



Cuts in help for: Children, Elderly, Housing and Handicapped.

Social Services - Cut 25%

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL'S SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT PLUNGES DEEPER INTO CRISIS THIS MONTH. IN THE LAST ISSUE WE REVEALED THAT THE SOCIAL SERVICES STAFF WERE TO APPEAL TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR AN OFFICIAL INQUIRY INTO THE WAY IN WHICH THE DEPARTMENT IS BEING RUN.

On August 13th the local branch of the National and Local Government Officers Association (NALGO) wrote to the Health Minister, David Ennals, to request this inquiry as a matter of urgency. The letter followed a mass meeting of social services workers which condemned the "mismanagement which has deprived the public of services to which they are entitled".

Now the Area Team leaders - the local office managers - have decided to reduce the services provided by their offices by 25% from September 1st. This is the figure by which the department is expected to be short of social workers although in some local offices the shortage may be nearer 50%.

This decision will have serious effects in five particular areas, affecting Physically handicapped people, Children, The Elderly, Housing, and the work with the juvenile courts.

From September social workers will refuse to do work necessary to provide aids for physically handicapped people, they will refuse to do the work necessary to enable elderly and handicapped people to have special holidays. There will be no cooperation with Housing departments. Writing reports on rent arrears will stop. Social workers will also refuse to supervise children placed on supervision orders by Courts, and will also refuse to write reports on juveniles appearing before the courts.

Furthermore, by September 1st 6 out of 8 area offices will be staying closed for between 1½ and 2½ days of each week. In SE1 the area 1 office (Walworth) will be closed for two days out of five, while Area 2 (Tooley St) will remain almost completely closed (except for "life and death" cases.)

Two recent meetings between area team leaders, social services chairman Councillor Charles Coveney, and the Acting Director of Social Services, Mr Mortimer have led to proposals for better recruitment being accepted by the team leaders. But it remains to be seen whether they will be acceptable to the rest of the Departments workers, or whether they will actually lead to vacancies being filled.

It is now ELEVEN MONTHS since the Southwark Social service workers staged a one day stoppage, in

protest at the departments staff shortages, but the situation is worse now than it was then. There are rumours of applications for posts being left unattended, and NALGO hope the Government will have an inquiry soon. SE1 wonder too what is being done.

Karate Hall

LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE been waiting for a long time for the chance to get a large building for community use. There is an almost total lack of recreation facilities in this area at the moment.

Sainsbury's canteen building in Colombo Street, just opposite the Rose and Crown, has been empty for some time and several people have had their eyes on it for a community centre.

A modern building with a large central hall, it's ideal for socials and dances, already has a stage, and is even marked out with two badminton courts.

There are also a whole series of smaller rooms which could be used by clubs or for meetings or table tennis and so on.

Peabody Estate (Duchy Street) Tenants Association were the first to approach Sainsbury's, who have now agreed to let the building for community use at a very low rent.

This generous offer by Sainsbury's has been seized by local groups and a growing number are setting up a management committee to work out the best ways to use the building.

Suggested so far are various socials and shows as well as sports activities such as boxing, karate, snooker and billiards. There's still plenty of room for more suggestions, and for more groups or individuals to get involved.

Local people have a really golden opportunity to make a success of this building, but

but here's a victory!

Southwark Council have decided to respond to the public outcry about the price increase of their meals service. The price of Meals on Wheels and Lunch Club meals will now be reduced to 20p. This takes effect from 4th of October. Meals on wheels in the Lambeth section of SE1 are still 6p and it was this comparison in prices that sparked off residents anger at the price increases of 150% earlier in the year, when meals leapt from 11p to 25p.

More sports & shows

Thanks to persuasive arguments by local representatives, there will be a new programme of sports and shows in Waterloo over the next twelve months, starting with a Variety Show on Friday September 24th, 7.30 pm at the WAC. Watch out for the posters!

Everyone agreed that the programme of sports and entertainment organised by Waterloo Amenities Group and sponsored by Lambeth's Amenities Committee earlier this year was a great success.

The events were well supported and enjoyed by both adults and children in Waterloo, and all concerned felt they deserved repeating.

So 'WAG' wrote to the Council asking if they could do it again. Council officers also agreed that the last programme had been a success, but because of the cut-backs in Council spending, they did not think they could recommend more shows next year.

So when all this was discussed in a Councillor's committee, Doreen Ramsey and Pat Taylor went along to put the local view.

They must have done this pretty effectively, because the Councillors agreed that this kind of locally organised programme was a better idea than concentrating all their resources on the big halls in Brixton, Clapham and so on where most Waterloo people would have great difficulty in attending because of the distance.

After all, Waterloo residents pay rates too and deserve some share of the Amenities money Lambeth spends.

So as a result we will have sports and shows in Waterloo all through next year. Congratulations!

'WAG' would like to now hear anyone's opinions on what they want included in this new programme as soon as possible. Better still, would anyone care to help organise any of the shows, either by publicity, acting as a steward or taking block bookings?

Offers of help welcome via WAC, 14 Baylis Rd or to Ken Richardson at K5, Peabody Duchy Street.

Cross Delay

Horried at the delays in installing decent arrangements for pedestrians at the notorious Waterloo Road crossing, the Pensioners Action Group are writing to Councillor Pam Verden - who was a great help in getting the idea approved in the first place - to see if she can hurry things along.

It is nine months since the GLC originally agreed to this crossing, and they originally said it should be finished within six months.

SE1 understands there has been a problem in getting the parts (well there has surely been a problem somewhere!) & that it will still be another six months at the earliest before the crossing is ready.

Let's hope no one is run over and killed before then.

Golden Oldy :Mrs Tubb

MY FIRST REMEMBRANCE of anything of importance is when I was about seven years old, when my mother and father took me to see the soldiers coming home from the Boer War at Waterloo Station. I lived in Cornwall Road quite near the station, the crowds of people were singing and shouting and waving flags, me too, only I was not quite sure what it was all about.

