

SE1 residents tell Bankside Inquiry inspector:

# 'IT'S OURS!'



**Dates to watch:**  
see page 2.

"THIS RIVERSIDE BELONGS TO US, THE PEOPLE. WE WANT IT, IT'S OURS AND WE'RE GOING TO HAVE IT".

With these words, Wally Warbey, of the Millpond Tenants Association, voiced the feelings and demands of more than 100 people who filled the Borough Community Centre in Southwark Bridge Road on March 14th.

The occasion was a 'special' session of the Public Inquiry over the future of the Bankside sites, where local people are fighting to get family housing built. The session was 'special', because public inquiries are normally held during working hours, when many people are unable to attend; so in order that views of local people could be heard by the Inspector during the Inquiry, an evening session was arranged.

Speaker after speaker came forward during the 2½ hour sitting to explain why the inhabitants of SE1 are united in the demand for family housing on the Bankside site. Lawyer John Hobson from the Southwark Law Project, who was presenting the case for the people of the area, had arranged for representatives from local groups and tenants associations to give evidence, but after these had spoken there were still many more who wanted to come forward spontaneously and add their voices to the case.

## a place to live — and work

Bankside Power Station worker Clive Stevens told the inspector that he was married last year and is living in a block of flats in Hopton Street which share one bathroom and outside toilets, and which are about to be demolished. He wants to stay living in the area where he works, he said. Anne Keane from the Rockingham Tenants Association said that many of those now living on the Rockingham Estate had been moved there from the Red Cross Way area near Bankside, and wanted to move back to that area. There was a shortage of family housing she said, and explained

how Southwark Council, despite its talk about public consultation, had blocked every proposal the Rockingham tenants had made for improving the play facilities there, so families wanted to move off the estate.

Lois Acton, from the Bermondsey Lamp-post Group, said that some of the parents in the Group had been forced to move miles away, but trekked daily back to Bermondsey to see relatives and friends. "Everyone in the Group, from the oldest grandparent to the youngest of the children, is adamant that they want to be able to live in Bermondsey", she said.

THE BRIGHT YELLOW AGE CONCERN mobile bus pictured below is back on the Rockingham and Heygate Estates selling welfare foods and giving advice to pensioners..... See page 7 for details.



On February 28th, the children of Friars school gave the Deputy Head, Peter Lucac, a surprise assembly of "this is your life", and reminisced about all the events that had taken place in the five and a half years he had worked in the school.

Surprise guest "flown in at great expense", was his wife. The children had kept the secret well, as he had no idea what form the assembly was to take. At the end of "This is Your Life" they gave him a radio cassette.

In the evening, the school

gave a party. One hundred and twenty parents, teachers and ex-teachers, friends of the school and old pupils came to say goodbye to a popular teacher. During the course of the evening Peter Lucas, dark horse, revealed that he had attended Friars Primary School as a boy - and showed school photographs to prove it.

During the evening, a presentation was also made by Mr. Baines, the parent manager, on behalf of the Managers, to Ms. Dennisby, for thirty years service to ILEA, twenty six of which have been spent at Friars.



## FIRE STATION CUTS

"IT'S YOUR LIVES AND HOMES they are gambling with," residents were told by the Fire Brigade Union representatives at a public meeting held in Bermondsey..... see page 8.

## COUNCIL STRIKES

MARCH SAW THE END OF TWO MAJOR disputes involving Southwark Council employees - although in neither case were the employees happy with the deal they got... ..see page 3.

# COIN STREET COUNTDOWN

## Dates to watch

**FRIDAY APRIL 6th 2.30 p.m.**  
AT Colombo St Sports & Community Centre. An official public meeting to sort out the arrangements for the Public Inquiry. The meeting is expected to last into the evening.

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 18th 7.30p.m.**  
AT Colombo St. Centre: A public meeting organized by the Coin St. Action Group to inform local people about the issues, the Inquiry and how to influence it. Introduced by John Hobson, of Southwark Law Project.

**FRIDAY APRIL 20th 8 p.m.**  
Action Group Benefit Party (see ad. on this page).

**SATURDAY APRIL 28th 2pm - 5 pm**  
AT Colombo St, a meeting organized by the Action Group for local people, with speakers from Community groups in Battersea, Covent Garden and Archway.

**MONDAY MAY 22nd**

## Inquiry begins

Because of its importance to the future of Central London and to our community in particular, the Government say it will continue for at least 2 months. It will be held at the Colombo St. Centre and John Marshall Hall, by Blackfriars Rd. The Action Group is organizing a public rally on May 22nd, to mark the opening of the Inquiry.

## WHO DECIDES ?

The Inquiry Inspector, Mr. SG Walters, will be assisted by 2 "assessors". They will listen to the views of Lambeth, GLC, and Southwark Council Officers, the private developers and local people, before submitting a report to the Secretary of State for the Environment.

