

# Opposition mounts to £70m Peckham Palace

THE CRUDE ATTEMPT BY SOME SOUTHWARK COUNCILLORS to stampede the new Town Hall through Southwark Council without any debate nearly came unstuck on Wednesday 29th November. A move by Labour member Councillor Smythe to delay any decision for six months to allow proper discussion on the £70million scheme was narrowly defeated by 32 votes to 26 with 2 abstentions. However the size of the revolt, by 20 Labour members, could be a turning point and when the final decision is taken in January the ruling clique could be in for a shock.

Mounting anger in the community at the prospect of spending such a huge sum of money on a Town Hall when so much else in the borough obviously needs attention is leading Councillors to re-think their position. Already the town hall unions NALGO and NUPE have written to the Secretary of State calling for a public inquiry as have the Peckham Action Group. The PAG formed when it became apparent that over 40 shops and 300 jobs were also threatened by the scheme.

The town hall complex will include offices for only 1,400 of the Council's 8,000 staff, an assembly hall, library and Council chamber. The Council already owns three town halls in Spa Road Bermondsey, Peckham Road and Walworth Road and hopes to sell them, although the Spa Road and Walworth Road buildings house public libraries

The Labour Group on Southwark Council, egged on by a sorely out of touch leadership, have disgraced themselves and can attract only further derision by Councillor Smythe's revelation that all Labour members apart from one spokesman, Cllr Tucker, had been forbidden to speak on the motion calling for a delay in the decision on the Town Hall. Councillor Tucker made a pathetic attempt to show that the Council had bent over backwards to consult over a

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ABOVE: The demonstration outside Peckham Town Hall on 29th November telling councillors not to vote for £70million new town hall plan.

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# Schools Future in Balance

The fight to retain St. Andrews and St. Patricks primary schools in Waterloo has now reached the final stage of appeal. The Managers of both schools, acting jointly, have presented their formal objection to the proposed closure of the two schools to Shirley Williams, Minister of Education.

They have called for both schools to be kept open or, if one school must close, for the other to be kept open, which would then be open to all the children in the area.

The managers' submission was very long (as thick as a 'phone book!), very detailed, and contained very strong arguments for retaining the schools. We must now wait for her verdict - but in the meantime, children and parents involved in the campaign to save the two schools joined together with their counterparts in other parts of London where schools are threatened with closure, to demonstrate their anger and frustration outside County Hall.

Continued on page 5.

# SE1 says

## WHAT DO THEY FEAR ?

Southwark Council, in the latest manoeuvre in the extraordinary saga of the £3,500 grant being sought by the North Southwark Community Development Group (NSCDG), has deferred a decision until January. All the other grants considered by the Urgency (!) Sub-committee at its recent meeting were dealt with except the NSCDG grant which was singled out for special treatment.

Like this paper, NSCDG has never been afraid to voice the opinions of those living in N. Southwark. It has, on many occasions opposed Council policies and put forward positive alternatives to those policies.

It is also clear - as the letters, petitions and demonstrations have shown - that there is enormous support for the work and the courage of the

Group. And it is clear that there are, among those in power in Southwark, people keen to finish the group by cutting off its money.

What are these people afraid of? Criticism? Hearing the real needs of the people who elected them? There must be many councillors who would dearly love to have the active support in their wards which exists for the NSCDG. Perhaps it is this that worries them.

The group is doing an important job, voicing and fighting for the need of the local community. It is not merely a disgrace that it should be having to fight a Labour Council, it is also a disgrace that a Labour Council should stoop to using its power to cut off a live channel of popular expression.





# No benefit to us

The show of 'open government' from the DHSS has been turning sour over the last few weeks. Meetings have been called in South London to discuss the proposals contained in the document 'Social Assistance' (see November issue of SE1) about reform of the Supplementary Benefits system.

Speakers at these meetings have with one voice condemned the document as an insult to claimants and DHSS workers alike. At a meeting in Wandsworth Town Hall on November 23, at which people from Southwark were present, Mike Greenwood, from Southwark's Rights Umbrella Group, proposed a motion which rejected the document outright - but the Chairperson wouldn't allow a vote to be taken! After the speeches that had been made the result was a foregone conclusion.

Members of the CPSA - the DHSS workers union - were angry at the cuts in staff proposed in the document, at a time when they find it almost impossible to maintain services to the public due to understaffing. A representative of a prostitutes' organisation spoke angrily about the number of women forced onto 'the game' because of the low level of benefits for those with children to support. She said they were threatening to put pressure on people in high places by revealing their clients' names, unless something was done!

An official from NUPE, the

**DANCING CROGER**

Dear SE1,  
Arnold Estate is an island surrounded by Jamaica Road, Abbey Street, Druid Street, and cut in half by Sweeney Crescent. On all these roads, the traffic has increased in the past ten years over 50%, and it is expected to increase more so when the Surrey Docks complex starts.

From 7.30am - 10.30am, these roads are at a standstill through the volume of rush-hour traffic. From 8pm to 6am, Druid Street is a danger to anyone trying to cross, because of lorries being loaded and unloaded from firms that are based in Railway Arches. To try and escape this hazard, the people of Arnold Estate have to walk round the main road to the traffic lights at Abbey Street.

Added to all this is the fearful journey our Senior Citizens have to face crossing Sweeney Crescent, which is like having a gamble on your life expectancy, through the large container lorries that use it as a free parking place. To solve some of these problems, it is suggested that the no parking rule in Druid Street should be strictly enforced.

T. Sawyer,  
37 Arnold Estate,  
Bermondsey.

public employees union, said that it was wrong to think that low-paid workers had an interest in keeping benefits low. Low benefits, he said, meant more fear of losing your job, and less militancy - they force unemployed into accepting badly paid jobs.

Generally, trade unionists, claimants and advice centre workers are all protesting that the review document doesn't seriously consider the needs of supplementary benefits claimants. What's more, it doesn't consider at all the problems faced by

claimants of other benefits - such as unemployment or sickness benefit - or of low income workers.

