

Winter 1994

The third in a series of articles

THE HISTORY OF CLISSOLD COURT, the end of the 'fifties

(I am indebted to Joyce Palmer for this article. I had promised to interview but didn't have to! Ed.)

We came to live at Clissold Court in the year 1956, having been 'vetted' by the then owner, Mr Hickman, who was very strong on renting flats only to people he thought were 'right' for the place. No young children were allowed - Bix was just old enough, no animals - we managed to sneak our budgie in - and the ability to fit in with the residents already here. I remember the weekly rent was four pounds ten shillings (£4.50), which was high when you think that anyone earning one thousand pounds a year was considered to be 'well off'! I loved 'The Court' from the very first moment. People were friendly. Mr and Mrs Rich who lived in the next block (Marie still does, Max having sadly died some years ago), knocked on our door and offered the use of their phone until ours was installed, realizing that, as a professional musician, my husband needed instant communication for his 'gigs'.

The gardens were glorious, splendidly looked after by a lovely old character called Mr Baxter. It's funny, I never knew his other name and I never heard anyone call him anything other than Mr Baxter. When Freshwaters bought the property in 1959 they immediately destroyed his beautiful flower beds and built extra flats (the infill blocks) in their place. Mr Baxter left, as did several families who thought The Court had been vandalised, and would never recover. I'm happy to say they were proved wrong. The 'village type' atmosphere is still here, a small haven off Green Lanes. The whole world has changed since those days, of course. People wore evening dress more, apart from my husband to whom a dinner suit was overalls, it was common place to look out of the window and see folks off to a function, all 'glammed up' and looking good. Fashions have changed but The Court is blessed still with a goodly share of real people, all age groups and types. Long may it be preserved!

HELP US TO PRESERVE CLISSOLD COURT BY JOINING THE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION. If you belong, sorry folks, but the annual subscription is due. £15, if you please, to Joyce Palmer at No. 29. (Reduced rate for pensioners.)



GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS

This is the time of year when Clissold Court residents seem to hibernate or migrate and being a good neighbour means keeping an eye open for those who may need help because of illness or inability to cope with icy pavements.

**The CCRA Chairman and
Committee wish you a**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

If anyone feels that they need help with shopping or in other ways they should contact their nearest committee member who will endeavour to help them.

THE PARK FENCE

We are assured by the Park authorities that work is to proceed to erect a length of pallisade fencing which will close the gap from Greenway Close into the park. We look forward to the completion of this work with anticipation.

WELCOME

Welcome to new residents
Jeremy and Clare at Flat 45.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Geraldine Cashin and
Francesca at Flat 46 on the
arrival of Daisy on 2
September. We understand
that Daisy was born about 20
minutes after Geraldine
arrived at UCH!

and to Dominic and Kathryn at
Flat 19C on the arrival of
Cristabel Rose Green on 3
November. Cristabel was also
born in UCH.



The Editor regrets ...

having been unable to
interview anybody about the
history of Clissold Court for
this issue. She hopes to
continue the series in the
winter issue of the
Newsletter.

WE REGRET TO ANNOUNCE THE DEATH OF SAŠA PERCY of Flat 21

Saša died unexpectedly while
visiting his mother in Brno,
in the Czech Republic, on 18
October.

Saša had a stroke twelve years
ago and suffered severe loss
of speech and lost the
ability to write. He spent
his days playing the piano,
reading, preparing meals for
me and our many visitors, and
was frequently to be heard
laughing very loudly at things
which amused him. I was the
interpreter of his thoughts
both in English and in Czech
and in return he looked after
me in every way he could.

He was passionately fond of
the autumn, wherever he
happened to be. All this
year he had been saying that
he must see Brno in the
autumn. He arrived there
and the autumn was indeed
beautiful. I saw it for
myself when I arrived shortly
after his death and it was a
great comfort to me.

Saša's death has made me
realise more than ever how
lucky we are to live in
Clissold Court. My thanks
for all the care and attention
at this sad time. I can't
imagine a more caring
community.

Annette Percy

THE NEWSLETTER

The Editor would like to
apologise for the late arrival
of this issue and to thank all
those who supplied ideas.

The next issue will be
published in late January. If
you would like to contribute
or have an item for sale
please contact Annette Percy
at No. 21 before mid-January.