



CHOPPERS FAIL NOISE TEST

A DEMONSTRATION OF HELICOPTER NOISE was held on 12th October by the British Helicopter Advisory Board to create support for their planning application for a Helistop moored off the North Bank of the Thames near St Pauls. The Helicopter Advisory Board, a pressure group acting for helicopter manufacturers, brought helicopters down on to a floating platform under the eye of GLC officials armed with noise meters.

A counter demonstration was



held by residents of North Southwark and Waterloo to protest against the disturbance of helicopter noise to South

Bank residents. Captain Brown who organised the helicopter landings was heard to apologise for the noise which was worse than expected. He said it was due to "unfavourable weather conditions".

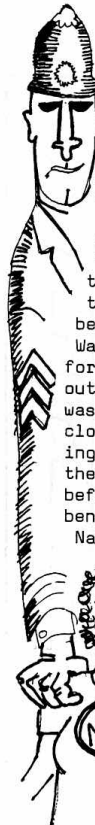
The Planning and Communications Committee of the City of London considered the Helistop proposal at its meeting on 24th October. A final decision was deferred until reports on noise levels could be obtained.

The GLC has the final say on Helistop. But they will not make a decision until they have seen a report which will be completed in early 1979 which considers several sites for heliports in London, including Tower Hamlets and Surrey Docks.

The GLC Committee will be chaired by Cllr Sandy Sandford, who is reported to be on very friendly terms with the British Helicopter Advisory Board.

BENEFIT COPS IT

THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF PUBLICITY RECENTLY about the shortage of police to properly look after life, limb and property. Newspapers are full of scary statistics showing rising crime rates. So it comes as quite a surprise that about 15 police found the time on Saturday night to raid a fund-raising benefit being held at the Waterloo Action Centre: for selling alcohol without a licence! The raid was planned - 2 plain-clothes police women posing as "customers" paid their way in an hour before it happened. The benefit was in aid of the National Abortion Campaign, and over £100 of drink was confiscated. That's a big blow to NAC; they'd be glad of donations.



National Abortion Campaign: 374 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.

what's inside?

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Matters Arising....

IBM, THE GIANT AMERICAN COMPUTER MANUFACTURERS, is considering taking over the Evening News site next to the National Theatre for an office development. Planning permission was granted in 1976 for an office block, some flats, a restaurant and open space. The news agency Reuters was to occupy the offices, but they pulled out last year.

IBM want to build a new HQ and are apparently not keen to have housing on the site. They are talking about giving some money to aid the Coin Street housing development instead.

ROTHERHITHE FORUM at its last meeting approved a funding proposal for a community worker for the Docklands area of Southwark.

AN OLD SPA MAKERS BUILDING near the Angel pub in Rotherhithe overlooking the river may be saved from demolition by the GLC due to efforts by Cllr Coral Newell and the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Society to save it. It is lived in on the top floor; the other floors are occupied by a barge repair firm.

CAN YOU WAIT UNTIL 1984?



LIBRARY STREET near Borough Road - it's supposed to become a local park but will it ever happen. See Page 5.



SE1 BRIGHTSPOT: This cheery mural livens up what was a stark and dreary brick wall at the Pickwick Youth and Community Centre in Pocock Street, off Blackfriars Rd. If any readers would like to brighten up their neighbourhoods this way, tell us: we'll put you in touch with people who can tell you how it's done, and feature you in a future SE1 Brightspot!

PEOPLE'S PLAN

THE ASSOCIATION OF WATERLOO GROUPS has put in its own planning applications for family housing on the Coin Street sites between Stamford Street and the river. Within days of the Secretary of State, Peter Shore's announcement of a public inquiry into the future of the South Bank site, the local neighbourhood council submitted an application for a new 1½ acre riverside park; 359 new riverside homes - mostly family houses with gardens and all available to council tenants; shops, supermarket, cafe, restaurant, workshops and community rooms; a riverside walk.

In a press statement A.W.G. says "This scheme will bring back real life to the South

Bank. It is what the residents of North Lambeth and North Southwark want. While others talk about inner city regeneration, we are going to do it. And, as planners now admit, regeneration does not mean more offices in this area, but decent homes for ordinary people."

The plan will be considered at the public inquiry along with Lambeth Council's housing scheme for four out of nine sites and a joint Heron Corporation/Commercial Properties Ltd scheme covering all 9 sites for 1,100,100 sq ft of offices and a skyscraper hotel. The GLC supports the office developers while Lambeth Council wants housing as specified in the Waterloo District plan.

The public inquiry will probably be held early next year.

"what were you thinking about, SE1?"

Some readers' reactions to one of last month's articles

Dear SE1

What were the Editorial Group of SE1 thinking about when they passed the Blackfriars' student's letter for publication? What were they trying to tell our readers?

For an illiterate student I cannot accept that this letter was written without guidance from maybe one of his tutors. If that was so I think it would have been more help to him if he had advised him of a better way to have expressed himself, and that if he continued to do so in the way he did, he would certainly have problems in keeping a job.

Offended

I look upon SE1 as a Community Newspaper and felt that it was what we needed, and was doing a good job. But if it decides to publish articles in this vein it will offend many readers, and they will find that many of our established readers who buy it for local news and information will be cancelling their subscriptions to the paper.

It was a pity that the article should also have been in the issue that included 4 pages for young readers, because it was read by many young readers. I hope that the Editors will endeavour to keep SE1 a reputable community newspaper.