## BATTLE FOR WATERLOO BENEFIT BOP

on Friday 20 April

at Colombo St. Sports and Community Centre

LIVE MUSIC FROM  
SKIN DEEP  
AND  
SHARPE HUNTER BAND  
WITH  
DISCO

also TAPE SLIDE SHOW  
on COIN STREET  
REAL ALE FOOD

Tickets £1 (60p for pensioners & claimants)

From WATERLOO ACTION CENTRE 14 BAYLIS ROAD SE1  
Tel 261 1404



Despite lashing rain and howling wind, over 200 people from Covent Garden, Waterloo and North Southwark marched to County Hall on March 13th, to protest against the Tory GLC's policy of building offices on land previously earmarked for housing. The Covent Garden marchers, dressed in black and carrying flaming torches, escorted a hearse, coffin and skeleton which symbolised the death of plans to revitalise the area. They were met on Waterloo Bridge by Waterloo and North Southwark residents dressed in white and carrying a placard saying 'Central London is becoming a ghost town!'. The march shows that the residential communities of central London are becoming increasingly aware of the danger of being picked off one by one by the alliance formed by the GLC Tories and their Property Developing friends.

## TAPE SLIDE SHOW

The Coin Street Campaign and Blackfriars Photography Project have produced a tape-slide show, which presents the arguments for family housing, not offices, on the 9 South-Bank sites.

It has been made so that as many people as possible can be informed about the issues involved, in a clearly presented way.

The show lasts for 25 minutes, and runs automatically. It can be booked, with equipment, from Waterloo Action Centre (tel. 261 1404). Speakers are willing to come along with the show, to answer questions. If you would like to find out more about the Coin Street Campaign, then book this show! It has been made to be used.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO ?

### GIVE A DONATION :

The Campaign costs money, and the Association of Waterloo Groups is appealing for contributions to the South Bank Campaign Fund. Already local individuals have put more than £60 into collection boxes, the Covent Garden Community Assn. and the T&GWU (SW London Branch) have each given £20. The N. Lambeth & N. Southwark Community Education Project has given £60 towards the cost of the new tape-slide show.

### MORE IS URGENTLY NEEDED

TALK TO YOUR FRIENDS, your neighbours and your workmates, and persuade them to support the Campaign  
PERSUADE YOUR TENANTS' ASSOCIATION and UNION BRANCH to support the Campaign  
WRITE TO THE PRESS and let them know what local people think  
GIVE SOME TIME & ENERGY

The Action Group needs help to distribute leaflets, run the Benefit Bop and for many other tasks. If you can help, contact it at :  
The Waterloo Action Centre  
14 Baylis Rd., Tel 261-1404

## S.E.1 Women's Issue

COMING OUT IN MAY...  
ALL WOMEN WELCOME  
AT OUR NEXT MEETING  
ON WEDS. APRIL 4th  
7.30 at 12 MEYMOTT ST.

## Housing or Offices ?

Europe's tallest hotel (100 ft. higher than the top of the Shell Building tower) and London's biggest ever office development (equal to nine "Centrepoint" blocks).

## OR

Family housing with gardens, a new riverside park and shopping facilities + specially designed flats for older people.

The GLC and multinational Property Developers want the offices and hotel.

Lambeth Council and the Community want the new homes and a park.  
THE COIN STREET ACTION GROUP has been set up by local community groups to co-ordinate the campaign

## Commercial Properties

The private developers, the Heron Corporation and Commercial Properties Ltd., have hired the country's most expensive planning lawyers to present their case while the Association of Waterloo Groups will be depending on the voluntary services of local law centres and the eloquence of local people speaking from their hearts - rather than from their bank accounts.



SPOTTED TAKING NOTES at the Bankside Public Inquiry was a consultant acting for Commercial Properties, one of the main landowners and developers of the Coin Street sites

NO DOUBT, Commercial Properties spies are taking special notice of Southwark's scheme for offices on Bankside. On Coin Street, Southwark are opposing Commercial Properties giant office blocks but planning smaller versions of their own.

## Full-time Porters Needed

MORLEY COLLEGE  
401 Westminster Bridge Road SE1  
Tel. 01-928-8501  
Requires 60 full-time porters, 8am-5pm (40 hour week) £49.92 with overtime available.  
Also evening door person required, 6pm-10.30pm, £28.08.

## Council strikes Unhappy endings

March saw the end of two major disputes involving Southwark Council employees - although in neither case were the employees happy with the deal they got.

The Council manual workers ended their strike on March 12, after their unions accepted the national offer of 9% plus £1 a week 'on account' pending a 'comparability study' (otherwise known as a 'delaying tactic') the result of which will be known in August.

At one point, the return to work was jeopardised because Southwark Council refused to 'top up' the national offer, unlike other boroughs like neighbouring Lewisham, where local supplements have been agreed. NUPE area officer Mike Sanders told SE1 that 'Southwark takes an unusual attitude. It seems this council just doesn't give a monkey's about the low pay problem'.