The street organ was playing and everybody seemed happy and all us children were dancing in the street. But then the next day was school and we had two half-days off, one to learn cookery and the other to learn laundry which I liked. We started with handkerchieves first. One day I took my little sister's pinafore to be washed, starched and ironed. We had a big iron stove in the middle of the room which burned coke and we used to heat our irons on it.

My mother was so pleased when she saw the pinafore, she thought I was very clever and she gave me a farthing. I went and bought 2 ounces of chocolate buttons because they were my favourites.

We used to burn a lamp for light. I remember we had a table lamp, I thought it was lovely. It had a tall black stand with a red glass bowl for the paraffin and a double burner with a tall glass and it showed a very nice light. In fact I have seen the same type of lamp in antique shops since.



Pascalls, a sweet manufacturer in Blackfriars Road, used to send so many 7lb tins of sweets to our school for us children, if we kept good time and really to make us want to go to school and learn. Sometimes my mother would go and do a day's washing for 2/- and her dinner and of course that meant me having to stay at home and mind the baby. I used to cry of course because I liked school.

I remember

I remember something very nice, an Irish lady from the Catholic school rented two of the classrooms, for the girls to have somewhere to go and play of an evening. They let me join because most of my friends were Catholic and I was not, anyway the evenings were something to look forward to, we used to paint, sing, draw and drink a nice cup of cocoa when we were coming home, it really was nice. Then she invited us to her house for dinner, it was simply lovely, we were all speechless. Then we were to show her how we had made use of our evenings. I always, even now, can see her when we went to her drawing room, she had an emerald green cloak on made of satin, and little shamrock leaves embossed on the edge and collar of the cloak. Her husband was sitting by a very big fire, I have thought since that my mother's half hundredweight would have looked a bit silly on that fire. We sang to them (Oh for the wings of a dove), our drill display and a few paintings, but it was a wonderful evening, because, I suppose, I never knew there was such lovely things about. I stopped at the club until I was 16 years old.

Spuds 3lb for 1p

Then I went Mrs Birch's stall for 2d of pot herbs. You would get carrots, turnip, leeks and celery all for tuppence and 3lbs of potatoes for one penny, and then it was a bit hard sometimes to find the money.

Now it's August and we are thinking of going hop picking, in Goldhurst in Kent. Dad makes a big box and pram wheels and mum puts all our worldly goods in it, because we start picking 1st September, and away we go to London Bridge station, the fare 2/- adults and 1/- children over five. Everybody is pushing and shoving to get a seat. They do not take our tickets until we are a few stations down the line, because they think our parents might have diddled them, if they had only known how many children were under the seats they would have had a fit. To us children it was grand we were going to the country, no more school for about 3 or 4 weeks.

Scrumpling

Being able to roam the country, pick blackberries, and the boys to go 'scrumpling' - otherwise, getting in the orchards and pinching a bag of apples. Our mothers would make the huts as nice as they could, and then we would go out to the fields to pick hops. My mother would put a big apron on the ground and it some vines for me, and she would say, see how many times you can fill it for me and I will buy you some sweets when the lolly man comes around.



About 11 o'clock the magic voice would sing, "Cry, babies, cry, make your mothers buy, lolly, lolly"; he used to have a big basket on his arm, with packets of sweets, and toffee apples, any for half-penny, the only thing was, if you bought a toffee apple you were tormented by the bees, if they stung you it was painful. It was a rough life but we loved it, also our parents were able to earn a few pounds, because work was hard to get, there was not any charity then, you had to sell your home before they would give you anything and it was horrible when they did. Us old people of today have a lot to be grateful for today, everybody seems to be doing the best they can for us.

When we finished picking and we were coming home to London, the few pounds that was left, my mother bought me a pair of strong boots for the winter - they cost 2s/1d and my father would cover them with blackes, soles and heels. I liked them, we used to have a slide on the pavements, but don't let Dad see you.

Now I am 14 years old and must find a job. And I did and started for 16 years. When I started I earned 5s/week, 8 o'clock in the morning to 6 o'clock at night, Saturday 8 to 12.30. But I found you could earn 1s extra if you went to work 1 hour earlier for two mornings a week, so I went. Mother gave me 6d out of my 5s, and the extra shilling I had worked two hours for: I was wealthy, one shilling and sixpence all to myself. So of course I dashed out and bought myself 4 oz of chocolate buttons, and for my supper a halfpenny piece of fish and halfpenny chips. Also I bought myself a lace jabot for one penny three farthings. And the shop is still there where I bought it, Waterloo House wool shop, Lower Marsh.

When I was a child the poor people really had a tough time trying to make ends meet. I forgot to tell you the Irish lady lived in one of those big houses near Hyde Park. So you can understand why we girls thought it so beautiful. Of course we had fun, but I would not like to go back to those days.

WRITE

to SE1. We want to hear your news and views. Send your letters to: SE1 Community Newspaper, 12 Mymott St, SE1, or give us a ring:

928 1643

Dear SE1,

May I through the good office of your paper thank all the unknown gentlemen who have eventually got together to clear up - after great help from our youth - the dump in Surrey Row. May we please now know what we are going to have there instead? The tenants of Pakeman House are very anxious to know.

Yours sincerely,

Alice Goodwin,
21 Pakeman House
Surrey Row, SE1.

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Homes for young couples

Southwark Council are holding a lottery for housing. 188 homes are to be the prizes in a tombola; open to young people under 26. This is the Council's solution (arrived at after long if not deep thought by the Housing Committee) to the increasing problem of young people leaving the Borough because of lack of accommodation. But it seems the idea was not such a bright one.

