



building on firm foundations

the training employment and advice shop (TEA Shop)

The TEA Shop, as part of Reading's Local Labour In Construction scheme, is committed to providing work and training opportunities on local construction projects. Those interested in work on site can enrol with The Skills Register at the TEA Shop at 179a Oxford Road, The Skills Register office in Bennett Road or by ringing 0118 901 5228.

The TEA Shop also runs the town centre 'Retail Skills Register' and works with unemployed people to provide assistance with job searches including:

- careers advice
- production of CV
- free use of computers
- photocopiers
- phone & fax facilities
- basic computer literacy courses

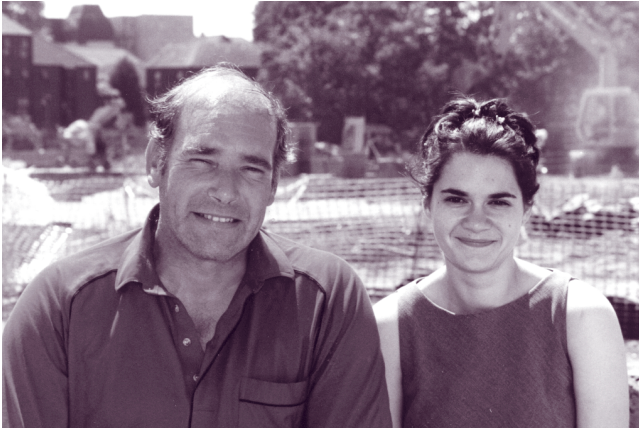
For further details call 0118 901 5210.

Lisa Welsh has just started work as Administrative Assistant for the Site Manager at Kennet Walk. She was walking past the TEA Shop offices in Oxford Road and saw the advertisement in the window. She used to work as an IT Administrator in London although she had to take time off work due to illness. When she was fit to return to work, she decided she would much rather be based locally in Reading rather than have to trek up to town. She found the TEA Shop staff to be extremely helpful.

If you would like to receive a translation of this newsletter, please contact: Raj Kumar 0118 951 2900
અહીં સહાયતા માટેની સેવાઓ જોઈવા માટે અમારી સહાયતા સેવાઓનો સંપર્ક કરો.
اگر آپ منسلک سہولیات کا ترجمہ اینٹرنیٹ پر چاہتے ہیں تو براہ مہربانی اپنے رازدار سے رابطہ قائم کیجیے۔

Lisa comments, "When I went into the TEA shop they put me at ease immediately and really took an interest. They were so different from some of the other recruitment agencies I'd been to visit who intimidated me, told me my skills needed updating and made me feel guilty for being off work ill! I'm

Malcolm & Lisa on site



really enjoying working for Gleeson, the hours are perfect. I work from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm so I still have time to go home and walk the dog. My contract is for 18 months and I hope to carry on with the company after that.

Malcolm Hine was recruited from Hays Montrose to work on site as Project Engineer. He started in January and ten weeks ago was taken on to work full time for Gleeson City Living.

He has worked in construction for 25 years and moved down to Reading three and a half years

ago. Malcolm explains, "I have previously worked through agencies as this way of working offered me more flexibility, I was close to home and the money was good.

Malcolm Hine continues, "However, I have really enjoyed working at Kennet Walk directly for Gleeson.

The remediation is very thorough and the finished project will be a landmark feature along the riverside in Reading. I also like the way the company feels it is important to get local people involved, giving a sense of ownership to what is effectively happening in everyone's back yard."

Richard Cusdin, Project Manager for Gleeson City Living and their subcontractors, will soon be looking

for additional construction workers for the site. If you would like to apply, contact him on 0374 773664 or 0118 957 5944.

Ealing Family Housing Association

The rented properties at Kennet Walk will be offered to people on Reading Borough Council's waiting list. For further information on the housing opportunities at Kennet Walk, **contact Jacqueline Macky** 0118 951 2900.

The next community newsletter will follow in the Autumn. In the meantime, should you have any questions or queries about the site, please do not hesitate to contact the Project Manager, Richard Cusdin on 0374 773664 or 0118 957 5944.