Yours sincerely
Fred Miller (voluntary seller of SE1)

Dear SE1,

My first reaction to the article in your last issue, written by a Blackfriars Literacy student, was one of shock and amazement. Shock at the sheer violence of the language used. Furthermore I felt uncomfortable at finding it in an unexpected place - this was after all a community newspaper. The unfamiliarity of the episode was provoking.

Clearly I was not the only one to have a shock reaction; the article has caused very mixed responses and much avid comment and discussion which in turn has prompted me to make an

honest appraisal of my own response.

On reflection, I must admit to more prejudice against what was unfamiliar and uncomfortable; a rejection of what challenged my cosy view of our community.

Condemnation of the article on such facile grounds was clearly inappropriate. Was condemnation in order at all? That must depend on what one sees the role of a community newspaper to be.

In trying to come to some unprejudiced decision on whether or not I felt such an article should be printed, I thought the function of a community newspaper as

reflecting and informing the community it serves, to be adequate.

Does SE1, in printing this article, fulfil this function? Not so simply answered, unfortunately. After all, who is the community? Does it include the people who have the misfortune to be illiterate? Once again I feel I am faced with a facile question, for clearly it does.

This then poses the question, is this young man's experience and resentment, so exceptional as not to merit the disturbance his article has clearly created. Factual evidence is difficult to come by, and we must resort to our own experience in order to judge. I, for one believe this sort of frustration and resentment to be very much the experience of some of our jobless, disillusioned young people.

I believe it is healthier for a community to be aware of what is going on in its midst, even if that knowledge is bought at the price of a little injury to its tender sensibilities. Our pretending such anger doesn't exist, won't make it go away. It might however emerge later in a much more sinister form (recent events in Lewisham must have alerted us all to the horrific possibilities) if denied a verbal (and comparatively harmless) outlet.

Finally the question remains, were the obscenities necessary? Would asterisks not have served equally well? I think not. Removal of the obscenities would have taken all the impact out of the statement. (For good or bad, few can deny its impact) Language is our major medium of communication. The literacy student has used this medium effectively, if disturbingly, to make his cry for help.

Kath Mitchell
Copperfield Street, SE1.

Dear SE1,

I am writing about the letter headed "What Working Class Has Been Like For Me". I was surprised that this sort of a letter was allowed to be printed in SE1.

Surely you can find something more interesting than this rubbish. Most of Waterloo consists of working class people, but we do not behave in this manner, and I am sure very few (if any) have been to Oxford or Cambridge.

My advice to this young man is to take up something of interest and get rid of that chip on his shoulder and be grateful that he is alive. And further more, when the right girl comes along it will not matter what type of a job you do as long as you are a nice person.

Mrs Maureen Ryan
201 Campbell Buildings
Westminster Bridge Road, SE1

SE1 says



LAST MONTH'S SE1 has caused controversy and even outrage in parts of the community, as a result of the article on 'What working class has been like for me' printed on page 5. Some of the concern was due to the tone and content of the article, and some was due to the inclusion of swear words.

The SE1 Newspaper Group has discussed these reactions at length, and 3 letters on the subject are printed on this page. On reflection we feel that we were wrong to include the swear words, and apologise to those who were offended by them. But we stand by the rest of the article, which is a point of view held by some members of the community. Perhaps not everyone has had this experience, but it would be foolish to deny that this does happen to some of our youngsters through no fault of their own.

We would also like to comment that this one article has given rise to more discussion and comment, both among those who produce the paper each month and among readers, than anything else we have printed. We welcome response from readers - in fact, that's part of the point of getting the paper out each month. So keep on writing, readers!

WRITE

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

Save St. Mary's

ST. MARY AT LAMBETH whose history goes back as far as the Doomsday Book, and probably even earlier than that, has now been declared redundant as a place of worship.

The Tradescant Trust, a charity whose links with St. Mary go back to 1600, now hope to obtain the church on a long lease to develop the churchyard as a garden centre of historic interest, and the church itself as a museum of garden history.

The Tradescant family were known in the 17th century for the introduction to this country of many varieties of new plant species which have since become familiar and popular in English parks and gardens.

waste firm should go

THE FUTURE OF LAWSON'S WASTE PAPER FIRM IN LANT STREET is being discussed by Southwark Council following representations from residents of Douglas Buildings. Lawsons occupy land between Weller Street and Chancel Street and also lease from the ILEA the Charles Dickens School extension site in Lant Street. To use the school site, however, Lawsons have to get planning permission from Southwark Council each year. It is this permission that tenants of Douglas Buildings are objecting to. They feel that the firm is a blight on the area and should be re-located. The Tenants Association have written to the Council suggesting that money from the Industry Fund or the Environment Fund be used. Certainly the firm is not in a good spot, surrounded as it is by Redman House, Douglas Buildings, Trundle House and Charles Dickens primary school.

Ironically, one problem that may crop up is that Lawsons was one of three firms granted an industrial award by Southwark Council last year, though there are rumours that the firm has since hit a sticky patch.

Whether Southwark can swallow its pride and start serious talks to relocate the firm remains to be seen. The test of their resolve will come when they consider the application by Lawsons for the school extension site shortly.

Playground improvements

FEARS THAT THE ENVIRONMENT FUND LAUNCHED BY SOUTHWARK Council in September would be frittered away on petty projects are diminishing following the approval of the first package of schemes from the £1.4 million fund. At its meeting on 9th October, Southwark's Policy and Resources Committee approved a package of 15 schemes totalling £698,000. Also approved at the meeting was the allocation of £100,000 for schemes submitted by tenants associations, voluntary organisations and individual residents in the borough.