The dustmen have now set about clearing the huge piles of rubbish around the Borough, starting with the temporary tips. The clearing-up operation was expected to take 5 weeks, but may take longer because of the sheer volume of refuse. On many estates, the rubbish shafts are still jammed solid, and it will be several weeks before the normal pattern of collection is re-established.

## Social workers ordered back

The 7-month official strike of Southwark's 160 social workers came to an end on March 20th, on the instruction of their union, NALGO. The social workers, who have won re-grading worth on average £500 - £600 a year, have now begun the massive job of sorting through the vast accumulated backlog of work. Social Services area offices will not be providing a full service to the public before April, and Council welfare services will not be restored to their previous level for some weeks.

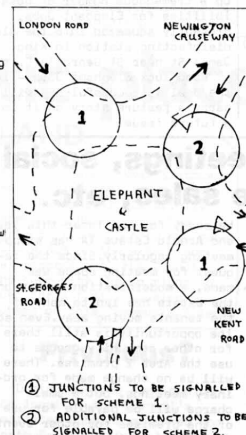
The social workers went back to work bitter that in local negotiations, Southwark Council had refused to match the level of offers being made in other London Boroughs, such as the next door authorities of Lambeth and Lewisham. Southwark NALGO officials now fear a mass exodus of their social worker members to other Boroughs offering better pay and conditions, and are resentful at the Council's 'uncompromising and anti-Trade Union' stance.

They say the Council tried to interfere with their union procedures by offering an improved return to work settlement if the NALGO Branch Executive dropped its disciplinary action against Management personnel accused of strike-breaking, and are furious that the Council apparently wants to make additional payments to those NUPE and non-union social workers who stayed at work during the strike.

## Elephant lights up

THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS at the Elephant and Castle roundabout system has reached such a level that the GLC are proposing to install traffic lights on the northern roundabout. Many readers will probably remember how the entire Elephant and Castle complex was built to "improve" the shopping facilities and relieve traffic congestion. Having already admitted that the new shopping centre has been a shopping disaster, the local authorities now seem to be admitting that the roundabout system is a disaster too.

The traffic lights scheme is in two parts: the first scheme is to control the London Road and New Kent Road junctions and if this is found to be unsatisfactory scheme 2 will be implemented by installing traffic lights at the other two junctions.



## St Judes school closure threat

RUMOURS are flying around that the Church of England has got St. Jude's Primary School in St. George's Road lined up for the next school closure in SE1. The Governors are concerned about the implications of a 'strategy' being considered by the Diocesan Board of Education to create one 'area' school out of 4 neighbourhood schools, one of which is St. Jude's.

## LOCAL PRESSURE WINS RELIEF



THE PUBLIC TOILET IN FLAT IRON SQUARE in Union Street closed two years ago as part of public expenditure cut-backs is due to be re-opened soon following pressure on the Council by local ward councillors. There were many complaints by local people, workers and shopkeepers about the closure. The public convenience contains both mens and ladies toilets.

## Willcox - 100 jobs at risk

Willcox's the tube and pipe fitters in Southwark Street, have managed to talk Southwark Council into giving permission to convert their premises into an office building. This pushes up the value of the building and puts over 100 jobs at risk. In exchange, the firm has 'promised' the Council that they will move somewhere within the borough.

The workforce, of course, has not been consulted on this. Many employees are local people from the SE1 area, who do not wish to move elsewhere, even within Southwark - even if the company's promises had any substance. Some fear that their jobs are at risk.

## NEW TOWN HALL

Following the decision of one Ward of Peckham Labour Party to do a poll throughout the ward, to find out the views of every elector on the question of the proposed new Town Hall, the Southwark Campaign is also to canvass other wards in the borough.

The Southwark Campaign is the newly-formed alliance of all those groups in the borough that are concerned at the plans to create a monster town hall complex in the centre of Peckham, paid for out of increased rates. First ward to be polled by the Campaign is DOCKYARD Ward, all of whose 3 councillors voted to support the Town Hall scheme. The Campaign want to find out how many of those they claim to represent are actually in favour of the scheme.

## Colombo Street Sports and Community Centre

tel: 261 1658

## OLD TYME MUSIC HALL

FRIDAY APRIL 13th, 6.30-9pm.

Artists Manny & Joy. Entrance Free

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

USUAL SPORTING ACTIVITIES EG SHORINJI KEMPO, BOXING, KARATE, BADMINTON, DAP'S DANCING  
Anyone interested in starting other activities, make yourself known. Starting soon,  
COLOMBO STREET SPORTS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE, COLOMBO STREET, SE1



## JOB CREATION

185 jobs have been created in Southwark thanks to Southwark Council's Industrial Fund. This Fund, has lent nearly £3m to 9 firms in the Borough.

Many of the firms are quite small companies located in North Southwark or Camberwell. Four of the firms are printing businesses.

