

## More shops squeezed

Shopkeepers in Bermondsey Street are feeling the pressure from two property companies, Mereview Properties and HAEG Properties, who between them own Nos. 88 - 104. These form a complete block between Tyers Gate and Leathermarket Street and include a post office and general stores, ironmonger, dairy, hairdresser and pub.

In what has become a familiar pattern in other parts of North Southwark, rents are being increased as leases come up for renewal, some by as much as six times. Other shopkeepers have had extensive repair bills.

All these shops have been suffering from a curious Council decision to empty both local estates - Tyers and Whites Grounds - at the same time for modernisation. Weakened by this loss of trade, the shopkeepers are hard-pushed to

meet the new demands of the property companies.

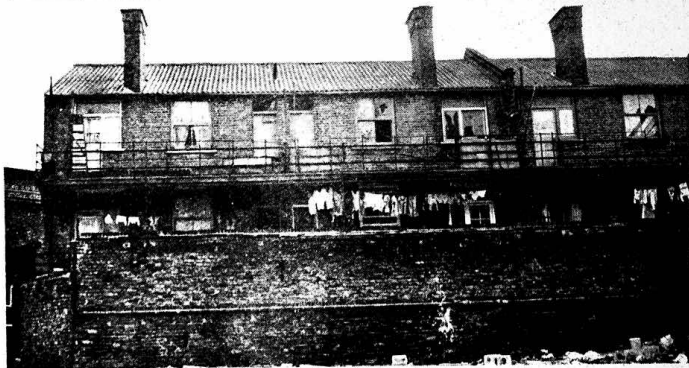
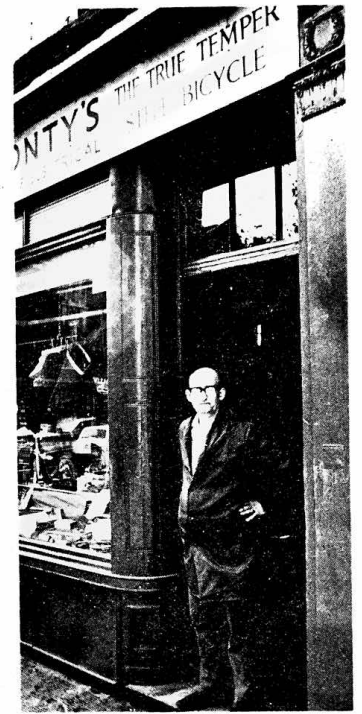
Last year, in response to public outcry over similar pressure on another parade of shops in Flat Iron Square, Union Street, Southwark Council prepared a Shopping Report to assess the situation after years of decline in the area. This report came out strongly in favour of keeping local shops. The report recognises 88 - 104 Bermondsey Street as an "important group of shops" and states that "this frontage must be retained in shop use". The report is an attempt to control the drift from shops to offices.

A spokesman for the North Southwark Community Development Group who alerted the Council to the plight of these shops said that "neither the shopkeepers nor the property companies were aware of the Coun-

cil's shopping policy". Mr Dawson, who runs the postoffice and general stores and has seven staff said "if I had known about the policy it would have strengthened my hand in negotiations with the property company". The Development Group are pushing the council to go ahead with the idea in the Shopping Report that "positive action should be taken to gain control of old shops to allow for the proper control of the tenants and rent levels."

Several families also live above the shops and they are also threatened.

A council officer has said that they are looking into the matter with some urgency. With several leases coming up for renewal this month, the Council's shopping policy looks like getting its first real test of strength.



## £1000 to get out

£500 or £1000 to move out has been offered to each of the tenants in Tiverton Flats next to Alexander Fleming House at the Elephant and Castle. The offer has been made by the landlords so they can redevelop the site for offices. The tenants have also been offered alternative accommodation in Kennington - a large Georgian terraced house which the landlord has offered to buy and convert if they all moved into it. But both offers have been turned down by every tenant even though they all desperately want to move out.

Mrs Lilian Hughes, 66, was clear about her feelings: "I've been offered £500 but he's offered other people a thou-

sand. I definitely don't intend to take £500. I've been here 40 years, it's an insult. The house he offered us is in Kennington Park Road but he wanted six families to move into it. Shared toilet, shared bathroom, we wouldn't have it, we didn't want to know, none of us. I only retired from work in February this year, I think I'm entitled to something decent."

Walter Swain, a former steel erector hasn't been able to work for four years because of bad illness. His 80 year old father lives downstairs. "The landlord wants my father and me to move into one room with a kitchen. We'd have to share bathroom and toilet with the

lady upstairs."

The house, 111 Kennington Park Road, has a basement and four floors. According to the agents for the house it is in very bad repair (vandals flooded the place with water). The selling price is £26,500.

All the tenants have been struggling for years to get out and be rehoused. But none of them can afford to buy a house or flat and rented places for families or old people are scarce so they are forced to wait until either the landlord or the council offer them something. The landlords money offer would just about cover removal and furniture costs. Although Southwark Council recently rehoused two families from the block they have refused to help anyone else. The tenants are on the council's housing list (Mr Swain has been on it 20 years) and they have tried to get the help of MP's, the GLC and other voluntary agencies.

The present owners of the flats are Investment and Property Holdings Ltd (IPH). They also own the land next door which fronts onto Newington Causeway. It's an ideal site for speculative redevelopment. A spokesman for IPH said they are preparing plans for development which would include offices, showrooms and possibly housing. They hope to start building early next

year, although no application for planning permission has been received by Southwark Council.

So far the landlords haven't made any other move. They cannot evict the tenants unless they offer them something similar to live in but everyone in the flats is definite that they want something a lot better, not just the same. After having to put up with so much for so long they deserve it.