Included in the package of 15 schemes approved by the PAR Ctee is the improvements to the Grotto Playground in Great Suffolk Street & the Marlborough Playground in Union Street. This will include resurfacing, floodlighting, and a new layout of football pitches, rounders, netball, and tennis pitches.

A monitoring committee was also set up with representatives from the Planning, Housing, Highways, Libraries and Finance Committees. This committee will be making sure the schemes just approved get moving ahead quickly and also recommending how the £100,000 allocated to voluntary projects is allocated.



AERIAL VIEW OF LAWSON'S WASTE PAPER WORKS IN LANT STREET, SE1.

Print firm hits the jackpot

BI-PRINT IS ONE OF THE LUCKY COMPANIES THAT HAVE HIT THE Southwark Industry Fund Jackpot. The Council have found a new site for the Clerkenwell based firm in Copperfield Street in the Borough and have given them a £295,000 loan. Pile driving for the new building will begin in November and it will be completed in 1979.

The firm have promised to create 40 new jobs in Southwark. They employ 30 people at the moment and say that the extra 40 will be taken on over a period of years if their current rate of growth continues. It is a gamble for Southwark. The Council are making a loan on more favourable terms than would be given by a merchant

bank. It is worthwhile for the Borough in social terms - if the new jobs are created.

Let's hope they are. The firm is unleased at the shop floor level, so one hopes that any jobs created are well paid and in good working conditions.

The Southwark Trades Council have been trying to find out who decides which firms get the money. Over 20 firms are in the queue for loans and grants. So far, it seems that Lord Seeborn, an IBM executive on secondment to the Fund, and Mr Eric Eeles, Southwark's Employment Officer, have been identified. But the Trades Council has failed to obtain any local trade union representation on the Fund management.

People's Bus Service

LONDON TRANSPORT IS CUTTING SERVICES - SHOULD WE BE DEMANDING A PEOPLE'S BUS SERVICE INSTEAD?

A new campaign has recently formed to fight the recent cut-backs in London Transport services. The Campaign to Improve London Transport, consisting of LT staff, Trade Unions, Tenants Associations, various community groups and Public Transport users gathered at a recent conference to discuss their aims and work so far.

The Campaign's 3 basic demands are "No Cuts, Cheaper Fares and Improved Services." "We want a People's Transport



Plan, a system to meet the people of London's needs, not one based upon bus and train economies devised by politicians and their experts."

Support for the campaign is growing in the transport industry, and organisers are trying to create more links between various sections of London Transport. Andy Dodds of the NUR stated that there was a good deal of expertise within the ranks which could be used to develop alternative policies and effective campaigning.

Regarding the cut-backs in

Mint Street park gets amber light

THE MINT STREET PARK SHOULD START NEXT YEAR. This follows two significant decisions by Southwark Council in October. The first was an injection of £250,000 from the Environment Fund into the parks building programme. This means that there will be adequate funds to move the Adventure Playground to a new site on the corner of Lant Street and Southwark Bridge Road and lay out the land which stretches from Trundle Street to Marshalsea Road as a local park. The second decision was the granting of planning permission by the Council for the park to go ahead.

One more hurdle has to be cleared however, and that is the resistance by the Regional Health Authority to Southwark acquiring the Old Evelina Hospital site which is included in the park. The main problem is the price of the land which the RHA unreasonably valued at office development potential. The Council are quite rightly sticking out for a much lower cost reflecting its zoning as open space. At present the squabble is being sorted out by the Department of the Environment, but in the meantime negotiations are taking place to licence the land from the RHA. Whether the Council will be prepared to spend a lot of money on land they do not own remains to be seen and this will be decided at the next Libraries and Amenities Committee in November. What seems clear is that a park of some sort will start next year, but like most other facilities in SE1 it will be a fight to the last.



SOUTHWARK TRADES COUNCIL 1903 1978



TO CELEBRATE ITS 75th ANNIVERSARY THIS MONTH, SOUTHWARK TRADES COUNCIL HAS PUBLISHED A BOOK ABOUT ITS HISTORY. A review of the book is printed below. Copies can be obtained from the Trades Council c/o 41 Camberwell Grove, SE5, price 75p + 15p postage and packaging. The author, Dave Russell, who is a delegate to the Trades Council, has said that he would like to hear from anyone interested in forming a Southwark Labour History Group. Contact him at 58 Tearnley House, Lettsom Estate, SE5.

IN THE PAST 20 YEARS, our knowledge of the history of the British working class movement has grown considerably. One thing that has become increasingly clear as a result, is the variety of local experiences in that history, and the extent to which the formation of a National Labour Movement was a process of gradual forging of often conflicting local traditions and experiences into something closer to a unified whole. Trades Councils played a crucial role in this process because in the late 19th and early 20th century they were the major institutions drawing together local trade unionists and political activists. There are still large gaps in our knowledge of local labour history, and until now, the history of such an important district of London as Southwark was one of them.

The history of Southwark Trades Council is interesting and important not only because of its position in Central London but because it was closely and militantly involved with many of the central issues in the history of the Labour Movement and has long experience of problems which are current today: unemployment, racism, the inadequacy of 'welfare', the problems of women workers.

The Trades Council was founded in 1903, a period of high unemployment which hit especially hard in what was already one of the poorest districts of London. From the beginning it fought hard for the 'right to work', for unemployment and other welfare benefits and also for better housing. These are all struggles which the Trades Council sadly has had to carry on, through two world wars, the inter war depression and up to the present day.

witch-hunts

On other issues too it has an admirable record of militancy. It has always had members unwilling to annihilate the left at the bidding of the National Labour Leadership, though this led to splits in the Trades Council during interwar tussles between the Labour and Communist parties, and to disaffiliation from the TUC in 1953, frozen out by the Cold War. Among other things this history provides a useful reminder that although we had no McCarthy, the witch-hunt occurred in this country too.

