

## Hospital death trap

THOMAS O'NEILL found a very easy way to die.

He jumped through an eighth floor window in Fazakerley Hospital and fell 140 feet to his death.

Mr O'Neill was on the eighth floor because he was a voluntary psychiatric patient.

Fazakerley's psychiatric wards are on the top two floors — the eighth and ninth—in the hospital's new tower block.

And yet the window Mr O'Neill smashed through was made of ordinary glass. Only windows in corridors are reinforced — and then only to waist height.

Ordinary folk might think that

psychiatric patients on the top two floors of a tower block deserve better protection than that.

Hospital staff have on occasions told management they think the same. Although potentially difficult patients are weeded out and sent elsewhere, staff are worried about similar incidents... or worse.

Mr O'Neill, who lived in Brook Hey Drive, Kirkby, was obviously not regarded as a potential risk. An inquest last month heard he was suffering from depression, partly over his rent arrears. (But because there were no witnesses an Open Verdict was recorded.)

Staff have been told management consider precautions are adequate.

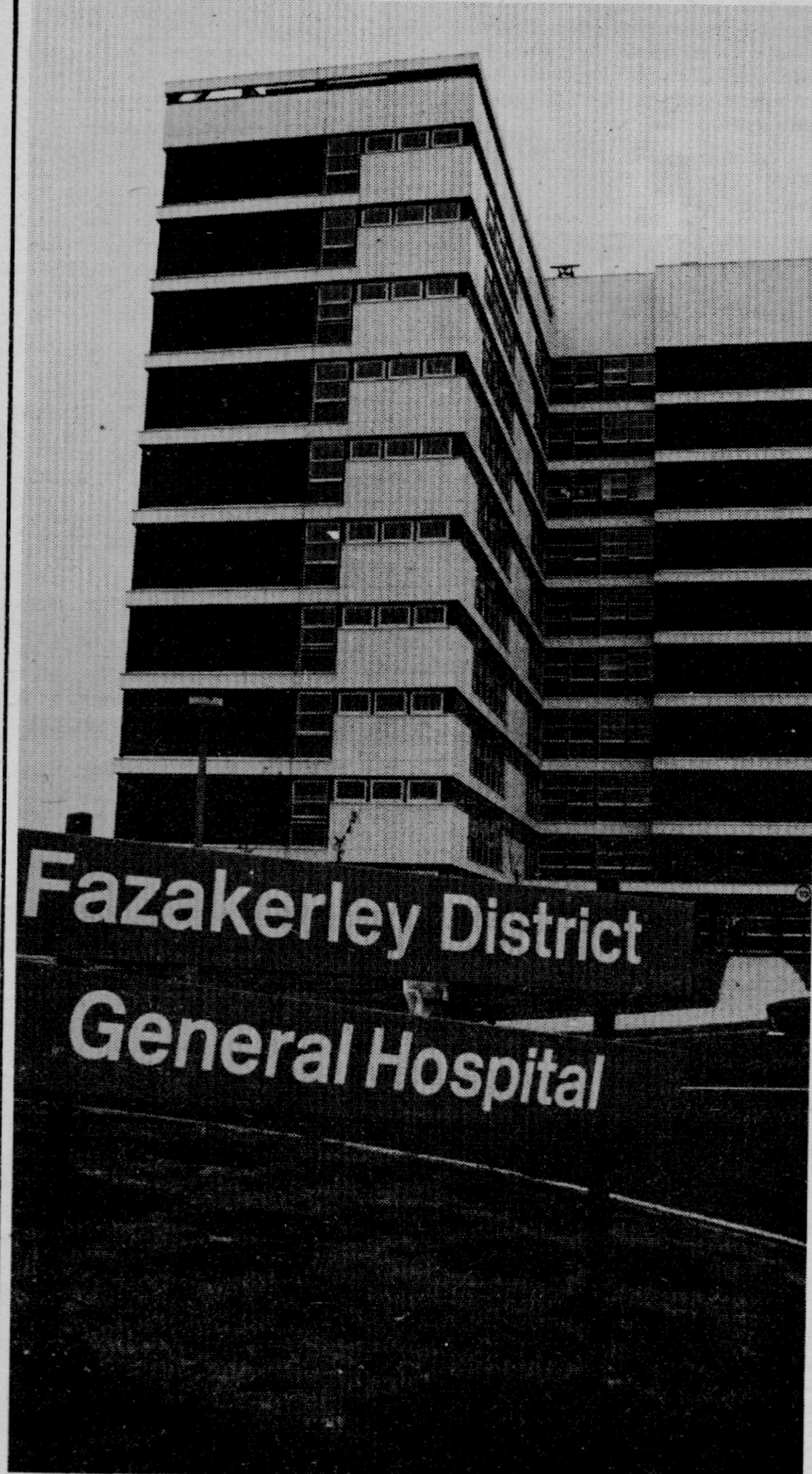
Although some of them think this is just another way of saying there is just no money for reinforced windows.

If precautions were adequate, of course, then 52-year-old Thomas O'Neill might still be alive.

But no doubt Fazakerley hospital authorities are confident there will be no similar deaths in the future. And also no doubt they know exactly what will happen if there is a fire in the tower block.

Just below the psychiatric wards are the geriatric wards — where elderly people are just seven floors from safety.