## Copt it!

Drama was added to a year long campaign against helicopters landing on a barge near Blackfriars Bridge when a helicopter crashed into the Thames soon after taking off from the private heli-pad on the barge.

The £40,000 Jet Ranger was towed away later, but even this did not stop the helicopters landing. Whilst an SE1 reporter and photographer were still on the shore another chopper came down and three smart businessmen walked out through a warehouse to be picked up by a chauffeur-driven car.

Margaret Mellor, secretary of the Waterloo Community Development Group who have been fighting the heli-pad said "there are no laws to stop helicopters landing on the river, so anyone could do it... if they had the money!"

## Your Voice

Dear SE1,

With reference to letters in the last issue concerning Hatfields Car Park and the waste land opposite Pakeman House, we must inform the residents of the area that Southwark has not forgotten them. At the Southwark Council meeting on July 16th, the question of Hatfields Car Park appeared on the agenda. The land is owned partly by Southwark, the GLC and Lambeth. The latter has been awarded a grant of £16,550 plus five years running costs by the Home Office, for the development of their piece of land as an open space provided work starts in 1978/9.

Southwark have been in consultation with the GLC with the view to developing a local park area, of approximately three acres. Lambeth's land is being transferred to us along with the Urban Aid Grant. Negotiations are in hand with the GLC for the transfer of their land to Southwark. The Borough Engineer and Surveyor have been authorised to commence laying out the Hatfield local park. The General Purposes and Finance Committee have recommended the capital estimate of £39,500 for this scheme.

The waste land opposite Pakeman House is being looked at urgently with a view to providing an open space suitable to residents' needs. We shall, of course, continue the job of cleaning up and improving the SE1 area in which Cathedral ward lies.

Councillor C G Gates  
Councillor S J Kippin  
Councillor J J Lauder

Dear SE1,

Further to my letter in the last issue, after repeated telephone calls, we were honoured with a call from Southwark Environment officers last week, and they had, I hope, the pleasure of meeting several tenants of Pakeman House. It was agreed that we have very good cause to want the Dump cleared up. So far we have had only promises.

To date, after another three phone calls, we are no further. (Pleas of overwork, short staff etc.). Do I hear the old radio quip: "THIRTY-FIVE YEARS, and still not cleared?"

Watch this space for further developments. Might we get it cleared? Do I have to ask the Corporation of London to stop paying out rates until it's cleared? We certainly are living below good environmental standards. A disgrace!

Alice R. Goodwin  
21 Pakeman House  
Pocock Street.

Let's hear from you! Send your letters to: 12 Meymott St SE1. Long boring letters may be cut.

We wish to thank the following for their help in making this paper possible.

Wakenham Trust  
Lambeth Social Services  
Southwark Social Services  
Morley College  
Babcock & Wilcox Ltd,  
165 Great Dover Street  
J Sainsbury Ltd, Stamford St  
Teltscher Brothers Ltd,  
60 Tooley Street  
Charles Barron, The Three Jolly Gardeners, Union Street  
The White Hart, Great Suffolk Street



Are we writing about the things you want to hear about? Your ideas, comments, suggestions and criticisms of SE1 are needed because this paper is for and by everyone living or working in SE1.

The next issue will come out on September 19th.

The MEETINGS to discuss what will go in the September issue are on FRIDAY 5th SEPTEMBER at 7.15pm and THURSDAY 11th SEPTEMBER at 7.15pm. Both meetings are at 12 Meymott Street, SE1. YOU ARE INVITED.

If you can't come then, send your contribution by post.



Barfly is recovering from a drink in Becky's Bar. Back next month.

## COUNCIL

Council meetings at Southwark Town Hall, Peckham Rd, SE5

### August

Tues 19th Planning (Applications Sub Committee)

### Snowfields

Plans for the block bounded by Snowfields, Weston Street and St Thomas's Street will be discussed at this meeting.

### September

Tues 9th Planning (Applications Sub Committee)

Wed 10th Joint Housing and Planning and Development Sub Committee.

Thurs 11th Southwark Construction.

Mon 15th Establishment.

Tues 16th Social Services.

ALL THESE MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, STARTING AT 7pm.

George Wills Ltd, 25/35 City Road, EC1  
A Leete & Co Ltd, 129 London Rd  
Hobbs & Co Ltd, Blackfriars Rd  
Courage (Eastern) Ltd, Anchor Brewhouse, Horselydown  
Southwark Trades Council  
Pays & Reid Ltd, 62 Long Lane  
Letraset UK Ltd, Valentine Pl  
Sun Office Supply Co Ltd, 183 Long Lane  
Stricklands (Blackfriars) Ltd, The Cut.

widely differing purposes. In 1770 it was a popular resort known as "Finch's Grotto", complete with gardens, orchestral music, fireworks displays and even a "health spa". Eventually the owner of Finch's Grotto went bankrupt and, in place of the gardens, a parish workhouse was built. At the beginning of the last century, Mr Rawlinson Harris bought the property and workhouses and converted it to a hat factory. He built Winchester House as his home. He gave it this name because it stood on ground which had been part of Bishop Winchester's Estate in the Middle Ages.

The Headquarters was extended in 1910 and was opened on December 14, 1911; it is that extension which now houses the present Southwark Fire Station.

**SOUTHWARK FIRE STATION**  
\* OPEN DAY \*  
SATURDAY 30th AUG - 10AM - 5PM  
Appliance Museum, Southwark Fire Engines, Photographic Display  
ALL WELCOME!