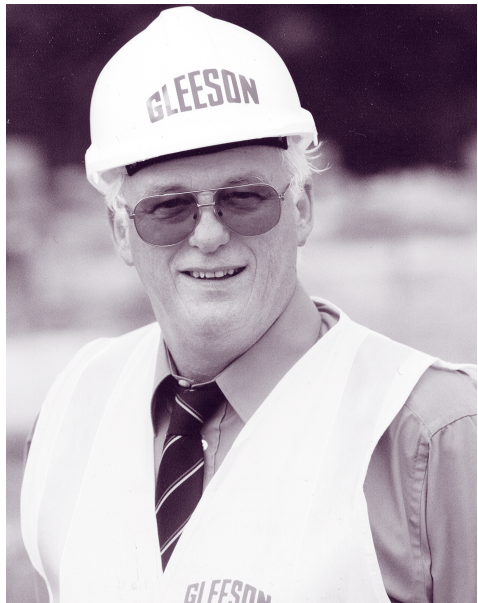
in-site

by Richard Cusdin, Project Manager, Gleeson City Living

"There was local concern about this project when we first arrived to start work due to the nature of the site, however we have answered the critics with fact and action. The redevelopment of the gas works, an unsightly piece of land until now, will raise the aesthetic appeal of the immediate area and provide a better quality of life for local residents. Everyone now seems much happier with the scheme."

"My job is to co-ordinate information from various sources such as the designers and sub contractors etc to ensure that we obtain the right information at the right time for the build programme."

"The area of land was vacated after becoming surplus to the requirements of the Gas Board some ten years ago. Specialist ground remediation works began in January and a great deal of work has been completed since our last newsletter."



Richard Cusdin, Project Manager, Gleeson City Living

"We started by removing the contaminated materials, mostly tars and oils, from the old gas manufacturing plant at the site and clean material has been imported."

"A capillary breaklayer of 300 ml of stone has been laid to prevent any underwater contaminates from rising into the clean material. This soil remediation took 16 weeks. Wells are being constructed around the site to ensure clean ground water and this will take approximately 42 weeks."

"Construction has commenced on access roads and car parks. The site has passed air and dust level tests by EAG consultants with flying colours as the levels on site have not exceeded even the lowest acceptable levels. We are operating a waste management scheme to ensure a reduction of waste by reusing materials where possible, while skips and recycling bins are also being kept on site."

"New amenities such as a toddler's play area, crèche, training centre, ball park, new footbridge and public walkway along the river will hopefully enrich the lives of all the locals and regenerate the community. Manufacture of the new footbridge has commenced, which will allow access from Kennet Walk to the shops and schools in Newtown. The ecologically sound bridge, which even includes bat boxes

Welcome to the second of our regular newsletters, aimed at keeping the local community fully updated and informed about the groundbreaking mixed tenure site off Kenavon Drive being developed by Gleeson City Living in partnership with Reading Borough Council and Ealing Family Housing Association. The grant aided scheme, supported by the Government's Single Regeneration Budget, resolves the future of a brownfield site in the heart of Reading. When complete it will provide 88, one and two-bedroom apartments for the open market, together with 46, much needed three-storey family homes available for people on the council's housing register.

integrated into the structure so bats can live and shelter there, is due to arrive in 10 weeks time.

"For further information about the community building which it is hoped will be used as a local training centre with childcare facilities contact Sarah Hollamby at Reading Borough Council on 0118 939 0309."

"We expect the whole project to be completed by August 2001 and at the time of going to press we are three weeks ahead of our building programme - onwards and upwards!"

"Pictured on the day work commenced on site are from left to right: Gillian Smitherman from South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), Askar Sheibani, Deputy Lead Member



for Housing at Reading Borough Council, Malcolm Greer, Vice Chair of East Reading Partnership and member of The Newtown GLOBE Group, Clive Wilding, Managing Director of Gleeson Homes, Michael Haigh, Ealing Family Housing Association, Christine Borgars, Chair of East Reading Partnership and Pat Tempany from SEEDA."





Malcolm Greer, Vice Chair of East Reading Partnership and member of The Newtown GLOBE Group, organised Newtown's contribution to RESCUE (Rivers and Environmental Spaces Clean Up) in March. Local people as well as representatives from the East Reading Partnership met up at Kennet Walk to do their bit for the local environment. They spent the day removing rubbish and debris from the river and its banks.

Malcolm comments, "I was initially concerned about the nature of this development and I was even part of the DUCK Group (Don't Use Contaminated Kenavon), however I have taken an active role in all the discussions and open meetings.

