



Local printing jobs Going Going ... Gone

NEWS OF THE FUTURE closure of Thorburn Bain, the old Southwark firm making envelopes in Union St, is a further blow to employment opportunities in the area. 150 people were employed when the firm was working at full capacity, but now as machinery is being moved away to other plants, more than half have already been made redundant and the rest will become redundant in March next year.

The loss of jobs will be felt not only by the immediate area in general but in particular by local women who make up the majority of the work force at Thorburn Bain's. Redundancy payments have been agreed with the non-union labour force and a spokesman for the company said that attempts will be made to transfer employees to other firms owned by their parent organisation, the Spicer group. However, most workers have opted for the redundancy payments rather than a transfer to other areas. Many of the workers have been a long time with this firm, which traditionally takes on young people and teaches them a skilled trade, and it is they who are most upset by the closure.

The South London Press reported the closure as being due to "out of date machinery and premises that are too large", but this is wrong. The machines clearly are not obsolete if they are being moved for use in plants in Cambridge and Durham. A spokesman for the firm said that new machines coming onto the market would be too large for the prem-

Evening News.....Gone
Nickeloid.....Gone
Camgate Litho.....Gone
Thorburn Bain.....Going
Daily Mirror.....Going
IPC Magazines.....Going

The Evening News, printed at The Wharf on Upper Ground, closed in September and moved to Bouverie Street near Fleet Street. 40 jobs were lost. The Daily Mirror at Reveille House in Stamford Street is going to the Mirror HQ in Holborn next Easter. Camgate Lithoprinters in Bermondsey closed on October 10th. IPC Magazines in Stamford Street are moving out bit by bit to other parts of London.

ises in Southwark and that if the firm wished to expand it would have to close its Union Street business.

The decision in favour of this form of expansion was made by the Spicer Group, who are in turn a subsidiary of Reed International. A case then of big business prevailing over local interests. However, it appears a questionable form of expansion if a part of the business which has been thriving for many years is closed and its skilled employees made redundant. Both workers and the local management are sad that a company that has been in the Borough since 1877 will not be able to celebrate its centenary.

The final question to ask is what will happen to the premises now occupied by Thorburn Bain after March next year. Will they again be used to provide jobs for the local area? This is highly unlikely as the premises are now owned by Sovereign Property, while next door lies Nickeloid Printers itself recently closed. There is a fear that these two buildings will form part of a joint office development.



Beware, Blunderbus

Charterhouse in Southwark, Tabard Street, this month launched a drive for a new club minibus.

Already affectionately named 'Blunderbus', this will replace the existing rather battered Ark bus on all the camping, swimming and day trip activities for all ages, not to mention all the 'odd jobs' like jumble, furniture, playscheme materials etc., which have to be moved. Various events and fundraising schemes are already being planned, so beware of Blunderbus badges, T-shirts etc in the near future!

Super market

It may surprise a lot of readers that the street market in Lower Marsh is the largest in Lambeth. These facts came out of the shopping survey carried out by Lambeth Council for their Development Plan.

There are 94 stalls in the Lower Marsh Market and these are all taken. Even without the 21 stalls in The Cut (of which only five are used) Lower Marsh is still bigger than Brixton.

David Grieg's

When the Waterloo Community Development Group contacted J. Sainsbury Ltd to encourage them to open one of their supermarkets in the David Griegs building in Waterloo Road, they were told that it was not a viable proposition. Sainsburys said that there are no car parking facilities yet with numerous bus routes stopping right outside the door and Waterloo Station just up the road, who needs car parking?

The Royal Arsenal Co-op said it was a prime site for one of their supermarkets but they lost interest when told they could only have a three year lease.

Lambeth Council have already stipulated that whatever development is carried out at David Griegs (there is a preservation order on the frontage) the ground floor and basement should stay as a food shop.

Off to a good start



41 SE1 pensioners setting off for an eight-day holiday at the Imperial Hotel in Ilfracombe, co-ordinated from Blackfriars Settlement with help from local tenants' associations.

Your Voice

Chemist looks back

Dear Sir,

Just a passing thought. I did not go on holiday last summer, but spent my holiday roaming round the streets and parks. Living not very far from the river bank, I decided to go to Southwark Bridge, and sit beneath the bridge to watch the river. It was not long before I saw the familiar pleasure boats and yachts go by. Alas, I did not see any tugs racing one another or tugs hauling the barges along the river.

It seems to me we always claim to be modern in our concepts, and you will notice that we have done away with lots of warehouses in Southwark. But I am left to ask a question which is simply, are we too fast in the change over from warehouses to offices?

T CRESSEY
49 Sumner Bldgs, Sumner St, SE1

Social workers: what's the use?

Dear Sir,

Are social workers any real help to poor people in this area? The point is, they never seem to be there when really needed. They are either "off sick", on holiday or, in the receptionist's language, tied up: would you like to make an appointment? How, I ask, can you have problems to a schedule? It seems you must have a problem that will fit in with the social worker's holiday, sick days and certainly not during a receptionist's tea break.

If, by fair means or foul, you do get past the front desk, you are often told there is nothing they can do for you. They will

Dear Sir,

I commenced my career as a pharmacist in 1923 on Union Road (now Harper Road). I was also at Marshalsea Road and Long Lane before coming to Blackfriars Road in 1935 opposite the then flourishing Boxing Ring where I traded as Kembles Chemist. When I retired the business finally passed into the hands of 'Wilsons Chemist'.