The competition is open to three categories of young people; married with children, married without children, and engaged couples. Those who are married with children qualify by having lived in the London at least 5 years and Southwark at least a year. But for those without children and engaged couples there is a more complicated points system to decide who qualifies as competitors. You get so many points for working in the Borough, so many for having parents in the Borough, and so on.

The GLC is also trying to give homes away to young couples and they have decided on a first come first served approach. People were queuing overnight before the GLC office in the Old Kent Road opened for applications for one of the 250 flats that the GLC were unable to persuade anyone on their waiting lists to accept, and which they can't afford to improve because of the government cuts.

The GLC system is quite straightforward, but Southwark,

who opted for a more complicated scheme, have apparently got their sums wrong. They allocated 96 homes to married couples with children, and only 24 for engaged couples, but two weeks after the competition started, it was found that applications from engaged couples had been flooding in, while those from couples with children were coming in so slowly that it seems unlikely that the total will reach 96 by the October 1st closing date, unless the Council spend more money advertising the scheme.

It also appears that there is not much support for the scheme from the Council staff who have the job of administering the competition, and who have the day to day task of administering the Council's housing waiting list currently over 8,000. No doubt the lucky 'winners' will be happy about the scheme (and we wish them luck indeed) but they may be the only ones.

For more details of the scheme contact the Housing Department on 639-4353.

Snowsfields new housing? "Local people manipulated" says NSCDG

Local pressure led to a public meeting on June 29th about the Snowsfields 'options' at which residents and shopkeepers affected by the proposals demanded more details of the developers plans.

But the Council didn't try to give these details nor those of the 'planning gains', or even discuss the issues.

Afterwards a representative of the developers present said "We got off lightly because people didn't ask the right questions."

The Council accept officer this site but want certain details revised. They wouldn't say if the public will be consulted on these.

In a letter to Southwark and the GLC after the meeting, the North Southwark Community Development Group urged the Council to reject the developers plans and replace them with a 4 point programme which would:

(a) Rehabilitate the flats on the corner of Weston Street and Snowsfields;

(b) Build new flats with open space around Mellor Street and along Snowsfields;

(c) Guarantee the continued life of the Council Block at 8-20 Snowsfields and the school which have been in doubt ever since the developers showed an interest in the site;

(d) Build factory units or new and existing firms on Weston Street.

In a letter, the group say that the office block is not needed and will intrude into a residential community, two huge blocks of offices are already rearing over the site from London Bridge Station.

The letter also attacks the phoney planning gains offered by the developers which seem so enticing to Southwark Council. The NSCDG argue that all the talk about new church, new school new church hall is pie in the sky, because nothing has been agreed on this by the developers the Church, or the ILA - in fact the ILA have said that they know nothing about the scheme.

Moreover the talk of new housing is deceitful because the developers are only giving to the council an oddment of land in the middle of the site and are not building the housing.

Ted Bouman, Chairman of NSCDG told S.E.1 "there has been more manipulation of local people about the Snowsfield scheme than any other major development in North Southwark over the last 4 years. The truth is that the only people to benefit from the scheme will be the developers of the office block".



This is a dream. Yes, believe it or not this mural in Upper Ground SE1 is a scene called 'Caliban's Dream' from Shakespeare's The Tempest. Our picture shows Peter Pelz, a professional artist, putting the finishing touches to somebody's nose. It's all part of the Council's campaign for a brighter Lambeth and conveniently hides the depressing coach park from all those nice tourists visiting the National Theatre opposite.

INDEPENDENCE - PRICELESS

The fate of four teenage girls hangs in the balance this week as Lambeth's Housing and Social Services departments each try to wash their hands of the matter.

Aged between sixteen and eighteen, the girls are homeless and had all recently been 'in care' and therefore the responsibility of Social Services.

However, they fared rather better by finding for themselves, because in desperation they have squatted two empty flats on the Collington Estate near Newington Butts and now at least have a roof over their heads.

These flats were in such a terrible state that they had been empty for 22 months, as no one would have them. In one case even a homeless family turned one down.

With the help of sympathetic neighbours the flats have been made habitable, and the girls are very grateful for the support they have been shown.

They have offered to pay rent to the Council, and as two of the four have now managed

to find jobs, it would seem that rather than being in care, totally dependent on the Council and a cost to the community, these girls will be providing for themselves and moreover usefully keeping up two flats that would otherwise be derelict.

But no, this cannot be allowed. The Housing Department says that it is Council policy to evict all single squatters. Besides, it is up to Social Services to look after such cases.

Unfortunately Social Services have no housing units of this sort - even bad ones - to put them into, so the girls will have to go back into care, at much greater cost and which they cannot stand because it destroys any sense of respectability and independence.

However at the moment Social Services don't appear to be keen to take any action, probably preferring the girls to remain where they are.

So, caught between the two Departments, they wait to learn what will happen to them.

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FOR YEARS NOW, the people of North Southwark have been calling on their elected 'representatives' for homes to be built in the area. Why? Because young people are forced to move out of Southwark for lack of them.

The wise councillors have told us that land is too expensive in North Southwark to build homes on it (see p.8). And why is that? Because for 30 years our 'representatives' have been encouraging speculators to build offices, hotels and luxury apartments on the land, in order to turn North Southwark into a combination of the West End and the City.

The result? Profits for banks and speculators; empty buildings galore - and homelessness for Southwark's young people.

Recently, however, the councillors have ordered a lottery: 188 homes for young couples are the prizes. The only surprising thing about this little gamble is the admission of what everyone else knows: that housing in London is a lottery. And who wins the prizes? A few lucky families, to be sure. But the fattest prizes go to the banks and other companies which receive an interest in the largest part of the money that comes in to pay for new houses.

And there's more to it than that. As reported elsewhere on this page, the Council's encouragement of property speculation has led to the selling up of factories that employed the most skilled people in the area - people who then have to take low-paid jobs or look elsewhere.

