

Disabled OAP no good for show-piece estate

WHY WON'T DISABLED, seventy years old Emily Farr be getting a flat in Wellington Mills? Why won't a war widow twenty six years in a rotting 'temporary' prefab? Why won't couples with maximum medical reasons for a transfer? Yet a schoolteacher who doesn't really need to move will be getting a flat there. So too will a GLC caretaker. A 'tenants champion' in no housing need was asked if he'd like a place. Why? Why? Why?

It's because the GLC want a Tenants Cooperative on this show-piece estate. They are carefully screening tenants to make their plan succeed and this seems to be more important to them than how badly people need to be housed.

Emily Farr is the victim of what one local community worker called "a GLC experiment in social engineering."

She lives in a house that has been condemned as unfit for human habitation for many years, and her ninety six year old Mother lives nearby.

Visited by a GLC housing officer in mid-October, Emily was told the good news that a last she was to be rehoused.

It was agreed that one of the new flats in Wellington Mills was just right for her, there are specially designed flats for the elderly and ramps to help the disabled. She would be in before Christmas.

She has been looking forward to it ever since.

But nothing happened.

Eventually, when contacted last week, the GLC said "Wellington Mills is now to be a co-operative, and we are afraid we don't think Miss Farr is suitable."

SE1 now knows that many other people in desperate housing need will also lose out because they don't match up to the GLC's

standards for this elite estate.

They have come into the Waterloo Action Centre and other community centres - some of them in tears - with very disturbing evidence of how the GLC has handled the whole affair.

But Lambeth councillors - who have been asked to select half the tenants - don't agree with this sort of selectivity and it looks as if there will be a big

battle to allow them to choose people on the basis of their housing need.

To win this fight the community will have to organise, and demand that the Labour GLC members to turn down the scheme when it comes to them for approval.

PAGE NINE - THE FULL STORY

- * What have the GLC done?
- * What is a co-operative?
- * Can it work?

Inquiry into Flat Iron Square

ADVANCE WARNING has been received of a Public Inquiry into the future of Flat Iron Square. The parade of shops there has been under threat of redevelopment for over three years.

The Inquiry will begin on March 2nd 1976 and the North Southwark Community Development

Group is asking that it should be held locally, perhaps in Duthy Hall.

The Inquiry is a result of an appeal by the developers, Grosvenor Square Property Company, against the refusal of Southwark Council to allow a large office development there. The GLC oppose any offices on the site.



Some of the children of Charterhouse Sunday School with their Autumn harvest of beetroots, potatoes, parsnips, leeks and carrots, which were grown in All Hallows Church garden.

Lifesaver Terry Brown

Terry Brown of Godstone House, Tabard Estate saved a woman's life by rescuing her from the Thames. Exactly a year later on 26th November he was awarded the Royal Humane Society Bronze medal for bravery.

Terry and three friends were sheltering under London Bridge because it was raining and saw the woman fall. Two friends went to telephone the police while Terry and another friend searched for a lifebuoy. They found one and threw it to her but she couldn't get to it. He took off his clothes, jumped in and swam out 15 yards to the woman. He grabbed hold of her and started to swim back. Seeing a wooden pier nearby he swam 25 yards against the tide to it and he continued to support her until a police launch came. A line was thrown, he put it round the woman and swam 5 yards with her to the boat and helped police to lift her out. He returned to the pier exhausted, having been in the water for 20 minutes. He was taken to St. Bartholomews Hospital and received treatment.



BETTER HOUSING NEWS! Brian and Maria Uney may move into one of the new GLC houses in Nicholson Street, which will be ready in the new year. With them are James and triplets Lysandra, Zoe and Rachael.

Social Services Smile!

~ no time
for tea

Dear SE1

Receptionists have no set 'Tea Break' and in the main are supplied by other members of the staff with their 'cuppa'. If we get six teas over one day five of these can get stone cold before attempting to drink it.

As for receptionist's language 'tied up' when a certain social worker is not available the client is told this and is offered an appointment. In matters of emergency, a duty officer or senior is available, it is the deciding factor between client and receptionist as to what is regarded as 'urgent'.

We sympathise with anyone with a family to rear on DHSS support in these days but on occasion we have noticed that some clients request financial aid for their families when they also have very large dogs to care for, which must cost well over £5 per week.

We could suggest other economies by some clients, which would help to feed and clothe their children.

Fortunately a great deal of our clients are very grateful for what help we are able to give, and it is their appreciation that helps to keep us going in a very precarious job.

WYNNE AND MARJE

A beach for Bankside?

Dear Sir,

Since everything is in dream-land and what to do with the North Southwark area. I decided to have a little dream about Bankside, that is the river beach I refer to. All there is to see there is stones and mud. Old machine guards, a spring bed and old iron from the builders. All Father Thames can do is to toss the stuff up on this muddy beach. One would say a little

Not all in need of a wash

Dear Sir,

I would like to inform you of the fact that a number of the tenants in Campbell Buildings have in fact got baths, hot water and kitchen curtains, and electric and gas fires. A number of tenants also have adequate living space. All of these amenities were paid for by the working tenants themselves. All of the people who are complaining are relatively new tenants who should have thought of these things before they moved in. They

Dear Sir,

If I did not live in this area and had to read SE1 I would be grateful that I did not live in SE1.

I know that we have our ups and downs just like any other area, and your covering of the fights with the Council and other bodies is very good, but living in this area has more to it than that, it has weddings, births and a lot more going on. So let's have some reports on a few weddings and Socials and some photos too. If people know that they may have a photo in the paper they will go out of their way to buy your paper. So you will be better off and so will the people that buy your paper

A wonderful time was had by all

Dear SE1

The National Benevolent Fund for the Aged took 500 people for a holiday to Ilfracombe and all the people were treated as Kings and Queens. The courier for Lambeth and Southwark was Mrs Philby and Mrs Hawkesworth was another courier from Stockport, and you would be surprised at the jobs they have to do.

Being all elderly people, some are taken sick at times, and whenever anyone is feeling poorly the couriers are called to them immediately, even if it is in the middle of the night.

One gentleman from Southwark was taken ill and had to be admitted to hospital and a marvellous recovery was made,

reminder to keep our beach clean.

In my dreams I would not mind if the corporation cleared the beach of such undesirable rubbish and put sand there. At least it would serve a purpose for the children to play on, now there are no barriers to hinder the task.

T CRESSEY
58 Summer Bldge, Sumner St, SE1

PS Someone put sand at the tower, what's wrong with some sand at Bankside?

should not put everybody in the buildings in the same category as themselves because a lot of the tenants are satisfied with their flats, their only complaint is about the new tenants and squatters who are coming in. Everyone has a right to a comfortable home and we have to work for what we want. Anyone who read the article would imagine that everyone in Campbell Buildings is in need of a wash.

A TENANT
Campbell Buildings, SE1

WRITE

to SE1. We want to hear your news and views. Send your letters to: SE1 Community Newspaper, 12 Meymott St, SE1.

because they will have something to smile at.

Now that the paper is doing so well you may find it easy to get reporters from the estates in the area to cover these things and then we can show the rest of London that this is a good and happy area.

I wish you and your readers a Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year.