Southwark Fire Station of yesteryear

## Golden Oldy

The land on which Southwark Fire Station and Winchester House stand first came into Fire Brigade history in 1866, when the Metropolitan Board of Works acquired the property to build a Headquarters for its newly formed Metropolitan Fire Brigade, which was formed after a warehouse fire in Southwark and was the forerunner of the London Fire Brigade. Winchester House, which had been built in 1820 by former owner, Mr Rawlinson Harris, MP for Southwark, was chosen as the home of the Brigade's first Chief Officer, one of the world's most illustrious fire-fighters, Sir Eyre Massey Shaw. Winchester House remained the home of London Chief Officers until 1937, when the Headquarters moved to its present location, Lambeth.

Before the Brigade's occupation, the land was used for

## Should the 'Lambeth' go?

In October, one local hospital - the Evelina Children's Hospital - is to close, and its patients are to be moved to Guy's Hospital. This is just one of the hospital closures planned for SE1 over the next few years. In each case the aim is to move the patients from small local hospitals into one big hospital complex.

Now the Lambeth Hospital in Brook Drive has been added to the list, and the Local Community Health Council is fighting

The hospital authorities want to move the patients to St Thomas' Hospital and demolish the Lambeth Hospital, building instead residential accommodation for doctors, nurses and other staff.

The Community Health Council (set up to represent the interests of the community in health matters) has suggested a different plan, and is calling on local people to say what they think. They suggest a small 'community hospital', staffed

partly by GPs and district nurses and partly by existing hospital staff. This could be for people who just need nursing care and rest, with some supervision, rather than highly technical medical attention - for example, someone recovering from an operation who can't go home yet because there's no-one to look after them; or an elderly person with a bad attack of bronchitis who might need 2 or 3 weeks care, but can't get it at home; or a handicapped person of any age needing someone to care for them when the person who normally does so falls ill or needs a break.

Bernie Spain, a member of the CHC, told SE1, "This sort of patient might prefer a community hospital to a large and busy teaching hospital. In a small friendly place, relatives and friends can easily pop in and out, and even help to bathe and feed a sick patient. Several of the GPs in the area are very interested in the idea."

The CHC questions whether it would in fact be more economical to move all the patients to St. Thomas', and argues that the problem of staff accommodation could be solved more quickly by employing more people who live in Lambeth already, and by buying up existing houses or flats. In any case, even with a community hospital there would still be room on the Lambeth Hospital site for staff accommodation and for other community uses. Lambeth Council would like to see some housing for old people there, also badly needed.

The CHC are keen to hear local people's views, so if you want your say in the matter, contact:

Bernie Spain, 48 Roupell St. or Susan Thorne, Secretary, Community Health Council, 35, St. Mary's Gardens, SE11.

or write to us here if you'd like other readers to hear your views



Peter Lane addressing the meeting flanked by council officers

## Waterloo farce

A public meeting with Lambeth planners on 5th August was a disappointment for many local people.

Before the meeting, Councillor Peter Lane had said that the idea would be to explain the plans for Waterloo and the 'three options' that Lambeth Council wants local people to choose between.

But very little clear information or explanation was given at the meeting either by Councillor Lane or by the other council officers about the plans and 'options'. No large maps were used, so it was hard for the public to understand what was said. However, when the planners had finished and the chairman invited questions there were plenty of complaints and many questions - in fact, the meeting closed before everyone had had a chance to speak.

Local resident Dave Phillips said after the meeting "Let's hope that the second meeting on September 4th will start with all the information and explanations that were lacking at this one."

## NCP back down

National Car Parks Ltd have withdrawn their appeal to the Department of the Environment to be allowed to continue using Hatfields as a car park. This means that work can start soon to convert the car park into open space.

Last month SE1 high-lighted the conflict between local residents and workers and NCP Ltd. It looks like the combined opposition of residents, workers and local councils proved too much for NCP. Southwark Council have set aside £39,500 for the landscaping.

Last Saturday John Hearn of Peabody Duchy Street tenants association told SE1 that Southwark Council had confirmed that work will start in late September.

## Private Hospital Warded off

Politics was kept firmly out of sight when the application for a private hospital on Southwark Street came before Southwark's Planning Applications Sub-Committee on Tuesday, July 29.

Only Councillor Lauder (Cathedral Branch) dared venture that as a Labour Party member he could not accept this sort of development. Councillor Watts, Chairman of Southwark's main planning committee and Gas Council lawyer, insisted that the debate be kept on the application for what it was in bricks and mortar, rather than what it was in the political arena. Councillor Watts had no objection to a hospital as such.

Southwark Trades Council have objected to the scheme on the grounds that it was sited next to a general employment area, and no industrial firm would be allowed to set up next to a hospital. The Trades Council feel the development would undermine Southwark's plans to encourage industry in the area.

This point was not however taken by the committee. Councillor Watts saw hospitals as providing employment. But the Community Health Council do not share this view and see the development as undermining the National Health Service.

The committee finally refused the application for the proposed 12 storey medical centre on the grounds that it was a substantial overdevelopment of the site and would cause excessive traffic movement.



## GLC face Mecca decision

Residents on Peabody Southwark Street are again being threatened with being shut off completely from the outside world by an office block.

Mecca Ltd are trying for the third time to get permission for an extension to their headquarters building in Great Guildford Street. The 4 - storey offices, if given the go-ahead, will be on the site of the present car park.

The tenants association have written to the GLC, who are considering the application, challenging them to visit the site before any decision is made. They feel that the recent decision to allow United Friendly to develop on the Southwark Street front of the estate was wrong for the same reasons that are now being raised against the Mecca scheme: the estate is being shut in and there are enough offices in North Southwark already, a large proportion of them empty.