The Post Office intend to extend their development to include the corner of Blackfriars Road and The Cut. As the owner of the freehold of this chemist shop, the Post Office hung the threat of a compulsory purchase order over my head and so got the freehold from me at a ridiculously low price in 1970.

After the vacation of Wilson's Chemists the Post Office promptly

send you somewhere else, whereupon you will be promptly dispatched to some other poor unfortunate who, not having a clue what you want, sends you straight back to your welfare officer. If you are loaded with children you feel like a refugee.

So what do you do? Where can you turn? Camping in the area office or having a sit-in there is unlikely to increase your chances. In North Lambeth there is the Waterloo Action Centre. Which, although doing great work with children and the elderly, seemed a bit vague about solving my problem (simply, I needed a loan of 40p for a bus fare). There is also

relet the premises as a sandwich bar.

There was no financial crisis of the government in 1970 so a present day excuse for lack of development does not prevail.

The delay was just to suit themselves at my expense. During the 1939-45 war the shopfront was blown in four times but I managed to survive with the loyal help of my dispenser Mr Betts.

Numerous chemist shops were flattened with the bombs and one chemist was killed.

I was most happy as a dispensing chemist in the Borough of Southwark and the customers knew I was one of them.

I was a miserable, unwanted, half-starved orphan from the age of three and dumped at a disgusting school until 18 years of age

BIAS, an advice centre at Blackfriars Settlement. Nearly everyone I spoke to had nothing but good to say of it.

From conversations I have had with other families in this area, my experience isn't uncommon. Some mothers, really desperate for help, have been told to make an appointment. Everyone agreed there was a real need for a list of places and organisations, publicly displayed and well advertised, to which one can turn for help if turned away from the Social Services....

GLORIA MULKERRIS
Campbell Bldgs, Baylis Rd, SE1

Golden Oldy



Ciss Burfield has lived in Blackfriars all her life. At the age of 79 she has seen many changes, in her own words: "seen hard times, but many jolly times". "I was born in Peabody Duke Street (now called Duchy Street) in 1896. A year later my family moved to Peabody Blackfriars Rd, we were very poor. We had two rooms, the rent was 4s 6d a week. "I started school at three, in Ufford St, there I was given lunch tickets. At lunchtime we went down to Collingwood St, off the Cut. We sat in a large hall on forms (benches) and were given a bowl of soup and some sultana pudding. That kept us going through the day. When life got difficult one went to the workhouse in Ufford St. They would come to see if you had anything to sell in your home. If not, they would give you a shilling and a loaf of bread. Although we were poor, everyone in Peabody was very good, very neighbourly. We lived in a very close community. "Blackfriars was a wonderful place, so many shops. We children would go down to 'Georges' in the Cut, he owned a cookshop, where we would buy a 'hap' worth of hot baked potatoes. In London Rd there was Spencers Penny Bazaar, a long shop we used to stroll through, everything cost only a penny. (Spencer joined Marks several

After working as a bottle-washer in a chemist shop in Blackpool from 14 to 18 years of age I was given a government training course as a pharmacist and at 21 I qualified.

A windfall of £500 from an uncle put me into my first business at the age of 23 in Union Road as it was then called.

Please give my warmest greetings to any elderly people who may remember me in any of the areas mentioned.

T L BENNETT
105 Wickham Ave, Cheam, Surrey

Saga of the dump

Dear Sir,

The saga of the dump in Surrey Row goes on. At last I am able to report that Mr. Kennedy has promised to have site cleared without fail next week ending 10 October 1975. Cheers! We await results.

Chicken wire is also being removed. We must now wait for Borough Engineer to get weaving, and at last we may expect a site for sore eyes.

I have found out too, that with a phone call to Borough Engineer Phone No. 703 5464 arrangements can be made for any cumbersome rubbish to be collected. There should be no more excuse for people to clear out their homes of rubbish to the detriment of local inhabitants. Come On. Lets get our environment in shape, there really is no excuse for dumping.

ALICE R GOODWIN
21 Pakeman House, Pocock St, SE1

years later). The Salvation Army Hostel, down by St Georges Circus used to be a hall. Every Friday night, children could pay a half-penny to see the 'Magic Lantern'. There used to be a St Georges Hall where Morley College is now; for one penny we could watch a movie picture every Saturday night!

"I can remember the obelisk that stood in the centre of St Georges Circus around 1904. When it was taken down Foulkners, a tobacconist that stood where Hill's is now, had a clock tower built in its place. My mother told me once that she remembered cows wandering around Library St.

At this time we rode on Horse-drawn buses. The first tram went from the Elephant to Stamford Street. But the thing that I remember most was the shops. London Rd was a flourishing concern, green grocers, grocers, Home and Colonial, there were some lovely shops. The Cut also used to be a wonderful place. There was a dairy a dress shop, food shops, a milliners and many others. Blackfriars Rd had shops running down its length. There were also many tall imposing buildings. In Nelson Sq there were big beautiful houses, many had servants. The poor and the well-off lived side by side." If anyone has memories of SE1 they want to share, let us know at the shop, 12 Maymott Street.

Hays Wharf Plan Crown Court verdict

IF YOU HAPPENED TO BE WALKING past the Department of the Environment building in Southwark Street two weeks ago you would have been able, if you had heard about it, to go up to Room 6/60, the office of the Estates Surveyor of the Government's Property Services Agency and look at the plan of the proposed Crown Courts building on Hays Wharf.