K RICHARDSON
5K Peabody Estate, Duchy St, SE1

On the ball

Hello,

I bought your paper SE1 last week and read it with interest, about the bit for suggestions? I would like to see printed that the five aside football competition for league and cup, that is held throughout the summer for all London Peabodies that the cup was won by Blackfriars, both teams, Seniors age 12-16 and Juniors age 9-12, and the league was won by the junior team and the Senior team were runners-up which is quite an achievement and I think they deserve a mention for their sportsmanship when there is so much said about the young today.

MRS HARRINGTON
11G Peabody Sq, Blackfriars Rd

but the day they were due to come back, he was able to come home and have treatment here, he was given the whole back seat of the coach to lay on, covered with blankets and looked after all the way home.

The coach driver was a very kindly man and he offered to make a trip every day except one during the whole week.

He took the people to:
Bideford, Woolacombe, Saunton

Sands, Croyde Bay, Westward Ho, the Appledore Shipyard where the Golden Hind was built, and another day to Lynmouth, Lynton, Exford Combe.

Everyone had a really lovely holiday, the hotel staff were very good too, and Mrs Hunter made everyone feel really wanted. Everyone was really fantastic!

LILY TAYLOR
9 Roupell St, SE1

Christmas Greetings from Blackfriars Settlement

44-47 Nelson Square, SE1.
928 9521

THIS IS, TRADITIONALLY A TIME FOR GIVING AND RECEIVING:

CAN WE HELP YOU?

BIAS (Information and Advice), Neighbourhood and Family Counselling, Literacy Scheme, Youth Clubs, Social Clubs, Work Centre, Pensioners Clubs, Legal Advice, Blind Club.

CAN YOU HELP US?

All our services and activities depend upon the involvement of voluntary workers. If you have a spare afternoon or evening, WHY NOT JOIN US?



Ron Histed, Secretary of Tooley St. Tenants Ass, recovering from a gallstone operation. On seeing who'd donated his bed, Ron told his surgeon "No wonder I've had my ups and downs." Poor Ron had 17 gallstones (he says the world record is 240!). Get well soon, Ron.

Cathedral ward

Councillor counted out

A confidential report being considered by Southwark Council at the moment reveals that Cathedral Ward in North Southwark is to lose a councillor in the next round of Local Government review. Cathedral Ward has three councillors at present.

The review is to look into any irregularities that may have arisen out of the 1965 re-organisation of London Councils. Many people have argued that the only way to even out these irregularities is to go back to the old boroughs of Southwark, Bermondsey and Camberwell - a cry that is being echoed throughout the country.

The reason Cathedral Ward has been singled out as the only ward in the Constituency to lose a councillor is due to some neat shuffling of statistics. Cathedral Ward Labour party have written to the chairman of the Council sub-committee set up for the review (Cllr Cather) stating their objections to the way the figures are being used.

They say that the statistics are out of date and inaccurate, and support their case with up to date figures which show that the population of their ward will significantly increase in the next 5 years - rather than decrease as the Council's figures show.

A place for kids

Remember Cobham Buildings, on the corner of Pocock and Rushworth Streets?

Since February a new youth and community centre has been taking shape there. Hopefully it will be ready early next year.

It's got no name yet and Blackfriars Settlement are going to run a competition to choose one very soon.

Youth worker Steve Lancashire said "We can't physically fit everyone in the area into the place at the same time, but as far as possible it belongs to the community."

As yet there are no definite plans for the building. Steve, together with Sue Sinclair, are going to find out what possible uses kids and adults in the area want to put it to.

A single storey building, it has a cafe area for about forty people, kitchen, general area for games and discos which can hold about 100 people and a lounge area for about thirty people.

Some clubs currently using St Alphege's regularly and the Settlement's Intermediate Treatment Scheme will use it for part of the week.

But there's still plenty of time left for other uses, especially during the daytime and at weekends.

Why wait for Sue and Steve to contact you? "Come along now and have a look at the place for yourself - we'll be delighted to hear any suggestions," said Sue.

Courages to stay in Southwark

On October 29th, the management of Courages announced formally that they will be staying in Southwark 'for the foreseeable future'. And as if to emphasise the point, a planning application was submitted at the same time to build new loading bays at the Horsleydown Brewery. This may be one of the first planning applications for the Thames-side in recent years that local residents have not objected to!

For three years now, it has been generally feared that Courages would close their bottling plant (Park Street) and brewery, to move them to new sites outside London - thus making way for yet more land speculation and office development, and a loss of 1,400 jobs in SE1.

Indeed, workers in Courages had received notice of impending closure, and had reached advanced stages of negotiation over redundancy payments.

Why the change?

Why the change of heart by Courages? Though they have not attempted to explain why they are not going to move, it seems probable that the main reasons are the cost and time to build alternative plants, and the sudden decline in prospects for developing the land they own in Southwark for offices. Local residents and trades councils in Southwark must take some credit for the latter, since it was partly due to their sustained opposition to offices, especially on industrial land, which has reduced opportunity for speculation. Also, of course, the present recession in the property market and the existence of the new Community Land Act have played their part.

Locally however the fear remains that when the conditions change, so will Courages' plans.



TOO MANY LORRIES

Meanwhile, residents of Horsleydown Lane (some of them Courages' own tenants) are hoping that the new loading bays will mean there will be less traffic in their street.

COMMUNITY PLANNING CENTRE

108 Great Guildford Street

merry christmas
to

ALL RESIDENTS & WORKERS

LET US PLAN OUR AREA

928-8165





In our Letters Page Mr. Richardson writes that we should have more reports of the lighter side of life in SE1. SE1 workers agree and we are already following his suggestion of contacts on estates. SE1 is run by local people and workers in their spare time so any spreading of the load is very welcome. After 6 months in existence we are still looking for the right blend, if there is such a thing.

Mr. Richardson's point about our coverage on council matters is heartening. SE1 came about because of a concern that local matters weren't well reported or the full story told.

On this page we report on recent attempts by the GLC and Lambeth at Public Participation. The report raises the disturbing possibility that it is not that the Council, whichever one it may be, doesn't hear what we are saying, but that it hears perfectly well and chooses to ignore us. They prefer the advice of professional architects and other elected officers. So we should look at how we can change this. One way is by more people putting pressure on their councillors so that they ignore us at their peril. And people can organise - in tenants associations, community groups, trade unions, ward parties.....

SE1 will carry on cutting the red tape and getting the information through to you.

We wish all our readers a Happy Christmas and we will be SE1ing you in the New Year.

SE1 office

Our office is at 12, Meymott Street, SE1 (off Blackfriars Rd). We are open Mon-Fri, 4.30 - 6.30pm and Saturday 10-12am, so you can call in and see us.

Next issue

of SE1 will be out on January 16th

SE1 meetings

We will be meeting on Thursdays Dec 11th and 18th to talk about ideas for the next issue, and on Thursday Jan 8th to discuss the articles that have been written. We will be putting the paper together on Saturday and Sunday Jan 10 & 11. EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS. We meet at the office at 7.15, ending up at the pub round the corner! FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T ENJOY MEETINGS there are plenty of other things to do - like typing, collecting information or helping to run the office.

Selling SE1

Do you, your friends, and neighbours get SE1 regularly? You can make sure everyone around you sees SE1 by taking some copies (5 or 10 are enough) every month to sell. Let us know at 12 Meymott St. if you can help.

