretty soon with all local schools



being invited to encourage their children to participate in a competition to design peace theme greetings cards. The winning design in each age category will be turned into a card and all entries will be displayed in a peace exhibition to be held in Salford during December and January.

The exhibition will comprise the national CND 50th anniversary travelling display plus banners, badges, archive and other material from the library collection. During the exhibition we will hold workshops and talks aimed at bringing together peace activists and members of the general public. It is also hoped that University students will work on the development of a brand new peace game for use digitally and on the more traditional board.

Even if the funding bid fails the exhibition and some workshops will definitely still go ahead. Here's looking forward to a successful partnership venture.



## Shelf Life

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