The new GLC office policy clamping down on office development in this area could, if put into practice, allow the land to be used as an extension to the Summer Buildings open space. This is the suggestion of the tenants association in their letter to Norman Howard, chairman of the GLC Planning Committee.



Fleetway Press, Summer Street (on the left) and Stevenson & Howell, Bear Lane - the GLC are considering these and other sites for housing; like their Nicholson St homes? (see centre)



## Family housing-key issue

The population of the South Bank could increase from just over 5,000 to over 9,000 if proposals outlined in a new GLC report are fully carried out. The report, 'The Future of the South Bank', spotlights sites between Vauxhall Bridge and Southwark Bridge which could be used for housing. The GLC is responsible for planning this stretch of land, and not Lambeth or Southwark councils.

This new approach to planning the area has only become possible due to a clamour for the amount of office building to be allowed in SE1. Sir Reginald Goodwin, leader of the GLC, when introducing the new plan said, "We promised that we would not stand idly by and allow our city to become a property speculators' paradise".

With the long-running scandal of London Bridge House standing empty, along with over 2 million square feet of offices in SE1 alone, these words could not have come at a better time.

### sites named

The GLC has picked on eight sites as possibilities for major housing schemes. These are BANKSIDE, BEAR LANE, SUMMER STREET and HATFIELDS in Southwark, and CORNWALL ROAD, CARLISLE LANE and VAUXHALL BRIDGE in Lambeth.

The GLC want local people's views on three options outlined in the report. One is for further expansion of office development. Another is for housing and development for the benefit of the existing community, and

the third is a mixture of housing, offices and tourist activities.

The GLC report recommends that the emphasis in new developments should be for non-family housing. But family housing is already being built in Nicholson Street, just off Blackfriars Road, by the GLC. Residents are eager to see more developments like this, on sites such as the ones the GLC has earmarked.

### local views

The North Southwark Community Development Group, who recently completed a Residents Survey of the area to find out views on housing, shops and facilities, have come out strongly in favour of the option that includes housing that would build up the existing community, as have the Peabody Residents Association, Southwark Street, and the local branch Labour Party.

A delegation of residents from local estates in Southwark met with top GLC planners on July 23. They presented a map showing that there were more than enough offices in the area, and put over the view that only family housing would bring back facilities. They pointed out that several local primary schools have vacant places.

Groups from North Lambeth have also met with the GLC expressing the same views. John Hearn, Secretary of Peabody Estate Tenants Association, Stamford Street and a member of the Waterloo Community Develop-

ment Group, said after their meeting, "It has been a useful start, the local knowledge that people who live here have must be tapped by the GLC if the Plan is to be successful".

### offices clampdown

While local people have reservations about the type and location of the proposed housing, Southwark Council have rather different objections. They are eager for rate revenue and, having been forced to digest the GLC office policy, are finding this new document even harder to stomach. But as if to underline their intent on a hard line against further office development, and as a warning to Local Authorities, the GLC recently reversed Lambeth Council's two-year old decision to allow the Labour Party to build a new national Headquarters at Vauxhall, and also rejected a scheme by Laings for Bankside.

### public consultation

Local people may take heart at these decisions and it is against such a background that we are being asked to express views on the future of the South Bank. It seems that housing will come to the area. How much, what sort and where remains to be seen, and depends on the amount of interest shown by locals in the future of the area.

The GLC will decide their policy for the South Bank at a Planning Committee meeting on September 29th. The public have from now until then to express their views.

## What sort of South Bank do you want? Come to the Public Meetings and give us your views

Tuesday 9 September at 7.30 pm at Duthy Hall, Great Guildford Street, SE1

and

Tuesday 16 September at 7.30 pm at Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, SE1

GLC Public Information Branch

Copies of the report 'The Future of the South Bank' a report on planning principles and the scope for the provision of housing can be inspected at local libraries and at the GLC Bookshop at County Hall, SE1 7PB.

## Advertisement

## A draft planning strategy for Waterloo

THE SECOND PUBLIC MEETING IS ON THURSDAY 4th SEPTEMBER  
WATERLOO ACTION CENTRE 14 BAYLIS ROAD SE1 at 7.30 pm.  
PLEASE TRY TO COME

The Waterloo Area has been subject to large scale redevelopment for many years and the South Bank Arts Centre, the Shell Centre and other large scale office developments have contributed to the cultural and economic life of London and to the Country as a whole.

The local population has, however, benefited very little from such developments. The influx of highly paid office workers, the increased pressure on land development and increased on and off street car parking have caused inconvenience and problems for local people.

The main reason for the Draft Planning Strategy is to redress the balance between planning for local and regional needs, "to get things done" as quickly as possible and to involve the local community in all stages of the planning process.

## The Issues

**THE AREA** - forms the northern most part of Lambeth, stretching along the River Thames from Vauxhall Cross in the south to Southwark in the East.

**THE ISSUES** - studies carried out in 1974 showed the following

### POPULATION

The number of private households declined by a quarter between 1961 and 1971, resulting in a decline of the economy of the area and poorer local services. At the same time, a higher than average proportion of the people remaining are old age pensioners. It has a large share of London's single homeless people who have nowhere to go in the daytime, sometimes causing resentment among residents by gathering in local parks and elsewhere.

### HOUSING

More than 90% of all dwellings are Council owned, rented unfurnished, or belong to large housing trusts. Most are also medium sized, in contrast to families which tend to be small or large. There is a lack of opportunity for everyone to satisfy their housing needs.

### EMPLOYMENT

An above average proportion of the population is employed in semi-skilled or unskilled work, resulting in a low average income. At the same time industry has been moving out, partly because of lack of skilled labour, partly because of high rents & unsuitable premises. Shopping facilities have also declined and opening hours now tend to be linked to the lunch hour of the working population.

