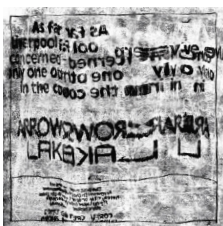
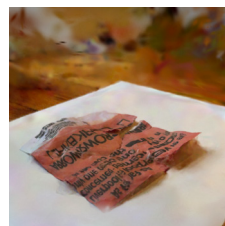
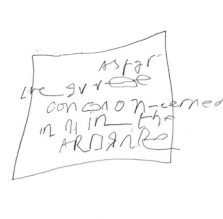
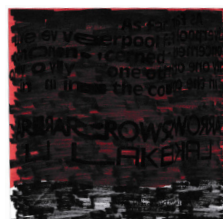
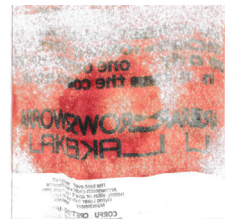


Iterations out of 100, left to right: 1, 2, 7, 14, 20, 18, 16, 13, 22

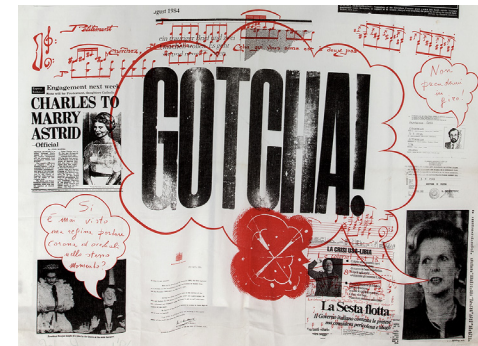


In an earlier project, I had used a scanner to reduce the resolution and quality of printed images. I decided this would be the basis for my 100 iterations, using an advert from an old Liverpool football programme from the 1970s. My enquiry began by exploring how many ways could I deconstruct and degrade an image.

After completing my 100 iterations, I knew I wanted to explore more using the analogue techniques I had tried. I started thinking about analogue image manipulation and the connections between printing, scanning, collage and DIY political ephemera.

Exploring images of protest materials led me to London docklands protest banners and then to think about Docker's history in Liverpool, where I am from.

Dock work is part of my family history, as well as being an integral part of Liverpool's identity as a working-class city. My position within my work relates to this and drives my interest in exploring community and history.



John Furnival -
Curtains for Mrs
Thatcher (1982)

John Dugger -
Docklands banner
(1978)



44 of my docker collage iterations.

In the mid 1990s, 500 Liverpool dockers were sacked for refusing to cross a picket line over increased casual labour, increased workload and reduced working rights. Since then, the industry has become increasingly automated with less and less people working on the docks.

I started iterating using historical imagery of dockers along with news articles about the strike, experimenting with the same techniques from my 100 iterations. My line of enquiry shifted, thinking how I could represent a community being eroded using these techniques.

At the same time, I was reading online texts and academic journals about the dispute, looking for more information and references that I could use.

An iteration from
the 45 collages
i made during
week two of the
iterating brief.





The Dockers Club

Public group · 5.4K members



+ Invite

Share

Joined



About Discussion Featured People Events Media Files

Q ...

About

Hello from the Admins:

Moira Kenny-Campbell, John Campbell and Philip Parker.

The Dockers Club project was originally born from a collaboration between The Sound Agents Ltd, a Liverpool based arts and heritage organisation, and Sefton Libraries in Crosby. Its aim is to bring together former Liverpool dockers—many of whom lost their jobs during the 1995–1998 strike—and to reconnect them with the social lives and communities disrupted by industrial dispute and containerisation.

The Dockers Club provides a friendly space for anyone with a love of Liverpool and the Docks to reconnect, reminisce, and share their social history, offering a unique insight into a world once hidden behind the dock walls.

We warmly welcome dockers and their families to share their memories. Please feel free to upload photos and stories. [See less](#)

Public

Anyone can see who's in the group and what they post.