The Fund has attracted a certain amount of criticism in the past due to the secretive way of operating and the lack of local trade union involvement. But in a press release just issued the Council has at last provided a lot of the information about how the Fund works, although there is no concession over the trade union issue.

The purpose of the Fund is to loan money to companies to enable them to expand. In some cases money is given as an outright grant in return for creating jobs. £3m has been set aside for the Fund so that there is quite a lot of money on offer.

### Local Views

The Southwark Trades Council has written to Councillor Ron Watts, Chairman of Planning, asking for local trade union representation on the Fund. There has been no response.

## A place for meetings, social events, jumble sales, etc.

After more than a years discussion, Southwark Council has agreed in principle to let out area 2 social services premises in Tooley Street to local groups.

This decision follows pressure from local tenants' groups who need somewhere to hold meetings, jumble sales and social events. It has been proposed that a trial run should begin as soon as possible, but no definite date for lettings to start has been fixed.

The decision may have come too late for two tenants groups. Tooley Street TA are expecting newly built tenants hall to

be ready for use later this year, and Arnold Estate TA has stopped meeting regularly. Since the request for meeting space was made, a modernisation scheme on the estate has led to many of the tenants moving away. Even so the opportunity is still there for other community groups to use the Area 2 premises. There will be no change made for ordinary meetings, but a small charge will be payable for use of the premises for other events.

If you are interested in finding out more, contact John Thomas, Housing Community Officer (tel: 639 4353).

## BOROUGH COMMUNITY CENTRE

56 SOUTHWARK BRIDGE ROAD, SE1.

OPENING on APRIL 2nd

2 HALLS FOR HIRE + SMALLER MEETING ROOMS + KITCHEN

BOOKINGS TAKEN FOR SOCIALS, WEDDINGS, MEETINGS, DANCES, CONFERENCES, JUMBLE SALES.

Write to Borough Community Centre or ring 928.8165 day 407.6542 evening.



## ELEPHANTS IN STAMFORD STREET?

ELEPHANT JOBS, the local scheme providing jobs and training for young unemployed people, is negotiating with the GLC to take over Trees House in Stamford Street.

The proposed move would open up a tremendous number of possibilities for Elephant Jobs, presently squeezed into the old disinfecting station in King James St near St George's Circus. Good luck Elephant Jobs - if the deal is successful SE1 will carry a feature story on it in a future issue.

## Watts' funding follies

The £1 million environment fund launched in a fanfare by the Council last year has yet to make any impact on the Borough. Several schemes have been proposed, but disagreement over what should be done with the money is coming to the surface.

Ron Watts, Chairman of the Planning & Development Committee seems to regard the fund as his own. Upset by recent decisions of the Environment Committee which rejected spending tens of thousands of pounds on fancy church railings, gas street lamps and renovating disused church follies, Watts asked for a special allocation of £50,000 for his own committee to spend on such suspect schemes.

It came as no surprise therefore when at the P&D committee on March 21st, a report was presented which included amongst other things; church railings £10,000, gas lamps £15,000 and cemetery lodge £39,000. Fortunately Watts had stormed out of the meeting earlier in a huff and was not present when the committee discussed the report. Without their champion present, it now looks as though the Borough Society will not get their

gas lamps. The railings were however agreed.

£50,000 spent on the sort of schemes favoured by Cllr. Watts has to be compared with a TOTAL allocation of £100,000 for the whole of the Borough's tenants associations and voluntary organisations who have suggested improvements to their areas. Watts lives in Addington Square conservation area, and has suggested that in addition to a grant of £10,000 already made to improving the square, money from the fund should be pumped into the conservation area.

Other areas may not receive so much attention unless pressure is brought to bear on the Council. The latest edition of the Council's 'Planning News-sheet' is asking residents with ideas to write to the Council with them.

Fortunately for residents, other Councillors than Cllr. Watts have an influence on how the money from the Environment Fund should be spent, and some schemes have been agreed that will make living in SE1 even better than it is already, but we may have to put up with more church railings to get them.



SPECIAL EVENING SESSION  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

'they've been shitted on long enough'

One of the laughs of the evening came as Southwark Council's nose-in-the-air lawyer, Mr. Robbins, tried to cross-examine Bermondsey Lamppost Group representative Lois Acton. 'I've heard of Bermondsey', he said. 'But where is Lamppost?'. 'It's just the name of the Group', explained Lois. 'It was the kids who chose it, because....'. She paused, a bit uncertain, and then went on 'Well, if you want to know, it was because they felt they'd been shitted on long enough'. The hall erupted in cheers and applause, while the lawyer smiled sheepishly, and admitted that he should have known better than to ask a question he didn't know the answer to (that's legal logic for you!).