In the light of this, the councillors' tombs are a downright insult. No-one spins a coin to decide where to live. What we need is a POLICY, designed not to line the pockets of City merchants, but to meet the needs of the people of this area: jobs and houses

GOLDEN EGG DAVIES

Two years ago, when the debate over the Baskids Globe was going on in the Southwark Council chamber, one councillor, Ernest Davies, was moved to suggest that tourism was a golden egg for this borough, and should be encouraged.

Perhaps Mr. Davies got carried away during those heady days when the John Player cigarette company kept the temporary Globe afloat; but since then the Globe has declined to little more than a shell, and other tourist-oriented enterprises like HMS Belfast and the Greenwood Theatre

are running up huge losses. The Belfast Trust recently announced losses of £100,000, and the Greenwood is in debt to the tune of £50,000. In addition to this, work on a massive hotel in Kings Reach by Blackfriars Bridge has come to a halt because the firm owning the hotel has gone bust.

Now that all these chickens have come home to roost, let us hope 'Golden Egg' Davies will re-think his views before condemning N. Southwark to be a tourist area again. Mr. Davies roosts in Camberwell.



EMPTY HOMES CAMPAIGN

These empty houses in Dolben Street, SE1 are an example of property speculation at its worst. Two years after forcing the tenants out some of whom had lived there almost 30 years, the property is still empty. Both the GLC and Southwark became parties to this squalid affair by giving planning permission for conversion to offices.

Now London has a new symbol to identify such properties. A red 'X' will be painted across front doors of similar houses in London to draw attention to all the empty residential property. A recent survey of Cathedral Ward showed that there were over 50 such properties, and a London wide campaign is being launched to bring attention to the scandal of empty homes.

NEW JOBS IN SOUTHWARK

A report from Southwark Trades Council calls for action on local jobs & shows how it could be done.

Over 40,000 jobs have been lost in Southwark since 1961. These have mostly been jobs in manufacturing industry in North Southwark. This is the finding of a report called 'Employment in Southwark: A strategy for the future' just published by Southwark Trades Council.

This loss of jobs has taken Government authorities by surprise as 11,500 of the jobs were lost between 1971 and 1974. The current economic crisis has meant a more rapid reduction in jobs, but the trend has been in motion since the late 1950's. What has been happening is that the production of more and more goods have become concentrated in the hands of fewer and fewer firms. These firms have swallowed up the smaller firms that could no longer compete with them and they have been 'rationalised'. In every day terms this means they have closed and sold factories and premises where a high price could be got and laid off workers.

North Southwark has been a prime site for offices expanding out of the City who have forced up the prices of land so high that firms they would not normally have closed have found it worth their while to do so.

Consequently, between 1971 and 1974, 25% of Southwark's manufacturing jobs were lost. Over half of these were from the Borough and Waterloo. Jobs particularly hard hit were in those



Street names show how Southwark has been built around its industries

high employment industries of the print and paper which lost over 3,000 jobs, and food and drink which lost over 3,500 jobs. Other important employers, leather clothing, etc., also suffered big losses. The closure of Rocola shirts in the spring of this year is a recent major example of a firm (the majority of whose shares are owned by the massive ICI) closing down in Central London and expanding production elsewhere.

As these productive industries closed in North Southwark, so have the many engineering firms which provided them with equipment and machinery. The list of lost jobs is long and has terrible

consequences for the people of North Southwark. Jobs in public employment were lost too. For those who mistakenly think that government departments have become bigger and bigger, the report shows clearly that the public services, which accounted for just under half of all jobs in Southwark in 1973 have rapidly declined.

Jobs in offices of firms moving out from the City have increased, but mainly been taken by workers commuting in from outside.

These losses have led to an increase in the unemployment levels in Southwark as bad as the 1930's. The report argues that the effect of all these changes have been to force people out of

the skilled jobs that they have held locally and into less skilled manual jobs in offices and into jobs further away. This has resulted in lower incomes and a decline in Standards of Living. Many people have left the area to look for work but the numbers of skilled workers in Southwark is still very high.

skilled jobs

The report also argues that with this pool of skilled workers, some of whom are unemployed and others in unsatisfactory work or having to travel some way to work, new industry could come to the area with a ready made skilled work-force. What is needed is that the Government incentives which are offered to firms to expand elsewhere and controls on industrial development in London should be immediately changed to help stop the closures and drift of jobs out of London. The Trades Council wants the Southwark Council to provide industrial estates and factories and the report lists possible sites where this could be done.

This is a report which should be read by all who live and work in Southwark as it gives the background to the present closures and unemployment in the area, and offers suggestions as to solutions. It is obtainable from Southwark Trades Council, Lansbury House, 41 Camberwell Grove, SE5 8 JA

'Fares Fair' ...or is it

No-one who travels by London Transport, and particularly by tube, will have failed to feel the effects of the recent staggering fare rises. But what can you do about them?

Two proposals have recently come to our notice. The first comes from a group who believe that the rises (which were sanctioned by a GLC elected on a promise to reduce fares as a step towards abolishing them altogether) should be fought by direct action.

The group, called Fare Fight have so far distributed 20,000 'referred payment' slips, which apparently are legal under the 1837 Railways Act.

TO LONDON TRANSPORT EXECUTIVE Data
I have today travelled from _____ to _____
and tendered a ticket for _____/_____. (Should you wish to recover the outstanding sum, my name and address is: Name _____ Address _____)
Signed _____

The idea is that you buy a ticket for less than the official fare (whatever you think is 'reasonable': it's illegal to travel with no ticket at all). Then you hand in the ticket together with the completed slip, which is in effect an I.O.U. to London Transport for the balance.

Then London Transport can write to you for the extra money, if they think it's worthwhile.

The campaign has received sympathy from London Transport workers, and from other groups all over London which are fighting the cuts in our living standards.