Visible

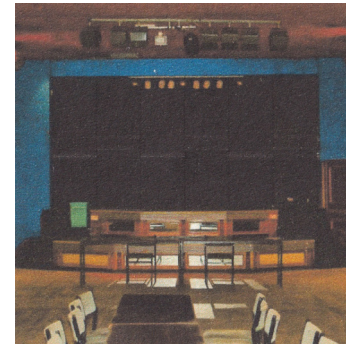
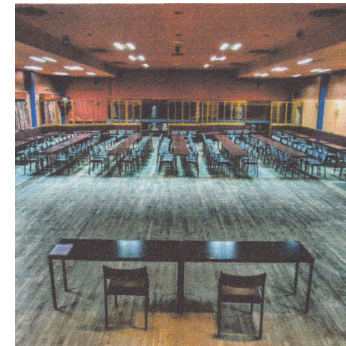
Anyone can find this group.

During this process, I came across a Facebook group called the Docker's Club. The group's description states, "Its aim is to bring together former Liverpool dockers—many of whom lost their jobs during the 1995–1998 strike—and to reconnect them with the social lives and communities disrupted by industrial dispute and containerisation."

The group functions almost as a live archive, with dockers and family members sharing memories and photos.

The Dockers Club had previously been a physical location, a working man's club and community centre which was open from 1956-2013. It was demolished in 2021, the same year the Facebook group was started, moving from physical space to digital.

Screenshots of The Dockers Club Facebook group

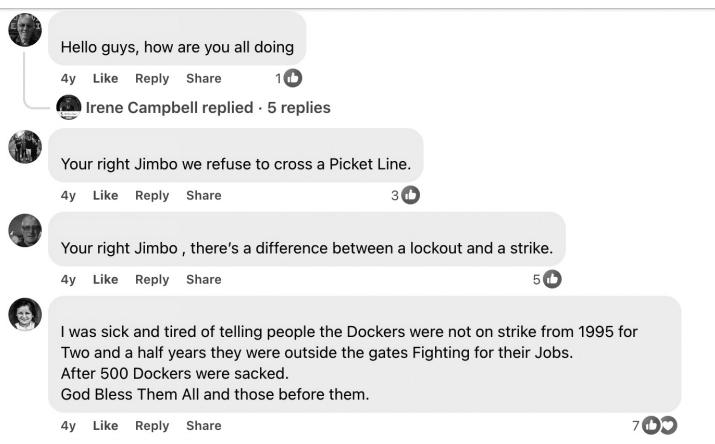


Photos of the original Docker's Club in Edinburgh Park, Liverpool

I was captivated by the Facebook group, reading posts and comments from those who were part of the dispute and working on the docks at the time, in their own words.

The group allows for not only a preservation of experiences and memories of work but also maintains the social culture and sense of humour. The group is searchable, and I was able to sift through, looking for imagery and graphic materials that were used during the dispute.

Whilst doing this, I developed an affection for the way people were interacting. The informal language, misspellings and arguments in the comments. This page brought a level of humanity I didn't find when reading about the dispute online or in texts.



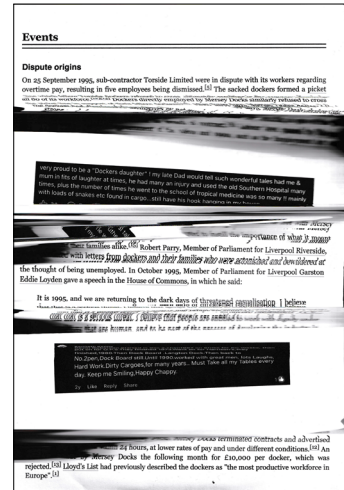
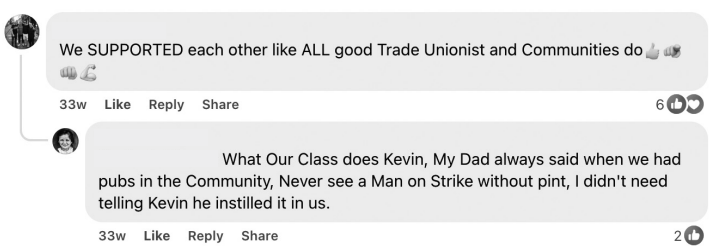
Supporting the 500 sacked dockers and their families against the scabs (known by this for the rest of their lives)