Similarly, the account of the General Strike in Southwark is useful in itself, since the absence of Central direction from the TUC led to the Trades Council in Southwark as elsewhere to organise local action. Especially interesting, however is the detail given of something often forgotten by historians; the many workers who failed to get their jobs back after the strike, or returned to them only on the unfavourable terms employers seized the opportunity to lay down.

British fascism got an early foothold in Southwark, setting up headquarters in Walworth Road in 1933 - briefly, for they were soon chased out by local anti-fascists. The Trades Council even spawned its own minor Mosley, John Beckett, a theatrical agent and briefly Labour MP for Peckham who soon came to prefer the fancy dress and vicious drama of the British Union of Fascists. Rather larger numbers of supporters of the Trades Council were notable for their early and determined opposition to fascism, an opposition they still maintain.

women militants

Another important theme in Labour history runs through this volume, though largely between the lines, since the author does not see fit to comment on it directly. This is the militancy among women workers, beginning with a strike of women metal box makers in 1907. The Trades Council, to its credit, had a female secretary Florence Tidwell from 1916 - 1919, when many men were presumably otherwise engaged (though the Trades Council had as admirable a record on conscientious objection as upon much else), though she appears to be the only one. There are references to other strikes by women and they must have been active in the rent strikes which are mentioned in the interwar years, since they were elsewhere. But there is little sign of female involvement in the Trades Council. Southwark although supporting women on strike either shared with the national labour movement an inability or unwillingness to translate political and industrial militancy among women who were striking in the years after 1918 - into full participation and prominence in the movement, or wishes, unaccountably to keep quiet about it.

However on most other issues of central importance in this century Southwark Trades Council has an outstanding record, which it has every right to celebrate.

SE1 says

This month, Southwark Trades Council celebrates 75 years of history - 75 years in which periods of sharp struggle have been interspersed with periods of quiet and patient work. SE1 would like to pay tribute to all the women and men whose determination, imagination, time and energy have been devoted, during those years, to sustaining the struggles of working people for better conditions, both at work and in the community.

To the extent that the interests of the working class have been advanced since 1903, we owe it to those who fought for those interests. And if those struggles achieved less than

'Buy Quinns Buildings Now'

says John Hearn

IT WAS GOOD NEWS TO SEE THAT LEWISHAM COUNCIL HAVE TAKEN SOME ACTION against the Tory GLC policy of selling off newly built GLC properties. Lewisham Council have decided to compulsorily purchase a new estate in Deptford, to deter the Greedy Land Company from putting these houses on the market at around £25,000 per unit.

Nearly every part of London is affected by this new GLC policy. We saw the outcome of that beautiful new estate close to the River Thames at Brentford Dock, and it is very much showing the effects in our area.

The residents in Nicholson Street have been approached to see if they would like to buy their accommodation at around £29,000, and that is as sitting tenants. If I were one of those tenants I would not even dream of it. Nicholson Street would have properly gone the same way as Brentford Dock if they had still been empty after May 1977, that is when the

they might have, we must mostly blame, not those who use their spare time after work to organise and fight, but all those others among us who leave it to them to do it for us.

SE1 wishes the Southwark Trades Council success in the years ahead, and hopes that readers in SE1 will do what they can to support and encourage its work, both through their trade union branches and through other organisations such as tenants' associations, students unions... UNITY IS STRENGTH.

Colombo Street Sports and Community Centre

BOXING TOURNAMENT

PRESENTED BY THE STAMFORD BOXING CLUB
FRIDAY 17th NOVEMBER 1978
REFRESHMENTS AND LICENSED BAR
DOORS OPEN 6.30 BOXING SHOW 7.30 TICKETS £1.

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| Monday | Shorinji Kempo 7-9pm, Boxing 7-9pm. |
| Tuesday | Karate 7-9pm. |
| Wednesday | Badminton*, Boxing 7-9pm. |
| Thursday | Karate 7-9pm. |
| Friday | Pensioners' Dancing Club 1.30-4pm, Boxing 7-9pm. |
| Saturday | Karate 10-12am, Shorinji Kempo 2-4pm. |
| Sunday | Badminton* 10-12am. |
| | Sunday Tea Dance and Competitions Nov 12th and 26th 3.30-8pm. |

*Badminton - Starting soon. Anyone interested should contact the Centre and leave name address and telephone number.

MAIN HALL AND MEETING ROOMS FOR HIRE... SOCIALS AND WEDDINGS WELCOMED.

Anyone interested in starting other activities, make yourself known. Starting soon, badminton for juniors. COLOMBO STREET SPORTS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE, COLOMBO STREET, SE1 Telephone: 928 1479 - 261 1404.

Tories took control of the finance clearing house at County Hall.

Now, Southwark Council, you can start to do exactly what Lewisham are trying to do, and straightaway put in a CPD on Quinns Buildings in Waterloo Road. This new GLC estate is now getting towards completion. And from what we hear it is going the same way, that is it is up for sale on the open market to the highest bidder.

There are numerous local residents who have watched the erection of this new estate with envious eyes, hoping that they may be lucky and be selected by the GLC for the accommodation. Tenants on Lambeth Council's estate at Campbell Buildings, which is going to be demolished, have stated clearly on their GLC transfer forms that they would like the choice of moving to Quinns Buildings, by naming not only their area of choice, that is Waterloo, but also the estate.

responsibility

They have been completely ignored and have been offered other accommodation in other areas miles away from their friends, relatives and their children's schools. Some action must be taken to stop this GLC policy. They are just shirking their responsibility to the working classes of London, by selling off their new properties and trying to hand over their older estates to local authorities.