However, some people feel that making more work for London Transport clerical staff will lead to more fare increases in the future, and the GLC Staff Association has a different proposal.

They have called instead for the government to give tax relief on money spent travelling to and from work by public transport.

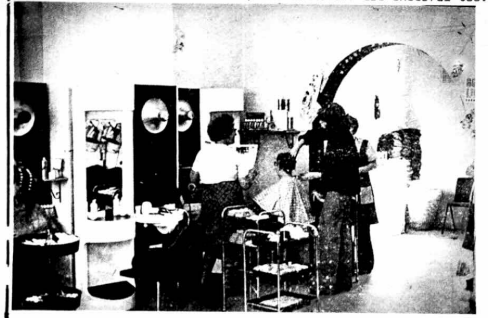
They argue that this will both encourage more use of public transport (to help pay for the service) and reduce the cost of getting to and from work.

To which you might ask: why just getting to and from work? More details from: Fare Fight, Flat 3, 76 Sidney St London E.1. (790-9965) and from GLC Staff Association, F.T. Hollocks, 164-168 Westminster Bridge Road. (633-5927)

double-deckers

One are the single-deckers on the routes No 70 and 188, from Waterloo to Surrey Docks and Greenwich. They have now been replaced by brand new double-deckers. This must be a nice comforting thought to local people who use them to get to their employment. Instead of sometimes having to stand in the old single-deckers, sometimes all the way, there's now a chance of a seat.

JOHN PAUL has recently opened a second salon. The new one, pictured below, is in Great Suffolk Street. It's light and airy like the one in Blackfriars Road, and the staff are cheerful too!



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IT'S TAKEN YEARS of talking and planning and eighteen months of building, but it's now all ready. It is the new youth and community centre Blackfriars Settlement has been building on the corner of Rushworth Street and Pocock Street.

The Settlement was given the land and a sum of £35,000 by the GLC as compensation for another site and building which it owned. This was enough to build a single storey building shell, and a further grant of over £40,000 from ILCA (Inner London Education Authority) has made it possible to strengthen, protect and equip the building, do the necessary site work - and eventually, to build a flat on the first floor.

The Settlement and Dorrit Youth Clubs (including an intermediate treatment project) will move from St. Alphege's Church Hall, which is fifty yards away from the new building on the other side of Rushworth Street. The move is long overdue, since these activities have existed at St. Alphege's with an eviction order hanging over them for well over two years now.

The Youth Committee of the Settlement, which has formal responsibility for looking after the new building, is keen to see it is used by as many groups -

adult as well as young people - as possible.

With this in mind a number of local estates have recently leafleted and two meetings were held at the end of June to begin to discuss possible use.

It was agreed that it would take time to sort things out and that a potential users group be formed to sort out how the building could be used and looked after.

If you're interested in using and helping in the new building it's not too late. Contact Steve Lancashire - the youth and community worker at Blackfriars Settlement (call 928-9521) - to find out what's happening and how to get involved.

There's lots of possibilities and plenty to do. The building could be a very valuable getting together point for groups of all ages in the Blackfriars area. But this getting together won't just happen by some magical process. It will be up to local residents to work together to make things that might look impossible possible.

Crossing Rushworth Street was hard enough. Let's hope things won't be so difficult now we've got to the other side

CHRISTINE and CHARLIE

I first went to the Dorrit when I was twelve.

The Dorrit has always been a close knit club. Everybody knows every body else and a new member is at home as soon as he or she joins.

The people who run the club are very easy to get on with. Mary, the canteen lady is often seen chasing one of the boys with a broom, after they have been cheeky. Marge and my mum work well together, and when one of the kids plays up you can be sure that he or she is out of the building within two minutes.

I remember I had to call my mum 'June' or 'Mrs Bell' if I wanted her because if I didn't she wouldn't answer me.

Alphege's Hall is an old building. It is very big and hasn't got many facilities. It is impossible for a disco to be a success as the hall is about four times too big and completely the wrong shape. It will be nice for the new members to have a new building.

Although I don't go to the Dorrit anymore, it will be sad to think that there will be

to think that there will be no more teenagers in the building. My friends and I have spent some really happy times there.

I have seen the new building and I hope that it will be as successful as the old one was.

Christine Bell

After going to the St Alphege's Youth Clubs for the last eight years, I will not be sorry about it closing down.

With the new building almost completed, most club members are looking forward to its opening. In the last couple of years St Alphege's has deteriorated, not so many people go round there, and the atmosphere is just not the same as it used to be. Nowadays the boys just seem to want to fight or smash the place up.

When the new building opens with its new equipment, e.g. record player, pin-tables, table tennis, etc - more people should start to come round. Also the kids might respect the club a bit more and keep it clean and tidy instead of wrecking it.

Charlie Allen

Dorrit mums

Most exciting news - Dorrit club will soon be moving into a new building. Our club has been operating for 7 years and is now run by 5 local mums.

We do this work voluntarily and we are pleased to do it as it has been well worth it, in that we have had a share in keeping these children off the streets.

The club meets 3 nights a week, ages 3 years to 18 years. We are looking forward to working in a nice, warm, modern, clean building.

The new club will be run on the same basis: table tennis, football machine, records, games etc. We are also hoping to get some new furniture, we already have some new furniture.

We hope that the children will appreciate their new club by taking care that it will be treated with care.

Around the building there is enough space left for a garden in which we hope the children will take an interest - perhaps growing flowers and vegetables.

And we would like to say a big thank-you to all those who have striven so hard to get this new accommodation for us.

From the Dorrit Mums: June Bell, Mary Dimond, Irene Spittles, Mary Johnson and Rose Waugh.