The CPSA and claimants' organisations have started a campaign for better working conditions and staffing levels in DHSS offices; rejection of the 'Social Assistance' document and for a guaranteed minimum income. There is to be a meeting at the Waterloo Action Centre at 8pm on December 14th, and anyone is welcome who would like to give support to this campaign.

## 'Don't sell the people's houses'

Dear SE1,

The Tory GLC housing policy is a bad policy for the working class. They do not get the rented houses which they should be entitled to. The option of renting houses is being eroded in the way that they are allocating houses.

They are selling off houses, which is not the reason they were built. For they were built for youngsters who cannot afford to buy their own houses, so they can get a good start and buy their own house later on. And

the new policy is not giving the young people a chance to have a family while the GLC is making houses scarce - and if this idea is kept on, there will be more young families homeless later on.

We will be going back to the old landlord rules. If people want to buy, they should buy from the private sector. This is my view of the housing situation.

Yours faithfully,  
Joe Watson.

## BOLLARDS AND LORRIES

Dear SE1,

Heavy traffic in Southwark Street is becoming an increasing problem, not only pollution-wise, and noise-wise, but also the increasingly widespread use of the bigger juggernaut-type articulated lorries. This means that pedestrians run a great risk of being injured trying to cross busy junctions as these huge vehicles try to negotiate narrow turnings.

An example of this is the junction at Southwark Bridge Road and Southwark Street. If

you try to cross the road from the United Friendly building side to the Ben Truman public house side, you run the risk of being run down by big lorries even if you stand 2-3 feet in from the kerb - witness the times the Council has had to replace concrete posts on that corner as daily giant vehicles knocked them over trying to turn left onto Southwark Bridge Road.

Another point is residents parking space. Being a parking permit holder, it infuriates me to see, every day, the same people (non-permit holders) parking on our space for hours at a time, and nine times out of ten getting away with it. It seems these people know the times the traffic wardens make their rounds of particular streets.

I am afraid it all to often appears to local residents there is one law for the rich, etc, as we see chauffeur-driven limousines left on yellow lines or on residents' parking spaces going unpunished for illegal parking. Either we should waive parking fees for local residents - or uphold the laws.

Yours sincerely  
Chris Forsyth  
140 Peabody Estate  
Southwark Street, SE1.

## BEDE HOUSE

### BEDE'S BARGAIN BASEMENT

wishes all readers a  
Happy Christmas

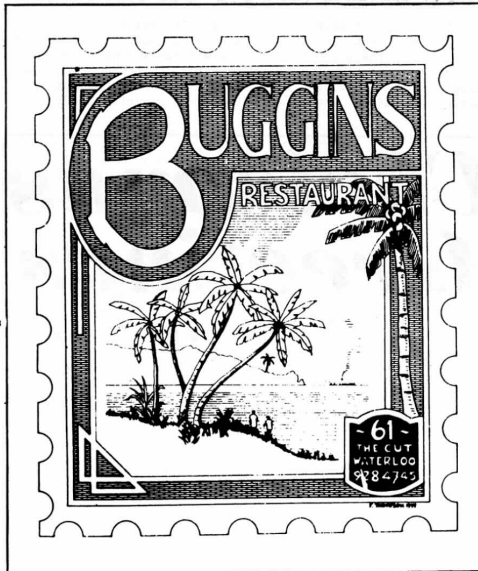
Bede House runs a secondhand shop near Southwark park to raise funds for local projects including youth clubs, adult literacy, visiting the elderly.

Any Secondhand Goods gratefully received. Open office hours.

351 Southwark Park Road  
Tel 237 3881

## Charlstan Promotions STALLS TO LET OPEN MARKET CHEAP DAY SAT

132 - 137 - 139 LOWER MARSH  
WATERLOO, LONDON SE1  
Tel: 01.928.7782



## YOUR MONEY: DECEMBER 31st DEADLINE !!!!

Once again, Lambeth Council is asking groups to put in ideas of projects which could be funded from the 'Inner City Money'. Remember that Lambeth is a 'Partnership Area', which means that the Government has decided to give extra money to Lambeth to tackle some of the problems which we as residents of an inner city face.

Last year, the Association of Waterloo Groups put forward a number of projects for inner city money, and were successful with some of the bids - such as a community van and improvement to three open space sites.

Other community groups in the northern half of Lambeth already have money allocated to them - for projects such as the conversion of a building, wages for workers to help run a project, clearing and using derelict land for recreation, starting a new project, money for equipment.

If your group wants to apply for some of this 'Inner City Money', the application will have to be in by DECEMBER 31st.

You can collect application forms from the Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, SE1 (Tel 261 1404); or ring 274 7722 Extension 269 and ask for an application form to be sent. When the form is completed, send it to JEREMY BROWN, at the Inner City Unit, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton SW2.

If you want any help or advice with this, call in at the Waterloo Action Centre.

The Association of Waterloo Groups will be discussing ideas for projects at their next meeting, which is on Tuesday 12th December at 7.15pm. If you have any ideas on what could be done to improve Waterloo, bring them along to the meeting, or drop them in an envelope addressed to the A.W.G., 14 Baylis Road,

## SCHOOLS PROTEST CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

They were demonstrating at the policy being recommended by the Education Authority,

under which any school would be closed where the number of children falls below a level of the Authority's own choosing - thus ignoring the interests and protests of parents and children.

The demonstration was called by the newly formed All London Campaign Against School Closures with a large (and nervous) police escort, they marched from Jubilee Gardens, round to the D.E.S. building in York Rd. and then to County Hall. There was a spontaneous and lively chant of 'Save our Schools' for

the duration of the march, and all the while they were outside County Hall.

Shirley Williams and Margaret Jackson at the D.E.S., and Ashley Bramall and Margaret Morgan at County Hall were all 'too busy' to meet the marchers, but letters of protest against the policy of school closures were presented to other representatives.

There is to be an open meeting on December 7th at 7pm at Friends House in Euston Road to discuss how to further the interests of the All London Campaign. If you want to help, come to the meeting, or contact Cedric Jackson, tel. 388 0241.