If it is not stopped, we will find that only the rich can afford their property. But not the likes of us - and we are not all poorly paid workers - but it is still out of the reach of all of us. Local authorities, and that includes the GLC, have an obligation to the working classes of London. There are many of us who serve London and make it tick over. Be you a railway worker at Waterloo Station or a dustman, you should be allowed to live in the area of your employment.

So, Southwark, now is your chance. You have a duty to the people on your housing list, to people in high rise blocks and old flats, to families, to the low paid, to the working class.

RIVERSIDE CANDIDATE SELECTED

MEG WHITE, from the Dickens Estate, has been chosen as the Labour candidate for the by-election in Riverside ward, caused by the recent death of Councillor Tom Cornish.

Ms. White, a former Bermondsey Borough councillor, is well known in the Riverside area, and has been active at ward level in the Labour Party for many years. Active also as a trade unionist, she is employed by British Rail, where she is a shop steward. She told SE1 that she was principally interested in the social welfare aspects of the Council's work.

Eyesores on the rates

OPEN SPACE PLAN POSTPONED: the career of Library Street, off Borough Road, as a proposed local park is typical of Southwark's so-called open space "programme". Library Street was scheduled for open space 20 years ago, yet it remains today a jumble of car parks, with some GLC prefabs in between, plus a pub and a factory.

In 1971 Southwark took a comprehensive look at open spaces in the Borough and came to the conclusion that Library Street should be completed by 1981. Yet council officials now say that this won't happen. Existing users of the land are assured of occupation till 1982.

A "review" of parks provision is being undertaken by the

Council which places Library Street and other parks as not only "long-term" but also "optional". In other words, they will be blighted for years and may never happen.

This fate has struck the badly needed Leathermarket Gardens extension and the Tanner Street park extension in Bermondsey. Both sites are an eyesore for local residents.



VIEW OF THE LEATHERMARKET GARDENS PARK EXTENSION THAT WILL REMAIN A DERELICT EYESORE UNTIL 1981? or 1984? or 1988?

The planners say the only way the grass and trees will be laid out and the blighting halted is through "political pressure". Councillor Nicholson, of Cathedral Ward, who has been pushing for immediate implementation of the long delayed Mint Street park in the Borough, told SE1 that "the parks programme is the victim of muddled priorities in the Council - they are willing to spend millions on a new Town Hall but have trimmed local open space and other community facilities to a bare minimum."

Cllr. Nicholson said it was "tragic that the major project from the Libraries and Amenities Committee for next year is a £300,000 extension to the South London Art Gallery".

PROMISES SOON FORGOTTEN

Memories it seems are conveniently short in Southwark Council. In March this year at a stormy meeting of the Planning & Development committee a deputation from North Southwark Community Development Group presented a case that controversial planning applications should not be considered before the North Southwark Local Plan was completed. It was strongly felt that it made a nonsense of public consultation to allow huge schemes for office developments to go-ahead after local people had stated strong opposition to these developments in response to the Council's seeking views in the drawing up of the Local Plan.

As a result of the deputation the Council agreed a procedure that in connection with controversial planning applications, "more extensive consultation than hitherto would be undertaken

with local groups". This procedure was first used in connection with the application to redevelop the Oxo site in Sumner Street. All residents of Sumner Buildings were notified of the application and local groups who had written in on the site for the Local Plan were asked for their comments. The idea of more extensive consultation was to enable the Council to decide whether a planning application was sufficiently controversial to warrant refusal on the grounds that it would undermine the Local Plan. The application would then be deemed "premature".

The latest test case application was for the redevelopment of the large site bounded by Bear Lane Great Suffolk St, and Southwark Street. The bulk of the site is taken up with the near derelict Stevenson & Howell building. However despite the fact that residents of Friars Close (next to the site) had written to the Council during the local plan expressing a wish for housing on the site and despite the fact that several other local organisations such as Southwark Trades Council and Blackfriars Settlement had also commented on the site and the planning application for an office/industrial development, the new guidelines were completely ignored. Planning permission was granted despite protest from local councillor George Nicholson. Councillor Nicholson told SE1 that he intended to take the matter up at the next meeting of the planning & Development committee as it was a clear slap in the face for the community.

GLC £2m HANDOUT

County Hall is making estate agents rich. It is part of the Tory policy of auctioning off publicly owned homes, land, and buildings. Instead of helping the homeless they are helping estate agents.

Sales of GLC council housing will, we are told, save money. Yet £2 million has been allocated from the Council's reserves to pay for estate agents' fees. It seems no expense is to be spared to sell as much as possible.

Following the decision to cut back on house building and renovation for people on council waiting lists comes a plan for homes at high rents for people with high incomes. A pilot scheme is due for two tower blocks in Tower Hamlets which will have improvements ranging from telephone entry controls, a new heating system to carpeted corridors. Families with young children will not be considered. If the scheme is successful then it will be extended to other areas.

Many tenants in GLC flats have been battling for years to get the kind of improvements now being considered for high income people and as well as selling off houses to the wealthy the GLC wants to rent to them as well, presumably by either removing existing tenants to make room for them or by building luxury flats.

Another objective of the GLC is to "put all council-owned land to use as speedily as possible" says councillor Mervyn Scorgie. In Tory party thinking this is best done by selling it off as quickly as possible so that private developers and industry can profit from it and so far 44 sites totalling 24½ acres have been sold. SE1 has not been able to confirm if the Coin Street sites are to be part of this policy. The GLC is even trying to camouflage the sales by saying that new jobs will be created - we'll believe that when we see it.

