



First for regeneration

Obituary: Reg Ward, former London Docklands Development Corporation chief executive

By David Donoghue Monday, 10 January 2011

Reg Ward, chief executive of the London Docklands Development Corporation from 1981 to 1987, who developed and saw through the plans for the DLR, London City Airport, the Royal Docks, Surrey Quays and Canary Wharf, died in hospital on Thursday 6 January 2011.

He had many fans, not least amongst the community and his staff, who still hold regular meetings to celebrate his regime.

A tribute to him on the LDDC veteran's website says: "So much of what the London Docklands are today is a direct result of Reg's huge vision for the area. He was much loved by all who worked for him in those heady days and he will be greatly missed."

Reg was the Corporation's first chief executive (1981-87) from whose vision flowed so much of what you see in Docklands today.

Indeed, the Olympics bid could never have been successful without Reg's work to create infrastructure and put East London on the map.

Born in the Forest of Dean, Reg started his career in the Inland Revenue and later filled posts with a northern firm of architects and Irvine New Town.

Before joining LDDC in the "shadow period" in 1980 he had been chief executive first of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham and then of the county of Hereford and Worcester.

After he left LDDC he spent many years working on major regeneration projects around the world, the most recent being in St Kitts in the West Indies.

In his last years Reg took life little easier at his home near his daughter at Broadwell Manor.

In April 2004 Reg and his wife Betty celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a lunchtime party at Stow-in-the Wold attended by many of the LDDC's original staff.

Betty died early in 2010.

David Donoghue is former director of information at LDDC