## SE1

12 Meymott Street, S.E.1.  
tel: 928-1643

## DATES

Mondays 8th & 15th January at 7.30pm.  
LAST DAY for articles:  
Monday 15th January.  
PASTE-UP WEEKEND: 20th & 21st January. Come and help - it's even fun!  
NEXT ISSUE COMES OUT ON JANUARY 26th.

## A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND THANKS TO ALL WHO HELP MAKE & DISTRIBUTE SE1

### DRIVEN BATS



In our October issue, we printed a picture of John Alderton and Co. filming part of a television play, with the comment that the residents did not bat an eyelid at the operation.

We were wrong, it seems - many residents do bat eyelids, (and maybe feel like batting the TV people) because they feel that the novelty has worn off. How would you like, they ask, to have this outside your house from 8 in the morning to 7 in the evening, with typewriters outside your window and staff leaving their rubbish and empty tea cups on the window sills. Also residents returning home from work find themselves driving around trying to find room to park, because the TV co. have taken up the residents' parking spaces with their cars - having previously put notes through the residents' doors asking them to not park their cars in the street because of filming a historic scene... etc! Can you beat it. They are looking for a little more respect for their privacy.

## TOWER MINI-MARKET 188 Tooley Street SE1

OPEN: Monday - Friday 6.30am-7pm  
Saturday 7am-2pm, 4pm-6.30pm  
Sunday 7.30am-1pm.

Tobacconist, confectionist, newsagent. Fruit and vegetables. Frozen foods. General groceries. Pre-Packaged meat. Fresh milk.

## Best wishes from the Members & Staff

### BLACKFRIARS SETTLEMENT WORK CENTRE

WATERLOO ACTION CENTRE  
14 BAYLIS ROAD LONDON SE1 7AA

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, SE1 Friends

Buy your Christmas cards and gifts from our shopfront stall at the Waterloo Action Centre: hand silkscreen-printed cards, beautiful woollen rugs, wooden plant stands. Well made, reasonably priced and attractive. - good value for money.

# WHAT'S YOUR STORY

A regular feature of SE1 since the first issue of July 1975, has been the Golden Oldy column reserved for the memories of local residents, reflecting on their lives and on the changes for good and bad they have lived through in the SE1 area. These personal recollections are always fresh to read and a vivid reminder of the struggles of the past and the struggles ahead, and of the living history of the area and of the people who live in it.

There must be so many more memories of the area though, and of SE1 people that are ready to be shared, to be recorded and written down, many more in fact than the pages of SE1 can cope with. So we are happy to announce a new programme of activities, starting January 1979 which aims to create more opportunities for local residents and workers to share their memories, experiences and ideas in a more direct and personal way.

## meetings

Some of the activities of this programme are: the tape-recording of residents' memories and stories of the area and the collecting of old photographs of the people, houses and streets of SE1 and of local events. All this material can be fed into group discussions and form the basis for regular activities such as weekly meetings (for example on a weekday evening at the WAC) and the publishing of collected writings and autobiographies as a book to be distributed locally.

All these activities come under a new project called SE1 People's Autobiography Project, which benefits from the support of the Community



HAVE YOU ANY OLD PHOTOGRAPHS LIKE THIS ONE OF OLD BANKSIDE.

Education Project backed by Morley College and the South Bank Adult Education Institute and the Workers' Educational Association.

## diaries

So if you would like to join weekly People's Autobiography group meetings at Waterloo Action Centre, or if you have any old diaries or written reminiscences of the area or old photographs, or if you would like to make recordings of the memories of local residents or if you know of local people who would like to be recorded, then please contact Peter Chester, Community Education Worker on 928-8501 or the workers at the Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Rd, tel: 251-1404, or us at SE1 tel: 928-1643.

Southwark-Bermondsey  
Constituency  
**CATHEDRAL BRANCH**  
Labour Party  
Happy Xmas to all SE1 residents.

Chairman: Ted Bowman Secretary: George Nicholson

## Advice Centre in the Blue

OPEN Monday 10.30 - 12.30  
Thursday 6.30 - 8.00  
Friday 2.00 - 4.00

Also open Thursdays 12.30 - 2pm for women with job problems.

CLOSED Dec 22nd - Jan 4th.

Pensions, Social Security, Housing, Employment, Family and Education rights. Also financial advice.

Resources, facilities and information for local groups.  
190 Southwark Park Road, SE16  
Phone 237 8277

**merry christmas**  
to

ALL RESIDENTS & WORKERS

## SOUTHWARK LAW PROJECT

190 Southwark Park Road  
SE16 Tel. 231 2471

### FREE LEGAL SERVICE

Housing, Social Security, National Insurance, Community Planning, Employment and Employment Rights.

OPEN Thursday 6.30 - 8.00pm  
or by appointment  
Ring: 231 2471.

CLOSED: Thursday, Dec 28th.

## once upon

Once upon a time, I had a dream. The dream was cloudy and misty - but then so was the area it covered. Although the fog had disappeared, black clouds were constantly over this wide area, causing much distress and strain to the inhabitants who lived and worked within its boundaries, so that a once heart-throbbing city was slowly becoming a ghost town.

The dream concerned a building, a very large and prominent building with fine views over a beautiful river. Although the building was not a zoo, it contained many inhuman beings who acted like greedy and wicked animals. They bullied and made decisions which made life intolerable for everyone outside the building and in the surrounding areas. The pigs were inside - but they were creating a huge sty outside: vacant land from a previous war



## Rockingham Xmas Takes Off



## a time ... WATERLOO FUN SET

was left as a monument of long-age times. (Everyone thought Hitler was a rogue, but these animals were doing more damage to London than Hitler - and they had a licence to do it!).

There was Greedy Horace, who was their leader. He was always easily recognisable, for he dressed like he acted - in a penguin suit, whose very heavily starched collar made it very difficult to turn his head in any other direction than towards the providers of tit-bits - printed green paper which he devoured greedily and kept asking for more. The providers of these tit-bits also had a licence, that was to print these green bits of paper; and in return they were allowed to do what they liked on these empty plots of land. They built and built, using every available inch, right up to the sky - they even built in the sky. Where a dividing line had to be made between the buildings, to provide access, they even built across these access points.