SE1 is on sale at many newsagents. We would like to thank those shopkeepers for their goodwill in selling the paper without commission.

Subscriptions

for SE1 are £1.75 for 12 issues including postage. Make cheques, postal orders payable to - SE1 Community Newspaper Group and send to the office.

To keep SE1 at 5p even for 8 pages, we have to have some adverts. Without any ads SE1 would cost 8p. Readers may not like ads, but what is the alternative?

Are we getting what we want?

On Nov 10 the GLC reached a decision on their policy towards the South Bank. They adopted a compromise solution emphasising housing and industry on land they own (all of this in the Lambeth part) and a mixture of offices and "community benefits" on land they do not own (mostly on Bankside).

This was the result of a "public consultation exercise" carried out by the GLC. Another consultation programme, this time undertaken by Lambeth in the Waterloo area ended without any decision a few weeks ago. In 1976 the whole SE1 area is to be subject to public consultation in order to prepare local area plans for North Southwark and Lambeth.

Officials make the plans

It is time to ask if the area is getting what it wants. Let us look back at the South Bank and Waterloo plans and see what happened there.

They followed the same formula. People were asked to choose between three "options". These were drawn up by officers of the council, not by councillors, and were prepared before public consultation began.

Who are these officers? They are not elected members but are paid officials such as planners, valuers and administrators. A lot of judgments are made about us and the way the options are worded. Thus, in the South Bank the officers say that its existing residents are attracted to the area for "sentimental reasons" but that new families would not want to live in the area. Instead they say that the South

Bank is better suited to "Central London uses" i.e. offices and entertainment centres, and non-family housing.

But these are not the views of local residents or workers. A close look at the results of the consultation shows that at the public meetings and in letters written to Lambeth and the GLC, local organisations were united in wanting more family housing. It was only in letters from the management of bodies such as Sainsbury's and British Rail that other views were expressed. In the officers' report on consultation this comes out as "lack of agreement in the locality about which form housing should take".

Fortunately for us it is not the officers that make the final decisions - it is the elected members, our councillors. But since the officers give all the advice and write the reports the councillors are protected from their own responsibilities - to find out what the people want and fight for it.



Brownie club going strong

A club for local kids called the "Brownie Club" which meets at St George's Hall in Trundle Street (behind the old Evelina Hospital) is going from strength to strength.

About 25 children between 7 and 14 years old from flats in the area meet there every Monday evening (it was nearly called the Monday Club) for games, plays, competitions and shows.

The organisers are two energetic local mums, Tilly Jackson from Lant Street and Kath Sheen from Great Suffolk Street. They have arranged a whole series of outings financed mainly by proceeds from numerous jumble sales.

In the summer there was a trip to Hastings and visits to Dick Whittington on Ice and the Alladin Xmas Show are coming up. Keep pushing out the jumble!

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS?

by Ted Eagle (ex-dosser)

Thursday 25 December 1975 - Christmas Day. The start of a long dreary week-end for the man or woman who is homeless in SE1.

They will meet with slogans everywhere: for example, *Closed until Monday *Emergency office open at Guilford Street.

*These churches offer shelter during Christmas weekend.

*Reception Centre, Camberwell is available to homeless men.

Fight for a bed

I recall the Christmas when I had to fight another man for possession of my bed. In that year the place was over-crowded. Will it happen again this year?

There will be little casual employment around for the many homeless men who exist in this hand to mouth manner.

The streets will be empty and the sense of desolation will be emphasised in the hearts and minds of the homeless.

Sickening effects

In my forty-five years I have experienced all the above and know too well the sickening effects which these things do create in men's minds. I speak chiefly of homeless men. This is simply because I was one for years, but I know that homelessness covers more territory than that occupied by men sitting on benches at St. George's Circus. For instance, I am aware of developments overtaking Borough High Street and its adjacent streets.

"They need you"

Recent issues of SE1 highlight the disappearance of homes in this area and the planning of no replacements. Will you believe that men on the streets (dosser is the usual word) do sympathise with you in your struggle to maintain your lively community? They need you. Your humanity, although tinged with parochialism, is much appreciated by them.

It is true that people in Waterloo rejected an application to use Roadair House as a centre wherein homeless men and women might have worked their way through their many problems. This was regretted by them but they respect your decision. Homeless men are like that. They are phlegmatic, taking in their stride all things including rooflessness, hunger and rejection. Harassment might also be added to this list.

The streets of North Lambeth and Southwark are walked by homeless men this Christmas week-end.

It will be the same next Christmas unless the citizens of this community resolve to help these homeless men help themselves.

Help them now

They will hang around on the Embankment or under the Arches at Waterloo awaiting their soup and bread and the dawn. They will be there for umpteen Christmases to come unless some help is brought to them now. The best help is obviously to put these men in the way of supporting themselves in their



PEARMAN STREET, must surely be one of the best examples of racial harmony in Britain. It is now only half a street and full of bad houses, and the council are trying to get permission to demolish it. Yet they are facing determined opposition from 83 per cent of the residents.

own homes either privately, as I now live, or in small hostels such as I enjoyed for two years. Help must be brought them to overcome their poor work records, in many cases. Training and re-training should be offered them. The availability of help of all kinds - medical, social, legal, employment etc,

- should be made known to them and the way made easier. A centre with these things as its aim is one obvious medium of help. It is my confident belief that the citizens of North Lambeth and Southwark will eventually prove to be the people who will provide this help.

Waterloo report: our view

The Waterloo Community Development Group have recently published a statement on the future of Waterloo full copies of which can be obtained from WDCG 14, Baylis Road.

Their main point is that a strong community exists in Waterloo, stretching back over the years, which the residents want to preserve. The most controversial subject is obviously housing, and they are concerned that more emphasis should be placed on new family housing which would in turn lead to the return of supermarkets, chemist shops etc. which have been forced to close down in the past. There are sites available which could be used for new family housing, in addition existing housing could be modernised. They feel that the local council

should encourage local businesses and provide jobs for residents who would like to work in the area.

As far as the schools are concerned, they would like to see St. Patricks and St. Andrews rebuilt on one site. This would provide better premises both for the children and for the use of the residents in out-of-school hours.

There is some concern that road/traffic systems are not geared towards the residents, and they should like to see greater controls imposed on lorries and parking in residential areas.

More care should be taken over the general appearance of the area, and street-sweeping could be made more effective.

There is a general feeling

that there are not enough open spaces, and that those that do exist are being abused. A more imaginative use of the spaces would provide more satisfaction for residents. Indoor recreational space is also required.

Vagrants are a problem and we would like to see them receiving assistance which would keep them off the streets.

All these points apply to the Riverside also but they feel that this area should now be re-integrated into the general residential area. At the moment it is absolutely lifeless.

The WDCG are keen to see Lambeth Council and the GLC co-operating in an effort to consider these points and to set about implementing those parts which do not involve excessive cost. STOP PRESS (SEE PAGE 10)

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TROUBLE!

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This plan is to decide the future of the whole of Lambeth. Decisions have to be made about policies on HOUSING, SHOPPING, EMPLOYMENT, RECREATION AND TRANSPORT. The full details can be seen at your local public library or the Waterloo Action Centre.

You can send your comments on the pre-paid reply form available at the Waterloo Action Centre.

