

= Edward Hollamby =

Edward " Ted " Ernest Hollamby OBE (8 January 1921 ? 29 December 1999) was an English architect , town planner , and architectural conservationist . Known for designing a number of modernist housing estates in London , he also achieved notability for his work in restoring Red House , the Arts and Crafts building in Bexleyheath , Southeast London which was designed by William Morris and Philip Webb in 1859 .

Born in Hammersmith , West London , Hollamby served in the Royal Marines during the Second World War before embarking on a career in architecture . Involved with the Communist Party of Great Britain and other leftist groups , his socialist beliefs led him to work in the public sector , first for the Miners ' Welfare Commission and then for London County Council (LCC) , where he was involved in the design and construction of such modernist post @-@ war housing estates as Bethnal Green 's Avebury Estate , Kennington 's Brandon Estate , and Deptford 's Pepys Estate .

In 1952 , Hollamby and his family moved into the Red House , embarking on projects to renovate and restore it . A great fan of the house 's original inhabitant , he also involved himself in the early activities of the William Morris Society , which held a number of meetings at the property . Awarded an OBE for his career in 1970 , from 1969 to 1981 Hollamby worked as Director of Architecture , Planning and Development for the London Borough of Lambeth , before moving to work for the London Docklands Development Corporation from 1981 to 1985 . He continued restoring Red House in later life , opening it up to visitors and establishing the Friends of Red House charity in 1998 .

The Guardian described Hollamby as " very much an architect of the 20th century , a public servant who believed not just in high quality architecture but in the existence and nurturing of the public realm , of public architecture and civic design . "

= = Biography = =

= = = Early life = = =

Hollamby was born in his parental home of 6 Wellesley Avenue in Hammersmith , West London . He was the oldest of two sons born to Ethel May Hollamby , née Kingdom (1899 / 1900 ? 1966) , and Edward Thomas Hollamby (1893 ? 1978) , a police constable . His primary education took place at St. Peter 's Church School , before he won a scholarship to study at a junior technical school . From there , he gained a higher education by training in architecture at the nearby Hammersmith School of Arts and Crafts during the 1930s . At the college , he was inspired by the Arts and Crafts aesthetic propounded by one of his lecturers , Alwyn Waters , and through him came to take an interest in William Morris , who had been a pioneer of the Arts and Crafts movement in the latter part of the 19th century . At the same time , Hollamby was influenced by the modernist movement in architecture to which two of his favourite lecturers , Arthur Ling and Alex Lowe , belonged , and joined the Modern Architectural Research Group (MARS) .

Following the completion of his studies , he moved to Lancashire to assist a project building the Royal Ordnance factory number 7 in Kirby , before returning to London to work in housing design for the Metropolitan Borough of Hammersmith . On 18 May 1941 , he married Doris Isabel Parker (1920 ? 2003) , an old friend who worked as a clerk and who , like Hollamby , was a member of the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB) . Their wedding took place at St Michael 's Church at Tokyngton , Middlesex , after which they moved to St. Peter 's Square , Hammersmith . They went on to have two daughters and a son . In August 1941 , during Britain 's involvement in World War II , Hollamby was called up to serve in the British armed forces . Assigned to the Royal Marine Engineers , he served most of the conflict in Trincomalee , Ceylon .

= = = Architectural career = = =

Much like many architects of his generation , following the British victory Hollamby pursued a career in local authority offices . He first worked as an architect for the Miners ' Welfare Commission from 1947 to 1949 , in this position designing pithead baths and a colliery extension at Lofthouse , Yorkshire . After gaining further qualifications from the Royal Institute of British Architects , he proceeded with a three @-@ year evening course in town planning , run by William Holford and Arthur Ling at the Bartlett School of Architecture , London .

He meanwhile worked under Leslie Martin as a senior architect at the Architects ' Department of the London County Council (LCC) from 1949 to 1962 . During this period , he oversaw the design of two neighbouring schools in North Hammersmith , now known as the Phoenix School ; he unsuccessfully tried to have the school named after Morris . He was also involved in the design and construction of several modernist , high @-@ rise post @-@ war housing estates , namely Bethnal Green 's Avebury Estate and Kennington 's Brandon Estate , personally securing a sculpture by Henry Moore for the latter . In his final years in this position he focused on estates in south London , working on Deptford 's Pepys Estate and the first designs for what became Thamesmead .

From there becoming the borough architect for the Metropolitan Borough of Hammersmith , in January 1963 , he moved to become borough architect for the Metropolitan Borough of Lambeth , and following the reorganisation of Greater London he remained in that position for its successor , the London Borough of Lambeth . Here he rose to the position of the borough 's director of architecture , planning and development , which he held from 1969 to 1981 . In this position he oversaw the construction of several high @-@ rise housing towers alongside an innovative low @-@ rise development at Cressingham Gardens , high @-@ density scheme for Central Hill , as well as a project that combined the construction of new housing with the conservation of old , particularly around Clapham Manor Street . In 1970 , Hollamby was awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his work in architecture . However , in the early 1980s , he became increasingly unhappy in the position as a result of conflict with certain local Labour Party politicians and sought different employment .