They gave no thought to the people who lived there, causing great strain and confusion. People who only knew how to work with their hands found themselves without a job - for where they once worked stood other kinds of factories, where only workers with white collars from afar were allowed, not local people who wore blue collars.

Some of daughters of this community had to move away to find suitable work and accommodation, leaving their parents to get old and lonely. The result was that the area surrounding the Animal Building changed from 20,000 happy-go-lucky people, to 5,000 not so happy people.

## Soon angry

They weren't so sad, either, though. Not for long, anyway. When they saw their relatives, schools and shops start to disappear, when they saw new council houses set aside for people - like them being sold off to the very rich, they began to see the light, and to get angry rather than sad. Some light had come years earlier, when they saw their local chemist become a snack bar, when a local church was turned into a theatre, when a bank became a wine bar, and high-class restaurants took the place of cheap cafes.

The people then banded together to fight these wrong-decision-making Animals. Gradually, they started to win a few battles - but the big war was still to come. The organised residents, together with the other authorities who were on the side of the people, were fed up with the meddling band sitting there in the middle of their red tape (which just made everything longer and more difficult), and they decided to do away with the whole set-up

at County Hall. Everyone was delighted with the demolition of the G.L.C. - more buses appeared on the road lovely houses with gardens were built near the river Thames, young children's voices could be heard, happy with laughter, the elderly had young people to help them. A heart appeared in the centre of the city, the joyous spirit revived. County Hall which was once a big joke and which arranged many farces was maintained in the same line of business, by being turned into a Music Hall. The chambers became real stages for real cockney humour. Roy Hudd was made director and - redressing the balance of the Arts complex - it needed no financial backing from public funds. For with existing rooms converted into Vaudeville, and River Thames Museums, and a Chamber of Horrors (where incidentally Greedy Horace, Piglet George and Old Sow Shelagh were stuffed and put in cages): a place for all the family, in fact, with something for everyone. 'Full House' notices were always displayed.

## but then...

Then I awoke - it was the 'day of judgement', a public enquiry. The dream was a reality, but to awake was the nightmare. Can we get rid of the nightmare? Of course we can. Why? Because we are in the majority and we have the strength - so let that dream come true: London and Waterloo belong to US.

## "KING" OF THE ROAD

ALL THOSE OF YOU WHO THOUGHT THAT KING WENCESLAS was something to do with Christmas forget it. The only connection nowadays is size 10 Kango boots. For this 'king' drives a tractor trailer rig and shops at the Trucker's Paradise, the recently opened mecca for fellow travellers in Marshalsea Road, Borough.

The King and others like Breaker One go there for their custom chrome vertical exhausts, 3ft air horns or citizens band radio manuals so they can keep tabs on the 'bears', more commonly known as the boys in blue among other things.

Trucks these days range from elaborate models of the real thing that make Dinky Toys look like Christmas cracker prizes to huge double tractor rigs that make the people that drive them look like elaborate models. Wherever you fit in this loose fast world you will find all you need at the Trucker's Paradise.

All those kids who have problems after Christmas with fathers who take over newly-acquired train sets, slip across to Marshalsea Road and buy a copy of Cowboy Jack Derrick singing 'Truck Driving Man' and other 50's classics now re-released by Gusto records. Once the old man hears those his eyes will glaze over and the train set will be yours again although you may have problems when he gets his model truck stuck on your level crossing.

Apart from kids and footloose fathers and mothers who are tuning into the truckers world, real truckers are using the shop in increasing numbers. Andy Harris who runs the shop says that in the last week a Dane, 2 spaniards and the 'Flying Dutchman' had called in. Andy, who once drove trucks, says the only reason Trucker's Paradise is in Marshalsea Road is that he worked over the road at Electro-sound and noticed the shop (previously Dr Stone's surgery) was to let.



The next nearest truckers shop is in Stockport, Cheshire, so all roads in the South now lead to Marshalsea Road as far as truckers are concerned. So why not join the King of the Road and join in that well known Christmas Carol 'While truckers watched their clocks by night.....'



## NO MORE WALLS

The subject of dossiers and vagrants is one that is guaranteed to spark off an explosive reaction in SE1. This has been particularly true in recent months with the Tress House issue and for this reason the appearance of a new book on the subject couldn't have come at a more appropriate time.

'No More Walls' is a loosely written account by an ex-alcoholic vagrant, of his thoughts and experiences through 16 years of the streets, prisons, mental hospitals and hostels that form the world of the single homeless. Much of this period of his life was spent in SE1, and he describes vividly what it is like to be a dossier in a largely hostile community.

The book is a moving account of the vicious spiral of homelessness and alcoholism, and

allows the reader a glimpse behind the unsavoury appearance to see the people concerned as human beings with problems not so different from the problems that most of us face at some time in our lives. No-one, least of all the author, would deny that these people are a problem to others as well as themselves, but when considering this we would do well to remember the many who "... are dying from drink and exposure in that open-sky dormitory where they'll sleep tonight, or walking about the streets of the big lonely city in the daytime, scratching for a pick-me-up".

'No More Walls', by James Nelson is published by Bonfire Press and is available, price 95p, from Publications Distribution Co-operative, 27 Clerkenwell Close, E.C.1.