### LEISURE & RECREATION

The Waterloo Area lacks many recreational and leisure facilities. What open spaces there are, are often badly sited and ill equipped. The indoor sports and recreational facilities that exist tend not to be available to the public.

### THE ENVIRONMENT

Heavy traffic causes noise and pollution. There is excessive on-street parking by residents, visitors & workers, and large areas of land are used during weekdays for off-street parking. Many roads are difficult to cross, especially for the elderly or infirm. There is a lack of trees and greenery and 30 acres of land are partly or wholly unused.

### WHAT ARE THE ANSWERS?

The Draft Strategy offers three possible approaches to the problem. They are summarised in the article on the left. Do study them and give us your reaction on September 4th.

An exhibition about the strategy can be seen at the Waterloo Action Centre, the Lambeth Town Planning Advice Centre, 164 Clapham Park Road, SW4 and in the Lambeth Plan Van sited in Windmill Walk from 19 - 26 August and in Peckham St from 27 August - 4 September. It will be open Monday - Friday 10am - 5pm, Saturdays 10am - 12 noon, Sundays 10am - 2pm and Tuesday and Friday evenings from 7 - 9pm.

Broad sheets summarising the scheme are being delivered to all residential and commercial premises. The full brochure can be purchased for 75p or viewed at the Waterloo Action Centre, the Town Planning Advice Centre and North Lambeth Library, Lower Marsh, where it can also be borrowed. You have until 8 September to give your views to the Council.

## LAMBETH

## South Bank-whose future

For twenty years residents in North Southwark and Waterloo have suffered as the authorities cleared away many of the people and allowed industry to run down to make room for the things central London was thought to need - offices, theatres, hotels.....

As the population shrank the shops, schools and other facilities also declined, and along

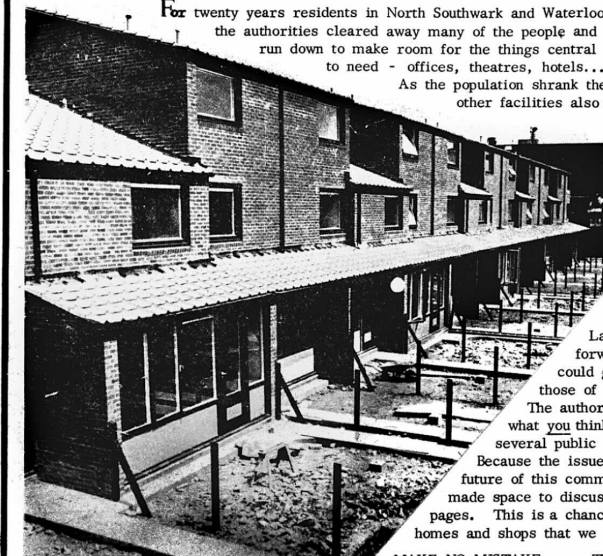
with them much of the enjoyment of living in this area.

Now, at last, there is some hope that the pendulum could swing the other way and the population increase in the future.

Both the GLC and Lambeth have just put forward proposals that could give a better life to those of us who live here.

The authorities want to know what you think, and have arranged several public meetings to do this. Because the issues are so vital to the future of this community, we have also made space to discuss them on these pages. This is a chance to get the kind of homes and shops that we need.

MAKE NO MISTAKE .... THE MORE YOU  
MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN, THE MORE LIKELY  
YOU ARE TO GET THE RESULTS YOU WANT .



New GLC homes in Nicholson St, off Blackfriars Road. More family housing on other sites?

## New options for Waterloo

The Waterloo Draft Planning Strategy is the result of a lot of hard work, careful research and consultation with local groups. It is very well worth reading.

All the problems of the Waterloo area are explained and many ways of improving the situation are presented as three options for us to consider. (They are summarised in the next column).

After twenty years of neglect, two of these options (1 & 2) are ways of changing planning in favour of local needs, which is what we all want. We are invited to choose one of the three options. Option 1 gives the people who want to live here the best deal, and if that is what you want, make sure you say so loud and clear at the public meetings - listed below.

But even option 1 is not entirely satisfactory. It suggests that new housing should be "non-family" housing. But is it fair for families without children to have to accept older accommodation or otherwise move away?

Some of us think we should get together on September 4th and suggest a FOURTH OPTION. If we are told that what we really want would cost too much, then perhaps OPTION FIVE should be to maintain the area as it is now, until more money is available.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ????????

## MEETINGS

In North Southwark :

GLC  
Tuesday 9th September 7.30pm  
Duthy Hall, Gt Guildford St

In Waterloo :

Lambeth  
Thursday 4th September 7.30pm  
Action Centre, 14 Baylis Rd  
GLC  
Tuesday 16 September 7.30pm  
Action Centre, 14 Baylis Rd

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Lambeth  
Monday 22 September 7.15pm  
Room 119, Brixton Town Hall  
GLC  
Monday 29 September 2.30pm  
Room 166, County Hall SE1.

# Chemists-a hard slog

Many people living in SE1 are having serious difficulty getting prescriptions filled. At least six chemists have closed in the past two years. These are:

- 2 on Blackfriars Road (1973)
  - 1 on Borough High St (1973)
  - 1 on Tower Bridge Rd (1974)
  - 1 on London Bridge Station (1974)
  - 1 on New Kent Road (1974)
- Residents of Bankside, Borough, Tooley Street and Dockhead are particularly hard hit. As a lady from Summer Buildings said "The lack of shops round here is awful. It is like a desert, shops are closing, chemists particularly. It's 20 minutes to Harper Road. Twenty minutes there and twenty minutes back with a kid and a baby in a pram and all those roads and the traffic...that's no joke".

