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Ecology
One of the factors which delayed much of the redevelopment of the docks was the discovery that the land had become seriously contaminated with a whole variety of toxins, and many millions had to be spent on cleanup before any building could be done. Amidst all the concrete and glass of the redevelopment, there are some very green initiatives. The Isle of Dogs has the greatest concentration of living roots in the country, the pyramid tower of Canary Wharf has nesting boxes for swifs, made by local schoolchildren, and the Mudchute City farm is the largest in Europe.



The Isle of Dogs
Before the docks in were built in 1799 the area had been marshland, with virtually no buildings. Suddenly the area became a major part of the whole British Empire's economy. The docks gradually closed during the 1970's, but by 1984 and the first Unlock walk nothing had taken their place. There was talk of redevelopment, and maybe a new light railway, but still a lot of scepticism about what would happen. You see around you the phenomenal changes which have taken place in the last 23 years, and if you have time there is more detail on this, and much more, in the Museum of Docklands by the West India Dock. There is also an exhibition about the slave trade in this, the bicentenary of its abolition.

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Migration
The area has been the starting point for emigrants as they left England, as well as those bound for Australia the settlers who founded Jamestown, the first English settlement in North America, departed from here. There have also been many coming into the area: there are large communities from the West Indies and Bangladesh. The most notable migration into Docklands in the last two decades, however, has been that of affluent people, including Robert de Niro, buying the newly developed riverfront properties.

Southwark Park
Southwark Park was opened in 1869. The two large mounds in the park are from the excavation of the Rotherhithe Tunnel nearby. In 2006 a major refurbishment was completed, which included a new cafe and restoring the pond. The park also includes London's first public memorial to honour a working class man: a drinking fountain to commemorate Mr Jabez West, a member of a local Temperance Society. The China Hill gate, through which we walk, is named after a large Chinese-theme pub, since demolished.

Bermondsey
Bermondsey grew up around the large Abbey; it was founded in 1082 and was one of the largest in the country, but nothing now remains above ground. With recent building work at the junction of Abbey St. and Tower Bridge Rd archaeologists have had opportunities to discover more about it, before the site is again buried beneath new buildings.
It was from Bermondsey river side that the William Turner painted his famous work "The Fighting Temeraire" "tugged to her last berth to be broken up, depicting the veteran warship being towed to Rotherhithe to be scrapped. Three years before Turner's masterpiece, Bermondsey had the first passenger railway in London. A service opened in 1836, and was soon extended to London Bridge and Greenwich.

2007 UNLOCK WALK NO. 24

THE UNLOCK LONDON WALK NO. 24

SATURDAY 21st APRIL 2007 9AM to 5PM
Bermondsey and the Isle of Dogs



Transformation

The Unlock London Walk has become the financial mainstay of Unlock's operations, providing well over half of the annual income for our work in resourcing and developing urban discipleship. For the last 23 years Unlock walkers have helped to pay for work that transforms the lives of urban Christians, helping them to grow in confidence and faith.

We welcome you to the 24th walk, largely retracing the route of our first EUTP/Unlock walk. The transformation which has taken place since the early 1980's, particularly on "The Island" is so dramatic that those of you who came on that first walk in 1984 may hardly recognise it as the same place. The changes arouse both admiration and disappointment as many are missed out by the prosperity we see around. On a less grand, but perhaps a greater scale, transformation is continuing to take place as God works through his people in the communities around the area. The walk gives all of us an opportunity to visit some of the Churches along the way, and to learn some of what God is doing in Bermondsey, Shadwell and the Isle of Dogs. Our early walks had fewer stops than in recent years, but four out of the six stops on this year's route were visited in 1984; God is still working in these places, but his work is ever new.

Last year saw another first Unlock walk. It was through an inner city, visiting churches on the way. The setting was Glasgow, where a new team of Unlock workers are seeing some exciting results as people encounter a transforming God, as his and their stories are unlocked through looking at the Bible together. There is now a 'new style' Unlock worker in Hull, soon to be followed by developments in Sheffield, and hopefully Liverpool, and other cities.

A big thank-you to all of you who either collect sponsorship, or give a donation to Unlock; your generosity is vital to Unlock's ongoing work. Enjoy your walk, and the kind hospitality of the churches you visit, and keep your hearts and minds open to learn, and then to pray about the area, churches, and Unlock's work.

Dawn Lonsdale (Unlock Chief Officer) and the walk planning team

Dear walkers and supporters,

The Unlock London Walk is a great day out, so good that some walkers have never missed a walk in the last 23 years! We want you to enjoy the day, and to see what God is doing in this part of London. But, the Unlock London Walk, however good an experience it may be, is actually a means to an end. It exists to raise money to fund Unlock's ongoing work in developing urban discipleship in the UK. **In 2003 the London Walk raised a total of £25,117.65; in 2006, in spite of a good turnout, it was just £20,981.81.** The fall endangers Unlock's ongoing work, because the walk raises around half of our running costs each year. In the current competitive charity fundraising climate, it is much harder to raise the other half from other sources. Many other charities are more emotionally appealing than Unlock, with causes (children, specific illnesses, or third world) which are all very worthy and attracting funding more easily than **Unlock's work in areas of urban deprivation in the UK.**

Unlock's work is about **Christian Mission**, urgently focussed on bringing God's Good News to those who have often been ignored as unimportant, here, on our own doorsteps, in our own UK cities. Traditional urban communities are one of the few places remaining in British culture where there is still a degree of respect for the Christian Faith, but those very communities have not had opportunities to explore that faith for themselves, because church style and language are inappropriate for their culture and just put people off. Unlock works to plug this gap, by providing urban communities with ways of exploring faith that are designed specifically for them, and meet their particular needs. With 30 years of experience and expertise, we train, pay, and resource workers in city locations, we offer our insights and experience to others working in urban mission, we make resources available free of charge to anyone who wants to use them in their work of developing discipleship. Only by the London Walk and others who provide us with financial support on a regular basis has this been possible.

Please work with us to ensure that the 2007 walk generates more income to fund Unlock's work. You can do this by:

- **Sponsorship** – get as many sponsors as you can, by explaining to them what you are raising money for; and ensure that they gift aid their sponsorship wherever possible.
- **Donations** – you can make a personal donation to Unlock's work, either on a one off basis, or better yet, at regular intervals,
- **Through your Church** – persuade your church to give funds to support Unlock as part of its regular missionary giving.
- **Through people of power and influence!** – with so many walkers, some of you must know people who are trustees of charitable funds, or directors of companies, or just rich and benevolent, that might be interested in supporting Unlock. See if you can persuade them to take an interest.

As if the challenge of doing the walk were not enough – this year I'd like to offer all Unlock walkers an additional challenge in two parts:

1. Check out the Unlock website www.unlock-urban.org.uk, to find out more about what we do.
2. Seriously and prayerfully consider how you can support Unlock's ongoing work.

Dawn Lonsdale (Chief Officer)

don't forget >>>

- A-Z map of London (if you have one)
- Many of the churches on the route will provide refreshments
- A snack (food is also available on the route)
- We walk whatever the weather
- Look for things to pray about as you walk



Further details & more copies of this map:
Unlock, 336A City Road, Sheffield, S2 1GA
Telephone: 0114 276 2035

Unlocking real life stories of urban people
Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ
Releasing life changing skills & confidence



Registered Charity: 313454