LAMBETH A PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE HELD FOR NORTH
Development Plan LAMBETH AT THE

WATERLOO ACTION

14 BAYLIS ROAD, SE1

CENTRE

ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 20
AT 7.30 pm

Councillors and planners will be at this meeting.

barfly

White Hart

The pub under Fl. has this month is the White Hart, in Great Suffolk St. the only trouble is that it's breaking my heart (excuse the pun) to write about a pub that I like so much, if you are a bar billiards fan you will understand why I don't want to disclose the billiard table with the longest time limit in South London for Sp!

For music lovers the saloon bar on a Saturday night is a must, as all the customers seem to join in and play any instrument that comes to hand, that includes 'yer actual Gunner, I don't mean that anybody actually plays him, I mean that he plays the drums, and has been known to sing on the odd occasion (if you're not careful) A lady organist is employed to "do her thing" about four evenings a week, and very well she does it too!

Speaking of the lady organist, the only criticism of the pub I have, is that you have to squeeze past her to get to the Ladies loo, and unless you are built like Twiggy, that's pretty difficult especially on a Saturday night.

This pub is sadly empty most week nights, owing to lots of people moving out of that area, but I understand that it's packed at lunchtimes, with people queuing for miles to ogle the landlady's scotch eggs (and other goodies).

The obliging landlord once went to the kitchen at 2 mins to closing time to make me a cheese sandwich (all this and draft Long Life) that's what I call good service!

(Worth a visit to see what must be the largest collection of tee-shirts in S.E. London.)

help!

Blackfriars Settlement Youth Work desperately needs more energetic people to help with youth clubs.

We have clubs on Monday to Thursday nights which want helpers. If you have a few hours to spare each week & are interested, contact:

SUE SINCLAIR or STEVE LANCA-SHIRE at

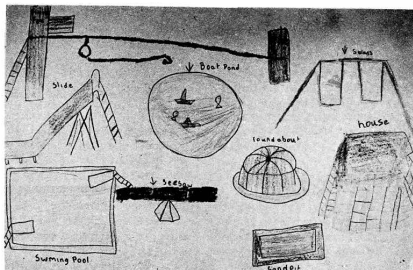
Blackfriars Settlement
928 9521

A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

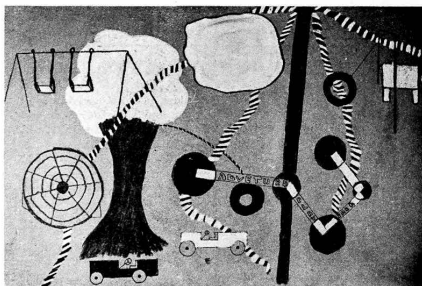
This was the theme of the competition we organised during the last month. It was open to all schoolchildren in SE1, and entrants were asked to choose something they would like to see changed to make the area better and draw a picture to show how they would like to see it changed.

(We contacted as many schools as we could but we found that we had left too little time to get in touch with more than a few. For the next one we'll make sure everyone knows so that it will really be open to every child in SE1).

We got a lot of fine entries (you can see most of them in the window of No 14 Maymont St., next to the SE1 office) and we had a hard time choosing the best. We selected three winners but we couldn't rank them in order, so the result was a triple dead heat and the prize money of £5 is being divided equally.



Gillian Parchment (9 yrs). St. Andrews & St. John's, Roupell



Janice Grossel (12 yrs). St. Saviour's & St. Olave's, New Kent Road.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year From Mike, Josie and Staff
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Carole Nash (12 yrs). St. Saviour's & St. Olave's, New Kent Road.

Carole said:
"At the moment in SE1 there are a lot of old houses which are empty. I would like to see them knocked down and more girls clubs and cinemas built. For instance you could knock down all the old houses on one side of the road and build a cinema on the site of the old houses and on the other side of the road you could have some girls clubs and clubs for the under

fives, because the only under-fives club around here is the "one o'clock" club in Southwark Park, and some ice rinks because at the moment if you want to go skating you either have to go to the Queens Ice Club or to Silver Blades at Streatham, and more libraries because you have to either go down Spa Road to the Rotherhithe Civic Centre in Albion Street, SE 11."

Xmas crossword

- 1 If it's not your dad it must be your --- (3)
- 2 What king had 6 wives? (5)
- 3 Lady and the --- (5)
- 4 He built St. Paul's (4)
- 5 The county of Ridings (9)
- 6 Capital of Egypt (5)
- 7 Gifts from the Three Kings (5)
- 8 Children mustn't play with --- (4)
- 9 Who sang "Who loves you?" (4,7)
- 10 Capital of the USA (10,2)
- 11 The baby elephant with the big ears (5)
- 12 Male red deer (4)
- 13 Abba's new song (3)
- 14 It sits on top of your tree (5)
- 15 He has a red breast (5)
- 16 The city of Spaghetti
- 17 Junction (10)
- 18 Buildings used for showing things of the past (6)
- 19 It's a long wooden shaft or a fish (4)
- 20 The year of the Great Fire (4)

Get the message? See answers on page 10.

Support Your Local Shop

- fresh milk daily
 - newspapers
 - frozen foods
 - confectioners & tobacconists
 - all groceries & provisions
 - hot snacks, rolls and sandwiches to take away
- Green Shield Stamps on all items. Double Stamps Saturdays.

THOS. E. DAVIES & CO (TOMS) 137 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1

Golden Oldy

"I'm not Italian though my husband used to say I was more Italian than he was. I was born on a turning off Abbey Street, he was born in Ravenna near Naples, a beautiful place, but he was brought to Bermondsey when he was very young.

My mother had six children and my father worked at Courage's Brewery, 26 shillings a week. But mind you it wasn't bad because at that time they allowed their workmen to fetch home the beer. Mother had an old-fashioned blue can with a lid on the top of it, I suppose it was nearly 3 pints, and that used to be brought home of a dinner time and at six o'clock. They used to work at six in the morning and I think they had a break, then home for lunch at one, back again at two till six, 1 or 2 o'clock Saturday. Well, mother had her beer - the beer didn't have to come out of the housekeeping money - and any of us children that wanted it, the can was always on the table.

I went to school with a little girl, her name was Katy Forest. Do you know Bermondsey Wall? Years ago there used to be big old captains' houses, one room, a big room, was 2/- a week. Katy lived there with her mother and two brothers. Not only her mother but plenty of other mothers worked at Southwoods the jam factory, which used to be in Jacob St. 2/- a day those women earned. They used to go in at 8 till 1, an hour for lunch and work right up till 7 o'clock at night, 2/- a day, one o'clock on Saturdays.

The children didn't go to Mass. One sister especially used to ask her "Why don't we

go to Mass?" Mother had to wash our clothes. There were never any curtains up in the room. I think if I remember rightly there were iron bars on the windows, but no curtains only sacks. God knows where the toilet was.



Lizzy Rossi

"We lived in Flockton St. Mother had a very nice house, 7/6d a week for 4 rooms. They were privately owned, you never had any council flats. I can always remember the relief of Mafeking, they used to buy a little halfpenny lamp, red, white and blue with a candle in

it. We were the only house in Flockton Street that never had any on the relief of Mafeking, mother refused to buy any.