NEVER CROSS A PICKET LINE

6w Like Reply Share Edited

12

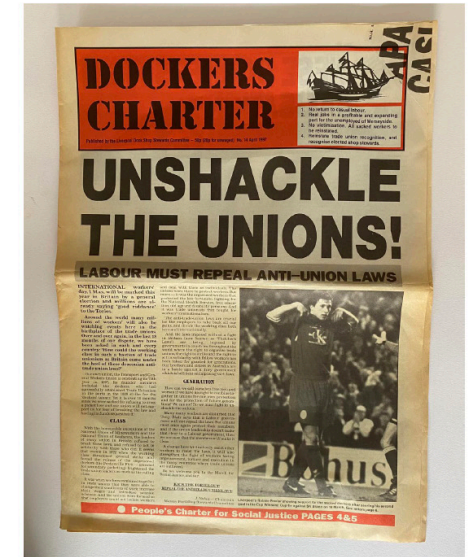
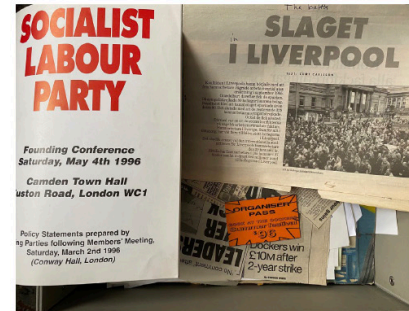
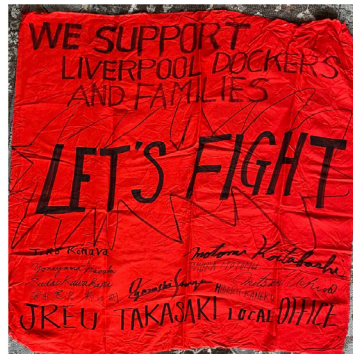
Anonymised comments from the Facebook group



I started experimenting, thinking about the tension between formal knowledge, such as academic journals and the informal context of people sharing memories in the Facebook group.

Iterations combining texts with Facebook comments, academic writing with a dockers hook, stickers placed over academic journal

I also started to gather images and political memorabilia that people had posted in the group, including badges, flyers and banners supporting the dockers and solidarity groups, organising it by media and subject matter.

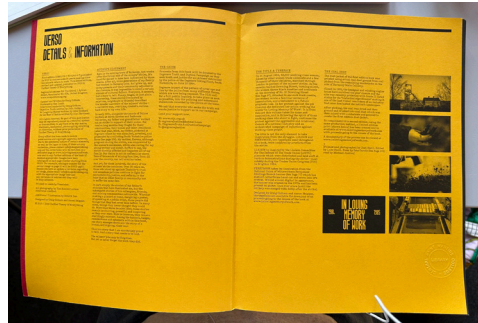


Left and right: memorabilia shared in the Facebook group

My enquiry was now exploring the questions how can we give communities agency through design? How can we preserve history through visual storytelling?

My research and references informed my ideas around how I could approach my subject matter::

In Loving Memory of Work – A Visual Record of the UK Miner’s Strike 1981-85 edited by Craig Oldham



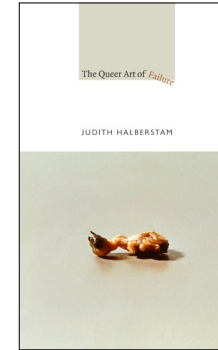
Craig Oldham’s “In Loving Memory of Work” is a visual record of the miner’s strike, told through its graphic language. This reference provided visual inspiration of how to depict an industry and community using its own political ephemera.

Jeremy Deller - The Battle of Orgreave (2001)



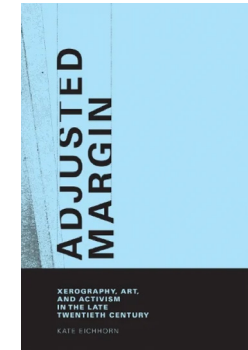
Jeremy Deller staged a re-enactment of the Battle of Orgreave, thirty years after it took place, with ex-miners and stunt actors. Deller described the process as “confronting something and not being afraid of looking at it again”. This articulates the value in art and design which gives agency to community and addresses inaccuracies in how a story was told at the time.