It is a particular problem for the elderly, many of whom find a trip to the chemists a major expedition now and can be so exhausted that they have to go to bed when they get home.

Another problem is that the remaining chemists often do not have the particular drugs the doctor prescribes. People increasingly find they have to go back the next day to collect their medicines.

Other parts of SE1, such as Waterloo, where it is easier for people to get to chemists have the problem that none are open in the evenings.

North Southwark Community Development Group, Waterloo Community Development Group, The Cut Pensioners Action Group and several local tenants

associations have been trying to get something done about the situation by collecting facts and figures about the problem, by writing to the Health Authorities, by getting questions asked in the House of Commons, and by demonstrations.

They have also tried to find allies with groups elsewhere in the country, for we have found that chemist closures is not just our problem, it's shared with many other places. Britain has about 11,200 chemists. In 1964 there were 14,354. People worried about their chemist closing have written to us from Bermondsey, Wapping, Islington, Lewisham, and from many other areas outside London. Some people among the Authorities have been helpful - especially the Local Community Health Councils, but most people in authority have spent a lot of time passing the buck.

If you are willing to help in the campaign or if you want to know more about what is being done to try to get chemists back into the area, please contact:

The Chemist Campaign,  
c/o 108 Great Guildford St,  
London SE1. 01-928 8165.

## Advice centres

B.I.A.S.  
Blackfriars Settlement  
44 Nelson Square. 928-9521  
Open weekdays 10am-5pm except  
Wednesday: 2pm - 5pm.

LEGAL ADVICE SERVICE  
Waterloo Action Centre  
14 Baylis Road, SE1. 261-1404  
Legal Advice: Thurs. 6.30-8pm.

BOROUGH AND DISTRICT  
NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION  
108 St. Guildford St. SE1.  
Tel. 928-8165  
Advice Session Tues. 4.30-6pm.

ADVICE CENTRE IN THE BLUE  
Manor Community Centre  
Galleywall Rd., SE16  
Tel: 237-3881 (Emergencies)  
Open Tues. 6.30-8pm (Legal)  
Sat. 10am-2pm (General)

- 25: BANK HOLIDAY  
Max Wall play. Until Sep.16  
Greenwood Theatre, Weston  
Street, Bermondsey.
- 26: Port of London Regatta  
Intership Whaler Race  
Tower to London Bridge 3pm  
Sailing Dinghy Race 7pm  
Upper Pool - King's Reach  
Waterloo, 5.15pm
- 27: Port of London Regatta  
Dinghy Race, Vauxhall to  
Waterloo, 5.15pm
- 28: Port of London Regatta  
River Pageant, Greenwich  
to Chelsea, 5.30-8.30pm
- 29: Grand Barbecue & Party  
Baylis Road Adventure  
Playground, Ring 261 1404  
for details.
- 30: Open Day at Southwark Fire  
Station. From 10am
- Ray & Jackie Penn  
Tabard Gardens 3pm
- 28: Ray & Jackie Penn,  
Brenchley Gardens, 11am  
Havill Hall, 3pm
- Hugh Cecil  
Southwark Park, 3pm
- 29: Punch & Judy, Puppets, &  
Clown Cavalcade  
Archbishop's Park, 3pm  
Ray & Jackie Penn  
Bedlam Park, 11am  
Peckham Rye Park, 3pm

## Events-Meetings-Jumbles

- AUGUST**
- 18: Mass X-Ray, 4pm-7pm  
Waterloo Station Approach
- 19: Jumble Sale, 10.30am  
Waterloo Action Centre
- 23: Port of London Regatta  
Opening Event, Music &  
Dancing, 5pm-9pm, plus  
fireworks at dusk:  
Kings Stairs Gdns,  
Rotherhithe  
and for mudlarks - Low  
Tide at 10am.



# What's in a squat?

By Gloria Mulkerrins

**SQUATTERS:** A dirty word, or something we should all try to live with, and like. There seems to be an influx of squatters lately into some parts of the area. Some are the usual dirty noisy hippy types but on the whole most of them have been accepted into our community as just ordinary neighbours.

In Campbell Bldgs, Baylis Rd, some residents have asked how? why? and most of all many have locked up their doors (and their daughters). But when you get down to it what do people really know about squatters. Many know only what they have read in the newspapers - there can't be many residents who have actually bothered to talk to any of the squatters or show any interest in what they have to say. So for this reason I did bother. I took a couple of hours of my time to listen to them just to see if the residents could be persuaded to stop referring to "the squatters" in the same way as they would refer to pests and other unmentionables.

I will try to answer some of the questions you may be asking:  
Q. Is the place dirty and untidy?

A. Certainly not. Everything was in its place even only mattresses to sit on made no difference, they are clean and covered with colourful and tidy covers, although the floor was only covered with rugs something gave it a warm atmosphere, fancy prints covered the walls and all round the place was welcoming.

Q. There must be dozens living there.  
A. I spoke to only two at first, only one said he lived there, although three or four did walk in and stay a while then disappeared again. Apparently they share everything. I think I established that only two actually live in this particular flat.

Q. What if all of us in Campbell Buildings took down our net curtains and began squatting instead of paying rent?

A. I did mention this - it was met with roars of approval. They said squatting isn't for

any special people, anybody and everybody should try it. The only reason we didn't was because we have been programmed from school age about how we should live and its about time somebody broke the system. Once a few more of us broke away, the world would be a better place.

Q. They all live off the Social Security.  
A. No they don't, even that would be conforming.

Q. And the burning question - "DRUGS".  
A. No, there was no sign of any. You would find more in a medicine cabinet in a 'respectable' tenant's home.