Mr. Robbins' paymasters, Southwark Council were heavily criticised for their plans to encourage the building of yet more offices

Sue Murray, from Union Street who works in a Jobscentre, said that there is a shortage of office workers generally in London (and the majority of the unemployed in Bermondsey are not after office jobs). 'Building more offices would not therefore be of great local benefit', she said. Some understatement, when there are ALREADY thousands of square feet of office space LYING EMPTY in the area!

### Profits

John Hologrove, from Douglas Buildings, who has lived all his life in the area and whose father worked as a docker on Bankside, said he didn't see why the Council should bow down to the people in the City, to give them what they want; and local accountant Melvyn Jones pointed out 'It's been said that offices generate wealth but then the profits are siphoned elsewhere, so it's no benefit to this area'.

Lil Patrick, Chairperson of the Tooley Street Tenants Association, spoke forcefully of the high proportion of old people in the area, left isolated and vulnerable as younger people

## 'RAISE THE ALARM' CALL BY FORUM

For the past 6 months, an exciting experiment has been carried out with some of Bermondsey's elderly residents. They have been testing the usefulness of a special alarm system which links an elderly person with volunteers who can be called on for assistance.

The scheme was a result of concern expressed by the Bermondsey Forum for elderly people at risk in their area. It is funded by Social Services, has alarm equipment on lease from a firm called CAS, and is managed jointly by the Church and representatives from estates participating in the scheme. A coordinator was appointed to organise and support those volunteers who are willing to help.

### HOW DOES THE SYSTEM WORK?

Elderly people who are interested in the scheme are asked to name 3 or 4 people they would like to call on, in an emergency eg a nearby relative, neighbour, TA volunteer, and as a last resort, the police. If the elderly person gets into difficulty, they can summon help by

pressing a button on a transmitter, which is light enough for them to carry around in their pocket. The call is received by a Central Unit, in Grange Road, which is staffed by volunteers. They then contact one of the volunteers on the elderly person's list, who will call round immediately and take the appropriate action.

Over 4½ months, 24 emergency calls had been followed up. Half had required immediate hospitalization for the elderly person; half had needed prompt action within the person's home eg where a person had fallen, was not hurt, but could not get up unaided.

There were a large number of false alarms, mainly due to faulty equipment, rather than mistakes on the user's part.

The end of the 6 month trial period is now drawing near. It is officially due to end on 31st March, and the management committee's assessment of the scheme is favourable: 'We feel that the experiment has been very successful from the user's viewpoint, and we think that the scheme should be continued



PARENTS AND CHILDREN from St. Saviour and St. Josephs Primary schools cross Borough High Street on their way home. A petition signed by several hundred parents from both schools asking for a lollipop attendant on the crossing was presented to the Council in March. The petition organised by Mrs. Debrick (3rd from left) and Mrs. Sheehan both of whom live down long lane was drawn up after 2 recent accidents involving children on their way to school.

and expanded." However the main difficulty has been to maintain the staffing of the Central Unit around the clock, seven days a week. Volunteers have found it difficult to regularly commit large amounts of time, and not enough volunteers have come forward to reduce the pressure on those already there.

Bermondsey Forum have suggested that the Central Unit should either be located in an agency which already has a 24 hour emergency system in operation, or it should be taken over

by a security firm which could give adequate cover.

As a measure of their commitment, the volunteers involved in the scheme have agreed to carry on until the end of April. But they are in no doubt that Social Services must decide by then, whether they are prepared to take the responsibility of finding a new way to continue this scheme. The people of Bermondsey will see the decision as an indication of how much Southwark cares about its elderly people.

## ...a fantastic place to live"

### PUBLIC LAND

were forced to move elsewhere for housing. 'We need places for families' she said, 'to rebuild a live community to give support to these older people and get a balance of all ages'.

Support for the housing plan also came from both Southwark and Bermondsey Tr. des Councils, and from the Association of Waterloo Groups, which is waging a similar struggle for family housing a little way up the river from Bankside, at Coin St.

Southwark Trades Council has attacked the borough's plan to buy some of the land on Bankside and then sell it directly to a speculator as a 'misuse of funds and resources' belonging to the community, and points out that Southwark Council's own figures show that 23,000 extra housing units will be needed in the next 5 years, but only 7,000 are planned.

### A PLAN FOR THE PEOPLE

The Inspector can have been left in no doubt by the end of the evening, that the family housing plan was indeed - as Wally Warbey had said - 'a plan for the people'.

The question is, will he pay any more attention to 'the people' than Southwark Council has? Earlier the same day, he had heard from Southwark barrister Robbins that even if the Inquiry Report recommended approval of the housing scheme,

What lies behind the Council opposition to local demands is the obsession with office development on the Bankside, and with the idea of a replica of the Globe Theatre. The Council wants to do a deal with other landowners, under the so-called 'Community Land' Act, to redevelop the Bankside site for 100,000 square feet of offices

Lorraine Eposito, from Peabody Buildings in Southwark Street, whose family has lived on Bankside for generations, made a moving call for the regeneration of the area as a place for people.