12 Meymott Street, SE1.
tel: 928-1643

In next month's SE1

It's up to you! All the stories, news and articles in SE1 are contributed by local people. Maybe you know of something which would be news to someone else, or maybe you are organising some event and would like to publicise it. Send in your news or give us a ring. Or come to one of the meetings in September where we sort out what is to go in the next issue.

Meetings

Thursday, 16th September and
Thursday, 23rd September.

Last day

for articles to go in is the
23rd of September.

SE1: Learn how to do it

We are planning to arrange an evening course for people who are interested in learning about making community newspapers.

Before we started making SE1 none of us knew anything about how to write and organise a paper. But we arranged an evening course at Morley College and asked different people to come and teach us about things like writing, editing, interviewing, reporting, photography, design and printing.

By the end we felt able to try our hand. We found that it wasn't as hard as we had thought but the course had really helped to give us confidence.

If any SE1 reader would like to take part in the new course, give us a ring (928-1643) or drop us a line (12, Meymott St., SE1.)

Are you getting it regularly?

Save yourself the bother of hunting for SE1 every month - get it regularly through the post by taking out a subscription.

For only £1.75 you will get 12 issues of SE1. Just send a Cheque or postal order made out to 'SE1 Community Newspaper' to 12 Meymott Street, SE1.

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

What Where When?

All entries in this section are FREE. If you have something to publicise, just send us the details, not later than one week before publication day, 12 Meymott St, SE1, 928 1643.

SWIMMING COURSES.

Sundays at Clapham Pool
September 12,19 & 26th. 2-4 pm
Saturdays at Ashby Mill 3rd Sch
September 11,18 & 25th 12-2 pm
(Ashby Mill is at Prague Place, Lyham Rd, SW2.)

TENNIS LESSONS

Thursdays at Myatts Fields
Oct 7,14,21 & 28th 2-4.0 pm
Wednesdays, Kennington Park
Oct 6,13,20 & 27th, 10-12 noon.

DETAILS OF ALL THESE TRAINING SESSIONS From Lambeth Amenities Sports department, 14 Knights Hill, SE27. Tel 761 0901

SPORTS....SPORTS....SPORTS

Southwark Park 4th September
2.0pm until the firework display starting at dusk finishes.

SIX-A-SIDE FOOTBALL & (hopefully) LADIES CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT.

VOLLEYBALL CHALLENGE MATCH
CYCLE SPEEDWAY CHALLENGE MATCH

KINGSDALE SCHOOL BAND (6.30pm)
DUSK - THE FIREWORK DISPLAY!

SANDIE SHAW - We hear a rumour that she is to appear (in bare feet?) at the DUTY HALL production of St Joan. Go and see this vision on August 31st to September 3rd and September 6th to the 10th. 7.30pm Tickets £1 Further details on the Duty Hall notice board. E.g. kids and OAP's 50 pence.

Where to buy SE1

You can buy SE1 at the following newsagents and centres:

Potter 80 The Cut,
Purdum 47 Baylis Road,
Ellis Hercules Road,
Denny 66 Hatfield,
Waterloo Action Centre,
14 Baylis Road,
Toms 137 Southwark Bridge Road,
Gibbon Union Street,
R. Welfare 20 Harper Road,
Patel Great Suffolk St,
Wadmore 188 Tooley St,
NSCDO 159 Tooley St,
Jimmey 108 St Gifford St,
127 Borough High St.
Peterman 131 London Road,
McDaman 11 Snowsfields
and many Tenants Associations.

BOBBY CRUSH - the International Piano Star (?) is giving a one night only performance at our very own Lambeth Town Hall. MONDAY 27th SEPTEMBER, at 7.30pm Box Office 761 0921. We don't know the ticket price range.

CHESS

£1,000 in prizes to be won at the 3rd LARA Chess Tournament!

Held at Southwark College, The Cut, SE1.
on Friday 29 to Sunday 31 Oct.

Entries by 8th October, and further details from Mr W Bush 63 St Johns Rd, ILFORD. (590 9516)

ONE DAY JUNIOR TOURNAMENT
Saturday 9th October, Stockwell Hall. 4 categories, under 10,12 15 & 19. Entries 4th Oct to R Wade, 3 Hardy rd, SE3. (858 2754)

New Club

"PENSIONERS GET-TOGETHER"

at 1 RUSHWORTH STREET, S.E.1.
(Corner Pocock Street)
on SATURDAY 18th SEPTEMBER
from 4.00 - 6.00 p.m.

- GREAT ENTERTAINMENT
- GREAT FOOD AND DRINK

CHILDREN'S TEA PARTY
for 5 - 12 year olds

at 1 RUSHWORTH STREET, S.E.1.
(Corner Pocock Street)
on SUNDAY, 19th SEPTEMBER
from 4.00 - 6.00 p.m.



FIGHT THE NAZIONAL PARTIES

Anti-fascist demonstration in Blackburn on Saturday September 11th. Return bus fare £4 (£1.50 unemployed & students) leaving 179 Kennington Lane. A peaceful show of solidarity and strength sponsored by the Labour Party and Trade Unions. Details From 761 2187

HOMELESSNESS - a public meeting to get some action. Speakers from SHELTER & NUPE. Room 119, Lambeth Town Hall, 8.0pm Thurs Sept. 2nd. Activists from Southwark welcomed.

Lampost to be Demolished

Southwark council recently took steps to remove one of the all-too-few facilities for children in Bermondsey.

For some years Bermondsey Lampost has been a haven and support for some of the children in the Long Lane/Bermondsey street area, and many of the activities of the project took place in a building in Long Lane which the council have now closed.

The building stands on a site due to be redeveloped as housing, so no-one will be sad to see re-building begin.

But the Lampost has been offered no alternative place for the kids to use, and there are questions still to answer about the way in which Southwark council acted in closing the place without warning.

JUBILEE PLANS

Whilst the final reckoning is not yet complete, it is now clear that not only did many people get a great deal of fun out of the Waterloo Festival, but that it also made a handsome surplus of some £400 to put towards next year's festival.