The Crown Courts, which will cost the public £30 million (!) will be located just off Tooley Street on Morgans Lane overlooking HMS Belfast. The Courts are being developed by the Government who have got a 135 year lease from the Proprietors of Hays Wharf who own the land.

What does this mean for the redevelopment of the rest of Hays Wharf? Local residents have been told that there will be a full public consultation on the plans for Hays Wharf and many tenants' groups have called for the land to be bought under the new Community Land Bill. But the Crown Courts seem to be regarded as an

exception, as something the public should not really have the right to challenge.

The Estates Surveyor summed up the situation well. "We are not really asking for people's views on the Crown Courts building as such, but people's views on the closing of Morgans Lane".

The worry is that the planners may not regard housing and community facilities as appropriate uses to go alongside the new Crown Courts. What of planning gains "for the community"? Well, there will be a slice of river-side walk, but will there be any community on Tooley Street to appreciate it?

Play scheme at St A's

Five days of activities for kids at the play scheme at St Alphege's Hall in Rushworth Street from 27th to the 31st October are going to be run by workers from Blackfriars Settlement.



Wellington Mills

for £6,000 a year council tenants

THE NEW FLATS in the Wellington Mills Estate on Westminster Bridge Road will go to people in housing need instead of becoming an experiment for the rich if Lambeth Council have anything to do with it.

Wellington Mills is the new GLC development between Lambeth North Tube and Morley College. At recent public meetings a number of local people have said how nice it would be to live there.

The question of exactly who is going to be lucky enough to get one of these flats is now being decided as the GLC are going to start moving people in within two months. They have offered Lambeth half the places on the condition that the tenants form a "Housing Management Cooperative". This

means the tenants would maintain the flats themselves, select new tenants and eventually pay off the mortgage given by the Council.

But according to Euan Carr, local GLC member, tenants would need an income of £6,000 a year to be able to afford to live at Wellington Mills. "This would mean excluding most of the people round here". Patricia Moberley, Lambeth Housing vice-chairman told SE1 - "We don't like the idea of sifting out just the wealthier, middle-class tenants to make an elite estate".

Supertenant

The GLC claim that this co-ownership idea is a more democratic way of housing people. The real danger is that it will be used as a method of reducing their housing expenditure by passing more costs onto these 'super-tenants'.

You can be sure that the money

saved is not likely to find its way into more houses. Lambeth are adamant that in the present economic circumstances all the housing that is available should go to those who most need it. So the GLC are being asked to discuss the matter further.

Better late than never

Local Labour Party members have been making moves about a possible successor to the present MP, George Strauss. He's the longest-serving MP and has represented this area since the thirties.

A number of local residents - Campbell Buildings' tenants for example - will not be too unhappy to hear that Mr Strauss will not be standing again. He is not exactly well-known for any interest or activity locally and his retirement has been frequently predicted.

Now at last the first steps towards choosing his replacement are being taken. Informal talks are being held between local rank and file party members and possible candidates. It's a safe Labour seat so whoever gets chosen is virtually guaranteed a seat in Parliament. Join the local Labour Party if you want to take part in the selection process.

River Court Kings Reach
The first phase of flats for sale in a superb position facing the City over the Thames.
Studio Flat £13,500 to £18,000
2 room Flat £16,000 to £26,500
3 room Flat £26,000 to £45,500
5 room Penthouse up to £122,000
Terraces & Balconies, High Standard
Fittings, Covered Car Parking
Porterage, Access to Riverside Walk.

Show Flat Opens
Wednesday's 10.30 am - 8.30 pm
Sunday's 2.00 pm - 5.30 pm
Access via Upper Ground

Joint Selling Agents
DEAN LEVY Estate Agents, 10 Abchurch Lane, London EC4A 3DF
ANSTEE, HORNE & CO. Chartered Surveyors, 12 West Court Court Street, London EC4A 3DF

I wonder whether the new council flats will be like that?

Christmas Bazaar

A CHRISTMAS BAZAAR is in store for us, brainchild of the highly successful Waterloo Festival Committee.

They are raising money for next year's festival. "We want to make the festival possible by our own efforts" said Mrs Doreen Ramsey of Mitre Road, moving spirit of the Bazaar. "Then it will really be our own festival, not relying on public funds". The committee are planning to hold the Bazaar one Saturday in late November. Watch out for more details in our next issue.

Knees-up booze-up

A successful pensioners' outing to Hastings on September 29th organised by Douglas Buildings Marshalsea Road Tenants' Association ended in the traditional way with what was described as a "knees-up" at a pub on route home. About 30 people went along on the outing and a good time was had by all. Arrangements were made by Mr Heagran, Jenny McLaren and other members of the tenants' association.

Office race

The race to convert Borough High Street into a city office zone began in the mid 1960's and reached its peak over the last five years. Planning applications to redevelop buildings on the street poured into Southwark Council and the GLC in greater numbers than for any other street in South London.

In the last three years, property developers have applied to turn half the buildings in the street into offices.

By March 1975 only 3% of the street was residential, according to a GLC survey. Over half was office space, and worse still, there was another quarter of a million square feet of office space on the way.

Even Guy's Hospital have jumped on the bandwagon, with their own plans for another quarter of a million square feet of offices. All in all, a staggering one and a quarter million square feet, 70% of all the available floor space in the street.