'What we need is zest and happiness and life - not empty office blocks'

### Frivolous?

During daytime sessions of the Inquiry, the Council's barrister Robbins attacked the North Southwark Group's pursuit of housing on Bankside, as 'irresponsible' and 'frivolous!'. 'You do not own any of the land - what do you think you are doing forcing a public inquiry. You have had your say during the Local Plan consultations, and that should be enough', he said. He then went on to threaten the Group with having to pay the costs of the inquiry.

But witnesses for the NSCDG stood their ground. 'We have every right in law to do this' say the Group. 'Southwark Council already owns part of the site - that's public land. Our scheme has the support of a housing association, and we intend to get the site developed for housing, which is what local people want.'

### Plans

Ian Dixon, from the Society for Co-operative Dwellings, showed the Inquiry a letter from the Housing Corporation saying that the Housing Corporation supported the scheme in principle, and Austin Winkley, an architect, showed plans which demonstrated how 42 family houses could be built on the site in a setting that would be ideal for families.

The NSCDG quoted Southwark Council's own District Housing Officers, who said that the site was a 'fantastic place to live'. This was in sharp contrast to the claims by Mr. West Southwark Council's Borough Planner, who said that the site, which overlooks the river near Southwark Bridge, is 'unsuitable for family housing'.

### Adjournment

The Inquiry has now been adjourned to the 29th March, because the Department of the Environment only estimated 4 days for the inquiry - as usual, underestimating the strength of the case being put up by the community.

When the Inquiry resumes, the NSCDG will be cross-examining in depth the evidence of the Borough Planner about the 'unsuitability' of the site for family housing.

## New shop at Sainsbury's - for staff only

THE NEWS OF THE THREATENED CLOSURE OF THE CO-OP in The Cut brings to mind another large food retailer who has strong connections with SE1 - J. Sainsbury Ltd.

With their large head office staff, many of whom are married women, Sainsbury's have been under pressure from SATA, the trade union operating in their head office, to re-open the shop in Stamford Street. Eventually they have given in and opened a shop - inside Stamford House (their head office building) for staff only!

Sainsbury's neighbours, IPC, with a huge staff in the Kings Reach building, also provide a staff shop, Sainsbury's and IPC now obviously appreciate what residents in SE1 have known for a long time - shopping facilities in the area are very poor. The well-known multiple retailers seem to be shunning North Southwark and Waterloo.

Sainsbury's have been in the area for nearly 100 years, starting with a shop in Stamford Street in 1894. Over the years SE1 has been the location of their distribution centre at Running Horses Yard, their sausage and pie factory which opened in 1936 in Stamford Street, and now their large head office buildings in Rennie Street with an overspill into Southwark Street.

These offices employ about 2000 staff. Sainsbury's also own a lot of other land in the area including the SE1 newspaper office in Meymott Street.

What Sainsbury's don't have in SE1 is what they are famous for - supermarkets. Most of you will remember their shop in Stamford Street which closed about 6 years ago. Their nearest shops now are in Stockwell and the very old branch on Rye Lane, Peckham.

The residents of SE1 don't want any more offices. They want homes, and with homes must go shops. There are plenty of vacant land and buildings in the area for both of these things.

So come on Sainsbury's, SE1 has served you well over the years, now it's your turn. Let's have a supermarket for the residents and workers in SE1.

# WRITE

to SE1. We want hear your news and views. Send your letters to: SE1 Community Newspaper, 12 Meymott St, SE1. Tel 928 1643.



IN THE DAYS WHEN GRAFFITI was permanently stamped on buildings. This message is to be found above the entrance to the Kirkaldy Experimental Works in Southwark Street. The works contained a machine for testing the strength of metal. The machine is still there and is to be incorporated in a museum to be provided as a "planning gain" from an office block in Southwark Street.

## ON THE R.A.C.S

THE RACS SEEMED UNMOVED when a delegation went to see the Managing Director to urge them to think again about the closure of CO-OPs in the Old Kent Road, Brixton Road and the Cut. They were unaware of plans for more housing in the area and of how run down they had allowed the stores to become.

## Tuppenny rushes at Gatty's

Who remembers hopping holidays? 'Tuppenny Rushes at Gatty's'? Going to the meat auction in the Cut late on Saturday night? Earning a few bob boxing down the Ring? Pearl White at The Canterbury? These and many other memories are part of life in the '20s and '30s in North Lambeth and North Southwark.

A meeting is being held on MONDAY APRIL 23rd at NORTH LAMBETH LIBRARY in LOWER MARSH, for anyone who is interested to bring those memories to life. History is living and walking the streets of SE1. Why not get some of it written down, for other people to share?

There will be refreshments and a display of photographs, from 7.30pm that evening, at the library. At 8.0 o'clock we shall have a meeting to talk about the progress of the 'SE1 PEOPLE'S HISTORY PROJECT' since it began in January. Anyone interested to join the project will be welcomed.