On the whole they are not just living on the State and dirtying one flat and moving on to the next, nor are they noisy, or junkies, or anything like squatters are supposed to be, whatever that is. They also said that if the Housing Manager came and said that a family was waiting to move in they would move out at once. They only moved in as the flat had been empty two years.

# Treasure in the Thames

I can hear you all saying, "Treasure! Where, where?" Well let me tell you, it's right on your doorstep. Yes, that damp course that runs alongside us called the Thames - and I might add that she is a right beauty, holding secrets going back to the Romans. They used to throw small coins into the Thames for luck, just like we have all done in the past. Even the kids do it today, but due to inflation they are usually half p's.

It is a wonderful feeling when you pick up a Roman coin from off the foreshore. I get this feeling of shaking hands with a Roman, eighteen hundred years having passed since the coin was lost or thrown away. Value does not come into it.

What about the rings - I have found brass, gold and silver ones - how did they get there? This is where my imagination really begins. They could not all have been lost. I imagine someone losing their nearest and dearest, keeping the ring in remembrance, then finding another love and tossing away the only contact with the previous affair. I have found lead love tokens that could verify this.

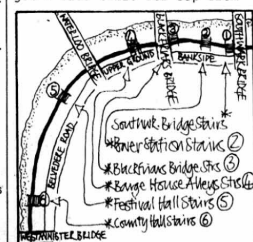
But where do you find all these? - I can hear you saying. Well, you have to be patient. It has taken myself eight years of patience to learn what the Thames has to offer and I am still learning.

There are many stairs to the foreshore - from Rotherhithe to Vauxhall on the south side, and from Mapping to Westminster on the north side. Look at our map



for details. If you are interested, here are some things you will need:

- \* You need to know when the tide is low. You can get this from a daily newspaper which gives high tide at London Bridge. Deduct six hours either way and you have low tide. Better still get a tide table for 35p from



the Port of London Authority, World Trade Centre, E1 (near the Tower of London). And do be sure to go down the river when

# YOUR RIGHTS

Every month in this column SE1 will print information about your rights, and about ways of fighting to make sure you get them.

## Happy families?

When Mrs. Pringle's husband deserted her back in March, he didn't just leave a bruised and battered wife and three young kids. If he had, Mrs. Pringle would have been well pleased. But he came back almost daily to assault her and damage furniture in the flat.

But Mrs. Pringle had rights - and she made sure she got them.

## Protection

Mrs. Pringle went to a solicitor to get an injunction to prevent him from bothering her. In fact, she got three injunctions. One stopped him from assaulting her. One stopped him from entering the flat. And one stopped him from damaging the family possessions or taking them away.

## Legal aid

Was this expensive? Mrs. Pringle was eligible for Legal Aid, on grounds of low income, so getting her protection cost her only the time spent in solicitors' offices and court waiting rooms.

"A small price to pay for peace and quiet", said Mrs. Pringle.

## Refuge

Many women are afraid to leave husbands who are making their lives hell, simply because they don't know where they would be safe from them. In some areas of London, there are REGUGES or WOMEN'S AID CENTRES, whose addresses are secret, and where women can go with their children. There are no refuges in SE1 unfortunately, but for advice about how to get in touch with one in another area, go to one of the advice centres listed in the Information section on Page 6. These centres are there to help people defend themselves and fight for their rights.

Note: Mrs. Pringle's story is a real one, but at the request of the woman concerned, we have used a fictitious name.

## LUCKY WINNERS

SE1 would like to thank all those who helped buy tickets in the raffle.

Winning tickets were:

- Yellow tickets**
- 19 - Bob Kitchside
  - 115 - Bob Hanley
  - 116 - Mr. Vay
  - 212 - Shaw
  - 213 - Wheeler
  - 776 - Dave Griffiths
  - 864 - Mrs. Gilbert
  - 962 - Mr. Collins
  - 966 - Mr. MacC.
- White tickets**
- 16 - Jessie
  - 100 - Peter Lane
  - 246 - Ken Collins
  - 317 - Mr. Faint
  - 499 - Com Hubbard
- Come and collect your prizes at the SE1 Office:  
12, Maymott St, S.E.1.

Note: SE1 cannot take responsibility for changes in the details of events published in this diary. We have made every effort to ensure that they are correct. We would welcome advance information for next month's diary - jumble sales, shows, events.

## Kids events

### SUMMER PLAY SCHEMES

Throughout the summer:  
Mint St. Adventure Playground  
Baylis Rd.

Bedlam Park Play Park  
Peckham Rye Play Park

Until August 27th  
Southwark Park Play Centre  
Open Mon.-Fri. 8.30-4.30

Until August 22nd:  
Friars Play Centre (Mon.-Fri.)  
Johanna Play Centre (Mon.-Sat)

EVERY SATURDAY: Kids' Film  
matinee, 10am (5p)  
ABC Cinema, New Kent Road.

### AUGUST

- 15: Punch & Judy, 3pm  
Archbishop's Park.
- 17: Lumiere Rouge Ragtime Band  
Southwark Park, 3pm
- 18: Bob Thingummybob  
Rotherhithe Assembly Hall  
10am  
Newington Gardens, 3pm



# Globe cover up

## Offices exposed

On July 25th another temporary Globe Theatre was opened on Bankside. The Globe Playhouse Trust are planning to keep the theatre open throughout the year and hope it will be the forerunner of a permanent Globe.

Nine redevelopment options for this site submitted by Town and Metropolitan Properties are now being looked at by Southwark and the GLC. Buchanan Michaelson of Town and Metropolitan said that as far as his company was concerned the Globe is not essential but the most important issue was how much offices would be allowed on the site. "It is up to Southwark to decide whether they want to include a Globe". At the Southwark planning department Mr Ceri Griffiths, the Director of Development, is considering the options. He made known his support for the Globe last year.