There used to be a shop in Parkers Row, they called it Ellis's. The lady there, a fine handsome woman, was as deaf as a beetle, you had to shout and holler at her, 'ha'porth of jam in a cup! She put the cup on the scales to weigh it then put the jam in. You could get a 'ha'porth of sugar, 'ha'porth of milk, 3 pickled onions for a penny, four pickled walnuts for twopence. The shops in Parkers Row were ever so cheap. Pound of leg of beef 6d, 1lb English mutton strips, cos mother would not have kidney she used to do the mutton strips in with the beef, and a quarter of suet was three ha'pence. For a shilling you got a beautiful dinner.

I left school when I was fourteen. The first job I had was at Paynes - the tea factory still going in Boss Street off Tooley Street.

From there Lizzy went to a restaurant in the City where she learnt catering. After working in a bank and running a fruiterers she took a job at Guys Hospital in the kitchen. When she started in 1937 she earned 6d an hour! It was hard work but she enjoyed it and she stayed there until she retired. "I could write a book on the happenings there."

LAMBETH PRICES?

FREE!

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BRIXTON
Consumer Advice Centre
13 Electric Avenue
Tel. No.: 274-7467

LAMBETH CONSUMER SERVICES

SE1



1976

THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR NORTH SOUTHWARK AND WATERLOO

	January	February	March		April	May	June
Monday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23	1 8 15 22 29	Monday	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Tuesday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	2 9 16 23 30	Tuesday	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Wednesday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	3 10 17 24 31	Wednesday	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Thursday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	4 11 18 25	Thursday	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24
Friday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	5 12 19 26	Friday	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Saturday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	6 13 20 27	Saturday	3 10 17 24 31	8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Sunday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	7 14 21 28	Sunday	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27

	July	August	September		October	November	December
Monday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	Monday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Tuesday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	Tuesday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
Wednesday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	Wednesday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
Thursday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	Thursday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
Friday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	Friday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
Saturday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	Saturday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Sunday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	Sunday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26

The information is about who and how to contact in your local Council about any problems you may have. Both Lambeth and Southwark Council have one phone number that covers many different departments, if there is anything that you cannot find listed below - ring your appropriate council information number, explain what your problem is and they should be able to refer you onto the appropriate extension number. The numbers are: Lambeth: 274 7722; for Southwark: 703 6311, and the GLC general enquiries number is 633 7977.

SOUTHWARK

Your GLC Councillor: Reg Goodwin, c/o County Hall, SE1. 633 5000. Your M.P.: Bob Mellish, who holds his surgery on the first and third Friday in the month at 133 Lower Road SE16. 3.30-7.30pm. Your Ward Councillors: for Cathedral Ward, surgery on 2nd Friday in the month at Charles Dickens Primary School, Lant Street, SE1, at 7.00-8.15pm. For Chaucer Ward: surgery at Squires Youth Club, Harper Road, SE1, 2nd Friday, 6.30pm. For Browning Ward: in the Mayors Parlour (!) Municipal Offices, Larcom Street, SE17, 1st & 3rd Fridays, 5.30-7.30pm. For Abbey, Bricklayers, Riverside Wards: Bermondsey Library Small Hall, Spa Road, SE16, alternate Fridays at 7.00-9.00pm. (237 6901)

HOUSING, PLANNING, AND PUBLIC HEALTH

General Housing Enquiries: Municipal Office, 38 Rye Lane, SE15, phone 639 4353. Local Office: 177 Walworth Road, SE17, 703 5464. The Rent Officer: 118 Rye Lane, 639 0035/9736. Borough Development Department, 32 Peckham Road, SE5, 703 6551. Education Welfare Office, 686 Old Kent Road, SE1, 703 5555. Divisional Officer, 83 Peckham Road, SE5. 703 6551. Community Groups: North Southwark Community Planning Centre, 108 St. Guildford St, SE1. 928 8165. PUBLIC HEALTH: (rats, litter etc.) Head Office: Castle House, 2 Walworth Road, SE16, 703 6363. Area 1 (approx west of Borough H.St.) Municipal Offices, Larcom Street, SE17, 703 5464. Area 2 (approx east of B.H. Street.) Municipal Offices, Spa Road, SE16, 237 2411. Head Office: Castle House, 2 Walworth Road, SE16. 703 6363. Doctors: Falmouth Road Group Practice, 77/79 Falmouth Road, SE1. Health Centres: St Georges Health Services Centre, 151 Blackfriars Road, SE1 928 2626, Bermondsey Health Centre, 108 Grange Road, SE1. 237 2826.

SOCIAL SERVICES & OTHERS

Social Services: Head Office, Castle House, 2 Walworth Road, SE16 phone 703 6363. (dire emergencies only phone 703 2258). Area 1 - Municipal Offices, 151 Walworth Road, SE17. 703 5464. (area 1 is west of Borough High Street) Area 2: (east of Borough High St.) - 283 Tooley Street, SE1. 407 5344. ELDERLY: Camberwell Old Peoples Welfare Association, Road, SE5. 703 6105. Age Concern/Southwark, 33 Peckham Road, SE5, 703 6105/5. Lunch Clubs: O.P. Bingo Club, St John's Hall, Fair St SE1. Tooley St. Day Centre, 283 Tooley Street, SE1. 407 5344. Pakeman House Day Centre, Pocock Street, SE1 928 6463. Blackfriars Settlement, 44 Nelson Square, SE1 928 9521. Libraries: Borough Library, 7 Borough Road, SE1, 928 5562. Harper Road Library, 191 Harper Road, SE1 407 3474. Police: Tower Bridge Police Station, 209 Tooley Street, SE1. phone 407 6213. Consumer Advice Centre, 376 Walworth Road SE17 703 5464. D.H.S.S.: Wedge House, Blackfriars Road, SE1. 928 4949.

LAMBETH

Your GLC Councillor: Ewan Carr, c/o County Hall, SE1. 633 5000. Your M.P.: George Strauss, 1 Palace Green, London W8. Surgery at 179 Kennington Road, SE11, on Mondays 5.30-7.00pm. 735 1816. Your Ward Councillors: For Bishops Ward: Peter Lane, Pam Verden, Roger Gregory, surgery at 179 Kennington Road, Thursdays, 7.00-8 pm

HOUSING, PLANNING, AND PUBLIC HEALTH

General Housing Enquiries: Lambeth District A Office, Edrich Hse, Studley Street, SW4. 622 5408. also the Housing Advice Centre, 3-6 Town Hall Parade, Brixton, SW2. 274 7722. Rent and Rate rebates: Lambeth Town Hall, SW2. 274 7722. and the Rent Officer is at 92 Acre Lane, SW2, 274 1114. Lambeth Planning Dept, 138-146 Clapham Park Road, SW4, 274 7722. Lambeth Education Dept, Division 9 Office, 50 Acre Lane, SW2, phone 274 8511, and Education Welfare, Alverstone House, Magee Street, SE11. Waterloo Community Development Group, 14 Baylis Road, 261 1404. PUBLIC HEALTH (rats, litter, noise etc) at the Department of Environmental and Consumer Services. (phew!) Lambeth Town Hall, SW2 ring the main number.... 274 7722. again. Lambeth Health Dept, Blue Star House, 234 244 Stockwell Road, SW9 phone 274 7722. G.P.s: Lambeth Road Group Practice, Lambeth Towers, SE11, phone 735 4412. Clinics: Moffat Child Health Centre, 65 Sancroft Street, SE11, 735 1335. Northcote House, Royal Street, SE1, Family Planning Brookwell Centre, 47 Tulse Hill, SW2, 674 5110.