Industry goes

With all these offices, something had to go. The number of commercial places (warehouses and industry) has fallen from 370 in 1936 to 300 in 1956, to 195 in 1975.

We can see this by looking at a sample of firms in Borough High Street in 1956, many of them using small factory or warehouse space with a couple of office rooms attached:

Metalurgists
Hop merchants
Glass Manufacturer
Hairdresser
Surgical Instrument
Seed Merchants
Builders
Leather Dress Maker
Music Ware House
Glove Manufacturer
Umbrella Makers
Radio Dealer
Roofing Tile Manufacturer
Gold Lace Men

Only a few of these industries are obsolescent today; most have moved elsewhere.



Housing loss

While many of these were linked to Southwark industries, the offices that replaced them have little connection with Southwark or even South-East London.

Less well known is the dramatic loss of housing in courts and above shops and other commercial buildings.



The register of voters shows this clearly:

	Residents Registered
1936	405
1946	141
1956	134
1966	80**
1975	41*

Although a big loss of population happened during the war, the population was relatively stable until the early 1960's. Since then, while residential courts and buildings (Angel Place, Mermaid Court, Avon Place and Margaret's Court) have been wiped out or emptied. Residential areas just off Borough High Street such as Redcross Way, Disney Place and Lant Street have also gone.

But only three of the 49 planning applications in the last three years provide any housing. Half of the places affected previously included housing.

Today the future for housing in Borough High Street is bleak.

The Scandal of Borough High Street

Borough High Street is being forgotten. While arguments rage over development in Bankside and Waterloo, speculators have been steadily devouring Borough High Street. This article is based on a report just published by the North Southwark Community Development Group.

Borough High Street is dying. Its life is being destroyed by offices and bad planning. Office development is taking over the high street, disguised as conservation.

The planners would have us believe that Borough High Street is part of the City, but its life depends on what goes on in North Southwark and Bermondsey. The

warehouses, industry, Borough Market Guy's Hospital and housing in the courts and alleys and nearby streets are what make the area. But the street's links with this community are steadily being cut by the planners.

The report from the North Southwark Community Development Group demands the following policy:

1. Keep the existing commercial buildings and housing.
2. No more office development
3. Give priority to housing, manufacturing and shops in future applications.
4. Real consultation with the local community.

The basis of this policy is that there are more shops and industry still in the area than the planners seem to admit. To keep these, and bring back more life to the area, housing must be increased.

We cannot allow planning which makes "conservation" the sole

"community benefit". Anyway, who decides what is a "community" benefit - the planners or the

tion Area in 1969. More recently the Conservation Area was extended south to Long Lane on the east side and north to Clink Wharf around the Cathedral. Twenty-one buildings have also been 'listed' as buildings of historic interest.

But these moves have had no effect on the invasion by office development or on the loss of commerce and housing. On the contrary, conservation policies have allowed speculators to argue that only office development can pay for the cost of conservation.

Demolition continues

Some historic buildings have been pulled down completely to make way for offices. No. 211 was a late seventeenth century house reputed to be the Jailers House of the Marshalsea Prison. It was a listed building but has now made way for an office block for a firm of stockbrokers, plus a library as a 'planning gain'.

There is the case of 84-86 Borough High Street which was demolished all of a sudden over a weekend in October 1974, just after the Act forbidding this was passed by Parliament.

Sometimes office conversions include 'showrooms' on the ground floor which ruin the appearance of the building above if, as in nos. 97-99, there is a large plate glass window for the showroom along the length of the ground floor. Other buildings, notably nos 75-83, appear to have been rebuilt without any consideration for conservation.

At the other end of the scale there are some buildings such as Green Dragon Court by Borough Market and the entrance to the yard between nos 127-131 which are of historical interest but are not listed and thus vulnerable when conservation comes along.

community? Public consultation must be taken seriously.

There has been no public discussion of any of the large redevelopment plans in Borough High Street or around the Cathedral. Not even the Conservation Area itself was open to discussion.

A completely new and open approach is called for now.



Copies of the full report entitled 'The Destruction of Borough High Street' can be obtained from the North Southwark Community Development Group, 108 Great Guildford Street, SE1.

So, conservation policies have conserved neither the looks nor the uses of the buildings in the street. Borough High Street is now the "right location" for offices.

Southwark's plan

Southwark Council published a "Strategy Plan for Thameside" in 1973, laying down what they would like to see in the area. There's not a word about commerce or industry as a preferred use in Borough High Street.

The most important effect of planning policy has been the boom in land and property values following the rezoning of North Southwark as an office area. Consequently almost all places in Borough High Street have been faced with increased costs of renewing leases, or have been made offers to move out which they couldn't refuse (eg Smith Kendon, formerly 132 Borough High Street).



It's places like these that are being threatened by speculators.

These same plans discouraged housing. There are now office buildings in Angel Court, Avon Place and Layton Grove, where people once lived.

Planners have also caused problems where none exist. They have on a number of occasions urged the closure of Borough Market because, in their view, it creates too much traffic congestion (at 4.30 am?). They have argued against commerce on Borough High Street and in court-yards such as Maidstone Buildings because they say it is inconvenient to the firms themselves or, to quote one report, it creates 'nuisance and congestion'. On what evidence are these views based?

Policy changes on the horizon

In spite of this disastrous history of planning, some change of policy is on the horizon - at least in the Greater London Council. It now looks like the advance of office blocks in Borough High Street is at odds with the new GLC office policy.