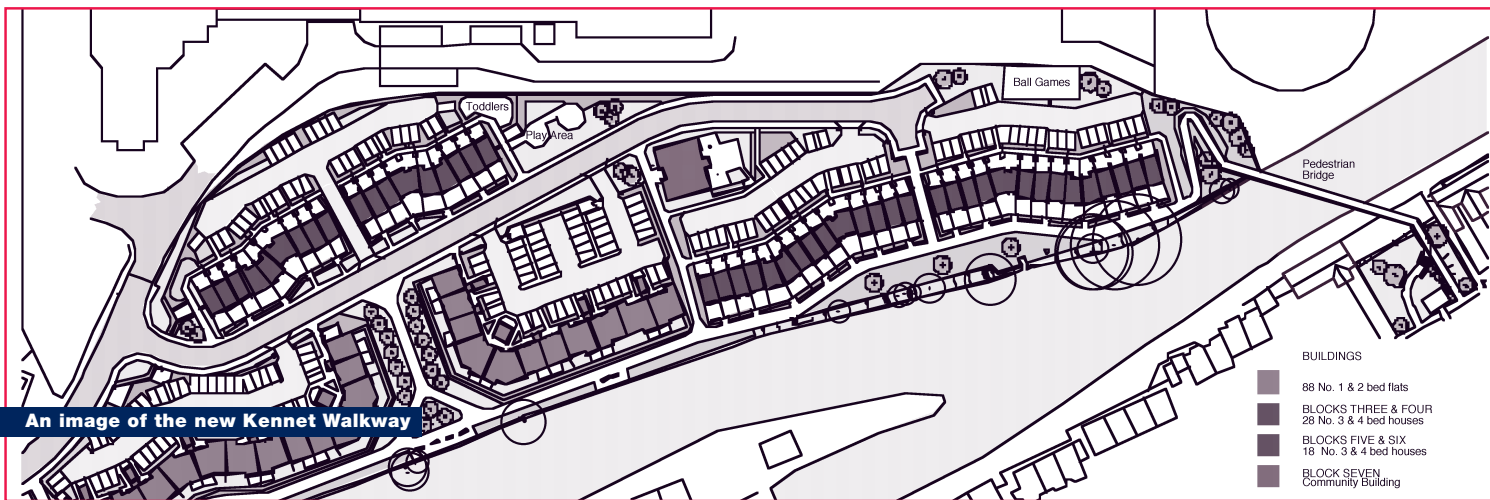
I now represent the Newtown GLOBE Group on the Kenavon Drive Steering Committee and this is testament to the fact that I have been very impressed by Gleeson City Living's commitment to the community. They are not just seen to be doing the right thing - they are doing the right thing."

Malcolm is a member of Newtown GLOBE (Go Local On a Better Environment) which was set up as part of the Agenda 21 initiative after the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.



The group is made up of people who want to play an active role in the local community. Meetings are held once a month at the Sun Street Community Centre. For further information about GLOBE contact Lesley Doyle on 0118 939 0614.

Photographs of The Kennet Clean Up are by kind permission of Councillor Jim Durki



An image of the new Kennet Walkway



named Kennet Walk

Shane Lyons a nine year old pupil at St John's Primary School, Reading, won the competition to name the development "Kennet Walk".

The competition was launched by Suzie Dickens, Development Manager for Gleeson City Living,

deliberation, Shane was presented with a book voucher by Melanie Riches, Marketing Manager of Gleeson Homes.

during visits to several of the primary schools in the local area. SPLAT! - 'Safe Play at all Times' was the message she relayed to local children as part of the project's rigorous safety policy. Following a stack of entries and much

Commenting, Melanie Riches said "We thought the name Kennet Walk was very descriptive! When the development is complete, it will look out over the River Kennet and a key element of the re-development of the site will be the creation of a new walkway along the riverside for the public. The name captures both these elements."

Photographed is Melanie Riches, Marketing Manager for Gleeson Homes and Shane Lyons, winner of the name the development competition.



coming soon to a screen near you

A new web site is currently under construction to provide a comprehensive guide to Kennet Walk at your finger-tips. It will include digital images of Kennet Walk as it is developed along with a library of shots of the remediation work in progress. The interactive web site will contain local community information offering advice and features with topical news and information, rather like a lifestyle magazine, and be updated on a regular basis. It will be navigable, clear and concise with state-of-the-art photography which will be updated as the site progresses. Visit the web site www.kennetwalk.co.uk