## BEYOND THE GOLDEN AGE

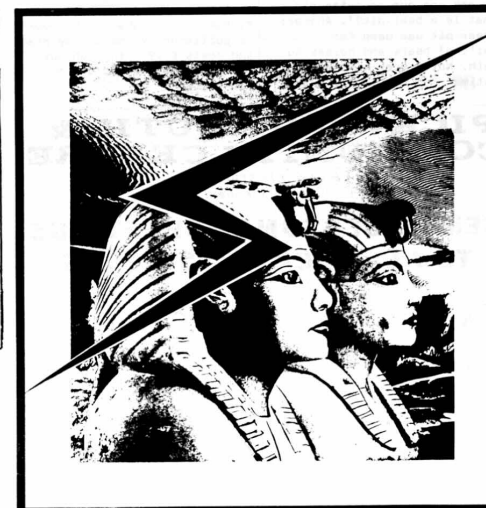
WED DEC 13-SAT DEC 23

REGRET NO CHILD AGAINST THE WILL OF GODS  
FOR IF YOU GIVE BIRTH TO TWIN DAUGHTERS  
ONE OF THEM SHALL SLAY THEE  
AND ALL YOUR HOUSE SHALL TREAD  
THE PATH OF BLOOD

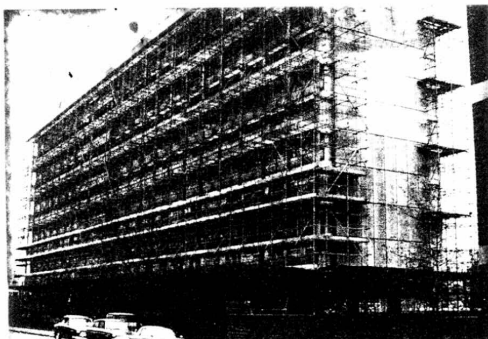
starts 7.45

price 90p members  
non-members 90p + membership 50p

OVAL HOUSE, 54 KENNINGTON OVAL. 01-735 2786







## IMPRISONED!

TENANTS IN SYMINGTON HOUSE, off Harper Road, are becoming increasingly angry at the way they are being treated by their landlords, the GLC.

Imagine if without warning your block of flats was suddenly surrounded by scaffolding and workmen started drilling holes in your walls. In an effort to find out what was going on 4 tenants went to see Sir Reg Goodwin the local GLC Councillor. What he had to tell them was not the sort of news that makes you rest easy. He told them that the work being carried out was on the orders of the District Surveyor, who had told the GLC that unless work was started to rectify the crumbling concrete building he would issue a dangerous structure notice. The tenants have known for a long

time that something was wrong when lumps of concrete started falling off the building and elsewhere started to crumble, exposing the metal re-inforcing bars to the elements. A report submitted to the GLC housing management committee states that as a temporary measure the loose concrete must be chipped away and replaced, but this still leaves the long term future of the flats in some question. Sir Reg gave the tenants an assurance that they were in no danger and that he would ask Mrs J. Tatham the Chairperson of the GLC housing management committee to hold a meeting at the earliest opportunity to explain to tenants what was going on and answer any questions the tenants may have. IT CERTAINLY SEEMS OVERDUE.

THERE'S A BEAR PIT AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR GARDEN.

Rumour has it that at the back of Castle Yard, off Hopton Street, there is an original Elizabethan bear pit, in the basement of an old tannery. You may ask, as our reporter did, 'What is a bear pit?'. Answer: a bear pit was used for 'baiting' bears and horses to death. Not a very pleasant pastime

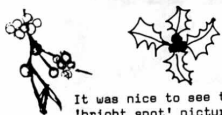
A ROSE  
BEYOND  
THE THAMES

We regret that in our review last month of 'A Rose Beyond the Thames', we omitted to say that the author's name is Michael de Larrabeti, the book is published by The Bodley Head and costs £3.95. You can buy it at W.H. Smiths and other booksellers.

## PICKWICK YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

at 1 RUSHWORTH STREET, S.E.1.  
(Corner Pocock Street)

## SENDS SEASONAL GREETINGS TO ALL LOCAL RESIDENTS



It was nice to see the 'bright spot' picture of the mural at the Pickwick in the November issue - here's hoping you find lots more 'bright spots' to report in 1979.



## FIGHTING BACK

As the construction workers strike at the Newington Butts housing site continues, a new committee has been formed by trade unionists in Southwark to fight the run-down of the Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) in the borough.

What is at stake is work on building new houses, doing repairs and maintenance, and work on repairing and building new roads, sewers, etc. The question is whether this work should be done by private contractors or by workers employed directly by the Council (the DLO).

You may think it doesn't matter who does the work, as long as it gets done. But in fact the question concerns all of us, since both cost (we pay) and quality (we use what's built) are affected. The article

on page 9 explains why.

A Southwark Council committee which does most of its work behind closed doors, has decided that the borough's DLO shall be run down, its workers sacked, and future work given to private contractors. Sackings began in September of bricklayers and plasterers at the Newington site while advertisements appeared in papers for sub-contract labour to replace them. This is what led to the strike.

The trade union committee was formed to fight this run-down and defend the jobs and the quality of building work in the borough. It has the support of the Trades Council, and is to take steps to contact organisations such as tenants associations for their support. At the same time, it is preparing a pamphlet setting out the arguments for keeping the DLO in existence and for putting pressure on councillors to add their weight to the campaign.

They are likely to be calling not only for the abolition of the absurd 'rule' by which only 25% of the council's work is allocated to the DLO, but also for a reshaping of the management of Southwark Construction (as the Council department responsible for new building work is called).

At the moment, Southwark Construction is managed under the guidance of BOVIS, a private company which gets £150,000 a year in fees for its 'advice' - at the same time as it is putting in its own private tenders for council contracts: hardly a recipe to benefit the people of the borough.

One problem faced by the new committee is shortage of funds to print the pamphlet it is preparing. Any donation to help this work would be welcomed, however small, and can be sent to the Secretary, Bob Gordon, 11 Dunlin House, Osprey Estate, SE16.

## COLD AND OLD

In weather such as we are now having, elderly, disabled and sick people are particularly at risk, and it is essential to keep them warm.

That is why families, friends and neighbours are being asked to keep an eye on those at risk in Lambeth - particularly if they live alone. If they need help to keep warm, Lambeth Social Services and AGE CONCERN, Lambeth are ready to provide it, but they cannot always know when and where it is urgently needed. That is where you come in.

If you find someone who needs help which you cannot give yourself, contact either the Social Services Area office where they live (telephone 274 7722, extension 651 for details) - or else ring Age Concern Lambeth, 274 7722, extension 9.