A recent GLC report said their new office policy would immediately stop any more offices in Borough High Street.

The North Southwark Community Development Group made a survey this April which showed that there was 150,000 square feet of empty office space, 39,400 already available and 110,500 being built.

Boro High Street has the honour of having 32% of the empty space in North Southwark. No other street has so much vacant office space. Much of this is prestige luxury office space, over 5,000 square feet, which is not suitable for small firms or local professional people who need offices in the Borough.

No consultation

Apart from the periodic notices of planning applications advertised in the local Press the destruction of Borough High Street has taken place with no general public consultation.

No public participation programmes have been launched for any of the major schemes on Borough High Street such as the Guy's Hospital redevelopment plan or the area around Southwark Cathedral or Calverley Buildings or the scheme on Nettlefolds and Mosers.

Yet there is more office space under discussion on Borough High Street than in the whole of the Piccadilly Circus site.

Radical changes

Unless radical changes in policy are introduced by Southwark and the GLC, Borough High Street and surrounding streets will be totally destroyed. The redevelopment disease is spreading to adjacent streets like Union Street, Trinity Street, St Thomas' Street, Great Suffolk Street, Long Lane, Tabard Street, Newcomen Street and Borough Market.



"Gertrude" cries mine host, or when he's feeling more friendly, "Go home." Sometimes, despairingly, "Good Night" as customers resolutely stay fixed, determined to enjoy every last minute of one of the real 'character' pubs in the area, the Rose & Crown in Colombo Street.



An old fashioned pub that's stayed that way, there may be no salubrious on the floor but it has still maintained that genuine kind of feeling.

Founded in 1787, it has not gone plush like your modern-day pub. There's a carpet in the lounge bar, and although ash-trays are provided, you are welcome to stub your finger on the carpet. (No, I didn't try it.)

The atmosphere really comes from the customers who frequent there. You can mingle and drink with directors in their Savile Row suits or asphalters in their working gear, looking like the original angels with dirty hands and faces.

How many places do you see customers sending drinks over to friends in the other bar?

Directors bitter

Members of the Campaign for Real Ale come here to wet their lips with Directors', pulled by porcelain pumps. (What do you mean, you thought they were pulled by barmaids?)

When you walk into a pub like this you are never alone, the people there are always happy to pass the time of day.

Lets hope the Rose & Crown carries on in the same old way, and that the Brewers don't try out here their ideas of what a pub should be.

Billie & Charlie

Remember the Treasure in the Thames article in Issue 27? Then you might like to know about two labourers who, in 1857, fooled the antiquity and collectors world. These two dockside workers used to collect odds and ends, old ropes and coal, from the river to make a living. Realising that there were many private collectors paying good prices for any historical finds, they decided to make their own antiquities.

William Smith and Charlie Eaton, now known to the world as Billie and Charlie, began to medallion heads in 1857, fooled the antiquity and collectors world. These two dockside workers used to collect odds and ends, old ropes and coal, from the river to make a living. Realising that there were many private collectors paying good prices for any historical finds, they decided to make their own antiquities.



Hatfields Pull Out

The National Car Park Co. have now pulled out of Hatfields and taken their cars with them. But the small IPC car park (where the floodlit football pitch is to be) has been allowed a short extension.

Some work has already been done by Southwark Council on the main site. The drainage system under Broadwall, the street that goes through the middle of the plot has been located. Broadwall is actually the boundary of Lambeth and Southwark.



I have found some of these items. One looks like a mediaeval badge and the other, which I found a few weeks ago, was in the form of a great with an unknown kings face on one side.

Advice centres

B.I.A.S.
Blackfriars Settlement
44 Nelson Square. 928-9521
Open weekdays 10am-5pm
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 Gt. Guildford St. SE1.
Tel. 928-8165
Advice Session Tues. 4.30-6pm.

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

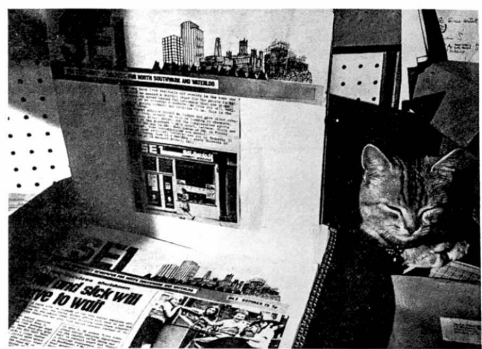
Council Meetings

All these meetings are open to the public. Agendas should be available on demand.

Southwark Council meetings are held at the Town Hall, Peckham Rd. Lambeth Council meetings are held at the Town Hall, Brixton.

All these meetings will begin at 7.00pm. S=Southwark, L=Lambeth.

21 Oct	S	Joint Housing & Planning & Development
22 Oct	S	Full Council
27 Oct	S	Establishment Committee
28 Oct	S	Special Services Ctee
29 Oct	L	Construction Services
3 Nov	L	Planning & Development
5 Nov	S	Community Development Project Committee
6 Nov	L	Housing Committee
10 Nov	L	Amenities Committee
11 Nov	L	Health & Consumer Services Committee
12 Nov	L	Housing Committee
13 Nov	L	Public Services Ctee
14 Nov	S	Libraries & Amenities
15 Nov	S	Street Trading Ctee



Everyone welcome!