The Queer Art of Failure - Jack Halberstam



Jack Halberstam’s “The Queer Art of Failure”, explores the importance of low brow media and culture as significant in providing accessible ways to understand complex ideas. I felt this was relevant to my use of Facebook as a source of information within my project, considering it is a platform most people do not regard as high value.

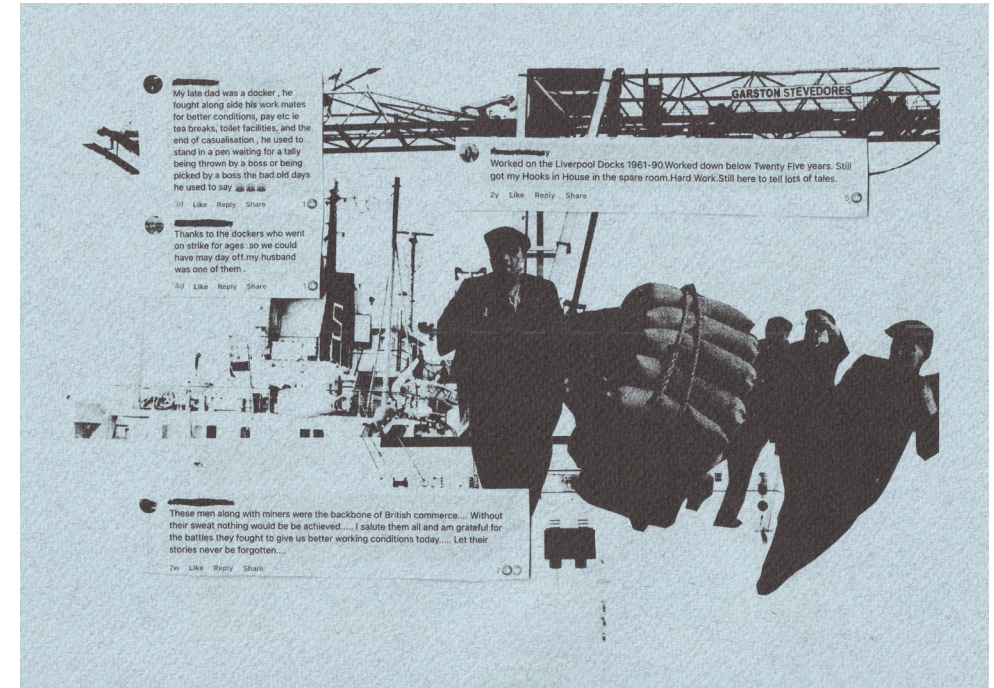