## Stake-out

Southwark Trades Council helped the workers at Garners Steak Houses in their struggle for a living wage by persuading Middlemass bakery in Bermondsey Street to stop supplies of scab bread.

For ten months staff have been picketing Garners in their fight to allow the T&GWU to represent them. A waiter took home £28-49p a week for a compulsory 55 hours work.

Now they are organising a mass 'stake-out' of all branches on the evening of Friday 8th December. Several branches are quite close to SE1, especially in the Haymarket and Lower Regent Street, which are on convenient bus routes.

Be careful if Mrs Margolis, the boss' wife, appears. She was fined £25 last week for assaulting a picket - her lawyer said she was just brushing aside some leaflets. She should be more careful in future.



## Police Rampage in Brixton

Imagine yourself quietly taking the week's shopping from your mother's car into the flat and having to justify yourself to a dozen policemen who leap out of an inconspicuous Transit van. "If I hadn't been there they would have arrested him" the mother in this instance told the press.

'Him' in this case was a young black, a favourite target of the Special Patrol Group, who have been carrying out what one community worker described as a 'mini counter-insurgency exercise' this last month. In two similar swoops in 1975 the SPG made fourteen thousand stop-and-searches of people they selected more or less at random.

They also arrest people using the discredited 1824 Vagrancy Act. One firm of solicitors said that 'sus' cases they have dealt with since the SPG have been in the area have doubled.

If any readers of SE1 have been 'interviewed' by the SPG we would like to hear about it.

## SE1 says



SE1 started because many local people felt there was a need for a newspaper to cover the local news and express views and comments of local people which are never printed in papers like the South London Press.

The fact that SE1 is flourishing 3½ years later proves that it does fulfil this need. But it's not just local news that doesn't get printed. There are many events in this country and abroad, and points of view, which also never get into the commercial papers, even though they are important to working class people everywhere. We think that SE1 should also try and cover some of these stories and on this page we have printed 5 articles to show the kind of things we mean.

We would like to know your opinion: would you like to see these kinds of stories covered in this paper? Please write and tell us what you think to 12 Reynott Street, London SE1.

## Vicious Attack on Direct Labour

You've probably noticed that someone's running a major campaign against Direct Labour organisations. These are the departments of local councils which do construction or repair work with labour directly employed by the council - rather than it being done by outside contractors.

Employers organisations have recently joined together with the Tory Party and spent over £1 million pushing out propaganda in favour of the private contracting system.

The background to all this is well explained in a recent pamphlet called 'Building with Direct Labour', whose writers ruthlessly expose the consequences of the contracting system. The competition for contracts, known as 'tendering', leads to corner-cutting and rushed, shoddy jobs (tenants of the Aylesbury Estate in Waltham know all about that problem), and on the other hand to 'price ringing' by the monopolies in the materials or contract sphere. Meanwhile, house-building programmes are frequently interrupted by sub-con-

tractors going bankrupt or threatening to do so unless they are paid vastly increased prices for the work.

Hence the attack on the Direct Labour organisations, which build as a service and therefore more reliably; and which do work which the private contractors would like to get their hands on.

## Cuts

At the GLC, the Tory administration has already cut the Direct Labour force from 1400 to about 800, and now it has ordered that it cannot tender for new work. Even the Foxley Road site in Stockwell, which had been won by the Direct Labour department in open competition with private contractors, is now being handed over to the latter.

But it isn't just the Tories. The Labour government is itself proposing that DLOs should be forced to operate like private contractors, tendering for all contracts and having to show 'profits'. And Labour councils such as Southwark are joining in the attack.



There is opposition, however. In Southwark a committee has been formed (see page 9). The Confederation of Local Authority Stewards (CLAWS) is setting up and co-ordinating Action Groups throughout the country to defend Direct Labour. These groups include local shop stewards and tenants representatives, and are seen as the best hope for resisting the employers' attack.

Meanwhile, Southwark Council has made its first move towards surrender on the issue, by laying off twelve workers from Southwark Construction (the Council's Direct Labour department), before the job they were working on was even completed, and taking on contract labour instead.

## Councils put the squeeze on community centres

In Westminster the City Council has voted to withdraw their Urban Aid grant to the 510 Centre on the Harrow Road, North Paddington for taking a stand against racism. Without the grant the centre will have to close. The North Paddington area contains a high number of black and immigrant people and the Paddington Campaign against Racism which is based at the Centre issued a leaflet advising people not to vote for the National Front at the local elections last May. The 510

Centre acts as an advice centre for housing and social security and provides a meeting place and support for 21 groups including tenants and residents groups, claimants union, pensioners group and credit union. In the face of massive public opinion - press, TV, MP's, petition, public meetings of 150 people and demonstrations the Council has offered to continue the grant if the Centre agrees not to support any political activity or anything which attacks Council policy, a demand which would castrate every activity of the Centre and make it impossible to continue. So the fight is still on.

Ever since the Tories took over Wandsworth Council they have been cutting Council spending especially on Social Services and Housing. The latest attack is on the three Law Centres in Balham, Wandsworth and Battersea. In the past year 11,000 people have been to the Law Centres 'for advice or representation' (and the Battersea Law Centre has only been operating six months). Without even investigating the work of the centres or the need for their services the Public Accountability Subcommittee of the Council is recommending to reduce the grant to the Law Centres. A public campaign is being run to oppose the Council action including a lobby of MPs at the House of Commons.

These attempts to close North Southwark Community Development Group, 510 Centre and the Wandsworth Law Centres reflects the fear of Conservatives and right wing Labour Councils for community centres and community workers whose help to people organising for better housing, employment or environment creates trouble for the Council that they would rather do without.

## £10 million loss on GLC home sales

Tory dogma is proving rather expensive for London ratepayers. Their hostility to the idea of providing council housing is so great that they are even prepared to lose ten million pounds and keep over a thousand homes empty in carrying out their policies.

The ten million pounds - and it could even rise to fifteen before very long - is the total of the discounts they are giving to sell the houses the last Labour administration got built but not finished before the Tories took over.