SE1 readers may be surprised to know that six months ago, those who put this paper together each month knew nothing about how to do it! We learnt by doing it - and we're still learning. We are not professional journalists, just people who live or work in SE1. And we started the paper because we thought there were a lot of things happening in the area that other people would like to know more about. People have joined the group, either by calling in at the office in Meymott St. and getting interested, or through offering to help by distributing the paper in the block where they live, or by letting us know about things they wanted to see printed.

We meet most Thursday evenings, to exchange news from different parts of the area, and to decide who's going to do what for the next issue of the paper. (These meetings always seem to end up in the pub) And the last week-end before the paper goes to the printer, we spend arranging and re-arranging the jig-saw of words and pictures that finally gets printed.

Some people help by typing articles beforehand in their spare time others by selling the paper afterwards. We would welcome help from anyone who has some time and who thinks the paper is giving pleasure to people in SE1.

Unfortunately we haven't got a telephone yet, and there isn't always someone in the office, but if no-one's in you can always drop a letter through the letter-box, and we'll get back in touch with you. Don't forget the address: 12 Meymott Street, off Blackfriars Road.

Small ads

SE1 will be happy to print small advertisements for articles of less than £5.00 in value, at no charge to the advertiser.

A marmalade cat, very beautiful, stayed into Blackfriars Settlement, 44 Nelson Square recently. If you're looking for it, get in touch with 01-928 9521

What Where When?

Throughout The Month

Waterloo Adventure Playground

Open: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 4pm - 7pm

Saturday 10am - 5pm

The playground is in Baylis Road

Exhibition: Victorian & Edwardian Southwark.

10am - 5pm Monday to Saturday

Livesey Museum, Old Kent Road

Until December.

Five-a-side Football

Every Wednesday & Thursday, 7.30pm

Camberwell Baths, 10p

Tenants' Association

Peabody Estate, Duchy St. TA

committee meets 2nd & 4th Wednesday in every month.

SE1 Community Newspaper

Meetings to plan the next issue

will be on Thursdays: Oct 23rd

Nov 6th, Nov 13th.

ENTRIES IN THIS DIARY ARE FREE

We need to know what's being organised in the area...like jumble sales, bingo, playgroups, meetings etc. The things your friends would like to hear about. So let us know

Kids Events

Monday 20 Oct

Childrens Halloween costume workshop.

Monday 27 Oct

Play Scheme

Friday 31 Oct

Cooking, football, painting, table tennis, coffee bar, jewellery and lots of fun and outings.

Weds 5 Nov

Halloween Party International Arts Centre, Newington Butts, 5.00-8.00pm.

Firework Display

at Brockwell Park and at Kennington Park, both at 7.30pm

Civic Centres

ROTHERHITHE CIVIC CENTRE

Albion St Rotherhithe, SE16.

Sunday 26 Oct

Opening with personal appearance of Tommy Steele 3.00pm.

Monday 27 Oct

Eldon Jazz Band in Concert 8.00pm.

Tuesday 28 Oct

Oldtime Music Hall (Sandy Dowell, Lester Ferguson) 7.30pm.

Weds 29 Oct

Folk Concert (Joe Stead, Jeremy Taylor, Wildcates) 3.5p and 25p.

Friday 31 Oct

Southwark Music in Concert (Dennis Colehan) 3.5p and 25p.

Sat 1 Nov

Club Night with Joan Regan, Bernie Clifton and Cabaret. Tables for 8: £8, singles: £1 8.00pm.

Box Office 703 2917.

NORTH PECKHAM CIVIC CENTRE

Old Kent Road, SE15.

Tues 21 Oct

Cabaret and Shouttime with Dave Armour 7.30pm.

Friday 31 Oct

Film Show "Half a Sixpence" 7.30pm. FREE.

Tues 4 Nov

Club Night with Stuart Grimes and Bernie Clifton 8.00pm.

Tues 11 Nov

Film Show "The Nightcomers" 7.30pm. FREE.

Variety Startime with Tony Venner

Tables for 8: £2, singles: 25p. 7.30pm.

Other Events

Sat 18 Oct

'Wierd Tales of Old London' Lecture. Livesey Museum, Old Kent Road. 3.00pm Free.

Jumble Sale

Charterhouse Ark, 39 Crosby Row. 2.30pm.

Tues 21 Oct

Tuppenny Fayre Charterhouse Ark, 7.00pm.

Weds 22 Oct

S-a-side Football Camberwell Baths every Wednesday & Thursday 7.30pm. 10p.

Nearly New Shop

Waterloo Action Centre, Baylis Road. 10am-5pm.

Thurs 23 Oct

Southwark Concert Orchestra South London Art Gallery, Peckham Road, SE5 8.00pm. Free.

Films: 'The War Game' and 'Mr Nixon's Secret

Legacy' SouthBank Poly, London Road, Rm 7. 12.45pm

Sat 25 Oct

Jumble Sale St Johns Hall, Fair Street. 2.00-4pm.

Toolby Street Tenants Association (Please deliver

Jumble on Friday 24th after 7.30pm)

Church Service

Annual Service of the Worshipful Company of Leathersellers. St Crispine Church, Bermondsey. 3.00pm. With Southwark Singers.

Public Meeting

Founding of South Bank Arts Assoc. International Arts Centre, Newington Butts. 7.00pm

Guy's Community Health Council meeting, Guy's

Hospital, 7.30pm.