The GLC are likely to be much more critical. Sources in the GLC said that the amount of offices proposed in the options ranged from a minimum of 170,000 square feet up to 250,000 square feet (compare this with London Bridge House which is 110,000 square feet) and that this would be unacceptable.

Local residents objections have been against the kind of office/tourist development which will go with any theatre on Bankside. They believe that it is vital to build more housing especially for families so as to meet housing needs and

reduce the isolation of Sumner Buildings, Nelson Buildings and Peabody Southwark Street estate nearby. In the Residents Survey for Bankside completed at the beginning of this year, none of the 220 Bankside households surveyed mentioned a theatre when asked about the type of entertainment and recreation facilities needed in the area.

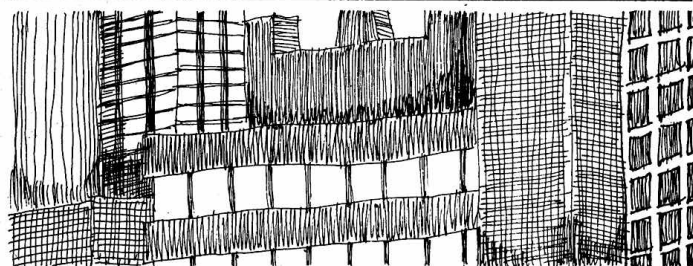
Councillor Tertis, chairman of the Globe Playhouse Trust, who was present at the opening of the temporary theatre, said that he did not have much time for the views of local residents. Local people have always got objections to whatever you do. As far as some of the arguments being used, like why don't they put up flats there, now how can you? Its a sort of industrial-commercial-office area. I can't see how you can put up more housing there unless you make this a pedestrian precinct from Southwark Bridge to Blackfriars Bridge, but the land is so valuable".

But the three local councillors have all come out in opposition to any plans for a Globe. Councillor John Lauder told SE1: "I regret the idea of allocating land for a Globe theatre whether temporary or permanent, not because I do not like Shakespeare but because it will not resolve the problems of lack of a chemist, local shops and community facilities". Councillor Lauder did not agree with supporters of the Globe that the land is too dear for housing.



## Cathedral sell out

39 - 41 Union Street, owned by Southwark Cathedral, is now up for sale. The building is occupied by Kings Court Sports, who have operated there for over 20 years. The cathedral authorities have got planning permission to develop offices and are now selling the site with its greatly increased value. This property speculation means that the firm will have to go and so will its 12 employees. Residents are worried that other Cathedral property will be in for the same treatment.



WE WERE GOING TO HAVE A 'SPOT THE BALL' COMPETITION.....BUT THERE'S NOWHERE FOR THE BALL TO GO !!!

# Tearful earful - tenants lash out at GLC

A twenty-month old girl, Lisa Phillips, who was happy and relaxed until two months ago, today runs howling if her mother puts the Hoover on, or her father takes a hammer to put a picture hook in the wall.

This is just one of the side effects of the GLC's 'modernisation' programme in Horsleydown Mansions, Lafone St., near Tower Bridge Road. The GLC bought the block of 20 flats from private landlords last autumn.

### 'Man, noise'

Three flats which were empty at that time remained unoccupied until the middle of June when, without consultation with the residents - or even warning - contractors moved in to modernise them. And the banging started that has made Lisa Phillips a bundle of nerves. All Lisa can say about it is 'Man, noise', but Lisa's mother, who is seven months pregnant, and worried for her next child as well, has a good deal more to say.

"We're all completely fed up. We're all going to stop the rent until the noise stops. I don't suppose the GLC will take any notice, though. There's no communication with them. They won't tell you whether they're going to rehouse you or modernise you. They won't tell you anything. Sometimes they won't even tell you their names."

Mr. Knight, of No.40, said, "I ought to decorate two of the rooms, but I don't know if we will be here two months or two years. When the GLC bought the block, we were all pleased. We thought we'd see some action. An official who came round said we'd all be rehoused by Christmas this year. I suppose he meant this year." But a few weeks ago, another official told Dan Russell, of No.22, "You'll all be out in 18 months."

"At this rate", said Mrs. Knight, "little Lisa will be having her children here - if she survives all this".

The tenants have written to Reg Goodwin, and propose to at-

tend in force the next surgery of local councillors Stevens and Tucker.

### Pipe burst

Dan Russell is doubly angry with the GLC management. When he and his wife returned from their holiday in mid-July, they found a pipe had burst beneath the living room floor. They reported it to the GLC. A week later the workmen began the job. But all they did was to pile up the furniture and carpet, throw the linoleum out in the yard - and then they left. Then Mr. Russell spoke to the maintenance foreman on the phone. He was told: "We'll see what we can do for next Tuesday".

### Round in circles

Next Tuesday was August 5th, but on Aug. 7th SE1 spoke to Mr. Mercer at the Old Kent Road office, and was told that a report would be circulated to the management, probably by the end

of the week, and a decision made. So while the GLC circulate reports to themselves, the earliest Mr & Mrs Russell could see ACTION would be August 11th, three weeks after the flooding was reported. Meantime, they sit on rotting floorboards over several thousand gallons of water.

### They don't care

"The trouble is", said Mr. Russell, "they don't care. You are only 15 families, you're down a back street, you're working class people: they can afford to ignore you. You try getting Mr. Fuller at the Old Kent Road office - its a joke. They just tell you to ring the Estate Office. But that's only open three hours a week."

Earlier this year, the GLC housing management arrangements were altered. The idea was to increase communication with the tenants, and make the service more efficient.