Naturally, the hospital's administration department is housed on the ground floor.



## THE OTHER WINNERS IN UEFA CUP FINAL

MANY LIVERPOOL supporters missed the UEFA Cup Final — because of a novel way of selling match tickets.

For the first time ever, Liverpool Football Club turned over their tickets to travel agents.

And most of them could only be bought along with a £50 air fare.

Ninety-five per cent of Liverpool's 2,000 tickets were allocated to just two lucky travel firms. Most of these — 1,100 — went to Town's Travel Services Ltd.

One of Liverpool Football Club's directors, Mr Sydney Cecil Reakes, is also a director of Town's Travel Services Ltd. His wife, Constance, is another director.

And Mr Reakes is a director of the firm which owns most of Town's Travel's shares.

But Mr W H Neve, Managing Director of Town's Travel, insisted that Mr Reakes "had absolutely nothing to do" with them getting the tickets.

He said his firm — and Jet Set Travel, who got the other tickets — had been organising Liverpool FC trips for about 12 years. Mr Reakes, he said, had only been a director of Town's Travel for about five years.

Mr Reakes was less forthcoming. "I'm not telling you anything... I'm not discussing this... I'm not going to say any more... You can say what you like."

But he did add that supporters' trips were "run by the development department of Liverpool Football Club and I'm not a member of that committee."

Whoever took the decision over the Bruges tickets, it certainly angered the fans. At £50, the air fare was

around £30 more than the cost of going to Belgium by road. Many could not afford the difference.

The club's explanation was that they had to ensure good behaviour by supporters. The government, they explained, had insisted on a high degree of supervision, and the travel firms had a good record in the past.

As usual, the Liverpool Daily Post and Echo distinguished themselves by their full and honest coverage of the controversy. Fans, repeatedly called their office to complain. But hardly a word appeared until the club called a special Press conference to give their side of it.

Long before, a letter from one angry fan to the Editor of the Echo had given most of the details. It was printed with all references to Town's Travel and Mr Reakes cut out.

## Rooms to let a councillor in . . .

AT FIRST sight Angela Warburton, the new Liberal councillor for Clubmoor, would find it difficult to qualify as an election candidate in Liverpool.

She works as a senior teacher in a Kirkby school and, until very recently, lived out there.

As she was not living or working in Liverpool there was only one way left to qualify as a candidate for the City Council. She would have to rent or own property in the city.

And, as luck would have it, she does. Her official election registration forms show she rents two 'studios' near the city centre.

One is at 86 Caryl Street, Liverpool 8. And the other is at 54e Park Lane, Liverpool 1.

Does Mrs Warburton run a business then? "No". Does she live in these places? "No."

Could Mrs Warburton explain? "It's a bit embarrassing."

But she did say she sometimes kept Liberal Party leaflets there.

Eventually it turned out that Mrs Warburton rents 54e, a small flat, from Mr Gershwin Greenberg, who owns Greenberg's seamen's outfitters in Park Lane.



But, she said: "I pay only a nominal rental made in the form of a donation to the Liberal Party."

When the Free Press visited Mr Greenberg he said: "You're a snooper. I don't like snoopers in my place. You're a communist. Piss off."

Mrs Warburton gave the impression that the other 'studio' was also rented from the generous Mr Greenberg.

That isn't the case. 86 Caryl Street is a small and ancient factory building used by P Winram and Sons, yacht and boat builders.

This firm was apparently taken over some years ago by J P Lamb and Sons Ltd... one of the firms run by Liberal leader Trevor Jones.

And Mr Jones confirmed that he "could not deny" that the building was owned by a company he is associated with.

## Curious case of cleared constable

A POLICE constable was acquitted last month in a rare prosecution for assault.

But the magistrate was not made aware of information which might have affected the balance of evidence.

The case concerned Merseyside Police Constable Robert William Cash who was accused of causing actual bodily harm to taxi-driver James Terence Brown in the early hours of January 21.

The taxi-driver said Cash punched him in the mouth, and butted him on his face causing a cut above his right eye.

But on May 25, the Liverpool Stipendiary Magistrate found PC Cash Not Guilty. The evidence given by two young women passengers in the cab was vital.

The two girls, Christine Cullen and Rose Holligan, were called as witnesses by the prosecution, but on many important points their evidence contradicted that given by two male passengers travelling in the same cab.

The magistrate, Mr Leslie Pugh, was clearly impressed by the evidence of the two women. He said they were "calm" and "restrained", unlike the two male passengers.

But at no time during the trial was Mr Pugh told about the true relationship between these two female witnesses and the accused PC Cash.

The Free Press has discovered that at the time of the incident Cash knew BOTH Christine Cullen and

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## Makin threat

CITY solicitor Rex Makin is threatening legal action over an article in the last Free Press.

Makin claims he was libelled in a story in "The Oil Sheikhs of Liverpool" series. We print his complaint and our reply on page 2.

In addition to the Free Press, Makin is also threatening legal action against a number of our distributors.

He has even paid personal visits to some newsagents shops. One elderly woman who runs a shop in the city centre phoned our office in tears after such a visit.

Others have apparently been told the Free Press is illegal. Interesting.

NEXT ISSUE will be published on July 5.