MUSICAL EVENTS

FREE Afternoon Shows for PENSIONERS, at 2.30 pm on MONDAY, November 20th at the St. Albans Hall, SE 17
MONDAY, December 4th at the Rotherhithe Civic Centre SE 16 (at 2.30pm).

TUESDAY VARIETY SHOWTIME: 7.30pm at the North Peckham Civic Centre, Old Kent Road, SE15.
Tuesday November 7th and 21st

STARLIGHT CABARET at the North Peckham Civic Centre, Old Kent Road, SE15, from 7pm till 12pm.
FRIDAY November 17th: Top vocalist **RONNIE HILTON**
FRIDAY December 1st: Star singer **JULIE FELIX**.

FAMILY CONCERTS ON SATURDAYS at Morley College, 61 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1: **10.30 am to 12.30 am**.

SATURDAY November 4th:
Rock Group
Recorder Consort
SATURDAY December 9th:
English Folk Music & Dance + Suzuki Violin.

VIENNESE NIGHT at the North Peckham Civic Centre, Old Kent Road, SE15, starting at 8.00pm on **NOVEMBER 25th, Saturday**.

CHARITY DANCE to raise money for the **NYE BEVAN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME** in Peckham. Tickets 90p
Saturday November 25th, 7.30pm at **GREENWICH TOWN HALL**.

YOUTH CLUBS in SE1

This isn't an absolutely complete list. There are, for example, a number of scout, cub, brownie and guide groups in the area as well as several youth centres.

1) At the Pickwick Centre, Rushworth St.
DORRIT CLUB
Monday.....7.30 - 10.00
Friday.....7.30 - 10.00
for teenagers.

Tuesday.....7.00 - 8.30
for Under 12s.

Further details from June Bell, 928 4821
BLACKFRIARS SETTLEMENT CLUBS.

TUESDAY CLUB.
4.30 - 7.00 8 - 12 years.

WEDNESDAY CLUB.
6.00 - 8.30 8 - 12 years.

THURSDAY CLUB.
7.00 - 9.30 13 - 17 years.

Further details from Steve Lancashire and Stella Butler 928 9521.

2) At the Waterloo Action Centre, 14, Baylis Road.

MONDAY CLUB.
6.00 - 8.30 8 - 12 years

TUESDAY CLUB.
7.00 - 9.30 12 - 17 years

WEDNESDAY CLUB.
7.00 - 9.30 6 - 12 years

Further information from Steve or Stella as above.

INTER-NATION

MILLPOND BOYS CLUB played host last month for 17 boys, a trainer and three parents from the Tus-Tengen Boys Football Club from Bunden, West Germany. This was in exchange for a trip to Germany last May.

During their one-week stay, the boys from Tus-Tengen played against Bacon, Scott-Lidgett, and St. Michael's schools. They also went to Greenwich, the Houses of Parliament, a river tip disco from Cherry Garden Pier and the Tower of London. Courageous fed them breakfast, and the Labour Club provided premises for the evening get-togethers.

A farewell disco on the final night was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress, Bob and Ann Mellish, and local council-

ors Coral Newell and Peter Flower: Bob Mellish presented an award to the German team.

David O'Rourke, Club Leader, said that it had been a very successful week and thanked all those who had helped make it so, including members of the Millpond T.A., the Secretary of the Labour Club and his wife, and all those organisations which had given financial help.

Millpond Boys Football Club started 5 years ago with a five-a-side game in Southwark Park. Thanks to the efforts of Dave O'Rourke they now have darts, table tennis, a new younger boys' football team plus the boys football team now gaining international recognition.

THIS SHELTER WAS ERECTED TO
COMMEMORATE THE LIFELONG SERVICE OF
DR. AND MRS. ALFRED SALTER
TO THE PEOPLE OF BERMONDSEY

THIS PLAQUE CAN BE FOUND IN LEATHERMARKET GARDENS. THE SALTERS ARE REMUNDED FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS IN IMPROVING HOUSING, HEALTH SERVICES AND THE ENVIRONMENT OF BERMONDSEY IN THE 1930's. See last month's SE1.

Come to the CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Charles Dickens School, Lant St.

November 25th 2pm

BLACKFRIARS SETTLEMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH MORLEY COLLEGE is organising a week long course on welfare rights, beginning on Monday 20th November. The course is aimed at people with little or no previous knowledge who give advice as part of their work, or through their involvement with community groups. Topics to be covered include social security, women's rights, housing and employment. The cost is £3.20, Claims £2. Further details from Mike Zuck, Blackfriars Settlement, 44 Nelson Square, SE1. Telephone 928 9521.

Friday Disco and other clubs
Further Details from Ann Keane 407 6136.

6) **CHARTERHOUSE ARK**, Crosby Row.
Playgroup. Under 5s.
Monday - Friday. 9.45-12.15

Monday. Girls Club. 6.30 - 9.30
Tuesday. Boys Club. 6.30 - 8.00 (5 - 13).

Thursday. Mixed. Dance Club. 6.15 - 7.30 for 7-15yr.

Thursday. Mixed. Drama Club. 7.30 - 8.30 for 7-15yr.

*Further info: Mina Temple, phone 407 5666.

MATTERS ARISING....

TOOLEY ST. TENANTS ASSOC. is expanding the use of their Pop-In. It is now open Mondays 2 - 4.30 for Mothers' Club, Wednesdays 2 - 5.00 for DAPs, and Fridays 8 - 10.00 for crafts, such as needlework, knitting, sewing as well as bingo or whist-drives depending on the interests of those who come.