SOCIAL SERVICES & OTHERS

Lambeth Social Services: Lambeth Area 1, (covers all of SE1 area in Lambeth), 189 Kennington Lane, SE11 735 7255. Lambeth Central Office, Blue Star House, 234-244 Stockwell Road, SW9. 274 7722. ELDERLY Advice at: Lambeth Old Peoples Welfare Assoc. 240 Ferndale Road, SW9 274 7722. Lambeth Towers, Kennington Road, SE11 Holidays/Bus Passes etc. LOPWA, 240 Ferndale Road. Lunch Clubs: Lambeth Towers, Kennington Road, SE11 735 0039. Northcote House, Royal Street, SE1 261 1459. Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road SE1, 261 1404. Foot Clinic: Moffat Health Centre, 65 Sancroft St. phone 735 4169. Community Health Council (for complaints/suggestions about the Health Services): Secretary, Sue Thorne, 35 St. Mary's Gardens, SE11, 735 2619. North Lambeth Neighbourhood Council, 88 Lambeth Walk, 735 2393. Kennington Police Station, 49/51 Kennington Road, SE1. 928 6900. Lambeth Community Law Centre, 506/508 Brixton Road, SW9. 733 4245. Citizens Advice Bureaux, 323 Kennington Road, SE11. 735 9551. Consumer Advice Centre: 13 Electric Avenue, SW2. 274 7467. GLC Public Health, County Hall, SE1. 633 7886. GLC Housing, County Hall, SE1, 633 7700. GLC Planning Dept, County Hall, SE1. 633 5000.

What have the GLC done?

WHY ARE SO MANY local people angry about the GLC plans to make a tenants' cooperative at Wellington Mills?

Because tenants for the new estate are being selected on the basis of their interest in cooperatives, not on their need for re-housing.

In other words the GLC thinks it's more important to solve its own management and maintenance problems than to solve people's housing problems.

Many people who have lived in this area all their lives, currently in poor housing - already condemned - expected Wellington Mills would provide them with a much needed chance of rehousing.

People, for example, in the 'temporary' prefabs of Royal St, Roupell St and Morley St, some residents of Pearman St and the unfit houses in Fitzalan St.

These are people in genuine housing need. But are they also 'co-operative'?

Some lucky people, 'especially suitable', have been approached directly. Tenants' leader Mike Drake of Roupell Park in Brixton rejected an offer because he's not in housing need and "the right way to set up a

co-operative is by democratic means; there must be a grass roots call for tenant participation."

One 'reject' from Wellington Mills, Kit Stevens (below), explained "I've never owed rent in 34 years as a council tenant, although I'm a war widow. I've kept this place decent 26 years

despite having the maximum medical points for a transfer and being willing to co-operate cried "It's very unfair. Somebody else I know who had a new flat two years ago, who doesn't need a move but just doesn't like her present place, she's got an offer at Wellington Mills. It's all wrong."



all on my own, despite the damp and the rot."

"The Council has spent next to nothing on it. I must have saved them a bomb. Why should others who don't need a move get preference over me? It's not right."

Another lady who was refused

What is a Co-operative?

It's where the tenants run the estate themselves. They arrange for things like cleaning the courtyards, painting the windows, cleaning blocked drains and so on.

Co-operators select new tenants themselves, and can also throw out unsatisfactory ones.

The tenants must agree to do, and there can be great friction in these sort of groups.

They are more democratic, cut out the bureaucrats, the endless delays and the feeling of powerlessness many tenants have. They should also save the GLC money.

Can it work?

Well yes, of course co-ops can work, but only if tenants want to and can afford it.

Two GLC estates transferred to tenants a few years ago didn't quite work out as planned.

"Few would recommend their experience to others" Jane Morton commented having talked to them.

Although there were other problems, the main burden was shouldering common costs, and if they had known what the charges would work out at (an average of £400 this year) it's fairly certain neither scheme would have gone ahead.

The GLC was poorly placed to advise on running costs. They don't keep statistics for individual estates. Are they able to give any better advice to Wellington Mills tenants now?

What happens if the co-op has to ask for a subsidy in order to afford the necessary maintenance?

What happens if people go in to the estate and then don't co-operate? They will just have to go. Ultimately the co-op decide themselves who should be in it.

And if it all falls through? It will become a normal GLC estate.

Over to you

In an area of such acute housing need, can the GLC afford to create a privileged estate any more than they can afford estates full of problem families?

If you have been turned down, or have refused an offer, or been put off applying - or had an offer but are concerned about the scheme - we would like to hear from you.

Contact Pat or Howard at 14 Baylis Rd (261 1404) or Bob or George at 108 St Guildford St. (928 8165), or Ros Nash on 735 7255 ext 40.

If we know what's going on - and that depends on you - we can do something about it.

Remember, it's not too late to change the selection method for the remaining 88 homes.

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STICK IT ON YOUR WALL! WITH EXTRA-ADDED LOCAL INFORMATION! THIS IS YOUR SE1. CUT-OUT AND KEEP CALENDAR FOR 1975!

What Where When?

Films, Music, Exhibitions

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM: Public Film Shows.
Daily except Mondays and Public Holidays, weekdays at 12.15 & 3.00. Saturdays and Sundays 3.00 only.

Films showing over Christmas: 1) Christmas Under Fire
2) Diary For Timothy
Exhibition: Occupation of the Channel Islands Adults 20p
Children 10p

NORTH PECKHAM CIVIC CENTRE LIBRARY HALL 600-608 Old Kent Road.
December 16th 7.30 pm Tales of Beatrix Potter.
January 13th 7.30 pm The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie.

LIVESEY MUSEUM

Exhibitions: To the 13th December - Victorian and Edwardian
Southwark
12 January - 3 April Southwark Worthies.

MORLEY COLLEGE - FAMILY CONCERTS

Saturday 6th December 10.30 - 12.30 Pop Group & Chamber Music
Ensemble.
Saturday 10 January 10.30 - 12.30 Indian Music & Dance, Choir.

SOUTHWARK ENTERTAINMENTS

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL
11.12.75 7.00 St. Saviour's School - Nativity Play
12.12.75 2.30 London Nautical School's Carol Service
14.12.75 7.00 Crisis at Christmas - Charity Concert
15.12.75 7.30 Collingwood School - Carol Service
21.12.75 4.00 Children's Carol Service and Blessing of
Xmas Banners
24.12.75 11.30 Midnight Mass with the Lord Bishop of
Southwark

25.12.75 11.00a.m. Christmas Eucharist
8 - 15 Jan 1976 Exhibition - The Preservation of London
Churches.

LAMBETH TOWN HALL
Dec 8 Ballets Minerva 2.00 & 7.30 - Requiem by Faure, Adagio,
The Emperor's New Clothes.
Dec 29 - Jan 10 7.30 Christmas Pantomime - Mother Goose. Also
matinees: Thur. 1 Jan 2.30, Sat 3 Jan 2.30 & Sat 10 Jan 2.30
Thur 10 Dec Old Time Christmas Dance 7.30 - 11.30 Admission 40p

Jumble Sale WATERLOO ACTION CENTRE
9th & 10th Dec 1975

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Washington D.C. 11
Four Seasons 10
Folk Intolerance 9
Pike 20
Museum 19
Robbin 16
Gold 17
Calto 6
Wren 4
Fairy 3
Henry 2
Mum 1

Supplementary Benefits

NEW RATES - WATCH OUT!!