Adjusted Margin - Kate Eichhorn

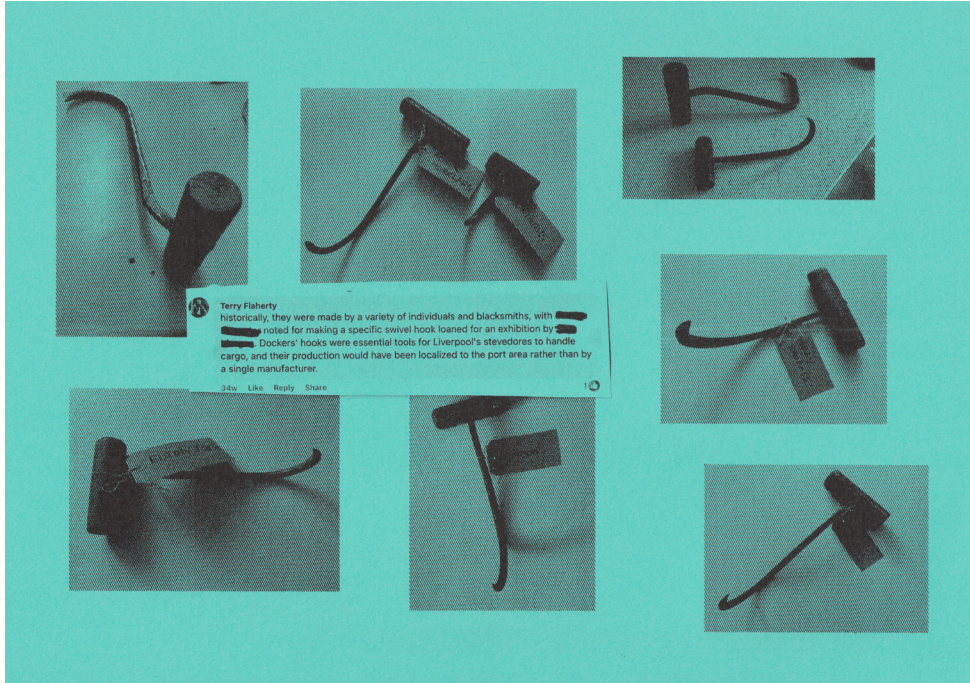


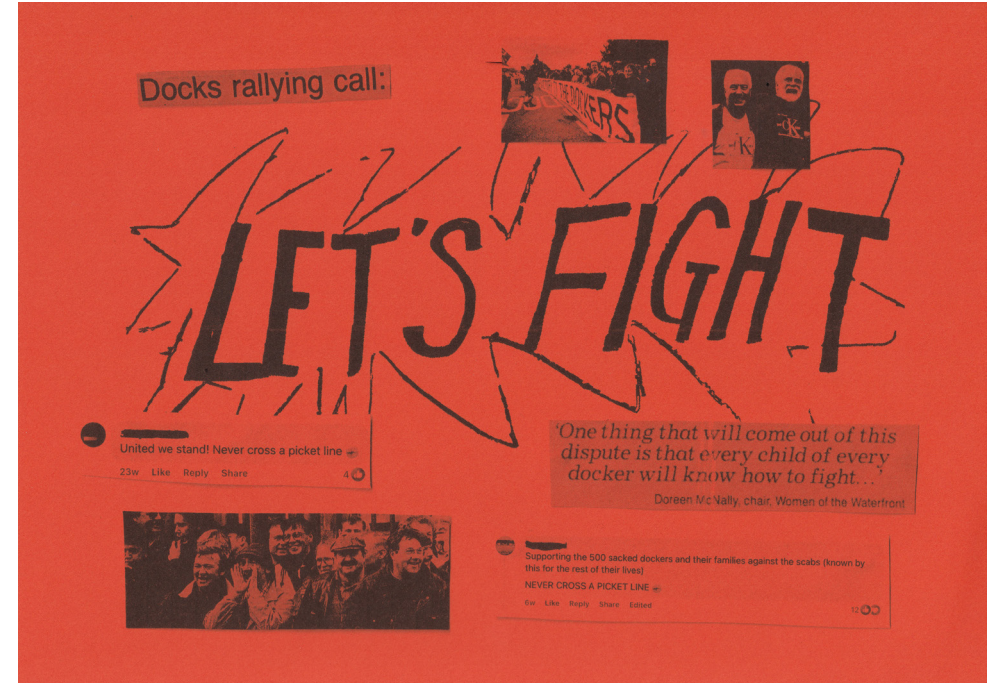
In Adjusted Margin by Kate Eichhorn, she discusses the importance of the photocopier in social and political movements. This supported my interest in using printing and scanning techniques to create my work and communicate the visual language of grassroots political action.