Gladys Dimson, Labour's spokesman on housing, said "I am also alarmed that they will change hands in a few years time at enormous profits".

The Tory chairman of the housing committee is reported to be 'unmoved'.

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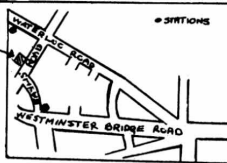
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We are a team of lawyers and social workers who can offer you free legal advice on all sorts of problems:

Housing, consumer, matrimonial, debts, tax and insurance, wills, legal aid, court procedures, personal accident and injury, employment, unfair dismissal, social security, motoring offences etc. We can help you to write letters or complete forms or do them for you and can contact other agencies, the Council, landlords, government bodies on your behalf.



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## OH! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY OLD TYME DANCING AT THE COLOMBO ST. CENTRE

On November 5th at the Colombo Street Sports and Community Centre, one could almost hear the whisper of 'What a beautiful morning. Oh! What a beautiful day!' for through the co-operation of the Committee, the National Federation of Old Tyme Amateur Dance Clubs put on a Mini-Festival of Dancing to remember.

The British Amateur Dancers Association (R.A.D.A. Old Tyme Section) co-ordinated with Lectures from Nancy Clarke, the newly appointed president of the International Dance Teachers Association, and Jack Briggs of T.V.s Formation Come Dancing past winners, from Bradford, Yorks.

Competitions followed, including the South of England Closed Championship, for which couples resident in the South of England were able to compete. Nineteen couples for this event took the floor, and it was won by Andrew Mollard of Easby, partnered by Angela Skeay of Ramsgate, Kent.

Other competitions were: over 18yrs of age, and all age groups to the over 50s. Ladies dresses, all colours of the Rainbow shimmering with sequins and Diamante made the Main Hall an absolute delight of colour and spectacle, and was witnessed by an audience of some 300, of which nearly 100 complimentary tickets had been given to Dance enthusiasts from the local residents.

Before the finals, to the delight of the crowd, the Mayor and Mayoress of Southwark came to present the awards. Although on a tight itinerary, they stayed well into the evening for the Social Ball. The Mayoress did a walk-about and showed a keen interest in the ladies' dresses, chatted up many of the local residents, and was soon one of the crowd on the Dance Floor. Arthur Wright, Member of the Management Committee for Sequence

*EMAP  
Music Hall*

Waterloo Amenities, in conjunction with Lambeth Amenities held their first show of the season on Friday November 24th. It was an Old Tyme Music Hall, and all who came enjoyed a first class show. The next show to be held will be a 'Xmas Music Hall' to be held at the Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road on December 15th at 7.30. Make a date and come along. Admission 50p, Senior Citizens 25p. They have four more shows for 1979, so watch out for their posters.



Dancing, together with his wife Gladys, were presented to the Mayor and Mayoress, whose verdict on the evening was: 'It is grand to see what was once a derelict building being put to such good use!'. And the crowd's verdict on them? 'A smashing couple!'.

The final phase of the day was at 8 o'clock, when Arthur and Gladys, your resident IEA tutors, took the floor to M.C. the Social Ball, with dancing till 11 o'clock.

As reported in the September issue of SE1, the A.C.E. Club has rented the Hall every second Sunday in the month at 4pm, and all local residents are welcome to come. Arthur and Gladys welcome enquiries, and will give all the assistance you require to start you on a Grand Hobby of Social Dancing. Put a note with your name and address in the letter box at the Centre, they will be only too pleased to contact you - and remember, these letters lettings by the Committee help your Centre to help itself.

## YOUR HEALTH

A group of us met together at the Waterloo Action Centre on November 20th, to see whether we could start a 'relaxation & exercise' class for ourselves locally.

Most of us are pensioners. Some of us are quite active and others are more disabled. We all suffer with stiffness, aches and pains, and agreed that a bit of relaxation and exercise would do us some good. So far, there are twelve of us, and we are looking for more people to join the class.

We decided to hold the class in the morning at Colombo St. Sports and Community Centre. Transport will be available from Waterloo Action Centre for those who are less mobile. Peter Chester (community education worker) came to the meeting, and he is trying to find a tutor. We hope to start the class

in the new year - the starting date will be printed in the next issue of SE1. If you wish to join us, at the Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, (Tel 261 1404) for details.

DO YOU WANT TO STOP SMOKING?

Have you wanted to stop smoking for a long time and never got around to it? Have you tried before and not quite managed to give up? What you need is the support of other smokers trying to kick the habit too!

Come to the Waterloo Action Centre and add your name to the list of those people who want to join a local stop-smoking group. We hope to get one started in the New Year. The Health Education Officer (St. Thomas' District) has agreed to start a group in Waterloo if there is enough interest.

## YOUR COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

I have recently been nominated to replace Bernie Spain as the representative of the Association of Waterloo Groups and the North Lambeth Neighbourhood Council on the local (St. Thomas' District) Community Health Council.

What is the Community Health Council (CHC) and what can it do for you? It is a group of people nominated by the local borough councils and voluntary organisations to represent the views of local people about the National Health Service.

Your views on any aspect of the health service that affects you, from general issues like the closing of the Lambeth Hospital to any problem you have in using the service.

For example, in August, my 3-year-old put his finger in my electric mixer, which sliced the top off. I had to wait over 3 hours in the casualty department at St. Thomas' with him and my younger child. I complained about this through the CHC - and anything of this kind may be taken up with us.

Our office are in Claver Street, just off Kennington Cross, where we meet monthly - anyone interested may attend a meeting (first Thursday of the month from 7.00pm). Or if you want advice, or help in finding a dentist perhaps, or in complaining, or in knowing about any health matter or in expressing your views, you may also drop in at our office during the day - there are two full-time paid staff who run the CHC and are ready to help you. But I am your special representative, and I will welcome hearing from you, so please do not hesitate to contact me. I'm in close contact with Jane Miller, and involved with the Waterloo Health Project. You can get hold of me CLAUDINE MCCREADIE, either through Jane at the Waterloo Action Centre (Tel. 261 1404); or through the North Lambeth Neighbourhood Council in Lambeth Walk.