SOCIAL SECURITY rates have
increased - check to see that
yours are correct. SE1 will
print full details of these
increased rates next month.

**Best wishes from
all the workers at
the
Waterloo
Action
Centre**

ADVICE CENTRE
Mon - Fri, 10am - 5pm.
FREE LEGAL ADVICE
Thursday, 6.30pm - 8pm.
MUM'S CLUB
Monday, 2pm - 4pm.
OLD PEOPLE'S LUNCH CLUB
PENSIONERS CLUB
YOUTH CLUBS
Mon, Tues, Weds, 7pm,
Saturday afternoon.
JUMBLE SALES
HALLS FOR HIRE

14 Baylis Road SE1. Tel: 261 1404

Christmas Activities on the Waterloo Adventure Playground A Preliminary Programme

Dec 20th or 21st Christmas Party with music by Ron Geesin
22nd - 27th Closed
28th Nautical afternoon on the Thames
29th Trip to see "Treasure Island" a pantomime
with Spike Milligan
30th Football and Rounders v. Lollard St at their
playground.
31st Visit to the London Dungeon
Jan 1st Flying kites at Box Hill or sledging if
there's snow!
2nd Winter Olympics at Bishops Park
3rd Treasure Hunt
All these events will be confirmed nearer Christmas. The playground
is generally open Tues-Fri from 3.30 to dark, and Sat. all day
from 10.30 am. We plan to open Sundays after Christmas. Fixed
activities are cooking on Tuesdays at WAC and swimming on Thurs
at Manor (meet at the playground at 4.00pm)

Council Meetings

LAMBETH
All meetings at 7.15pm at Town
Hall, Brixton Hill, SW2. Tickets
obtainable at 6.45 on the day.
SOUTHWARK
All meetings at 7.00pm at Town
Hall, Peckham Road, SE5.
8 Dec Establishment
9 Dec Social Services
15 Dec Planning Applications
Sub-committee
15 Dec Community Development
Project
17 Dec Housing
10 Dec Construction Services
15 Dec Planning & Development
17 Dec Health and Consumer
Services
5 Jan Housing
6 Jan Public Services
7 Jan Social Services
8 Jan Management Services
12 Jan Finance and General
Purposes.

STOP PRESS

ON DECEMBER 15th. AT 7.15pm.
There will be seats available
for the public at the meeting,
and transport will be laid on
from the Waterloo Action Centre
14 Baylis Road. Rally at 6.30pm.
Be there for your own sake!

PHONE IN
on Southwark

If you want to know more
about Southwark
Council Services ring our
Information desk on **703 6311**

YOUR LOCAL BAKER

Three "Q's"
Patisserie

62 ROUPELL STREET, SE1

PARTIES
CATERED FOR,
WILL DELIVER
ORDERS OVER £2.
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RAY'S BUTCHER

REDCROSS WAY, SE1.

fresh turkeys fresh chickens

ducks & geese

Merry Christmas to all customers.

First jobs meeting

FOR THE FIRST TIME since the
depression there was a public
meeting about unemployment in
Southwark last November 14th.

Organised by Southwark Trades
Council, it didn't attract a
vast audience which was a dis-
appointment considering the area
has one of the highest unemploy-
ment rates in London.

A number of practical measures
were discussed, such as attending
the big rally on November 26th,
which 20,000 went to.

But sadly much of the time at
the Southwark meeting was spent
in heated discussion of highly
specialised economic theory.

Ken Gill, General Secretary
of TASS, made the most important
point of the whole evening when
he said at the end of the meet-
ing "spend less time arguing
between yourselves and get on
with the job of convincing your
fellow workers and trade union-
ists that they will have to
organise and take action to rid
us of unemployment."

Take note of Thames flood danger

Those people in the SE1 area
who live close to the river
will already be familiar with the
various notices circulated
by Lambeth Council relating to
the contingencies in the event
of flooding.

The chances of a major dis-
aster with thousands of people
drowning are apparently about
20,000 to 1. But it's only 60
to 1 against the Circle and
District Tube line flooding so

the danger is a real one.

A combination of some of the
following factors would be nec-
essary: high tides; a surge in
the North Sea; continual rain
fall; Autumn/Spring equinoxes;
wind.

Furthermore, when the Wool-
wich Flood Barrier is completed
(in or around 1980), we should
be safe from all risks.

Whatever the cause, the res-
idents of SE1 should have plen-

ty of warning because the lower
reaches of the Thames and the
East of England would be af-
fected first.

Until then, should a flood
occur, there are special plans
for the physically handicapped,
deaf etc. who would be person-
ally moved to social service
centres.

The majority of residents
however would not be evacuated.
They are advised to move to the
higher floors of buildings,
taking with them blankets, food
transistors etc. and to follow
the instructions which will be
issued on the radio.

Lower Marsh: a sludgy mess

Yet one week in November
proved that Lambeth Council
preparations did not work as
effectively as we may have
hoped. There was a London-wide
flood alert, during that week,
services were on stand-by, but
when a water main in Lower
Marsh, Waterloo burst on Sat-
urday night in that week -
Lambeth Council were last on
the scene, hours late, and
Lower Marsh lived up to its name
and remained a sludgy mess for
days afterwards.

Lower Marsh Market could not
open at all on Monday, and even
on Tuesday stalls were set up on
the pavement outside the Water-
loo Action Centre.

Let's hope that this is a
lesson to Lambeth and that they
realise that just because it's
Sunday the Thames won't flood.

B.&D.N.A.

Borough and District
Neighbourhood Association

CHRISTMAS FAIR

ALL HALLOWS CHURCH 13th Dec.
COPPERFIELD STREET 2.30pm

YOUR RIGHTS

Don't be cut off this Christmas

Debbie O'Neil has a two year
old daughter and a small baby.
She lives in a Council flat,
which is supplied with electric-
ity for lights, heating and hot
water, and gas for cooking. The
gas is supplied through a slot
meter, but the electricity is
paid for on a quarterly account.

For several months past the
LEB had not called to read the
meter, but had sent bills based
on estimated readings. When
they did read the meter, it
turned out that their estimat-
ions had been much too low, and
the next bill was for nearly a
hundred pounds. Debbie is depend-
ent on supplementary benefit,
and could not afford to pay this.
The DHSS refused to help, and
when Debbie did not pay the bill
the LEB threatened to discon-
nect her supply, which would
leave her without light, heat
or hot water for herself and
her two young children.

'Extravagant'

Blackfriars Settlement
helped her to appeal against
the DHSS' decision. When she
attended the tribunal, with a
representative from BIAS to
argue her case, she still did
not get a solution to her prob-
lem. The tribunal decided they
could not make up their minds
without more evidence. They
thought the bill was much too
big, and did not believe Debbie
when she said she had paid all
her bills in the past.

They also thought she might be
using electricity extravagantly.
It was decided that the
tribunal should meet again when
there was more evidence on these
things. Debbie's social worker
persuaded the LEB to hold off
disconnection and to provide
this evidence. When the tribu-
nal met again they agreed that
the DHSS should pay the bill.