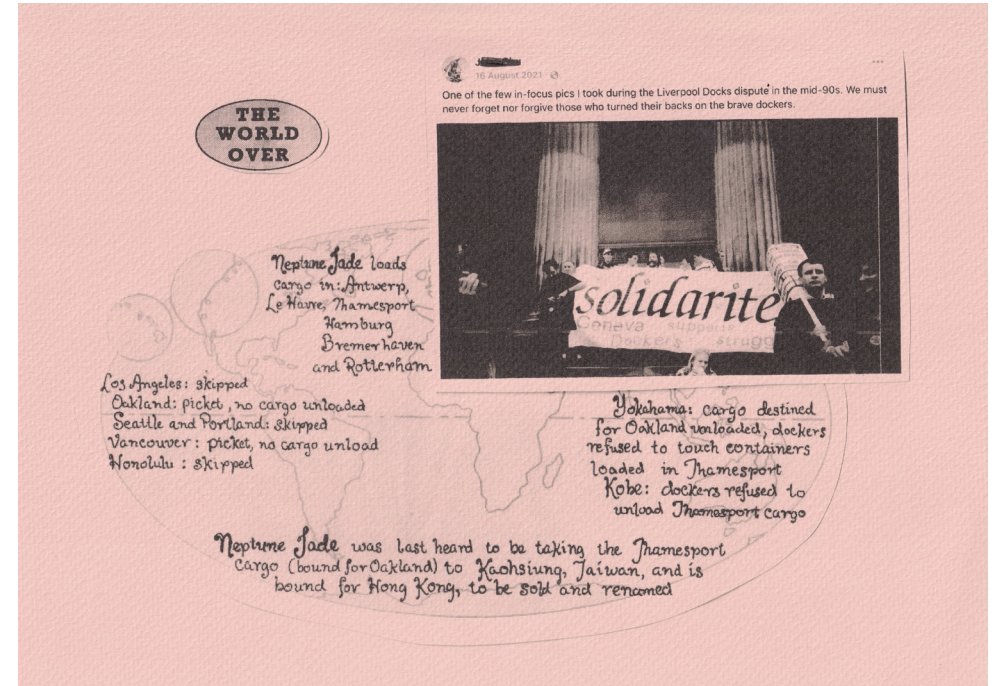
With these references (and more) in mind, I began using a mixture of photographs, ephemera and comments taken from the Facebook group, using scanning, printing and collage to tell the story of the dockers.

Through this process, I have continued to be interested in how this community perseveres, and how I can explore this further visually.









ble we can only give a flavour of the...
 y Nolan said in opening the proceed...
 orth and south), the United States, B...
 enmark, Portugal and Spain.

1 Australia said he was 'amazed to fin...
 coming just to support Liverpool. H...
 ple such as the Tolpuddle Martyrs.

1m Quebec pointed out...
 long to wait,' he said. '...
 ence would deliver a m...
 es: 'Reinstate the sacked...
 gain because internatio...

Riley echoed the sentiments of virtua...
 cers were those faced by dockers all...
 n who had been locked out for 22 m...
 ns given. He said the conference was...
 Thatcher, Reagan and Muldoon. The...
 ong to the trade union movement.

openhagen, Denmark said that nine y...
 / were greatly interested in the confer...

1m Le Havre in France, Philippe Gaud...
 necessary 'to build a structure in Eur...
 xcker from the port of Pireaus in Gree...
 throughout Europe by privatization...
 emational initiative that had been lau...

, seafarer, Savas Tsiboglou said that in...
 ing laid off, driven to the social periph...
 working people taken away from their...

Francisco Ramos Vargas from Spain, and a docke...
 lot of knowledge from the fight. In 1980-86 the d...
 Liverpool now faced. It was not possible for dock...
 'Workers of the world must know that we can org...
 similar problems.

From Antwerp, Belgium, Roger Van Donnick said...
 port had to fight for a job. The mentality of the do...
 ggest party in Antwerp and had some 11...
 £150 collected for the Liverpool di...
 necessary.

ls from Hamburg said he was please...
 said that 2,700dm had been raised for...
 National Dock Labour Scheme was abolished. It...
 wages and conditions. Hamburg was a busy port...
 but the labour force had fallen by the same figure.

From New Zealand, Terry Ryan said that until tw...
 was coming to Liverpool. The 1991 Employment...
 repressive legislation in the world. The...
 job - this is the free market. They had...
 company to unload a cargo of bananas...
 that they couldn't guarantee that there...
 only 1,200 watersiders in New Zealand...
 for survival. If we don't win we're dead. It's the s...

Seafarer, Pat Lumber, from New Zealand said tha...
 to containerisation the numbers were 3,000-4,000...
 among the best in the world, it had led to the dem...
 compete with rice-bowl economy.

Antonio Mariano from Portugal said they were p...
 Lisbon faced the same struggle against casual lab...
 10,000 to 1,000. They now had a 'socialist' gover...
 We cannot wait for our defence stri...