Meantime if you would like to know more about the project, ring the Waterloo Action Centre (261 1404) and leave a message for Jane Mace. She is normally in the Centre on a Monday, but will contact anyone who leaves a name and address.

## Sale, NO Return

GLC TENANTS ARE ANGERED by a decision last week taken by the GLC and Southwark to exclude people from the waiting list from the newly built Quinn Buildings in Waterloo Road. When the old Quinn Buildings were demolished, families were transferred to the Rockingham and Tabard Estates. Many hoped to return. But now these hopes have been dashed.

Tenants of Rockingham Estate have written to Southwark Council in protest. They had wanted Southwark to over-ride GLC plans to dispose of the new Quinn Buildings to a "co-ownership" housing association.

At Southwark's Housing Committee, approval was given to the hand-over. The report to the Committee spoke of the "contribution this sort of development would make to the economic development of the Borough." Only those who can afford to buy in to the co-ownership scheme can now live in Quinn Buildings.



12 Meymott Street, SE1.  
tel: 928 1643

## HELP!

SE1 is looking for people willing to help with distributing the paper in several parts of the SE1 area. Where do YOU get your copy of SE1 from? Does your local newspaper stock it, or does your local pub have a distribution box?

If not, let us know - or better still, ask newspaper or pub if they would help by stocking the paper, and then let us know (address and tel. number above).

## ALSO

We would like to find some people willing to help by distributing the paper to SE1 readers in their block of flats or street. We would be happy to help start things off by knocking on doors near where you live, if you would be prepared to help by delivering papers to your neighbours thereafter. It would mean about ONE hour a month. Please let us know if you can help in this way.

REMEMBER: SE1 is produced entirely by voluntary effort. Could your efforts be included?

### DATES TO WATCH THIS MONTH

Meetings: 9 and 17 April, 7.30 PASTE-UP: 21 & 22 April, 11am ANYONE is welcome at either the meetings, or the paste-up sessions when the paper is actually put together.

## Unusual Arrangement

Cllr. Mrs Ackroyd: "Not prepared to discuss it."



Councillor Mrs. Ackroyd, Vice Chairman of Housing is the latest of Southwark's Ex-Aldermen to benefit from the "unusual arrangements" first revealed in SE1 in October 1977 when another Alderman, Ernest Mann was allocated a new flat. Mrs. Ackroyd has managed to get Southwark to find her a flat whilst she is between selling one house and buying another. This hardly puts her in the housing need category that normally applies for nomination to housing association property. Mrs. Ackroyd is buying a house in Westminster.

## Waste paper firm tries again

A NEW ATTEMPT TO GET PLANNING PERMISSION for their waste paper plant in Lant Street has been made by Lawsons who had an application turned down earlier this year.

Tenants of Peabody Douglas Buildings in Marshalsea Road, who were looking forward to not having to look out over a crumbling waste paper yard, have received a blow to their hopes. Lawsons are applying to the Council for permission to build a brand new warehouse and office on their present site.

The response of Douglas tenants has been to organise a petition which will soon be sent to the Council. The news of this new development has also angered tenants of Lant House and they will also be sending a petition opposing the development.

Local people have on many occasions complained at the nuisance of the waste paper plant, saying that it should be relocated to a more suitable location. In recent months there has been an increasing amount of large trucks unloading and waiting in the surrounding streets and this has been an increasing danger to children.

Tenants of Douglas Buildings have also written to the Council pointing this out. They also say that it is wrong to introduce heavy traffic into the area with the adventure playground moving to Lant Street and the new Mint Street Park.

The application will be considered in April or May.

## A Little Light on Southwark "Secrets"?

AT THE END OF EVERY AGENDA for Southwark Council committee meetings comes the item "Motion for the exclusion of the press and public". It's the point when members of the public are told that everything that follows in the meeting is private and confidential and not for their ears.

This is standard practice for all Borough councils when they want to discuss items which might be controversial or embarrassing for them or individuals. Recently Southwark redefined (in public) their guidelines for deciding what should be discussed only in private.



Items to be classified as confidential include:

- all budget matters, including proposals for growth, increases in income, savings and estimates during their formative stages.
- all matters relating to named individual employees of the Council, councillors and members of the public unless the disclosure would not be embarrassing to the individual.
- Individual Child Care matters.
- Matters relating to individual named firms and to negotiations "where disclosure might be prejudicial to either party".
- Acceptance of a tender which is not the lowest tender.
- Any matter which the Chairman of the Committee specifically directs shall be placed on the confidential section.

## YES, BUT .....

While some of the restrictions, like for individuals and child care matters, clearly make sense, most of the guidelines appear to be worded to be able to include anything remotely controversial. They will probably continue to be used to stifle any public debate or consultation until it's too late, unless councillors and council officials with access to the confidential information make sure the guidelines aren't used as a catch-all to block public participation in Council decisions.