THE ST ANSELM'S PROJECT is to move to the Archbishop Davidson Institute in Lambeth Road. The Project, which has over one hundred members, is a largely self-managing youth centre for young black people in North Lambeth. The premises will be shared with the Intermediate Treatment Employment Scheme for young people currently at Walnut Tree Walk.

exhibition

EXHIBITION TO CELEBRATE 75 YEARS HISTORY OF SOUTHWARK TRADES COUNCIL. On show in four parts at the Public Libraries in East St./Old Kent Road; Spa Road; Camberwell Church Street; and Lordship Lane.

toys

Have you any OLD (or NEW) toys you want to get rid of? St. Hugh's Church is busy building up a stall for its November (25th) BAZAAR, and would like to receive all you can spare. So please look out any toys your kids have outgrown or have no further use for, and bring them to CHARTERHOUSE, 40 Tabard Street, SE1.

JOBS

HALF-TIME P.A./SECRETARY for Youth Project.
Blackfriars Settlement Youth Project needs someone to help it run efficiently. Lots of interesting and varied things to do.
Would suit a local person.
Job starts 27 November 1978

HALF-TIME WORKER for Literacy Project, to start early Dec
Flexible hours including some evenings and weekends. Typing skills and literacy experience necessary.

For more information about the above jobs, contact:
DEIDRE ALSEY, Blackfriars Settlement, 44 Nelson Square, SE1. Telephone 928 9521.

SOCIAL SECURITY Government report asks wrong questions



IF YOU ARE A PENSIONER, DISABLED, A SINGLE PARENT, OR UNEMPLOYED, the chances are that you are claiming supplementary benefit, or social security, as it's often called. It's supposed to provide you with just enough money to live on, but as anyone who has claimed will tell you, it's a question of counting every penny if there's any chance of managing from week to week. On top of that, it's an everyday event for giro not to arrive on time, to have to wait weeks for a visit if you need household items or clothes for the kids, and generally to suffer worry and aggravation.

These problems are not, on the whole, the fault of the staff working in social security offices like Wedge House. The government has ordered cuts in the number of staff working in social security offices, making their job harder just at the time that unemployment is rising, so that more people are having to claim supplementary benefit.

not working

The government has agreed that the supplementary benefits scheme isn't working properly, and set up a review team to suggest how it could be improved. The obvious answer would be more money and more staff, but so far the government has said they are not prepared to consider this. So, the review team's job has been to cut up a cake that is too small in a new way. The result is that some people will get a bigger slice of the cake, while others will get a smaller one. Just about the only group who clearly stand to gain from the review team's proposals are those who have been unemployed for over two years. The review proposes that they should get more money than they do now. At the same time it proposes that when people first claim they will almost certainly get less than they need for the first three months, as this will save the government money; school leavers will have to wait several weeks before they can claim, and have to remain dependent on their parents; pensioners and others who need extra heating, will find it harder to get money for it, and so on. The point is that nobody can afford to get less money than is given at present. After all, the government themselves say that the benefit level is set at the poverty line, so how is anyone expected to live below it?

wrong job

Many people who have read the review believe it has set out to do the wrong job. What is needed is a thorough look at our social security system, and

proposals that will allow everyone to get a better deal, not proposals that give one person more money by taking it from someone whose need is just as great.

It's important that the government gets it right. Any of us might have to claim social security at some time, for example because of illness, old age, or because we are made redundant.

what you think

The review team have asked the public to say how they think the supplementary benefits scheme should be improved. You can send your views direct to: Mr A. Palmer, Dept of Health and Social Security, Room 537, New Court, Carly Street, WC2.

Or, if you'd prefer it, Southwark Rights Umbrella Group (a group of local advice centres) have produced a draft letter you can use, available from: Southwark Rights Umbrella Group, c/o The Walworth Project Portakabin Offices, St Albans Hall, Penton Place, SE17 - tel 701 1038/9.

You can get a free copy of the review from DHSS Information Division, Leaflets Unit, Block 4, Government Buildings, Honeypot Lane, Stanmore. Any of Southwark's advice centres will be happy to talk to you about the review, if you would like more information. The advice centres hope to organise a public meeting to talk about the review before the end of the year.

"A ROSE BEYOND THE THAMES"

SE1 reviews a Londoner's tale

This book is an autobiography in as much as the author describes it as 'a mixture of fact and fiction'. It begins with his mother's childhood during the Great War, managing to earn a few coppers collecting horse dung on Lavender Hill, and her constant struggles which continued throughout her life in just surviving and keeping her family together. Mick was told he was born at St.

FREE TV LICENCES FOR OAPs?

At the moment Lambeth helps 40 disabled people with payment of their TV licences. Voluntary organisations also help out.

But now there is a nationwide move to obtain free licences for OAPs. Local authorities are trying to raise a public petition - if you see it, sign it!

HEALTH 'The change'

Are women prepared for 'the Change' or Menopause? Do our doctors tell us enough? What can we do to smooth the problems it may bring up? What is the current treatment available?

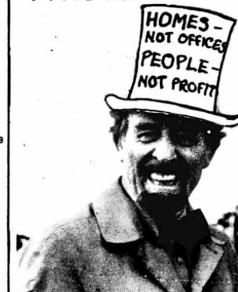
The Change is when a woman's regular monthly periods start coming to an end; the body undergoes hormone changes and produces various symptoms, the most common being hot flushes and sweating, tiredness, palpitations, giddiness and a few others. The Change can begin anywhere between 35 to 60, the average age being about 50. The symptoms vary for everyone, a few women experience no difficulties while the majority have symptoms varying from slight to very severe.

meeting

This is why local women in Waterloo together with the Community Health Project at Waterloo Action Centre are preparing a meeting so that women can ask questions of a doctor specialising in the Change. The meeting will probably take place at the end of November/early December so watch out for posters, leaflets or drop into the Waterloo Action Centre for more information, or look in the next issue of SE1.