Jumble Sale

Waterloo Action Centre, Baylis Rd. 11.00am - 2.00pm

Weds 5 Nov

Jumble Sale AS ABOVE

Sat 8 Nov

Free Lecture 'Victorian Southwark' Livesey Museum

Fri 14 Nov

Public Meeting 'Unemployment' Rachel Macmillan Teachers' Centre, New Kent Road, 7.30pm

NOTE: SE1 is sorry, but we cannot take responsibility for any changes in the details of events published in this diary after we have gone to press.

CALL FOR MORE DOLE ...AND JOBS

Southwark Trades Council has issued a call for the government to raise the basic unemployment benefit rate to around £30 and to expand proper training opportunities for school leavers.

EMERGENCY

These are two of the emergency measures demanded by the Trades Council in its Programme for Action on Unemployment. Other measures called for include an increase in public expenditure (particularly house-building) and workplace occupations, where necessary, to prevent redundancies.

The Trades Council's call for increased public spending to maintain employment goes directly against the government cuts (the effect of which on the Tooley St. Social Services office was reported last month). The Trades Council is now seeking a meeting with leaders of Southwark Borough Council to talk about other ways the cuts might affect Southwark workers and residents, and to urge the Borough to increase its house-building programme.

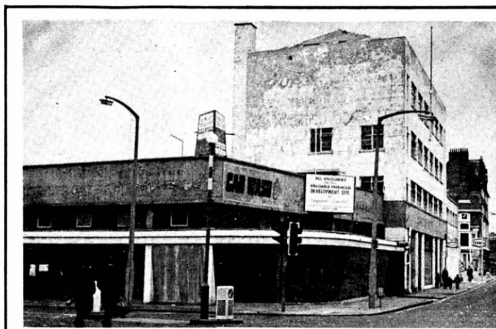
INCREASE HOUSING

The news that any public body is calling for opposition to the cuts, for a fight against unemployment, for an increase in house-building and for better opportunities for the school-leaver will be welcome in SE1, where unemployment has been increasing even faster than in the rest of the borough. The problem has been highlighted this month by the news of the closure of the Thornburn envelope factory in Great Suffolk St. with the loss of 150 jobs.

PUBLIC MEETING

The Trades Council is to hold a PUBLIC MEETING about unemployment on November 14th at the Rachel Macmillan Teacher's Centre in New Kent Road, and we urge SE1 readers to attend it. Among the speakers will be Ken Gill, a member of the TUC General Council, and Nick Bradley a member of the Labour Party National Executive Committee.

Of course not all of our members are bent on competition,



The old Dispatch Motors showroom at the corner of GT. Suffolk St.

Speculators con

A PROPERTY COMPANY WITH PLANS to convert the Dispatch Motors Building in Southwark Bridge Road into offices were called speculators by Southwark Council at a Public Inquiry held on October 9th at the Town Hall.

The site was bought by Carp gate Ltd. two years ago and even though they managed then to get permission for a warehouse with some offices, they now want offices as the main use for the building. Both Southwark Council and the Greater London Council turned this down but the developers appealed to the Department

of the Environment and managed to get a Public Inquiry.

At the Inquiry Southwark and the GLC argued that the building should be put to use as industry or a warehouse. The North Southwark Community Development Group, represented by Mr Bob Colenutt, supported the two councils and called for a halt to offices in areas zoned for industry. The outcome of the Inquiry, which will not be known for two or three months, is important for the area because of the alarming loss of manufacturing firms (see the story about the closure of Thornburn Bain's on page 1).

A fishy tale

As some local people know there is now a local fishing club operating from 108 Great Guildford Street called The Three Jolly Gardeners Angling Club and as Secretary of the club I have been asked to write a few lines about the club's progress and about angling in general.

I thought it best to briefly outline some of the clubs aims and report on our latest outing to Windsor. Firstly the committee has decided that if the majority of our members are to work all year towards a goal we must make the goal worth winning so on our presentation night those who have competed will receive a trophy worthy of their effort.

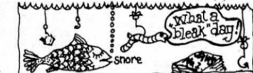
Of course not all of our members are bent on competition,

many come simply for a quiet day out and the feelings of these members are respected even by the junior section, who under their captain John Parker must be the most sensible and responsible juniors any club could ask for.

The new members and novices are not forgotten either. It is the clubs' intention to develop a good inter-club team but first we intend to start a program involving films, advice nights and possibly a club library so that all members have a chance to get the most out of their angling.

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Finally a word about our latest outing to Windsor. After a bad start with no coach we decided to go by train and although we only weighed in one fish we caught over 200 roach, bleak, gudgeon etc, which at least kept the juniors happy. Next outing we hope to do better.



YOUR RIGHTS

Social Security:
How much should you get?

Mr Maxwell went to see the BIAS Advice Centre about some supplementary benefit giro which had gone astray. In the normal course of things they did a quick check on the amount he ought to be getting. It came to a lot more than the £1 per week he was in fact receiving.

£60 gift

They wrote to the local office of Social Security to explain their sums. A couple of weeks later Mr Maxwell's mail contained a giro for nearly £60, but no explanation of what it was about.

The secret of the mystery 'gift' was soon clear when the office sent its account of his benefit. The money was a lump sum payment to cover what he had been underpaid since first claiming: in fact he ought to have been getting nearly £8 per week!

For anyone on Supplementary Benefit, Mr. Maxwell's case tells a number of things.