There is already a regular anti-smoking clinic in Stockwell every Thursday evening from 6.30 - 8.00pm, run by St. Thomas'. You don't need an appointment, just turn up. It's at Health Education, The Community Health Service Office, Bromfield Road, (off Jeffrey's Road, London SW4.)

*merry* **North Southwark  
Community Development Group** *Xmas*

108 Great Guildford Street

**WE NEED HOMES, SHOPS, JOBS, AND NOT OFFICES & TOURISTS**

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# Coin Street INQUIRY DATE SET

The public inquiry into the future of the five Lambeth and four Southwark Coin Street sites has provisionally been set to start with a 1-day meeting during the week 3-10 April. This will be followed by a six to eight week inquiry starting 23rd May.

These decisions - still to be confirmed - were taken at a meeting held at the Department of the Environment last week. Representatives from the Association of Waterloo Groups and the North Southwark Community Development Group were invited to the meeting and they insisted that at least some of the Inquiry be held in the evenings to allow working people a chance to speak. The Government agreed to this demand and also agreed that at least some of the Inquiry would be held at the Colombo Street Sports Centre.

A spokesperson for the Coin Street Action Group told SE1: "The Public Inquiry system is stacked in favour of private developers who can afford barristers, solicitors, architects, planners and fleets of other so-called 'experts', and stacked against the people who are really affected by the decisions: the local communities. In this case the GLC is adding insult to injury by putting a large team of publicly-paid officials at the disposal of the property developers."

"But our message to other residents and workers in Waterloo and North Southwark is this: the decision as to what will happen to the South Bank is a political and not a legal one. If we show that we are a united

community determined to actively oppose the office developers then we will win the battle for the Coin Street sites. But we must demonstrate this opposition publicly. Our aim must be to make it too embarrassing politically for any Government to allow more offices on the South Bank."

## Public rally

The Action Group are offering information, advice and support to all individuals and groups who want to speak at the Inquiry. The Group is also planning a public rally to coincide with the Inquiry to which it hopes all local workers and residents - including children - will come. In the meantime it has prepared a leaflet asking people who are sympathetic to the campaign to

- \* help the Action Group by coming to its meetings, delivering leaflets, gathering evidence for the Inquiry, organising fund-raising events including a Benefit Party in the Colombo Street hall.

- \* getting friends, neighbours and workmates to support the campaign.

- \* giving a donation - however small - to the South Bank Campaign Fund. Collection boxes have been placed in the Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis R Road and in the North Southwark Community Development Group premises at 108 Great Guildford Street, but the Action Group would be grateful if local Publicans could offer to display collection boxes. (The Action Group can be contacted on 261 1404.)

## PECKHAM PALACE continued

period of 6 years by reading out a list of meetings which showed exactly the opposite.

However the Town Hall is no laughing matter. It has exposed a ruthlessness in Southwark councillors and senior officers which threatens the future development of services in the borough. The Town Clerk, Mr ST Evans, claimed in a series of public statements that there will be no cuts in Council services. This is rubbish. Anyone can see that if £70 million can be found out of the rates for a town hall, it can obviously be used in other ways too. If the town hall goes ahead, parks, swimming pools, recreation facilities, maintenance of roads and pavements, social

services and many other areas will be denied adequate funds.

Coral Newall, one of the 'new wave' of councillors elected last May to represent Riverside Ward, told SE1 that she voted against a further period of consultation, but that she was uncertain about the Town Hall scheme as proposed, and is waiting to hear the view of the ward party before making up her mind. Peter Fowler, the other Riverside councillor said he supports the monster scheme.

The Town Hall must be stopped or we in North Southwark will suffer. Try and make the next Council meeting on 17 January at 6.30pm at the Town Hall in Peckham Road and demonstrate against this nightmare.

## TENISON STORES SPAR SHOP

Tenison Way opposite  
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WHAT DO YOU DO WITH NINE REDUNDANT HORSE TROUGHS?

There aren't many horses around anymore, so Lambeth Council thinks it a waste of money maintaining the nine horse troughs located in the borough. If you want to buy one, or can think of a good use for them, just let Lambeth know.

## workers locked out

The 'play-the-tough-employer' attitude adopted by Southwark Council in response to the long-running Social Workers strike has led to escalation which will have effects on housing repairs housing transfers and allocation of housing of the waiting list, in addition to the effects already being felt by clients of the Social Services department.

## Social services mail blacked

Following the lock-out by Council management of 15 workers in the Housing Department, for carrying out their union policy of blacking mail to the Social Services dept. in support of their colleagues on strike there, workers at the Bournemouth Road housing office voted to strike, and other housing offices are expected to follow suit. This would mean that work at the homeless families unit, on housing welfare, on allocation of houses for people off the waiting list, housing transfers, and repairs carried out through the Peckham, Southwark and Bermondsey district estates offices will grind to a halt.

Not content with this action, Southwark proceeded to lock out workers in the Valuer's section at the Town Hall (which includes, ironically, people working on the proposed New Town Hall!).

Meanwhile, workers in voluntary agencies are reporting severe effects of the dispute from all sides, as people who would normally have received support and advice from social workers find themselves 'in the cold'. One example told of a mother with a young child who has been without heating for several weeks, owing to a fault in the heating system. Normally the social services dept. would have ensured an emergency source of heating, but this is now impossible, and the voluntary agency is worried, particularly as the child is sick.

There is growing anger at the Council's failure to take steps to resolve the dispute after the clear rejection by the union of an inadequate offer by the employers. The offer was based on a proposed system of 'grading' work and workers which would have made it easy for the employers to 'grade' workers down to the same level of pay which was already seen as quite unacceptable months ago.

## Colombo Street Sports and Community Centre

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

every second Sunday in the month at 4pm.

\*Starting soon - activities for the young deaf, 18-35yrs. contact 928 2755..

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.

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Telephone: 928 4179 or 261 1404.