

Walton Lodge Laundry closes after 120 years

Walton Lodge Laundry has closed, after trading from the same landmark premises on Coldharbour Lane, Brixton for 119 years.

The company has roots back to 1880, when dairy owner Charles William Newland and his wife set up a domestic laundry service from their home.

In 1885, with business booming, they abandoned their dairy and expanded into a large house on Coldharbour Lane called Walton Lodge – and so the Walton Lodge Sanitary and Steam Laundry was born.

By 1904, a new house with adjoining laundry had been

built on the large plot of land, with the company opening up branches all across south London

Although the number of shops went up and down, Walton Lodge Laundry managed to survive the 1920s recession and kept on operating through two world wars.

Walton Lodge Laundry remained family run throughout and in the late 1950s supplemented their long-standing domestic laundry and bagwash service with drycleaning. This proved to be a successful move, with the business expanding to a total of

36 shops. The 1970s were to prove challenging, with domestic washing machines taking away much of the company's traditional trade, coupled with growth of high street drycleaners.

With Walton Lodge in danger of losing the battle against rising rates and rents, the company phased out their shops and took on a contract service to London hotels.

Started in the mid to late 1970s, their linen hire service proved successful, with contract customers including The Churchill Hotel, Park Lane Hotel, The Orient Express, The

Montcalm, The Howard, The Grosvenor House and other prestigious London Hotels.

Sadly, the company struggled to prosper over the past decade, hampered by competition and an inconvenient location that was burdened with parking and delivery restrictions.

Walton Lodge finally threw in the towel last month, after trading in Brixton since 1880, and from the same Coldharbour Lane premises for 119 years.



Walton Lodge interior in 1910