The cost of fuel

This winter many people are
going to face problems like
Debbie's.
A story shows that you can often
get help if you are prepared
to fight for it. However, as
long as the fuel boards have
the power to cut people off
when-ever they want to, many
people, including young child-
ren, are going to suffer.

A campaign has now started
to get changes to make it
easier for people to pay for
fuel. Anybody interested in
helping in any way should con-
tact BIAS at Blackfriars Settle-
ment 44 Nelson Square, SE1
tel. 01-928-9521.

GLC see the light

Pensioners petition pays off

WE WILL SOON BE ABLE TO CROSS IN SAFETY. At last something is going to be done about the traffic lights at the junction of Waterloo Road and The Cut. On November 3rd the South Area of the GLC approved that safety measures would be carried out in the lighting system. It was agreed that the Lambeth Civil Engineering Dept. would be allocated the job of rephasing the lights to allow the public to cross safely. We are not sure when this is to be done, it could take up to six months, for there is still the problem of costing and red tape. It has been a year since a petition was first started by the Helen Barlow Club, a group of pensioners who meet every

Tuesday afternoon at the Waterloo Action Centre. With the assistance of Tenants Associations and the Blackfriars Community Action team 4,633 signatures were collected. The petition began because of the death of an 89 year old lady who lived in Climsland House, Duchy Street, who was knocked over in June 1974 and fatally injured while being helped across the road by her daughter. Even on the day the petition was handed over to Councillor Pam Verden, an elderly lady was knocked over, but fortunately not seriously hurt.

We are all very grateful to the members of the Helen Barlow Club and others for making this campaign a success.

Women's hostel in Gt Guildford St What's going on?

SEVERAL LOCAL PEOPLE have recently been wondering why it is that the women's hostel in Great Guildford Street, SE1 is not taking in anything like as many women as it has done in the past. What is this hostel for, and why has it declined?

Southwark Reception Centre at 96 Great Guildford Street opened in 1967 and was the first Department of Health centre for women in London.

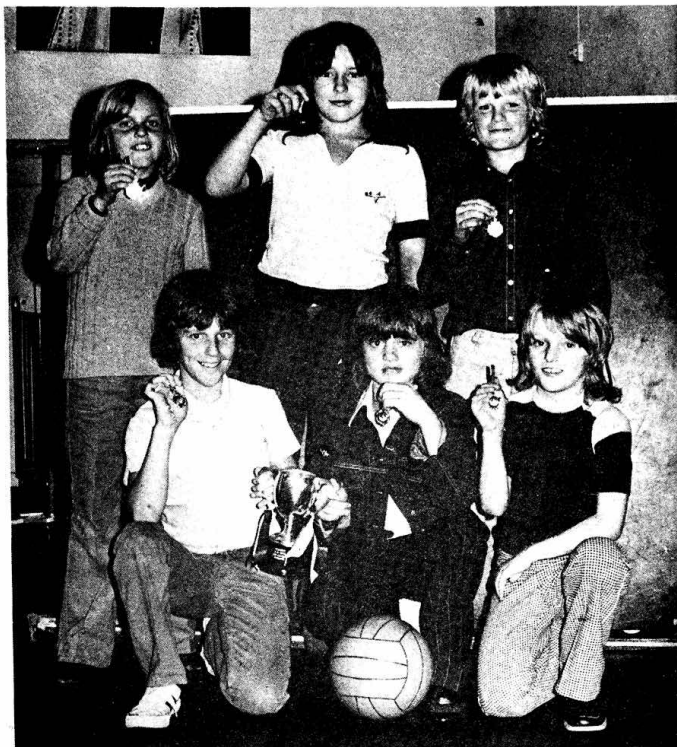
Over 50 beds are provided, and it is well furnished with all the necessary facilities like bathrooms, kitchen, dining room, sitting room, laundry, and a small surgery. Staff are employed to run the centre and help residents to solve their housing problems. Until about a year ago the centre was full most nights of the year with women who had been referred by Social Services and Social Security as well as those collected by the DHSS van from stations etc. The 1973 Electoral register shows 40 residents.

The last year however has seen a dramatic decline in the numbers using the centre - on some nights there are only one or two women staying there and the figure rarely rises above 10. This has happened at a time when the number of people sleeping rough has increased and other reception centres in London are still heavily used.

Sleeping rough

A 61 year old woman who has been sleeping rough for the last 4 nights told SE1 that hostels in Crispin Street, Aldgate, Salvation Army, Brick Lane, Salisbury Road, Kilburn, were full up and she has been spending up to £2 per night in cinemas and all-night cafes instead.

There aren't many places that can be used as a short term refuge until permanent accommodation can be found, the DHSS reception centres are for this purpose. They were opened to provide single homeless people



The victorious Peabody Blackfriars Under 12 football team, back row left to right Michael Ryder, Peter Harris, David Wells, front row Terry Killick, Steven Harrington, Eric Graham.

UNBEATABLE!

Leeds United would be proud to have the record of the Under 12 Football Team at Peabody Blackfriars Road Estate. Played 12, won 12, drawn 0, lost 0, goals for 130, goals against 26, points 24. Not surprisingly they won the All London Peabody Football League, a competition between teams from Peabody estates all over London, and they won it for the second year running! Their success gets almost embarrassing because they also won the Cup Competition. David Wells, their goalkeeper, won the Safe Hands Award and Steven Harrington was the league's top scorer with 73 goals. In the Cup Final they beat the Nags Head in Hackney 10-8.

The Under 16 team also won the Cup this year beating Clapham 11-7 in the final.

"They're football mad on the estate now", said Pat Harrington, the teams' manager and trainer, "even the five year-olds are asking to join a team". More and more estates are asking to join the league competition next year but they'll have to be good to match up to the Blackfriars Road teams. It's a wonder Sheffield United haven't offered Pat Harrington a job yet!

No cure for Dockhead

"The Council has no power to provide chemists" says the Town Clerk, Mr S.T. Evans, in a letter to Arnold Estate Tenants Association following the presentation of a petition by Bob Mellish signed by 552 tenants.

The Town Clerk says that this is a matter for the Area Health Authority. This reply is a disappointment to the Tenants Association who did all the work on the petition.

Not good enough

Tom Sawyer, chairman of the Association, commented "the reply is not what we are after, the Town Clerk talks about the general problem of chemists but we wanted the council to solve our local problem by trying to get the owner of the empty chemist shop in Dockhead to reopen. We shall now have to go back to the Council again."



with a bed, meals, medical aid, encouragement to find work, and, most important, help in obtaining permanent housing. So why aren't more women using 96 Great Guildford Street?

A recent change in management at the centre is rumoured to have led to a harsher interpretation of DHSS policy. It doesn't take long for word to spread to those who would normally use the centre that it's no use expecting help any more. ANOTHER RUMOUR IS THAT THE CENTRE IS TO BE CLOSED AND CONVERTED TO A MEN'S hostel.

And yet it is not many years since the Rowton House men's hostel at Newington Butts was closed down and turned into a hotel for tourists. (The London Park Hotel)

£40,000

In the meantime something in the region of £40,000 a year is spent on the upkeep of the building and staff salaries, without any apparent check to make sure it is providing the service that is wanted.