A 124

●1. There IS an explanation for how much you are getting. Most of what you get is laid down by law, and you can check it against the list of benefit rates. Only some bits are "discretionary" - and even then, you can get the information to understand something about how that's calculated.

●2. Social Security offices make mistakes of both overpaying and underpaying - and random surveys show that they are frequent.

●3. You can easily find out how your benefit is calculated. Just go - or write - to the local office, and ask for a "Notice of Assessment" (known in departmental jargon as an 'A124'). This is a fairly straightforward form showing how they have worked out the particular entitlement/benefit. It's your RIGHT to know.

●4. As Mr. Maxwell's case shows so strikingly, it may be well worth your while.

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Double victory Campbell Buildings

PRESSURE FROM Campbell Buildings tenants has forced Lambeth Council to agree to installing heating, hot water, kitchen doors and to put an end to overcrowding on the estate in Baylis Road.

Last May several mums who meet every Monday afternoon at the Waterloo Action Centre decided it was time something was done about conditions on the estate. What got the tenants really angry was that the council have been doing up empty flats because they couldn't find anyone to take them, but people already living there were supposed to carry on putting up with the bad conditions.

five share one room

Linda Walsh, mother of 2 young children, was one of the people who helped to get signatures for a petition. "We weren't complaining about the rents, just the state of the flats. We've got no baths or hot water and no heating except a grate for a coal fire. This is a terrible place for kids to live in. Lots of families are overcrowded, in one there's five children sleeping in one room."

"We got 118 signatures to our petition and sent copies of it to our MP and the councillors. Mr Strauss, the MP, wrote saying he knew all about Campbell Buildings but our petition wasn't really his concern. Then we heard from Peter Lane (one of the local councillors) and we had a meeting with him and the other councillors (Pam Verden and Roger Gregory). We did a leaflet telling everyone about the meeting so there were 12 of us there on that Saturday morning".

never seen a bath

One of the tenants who saw the leaflet and decided to go was Mr Crossman, married with two children aged 6 and 9. "My youngest kid's never seen a bath, we've been here 7 years and been waiting two and a half years for a transfer. The windows need fixing and there's damp in the kitchen. I work hard; when I come home I don't want to have to go down to the Public Baths for a bath. If nothing happens now we might have to organise a rent strike, I'm not happy with paying rent for a place that isn't comfortable".

A group of the tenants went to Lambeth's Housing Committee meeting on September 29th where their petition was discussed. The committee agreed to the improvements to all the flats but no mention was made of putting in baths or

showers although this is probably the main grievance of the tenants.

Now that their first battle has been won the tenants are planning to start a tenants association so they can make sure that Lambeth Council keeps its promises and to take up all the other issues (like baths and showers) that haven't been sorted out yet.

SE1 found out that there's money available from the government to help pay for the improvements but the Council will have to start work by March next year if they are to get it so it looks like the tenants' association will have to keep up the pressure to get the Council moving quick.

Peabody

THE TENANTS' Association for the Estate has forced Lambeth to withdraw its original demand for 10 out of 14 flats in N Block at the Peabody Estate in Stamford Street in exchange for a loan to pay for the modernisation of the block.

This result of the tenants' angry response to the news (reported in SE1 last month) appears to require only the approval of the Chairman of Lambeth's Housing Committee.

a washtap on the landing all their lives

The TA wrote to the Council, pointing out that "We still have 95 tenants living in the existing unmodernised blocks, still sharing communal facilities such as toilet and wash tap on the landing. Many of these tenants have lived here all their lives, and we demand that these 95 tenants will be the first and given priority in any allocation of flats in the modernisation programme. Not till all the present tenants have been rehoused in modernised accommodation should any flats go to Lambeth. It would be desirable that if there was any accommodation available at that time that it should be allocated to Waterloo residents who are on Lambeth's waiting list. This would also help to keep the local community together."

Peculiar plume-droop

There should be less smoke in the streets from Bankside Power Station this winter. This is what the Station Manager told Mr. and Mrs. Weyman of Rowland Hill House after they had sent a letter complaining about the smoke.

According to the Central Electricity Generating Board, last winter was the worst ever for smoke in North Southwark. They say that this was due to wear and tear on the power station boilers

but now an enormous amount of work has been done on the boilers and the problem ought to be solved. Bankside apparently has a peculiar "plume droop" which brings smoke down low and although the power station can do little about the droop, it should now cause less problems, the CEBG say.

The TA also called an open meeting of all the tenants. 150 of them turned out, and from the mood of the meeting there was no doubt that they were firmly united on this letter. And their protests carried weight.

If anyone has a complaint they should phone immediately to Mr Wicks, the station chemist, at 928-7411, who will take action.



FOUR OF THE MUMS WHO GOT THE BALL ROLLING AT CAMPBELL BUILDINGS

Left to right: Angela Ayres, Margaret Weir, Linda Walsh and Hilda Patley.

Rich man, poor man

Following SE1's revelations about the "extravagant" flats to be built as a "community benefit" on Edgers site, Bankside (Phoney Planning Gains, last issue), Cllr Mike Dalton was rebuffed at Southwark's Planning Committee on Thursday, October 7, when he asked about the type of flats to be built.

Cllr O'Grady, Leader of the Council, said "I am a professional person and live in a council flat, so what's wrong with flats for professional people?". The chairman quickly moved the meeting on to other business. It looks suspiciously like a cover up.