Amid the growing neo @-@ liberal , Thatcherite economic changes brought about under the Premiership of Margaret Thatcher , he moved into the private sector to work for the London Docklands Development Corporation from 1981 to 1985 , when he retired . As part of this he took a role in Europe 's largest urban regeneration project , proposing a mix of redevelopment and conservation of existing buildings , using this mixed method to create a design guide for the regeneration of the Isle of Dogs . In this position he also campaigned for the Docklands Light Railway and oversaw the exterior refurbishment of St George in the East .

Over the course of his career he also served on the boards of such professional bodies as English Heritage (1986 ? 90) , the Historic Buildings Council (1972 ? 82) , and the Royal Institute of British Architects (1961 ? 5 and 1966 ? 72) .

= = = Red House = = =

In the early 1950s , Hollamby and Doris were living in St. Peter 's Square , Hammersmith with two friends , Dick and Mary Toms . Born in London , Richard " Dick " Toms (1914 ? 2005) was largely self @-@ taught as an architect , and had met and befriended Edward during the war before gaining employment alongside him at the LCC . Toms ' wife Mary (née Lehner , 1920 ? 2010) was Austrian but had been born in Berlin , Germany . Because her grandfather was Jewish , she fled Austria after it was annexed by Nazi Germany in 1938 . Both couples were involved in left @-@ wing political activism , being members of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the British @-@ Soviet Friendship Society ; they were thus sympathetic to the far left political causes to which Morris had devoted much of his later life .

In 1952 , the two couples discovered that Red House was up for sale , and as architects with an interest in Morris , they recognised its historic value . By this point , the Red House had been empty for 18 months , after Thomas Hills and his family had left in 1951 , and had fallen into a state of dilapidation . Deciding to share the property between themselves , they were able to afford a mortgage with the aid of a loan from Toms ' father @-@ in @-@ law ; he only agreed to provide the

loan if the house was owned in Toms ' name , and thus the Hollambys became Toms ' tenants . The two families then moved in with their six children , and a seventh was born soon after . They camped in the house 's grounds while carrying out a project of renovation .

After being made habitable , the two families divided the house between them , with separate living rooms , bedrooms , bathrooms , and kitchens . Corridors , stairs , and the old kitchen (which they termed the " Eating Room ") were shared communally . As a result of their leftist activism , they allowed meetings of both the British @-@ Soviet Friendship Society , and the CPGB to take place in the house . They also permitted members of the Woodcraft Folk to camp in its grounds . In 1953 , the inaugural meeting of the William Morris Society took place at the house , at which 45 people were present . In 1954 , a third architect , David Gregory Jones , moved in to the two rooms adjoining the downstairs gallery .

In 1957 , the Toms left Red House and moved to Blackheath , desiring to live closer to central London . They were replaced by Jean and David Macdonald ; Jean was an architect colleague of Edward 's who shared his socialist values , while David was an accountant and woodworker . Rearranging the former ownership arrangements , the Macdonalds and Hollambys agreed to legally own half of the property each , while Jones remained as a lodger . Together , the two couples made repairs and restorations to the house ; they repaired the leaking roof and added Morris & Co. wallpapers along with furniture from Heal 's and Ercol . In 1960 , the William Morris Society held a garden party there to commemorate the building 's centenary . However , in 1964 the Macdonalds left and the Hollambys assumed sole ownership of the House .

Hollamby himself left the Communist Party following the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 . He remained committed to leftist ideals and involved himself in a number of local socio @-@ political groups , including the local branch of the Labour Party and with his wife was a founding member of Bexley Civic Society . After his retirement in 1985 , Hollamby decided to open the Red House up to visitors , offering guided tours on one Sunday per month . As the number of those attending such tours grew , especially in the 1996 centenary of Morris ' death , Hollamby began to search for a way of securing future public access . In 1998 , he helped to establish the Friends of Red House , a group of individuals who were largely members of the Bexley Civic Society , and who helped to maintain the House and its gardens as well as give tours to visitors . Hollamby also authored two books on Red House ; the first , Red House , Bexleyheath : The Home Of William Morris , was published by Phaidon Press in 1991 as part of its series on " Architecture in Detail " , and the second was a short guide book for visitors co @-@ written with Doris and published by the William Morris Society in 1993 .

= = = Death = = =

Hollamby died suddenly as a result of heart disease at Red House on 29 December 1999 ; he was the third owner to die while in residence . His funeral was held on 21 January 2000 in Eltham , with a secular humanist service conducted by Barbara Smoker . The Friends of Red House took over the public openings at this point . Amid ill health , Doris left Red House and moved into a care home in 2002 ; she died in April 2003 . With the aid of an anonymous benefactor , the house was purchased and gifted to The National Trust in 2003 , who turned it into a visitor 's attraction , with tours continuing to be organised by the Friends of Red House .