In the early days many people, including many rrenus, unou...
 last 20 years but after 'a well-organised and historical camp...
 believe that we are on the verge of victory.' Above all the gr...
 It was this tremendous support that had made the sacked Liv...
 the dispute.

Arturo DeRosa, Salerno, invited all present to be united to c...
 same hard-headedness of those who perpetuate this problem...
 the attention of all present to not waste even a word at this c...
 alternative road that can bring us to reconquer the dignity of...
 must have for that worker.'

eter Shaw from Sweden, reported that his union had very i...
 wards Committee in Britain, but after the 1989 strike 'the...
 Mersey Shop Stewards were still alive.

Bjorn Borg from the same union explained that this union v...
 800 dockers where expelled from the TGWU when they rei...
 The Swedish dockers were already taking action in support

For the best position...
 conference the delegates joined t...
 well speeches from each dele...
 or everybody when he said:
 Solidarity all way's comrades.
 16w Like Reply Share
 I want to say that this is one...
 of the greatest weeks of my life.'

'When Thatcher and the Mersey Docks and Harbour Comp...
 evolve. They started something and we're going to finish it...
 asked myself why? We've sent messages of support, we've...
 Those two magnificent ambassadors of yours never left a...
 became a worldwide political dispute. It has become the st...
 and fighting back.'

'Humour is your weapon and you know how to fight. Then...
 stewards on the platform) and that's why we will win.'

The Dockers Club

A photo from inside the on-Quay shed on North Street taken about 1988. My...
 office was up on the gantry next to the hatch bosses canteen. Trains are...
 delivering steel coils from British Steel for export. All the coils on the docks these...
 days are imported.

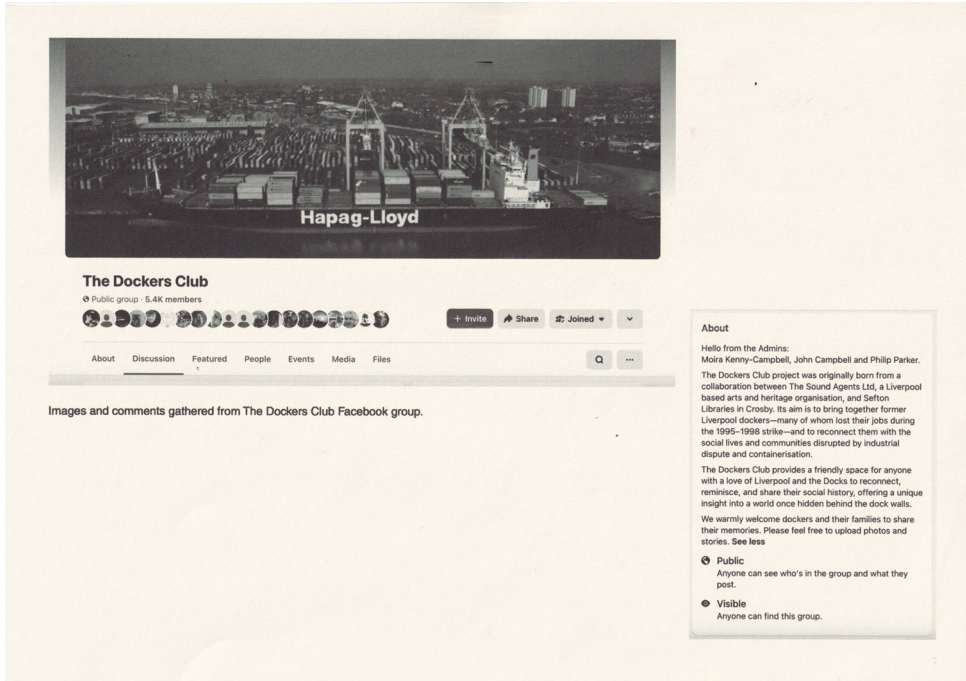
Waterloo Dock and the former Passenger centre for the B & I vessels, 2003.

The Dockers Club

Dockers stories and talks.
 The next in pictures you see the building Edinburgh Park Dockers Club... see the picture below.
 Anyone have a story or tale to share?

The Dockers Club

20 MAR 2021



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