

BERMONDSEY

Tributes paid to couple who died a day apart

By Oliver Pugh

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A MUCH-loved married couple who were a feature of a Bermondsey estate for more than thirty years have died, just a day apart.

Daughter Gina West, 46, said her father, Tom, 82, 'gave up' when he heard the news that his wife of 57 years had died the day before.

"He just didn't want to be without her," Gina said.

Jean, 81, died of terminal cancer at the Manley Court Nursing Home in New Cross on August 8, and Tom, who had been the chair of the Keetons Estate TRA in Bermondsey for eighteen years, died the following day.

Gina said: "The staff [at the home] have been really affected by what's happened. They saw the real love between the two of them. They really wanted to be together and stay together."

"They both had a good sense of humour, you could have a good old laugh with them," she said. "They were really great parents."

Tom and Jean were known by many residents on the Keetons Estate, especially because of Tom's service on



Tom and Jean West

the local area housing forum and the Southwark Group of Tenants' Organisations (SGTO).

"They loved the area and they loved the estate," Gina said. "When dad retired he got involved with the TRA through my partner Dave and he got heavily involved in that."

"He loved looking after that estate. He was just really proud of the area."

Before they stopped work, Jean was a dinner lady at Eveline Lowe Primary School and Southwark College, while Tom, who was nurse in the Merchant Navy during the Second World War, had been a facilities manager at the Mellon Bank in the City. Tom and Jean leave behind two daughters, two son-in-laws, and two grandchildren.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

Filming on Heygate nets council £91,000

By Emma Ailes

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SOUTHWARK COUNCIL has earned £91,000 in three years from licensing 76 films to be made on the Heygate Estate, a 'News' investigation has discovered.

On average, approximately 22 productions a year – or nearly two a month – have been granted permission to film on the estate, with the council getting in around £1,206 in location fees for each, and over £38,150 between 2009-10 alone.

The high volume of filming on the estate has been a contentious issue for many residents who argue that the donations do not reflect the level of disruption that filming can cause.

To date, film companies made donations totaling £15,380 to the Heygate Tenants and Residents Association via Southwark Film Office.

Liz Grace, Treasurer of the Heygate Tenants and Residents Association, said: "There's no way that it compensates adequately. Only eight weeks ago a film crew used 1800 rounds of ammunition. They terrified my old neighbours who are in their early eighties. Their children and grandchildren were absolutely petrified. No one told us that it would be happening. There has been film unit after film unit."

Southwark Council is a signatory to

Film London's partnership agreement, which commits every London borough to allow filming to take place on their property. Location fees can range between £800 and £3,000 a day.

Councillor Veronica Ward, Southwark Council Cabinet member for Culture, Leisure, Sport and the Olympics, said: "We encourage filmmakers to work in the borough. Not only does it help put Southwark on the cultural map, but it is an effective means of supporting culture and events in the borough. We ask filmmakers to pay a fee for the access and assistance they receive from both the council and the residents."

"The money we make from fees goes towards events such as the Mix, Bermondsey Festival, the older people's festival and disability events."

"When an estate is involved we give a 20 per cent donation to the tenants' and residents' associations. We try hard to foster good relations with T&RAs and film companies, and it can be a very positive experience, especially when young people from the estate can get involved as extras."

Figures include low budget and student productions that have been granted permission, as well as big budget films such as Harry Brown, starring Michael Caine, and television series The Bill and Ashes to Ashes.

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WHAT'S ON @ WOOLFSON & TAY

SEPTEMBER 2010

www.woolfsonandtay.com

SEPT 11, 11am-6pm
Opening Celebration
Fun-filled day with live music, Edwina Hayes; activities for kids. Book discount vouchers. Food, drinks and wine.

TRUTH & LIES EXHIBITION LAUNCH
Jillian Edelstein
Janet Suzman
Paul Herzberg
Richard Freedman

SEPT 14, 7PM. £15/C £10. Incl glass of wine
Guided talk by renowned photographer Jillian Edelstein. Followed by short performances from acclaimed actress Janet Suzman and award-winning playwright Paul Herzberg. Richard Freedman will share his story about the apartheid era. Ends with Q&A session.

TRUTH & LIES EXHIBITION
SEPT 14 - OCT 10
Jillian Edelstein
Free entry
Text and images from the Truth & Reconciliation Commission in South Africa. First public viewing in London.

CHASING THE DEVIL
SEPT 16, 7PM. £5/CE3
Tim Bulcher
On facing his demons and his 350-mile trek through Sierra Leone and Liberia. Incl glass of wine + £2 off authors book.

AGE OF ABSURDITY
SEPT 21, 7PM. £5/CE3
Michael Foley
Entertaining strategy on accepting and embracing today's world though modern life often makes it hard to be happy. Incl glass of wine + £2 off author's book.

AN AUDIENCE WITH MIILI PSYCHIC EVENT
SEPT 23, 7PM. £10
Miili Kaikkonen
Born seer and trained intuitive Miili in action. You may even get a reading if you're lucky. £2 book discount voucher.

MEDITATION
SEPT 30-DEC 16, 6.30PM
£20/CE15
Birgitta Bernhard
Gentle meditative and transformative journey into centre of Self. Discounted series £110/CE90 for 6 x 2 hour sessions.

WRITING WORKSHOP
SEPT 29-NOV 24, 6.30PM
£90/CE60
Shaun Levin
Create art with text and images; a workshop for writers and artists. Develop stories, poems and fragments. Create work to display at W&T gallery.

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