Everyone is welcome to the meeting: women, husbands. There will be a talk, a discussion and also the opportunity to ask questions and share your experiences and worries whether you have started, are in the middle of, or have finished the Change.

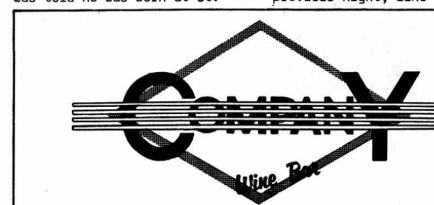
Who said that!



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Advocating absolutely free rein for the property dealers and office speculators at a businessmen's convention on Oct 3rd, Horace Cutler, Tory Leader of the Greater London Council said: "What I want is for the brakes to come off. I want the whole rigmarole of control ... swept away". Horace assured us that the "Government need do no more....We can then rely on the energy and good sense of Londoners to restore our city's pre-eminence".

see also p.5 'Handout'



53 the cut waterloo london se1 633 9487

HOPEFUL NEWS FOR TRESS HOUSE

ST MUNGOS TRUST, WHO WANT TO MOVE THEIR NIGHT SHELTER TO Tress House in Stamford Street, are "very positively interested" in an alternative site at 35-43 Bondway in Vauxhall. Two other alternative sites in Vauxhall have been turned down by St Mungos but GLC officials say that the Bondway site is more suitable than the others.

A report will be going to the GLC on 1st November recommending that a lease be granted to St Mungos for the Bondway site. But the move is subject to the approval of the GLC Valuers Department, since the building, next door to Rowton House, is owned by the GLC. St Mungos say that they would prefer to remain in Lambeth where they have good relations with the Council.

Residents of North Southwark and Waterloo are cautiously pleased about this news. They do not want to raise their hopes too much, knowing that if Bondway is not available St

Mungos will be after Tress House again. The GLC are aware of the strength of local feeling after the second public meeting about Tress House held on 27th September. A packed meeting at Christchurch Hall, Blackfriars Road, told Cllr Sandy Sandford, GLC Planning Chairman, that Stamford Street was the wrong location for the hostel. Cllr Sandford said that he agreed but that he would need to convince the rest of his Committee.

While this has been going on, Southwark has given planning permission for Elephant Jobs, the Job Creation scheme, presently working in King James Street, to use Tress House as their new centre. The GLC say that they will also support this decision. But once again the GLC own the property so that at the end of the day it is the GLC Valuation Department, who decide who will use Tress House.



RELIEF ROAD RECONSIDERED

HAVING DECIDED WHAT THEY WANT AND ALLOCATING THE MONEY, GLC CHIEFS STILL CLAIM PUBLIC HAVE A SAY

THE DOCKLANDS SOUTHERN RELIEF ROAD, FROM BRICKLAYERS ARMS TO WOOLWICH ROAD, IS REARING ITS UGLY HEAD AGAIN. THE GLC PLANNING Committee has decided to include the £130 million road in its development programme. A year ago SE1 reported that there were doubts about the road being built and it might not be until the 1990s.

Several derelict sites in the Tower Bridge Road area have been reserved for the road. GLC planning Committee Leader, Shelagh Roberts said "This road is the only scheme which meets the objective of improving accessibility to Docklands. Residents can be assured that there will be full consultation before any final decision is made."

PRIVATE HOSPITAL APPEALS TO MINISTER SHORE

LOCAL GROUPS IN NORTH SOUTHWARK and the Community Health Council have been notified that the Guy's consultants who proposed a private hospital on Chamberlains Wharf on Hays Wharf are to appeal to the Minister for the Environment. Southwark turned down their plan for a private hospital earlier this year. The consultants have now decided to appeal which means that within a few months there will be a public inquiry.

The Community Health Council has set up a Working Party to look into the effect that the private hospital may have on the National Health Service at Guy's. They are looking at staffing and financial considerations.

Too greedy indeed! The estate is over 40 years old, and apart from the fact that over this time the estate has been left to deteriorate, its design is totally inadequate for modern day living. The

THE RIGHT TO LIVE

by the TANSWELL ACTION GROUP

kitchens, for instance, are only half Parker Morris standards (these are accepted government regulations for new council housing), and the flats have no storage. Many do not have bathroom basins! We feel it is our right to live in decent dwellings and surroundings, and shall keep on campaigning to do so!

Cllr. Tatham went on to say that no date could be given for when the courtyards would be landscaped, and that no money had been set aside for the next 2 financial years. However a tape recording of the May meeting reveals the Assistant Director of Housing saying that the courtyards would be landscaped in 1979. The Group will be sending Cllr. Tatham a copy

of the recording in the hope that the GLC will not default on their promises.

Cllr. Tatham said he thought the estate unsuitable for family housing. Well we may say, Cllr. Tatham, the survey shows that the majority of people living on Tanswell want to remain in the area; they have family, friends, jobs and their children go to school in the area. Nevertheless they are having to move out because you are not providing them with decent family housing. It seems we have no alternative but to accept the package, but feel that the families who wish to remain in Waterloo should be able to. So go back to your drawing boards Cllrs. Tremlett and Tatham.

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