"This year was better than ever" says Doreen Ramsey of Mitre Rd, one of those responsible for the success, "and we have already started planning for next year."

"You see, next year is the Jubilee and we all want to make a special effort. If anyone has any ideas, I'd love to hear from them, or call in at the Waterloo Action Centre."

"To make sure things get off to a good start, we've already booked the best shows from this year again, whilst they were still fresh in everybody's mind."

RIGHTS

Beginning in October, the BBC is putting on 25 half hour radio programmes called *What Right Have You Got?*. These will be broadcast on radio 3 on Thursday evenings and repeated on Radio 4 VHF on Sunday afternoons. The programmes will explain the rights each of us has in each of four areas:

At home (including social welfare; parents and children; tenants rights).

In the community (education; buyers and sellers; planning and the local authority).

At work (safety; women in employment; job security; unemployment; trade unions and industrial action).

At law (arrest; legal aid; in court).

Morley College is hoping to get together a group of people who would like to follow and discuss these programmes. The group will meet from 2-4 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons starting on September 22nd, and will be run by a local resident who was formerly a university lecturer.

Welfare Clinics

WHEN LAMBETH COUNCIL RAN the welfare clinics, plans were made to build a new Maternity, Child Health and School Treatment Centre in Lambeth Walk, closing down the 3 existing clinics at Royal Street, near St Thomas' Hospital, Barley Mow, in Frazier Street, and its Moffat Clinic in Sandcroft Street. At these centres, clinics are held for infant welfare, school health and dentistry, chiropody, hearing and family planning.

The district management team (DMT) which is now responsible for running these clinics suggests that it would be better not to build the new centre but to keep the 3 existing clinics, enlarging the Moffat and improving Barley Mow.

The Community Health Council was asked to consider these proposals and after consulting neighbourhood groups and GPs in the area have decided:-

1) that it would certainly be better to retain the 3 centres rather than concentrate all the services in one place, and that the existing clinics need renovation;

2) that a new centre should be built in Lambeth Walk to include some of the present ideas but be designed so that, in addition, it could incorporate 2 GPs' practices, for Dr Argus and Dr Moss, both at present in unsatisfactory premises, and also provide some community facilities for the local people;

3) that not nearly enough is done to advertise the clinic services at present (see advert for Barley Mow, page 2) and in consequence some clinics are not well attended.

If you have any views about the present clinic services or need for more of these, please contact Bernice Spain, 48 Roupell Street, or write to SE1.



ROLLING STROLLERS!

A casual challenge to a departing vicar who was moving to greener pastures than North Southwark led to the formation of the Southwark Strollers, an ad hoc group of largely unknown sporting pedigrees.

Michael Jarrett of the South London Industrial Mission recently moved to a new parish, Betchworth (near Dorking) and he arranged a match for the Strollers.

With only one practice match against the Red Cow in Grange Walk, the Strollers soon came up against the realities of the game on a village recreation

Football

FOR THE FIFTH year running, Borough Police Station have arranged a 7-a-side football competition at Tabard Park. PC. Andrew Jagger who is once again organising this event said 'We have six teams under twelve years old and twelve teams under sixteen years entered this year and I am finding that the boys welcome the relief from the Summer Holiday boredom.'

The competition finishes on Friday August 27th with the two finals during the evening and several dignitaries are expected to attend when all the finalists will receive medals. Last year the winners were: Rockingham under 12s and Borough Rovers under 16s.

LAMBETH

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From 31st July people in the North of Lambeth will have a new service working to help them.

Save time! Save money! Solve shopping problems!

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AND A NEW SERVICE FOR NORTH LAMBETH

From July 30th - NORTH LAMBETH FOOD PRICES - Collected weekly
in Lambeth Walk, Waterloo and Kennington.

YOUR RIGHTS

Need repairs?

Dampness, leaks, falling plaster, defective drainage, broken floorboards, lights gone on stairwells ... these were just some of the items which made Edward Henry House a horror place to live.

Despite many complaints that the health and safety of the tenants was threatened by these conditions, the landlord, Lambeth Council, did little. It said there was no point spending a lot of money on an estate where everyone was going to be rehoused "shortly".

The tenants were sceptical about that promise - many had been there years longer than was promised when they moved into this "halfway house" and still had no definite date set for moving out.

responsibility

For one resident, Mrs Haswell, a fall on a dark staircase was the last straw: she took the Council to Court to force them to act. The magistrates hearing the case upheld the complaint - as long as people were living in the premises, the landlord could not neglect its responsibilities. Lambeth Council was ordered to get the necessary repairs and other measures under way.

Mrs Haswell's experience is a worthwhile lesson for all tenants, whether Council or private. Are you living in defective premises which might put your or others safety and health at risk? Have you asked the landlord to do something and not got a satisfactory reply? Then you may also have a legal remedy, like Mrs Haswell.

'Section 99'

It's called a "Section 99 action", after the relevant bit of the Public Health Act, which gives people the power to take landlords to court for such matters. If you are on good ground just threatening to use it can bring really quick action from the landlords, because they know it works.

For the tenant it can be a powerful weapon and is cheap to use - with a bit of advice, it really can be do-it-yourself. If you think it might apply to you then:-

- (i) get together a written record of what's happened so far, and any things that happen next,
- (ii) contact an advice centre and find out about how Section 99 works, and how you can make it work for you.

ANY TIME TO SPARE



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44 Nelson Square SE1.

MENS HOSTELS CHANGE

TOWER BRIDGE CLOSSES

The mens' hotel on the corner of Tower Bridge Road and Tooley Street is to close on September 13th.

The lease from the city corporation has expired and this is the reason for the hotel closing.

The hotel can cater for 180 men, who will now have to find somewhere else to stay.

This follows the closure of other hotels and hostels locally the largest being the Rowton House at the Elephant.

GT. GUILDFORD ST. OPENS

The hostel in Great Guildford St is to re-open as a mens hostel. This became clear at a meeting between residents and officials from the DHSS on August 5th at the hostel.

It was SE1 in December that revealed the closure of the then womens hostel, and raised the question as to the rumoured bad management of the hostel which it was said led to a fall in the number of women using the hostel rather than a decline in demand for the hostel provision. This question has not been answered by the DHSS and the hostel is to eventually house up to 60 men.

Residents from the Winchester Estate Union St., Peabody, Southwark St., Peabody, Marshalsea Rd, along with representatives from North Southwark Community Development Group found out at the meeting exactly what the function of the hostel was going to be from a Mr. Brightman from the DHSS. The new manager Mr. Hobson assured the meeting that if any local resident had a complaint about the residents using the hostel these would be taken up. Mr. Brightman gave an assurance that only 12 men would initially be moving in and that would be all for the first four months.

A proposal that a committee be set up was taken up by the people present and a leaflet has already been distributed in the Winchester flats encouraging people to contact the committee if they wanted anything taken up with the new manager. Mr. Brightman when asked if the committee could negotiate the eventual number of men using the hostel agreed that this was a possibility.

SPA ROAD ?

The decision of the Environment Minister, Mr. Peter Shore, to allow the rebuilding of the Salvation Army hostel in Spa Road for 300 residents, 78 more than at present, has been met with hostility by local residents.

On August 10th residents from Rouel Road, Millpond, Dickens, Parkside, Tooley Street, Neckinger Tenants Associations, along with Council Leader, Councillor O'Grady discussed what could be done following the minister's decision.

It was decided to reform the United Southwark Residents Group to campaign against the decision and also to immediately write to Mr. Peter Shore, to ask for a delegation to be received. Mr. Shore's constituency in Tower Hamlets, across the river, also has to cope with a similar demand for accommodation.

DHSS Red Cross Way — new move

Southwark Council have slapped strict conditions on the use of 99-101 Red Cross Way as an office that could prevent its use as a pay-out office.

This follows a stormy meeting at the House of Commons between residents, Southwark Councillors Bob Mellish and Mr. Eric Deakins the Minister at the DHSS. The delegation was staggered when Mr. Deakins revealed that the lease for the building in Red Cross Way had already been signed, and back rent paid to December. None of this had been revealed at an earlier meeting when it was promised by the DHSS that alternative sites would be looked at.

This revelation of the signing of the lease led Southwark to call an emergency meeting at which the decision to impose conditions to the earlier planning permission was taken. This means that there will probably be an inquiry into the whole issue by the Minister of the Environment Mr. Peter Shore at which Southwark Council will confront the DHSS.



SUMMER BLOSSOM in Copperfield Street garden. This garden in the ruin of All Hallows Church which was bombed in the war, is looked after by local residents.

BERMONDSEY HOMES

"a damned scandal"

The Bermondsey riverside looks set to be the site of yet another battle over the sort of housing residents and the Council would like to see. The Tory opposition led by Councillor Robert Dunn are outraged at the cost of a new housing scheme, and called the development a "damned scandal" at a housing committee meeting. This outburst came as work on the most expensive housing Southwark has ever built is about to start on Bermondsey Wall East.

It is an irony that the 181 low rise homes with gardens will back onto the Wilson Grove Estate which in its time was also the subject of conflict, as the Govt. of the day wanted tenements to be built instead of the garden estate that was built. That was in 1925. In fact the old Bermondsey Council was stopped from building any more, which is why there is now a proposal to make the estate a conservation area.

Fortunately for us all although it has taken many tower blocks and Aylesbury type estates to realise, the pendulum has swung back after 50 years to just the sort of housing built in Wilson Grove.

Costs have escalated however largely due to property speculation on the riverside. Residents have been particularly successful

in opposing property developers proposals for luxury housing that looked at one time to be going to cut the river off from the large estates such as Dickens and Millpond. Earlier this year a proposal to build luxury flats on Deveralls wharf in front of the Dickens Estate was quashed by the Department of Environment after a public inquiry. Tenants argued at the inquiry that the site should be used as open space, and this was upheld.

Also in 1974 after a vigorous campaign by residents the Council bought the land on which they are about to build the new housing. Luxury housing was planned for this site too until tenants associations opposed the scheme. However the land having been bought by property companies during the boom has cost the Council more than they would have liked. The site at Bermondsey Wall East cost £1½ million for the 4 acres, and this is the reason behind the high cost of over £29,000 per house.

surveys

The Millpond Estate T.A. has an answer to any critics of the new housing. The Millpond T.A. have conducted a survey of their tenants, and the results show this is exactly what residents want. A more recent survey of Tooley Street tenants completed this month also shows the same demand for low rise homes with gardens.

The North Southwark Community Development Group who have campaigned with the T.A.'s on the Bermondsey riverside are now pushing the Council and the GLC for similar developments on the Bankside and other sites in North Southwark similar to those completed in Nicholson Street SE1, another low rise development. A spokesman for NSCDG told SE1 "Housing will be expensive in North Southwark until a stand is made against developers, and even then as the Bermondsey land deal shows the costs are high due to earlier speculation. However the community that lives in North Southwark and Bermondsey are due the same consideration as areas to the south, and surveys show that local people want more housing built!"

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Quotes of the month

"This should take the centre of gravity away from Stratford-on-Avon" - Mr. Ceri Griffiths, Southwark's Director of Development, commenting on a proposal to erect a ½ size film set replica of the Globe Theatre on Bankside.

SOUTHWARK, WHERE'S THAT ? - Civil Servant at the Property Services Agency on a phone inquiry about the DHSS payout office in Red-Cross Way. The PSA headquarters is in Southwark St SE1.