## Your Health !!

There are now more and more opportunities for local people of all ages who want to improve their health, thanks to the work of the Waterloo Health Project. Interested? Read on ..

**MENOPAUSE GROUP** for women. Meets every 3rd Thursday of the month at the Waterloo Action Centre, to talk to each other about the 'change of life', what it is, etc. The group also looks at other aspects of women's health. The next meeting is on April 19 at 7.30pm, and we'll be looking at how the body works. **NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.**

**DROP-IN** about health. On Thursdays, between 10.30 - 12.00 am at 292 Campbell Buildings, Baylis Road. Anyone welcome to chat about their health or call in for advice or information.

**WOMEN'S GROUP.** Meets every Monday afternoon, 1.30 to 3.15. The group is presently making a video film about whether Waterloo residents want a health Centre, and what it could be like. **NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.**

**YOGA CLASS.** Will be starting soon at the Colombo Street Sports and Community Centre.



For more information about all the above, contact the Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, telephone, 261 1404.

### RELAXATION AND EXERCISE

**PENSIONERS!** Why don't you come and join us. It's only 1½ hours, which surely you can spare on Thursday mornings, from 10.30am to midday.

The exercises are very simple, and the atmosphere is warm and friendly and the tutor is an extremely nice person. We stop half way through for a cup of tea and a biscuit, and the exercises do no harm to anybody - you just take it at your own pace.

## WATERLOO FESTIVAL

Plans for this year's Waterloo Festival are now under way. Two meetings have been held so far - why don't you come along to the next one on Monday 2nd April at 7pm at the Waterloo Action Centre. New people and new ideas are welcome. We have already started to book events and have decided on Sunday 8th July as the Festival day.

In order to make it a successful, FUN day, your festival will



## 'NO NAZIS IN EAST STREET'

This has been the call bringing local people down to East Street market on Sunday mornings to protest against repeated visits there by the National Front.

East Street traditionally extends a warm welcome to traders and shoppers of all races and creeds. The presence of National Front "heavies" from various parts of London threatens this friendly atmosphere - black and white people in the market have been abused and intimidated.

The Front has moved south of the river, having been pushed out of its regular stomping-ground in Brick Lane Market. East End traders have had enough of the violence and disruption which the NF inevitably brings.

Southwark Campaign Against Racism and Fascism and other local anti-racist groups call on all concerned people to bring a halt to such activities now - WE KNOW WHAT THE FRONT STANDS FOR AND WE DON'T WANT ANY!

## FOOD & FACTS ON WHEELS

The bright yellow Age Concern mobile bus is back on the Rockingham and Heygate Estates, selling welfare foods and giving advice to pensioners.

The bus visits all parts of the Rockingham Estate on Mondays from 10am-4pm, and does the same on the Heygate on Fridays.

Workers will be available until the middle of May to help pensioners with any problems they may have, concerning rent, rates, pensions, fuel bills etc.

The bus stocks a variety of foods including: Marvel, Horlicks, Biscuits and Drinking Chocolate and sells them at less than shop prices.

Many pensioners have already taken advantage of the service, but the workers would welcome any more pensioners in need of advice, or who want to buy food or who simply want a chat. If you are housebound and unable to get out, perhaps a neighbour could call at the bus for you. A worker could then come and call at your home if necessary.

If you haven't visited the bus yet, why not stop by the next time it is on your estate? More information can be obtained from:

Southwark Age Concern 703 6105  
Blackfriars Settlement 928 9521  
ext 28  
Walworth Project 701 1038  
Rockingham Tenants Association



It's held at the Colombo Street Sports and Community Centre (some of you may know it better as the old Sainsbury canteen) from 10.30 - 12 am Thursdays.

- Fundraising
- Catering
- Art, crafts, home made goods
- Running a stall
- Entertainment
- Stall games
- Publicity
- Procession

or have any other ideas, contact Jill Winston at the Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, SE1. Tel 261 1404.



# Centre on short time

Southwark Council has once more shown its contempt for democratic procedures and principles, by cutting off the Urban Aid money which finances the North Southwark Community Planning Centre. Nevertheless, the Planning Centre, at 108 Great Guildford Street, will continue in operation - possibly with restricted opening hours - but a question mark hangs over its long-term future.

The decision not to renew the Urban Aid grant, which costs Southwark Council just £3,000 per year, has been roundly condemned by all three Constituency Labour Parties in the borough, and is described by Ted Bowman, Chairperson of the North Southwark Community Development Group, as 'a calculated insult to the people of North Southwark'.

In voting to throw away the £10,000 of Government money which the Urban Aid grant brings to North Southwark, the Council ruling clique also stuck two fingers up at the dozens of local organisations and individual residents who had written supporting the Planning Centre.

The Government Departments involved are disturbed by the spiteful and negative attitude of the Council, but are powerless to change the decision. The North Southwark Community Development Group, which runs the planning centre, has been forced to approach charitable institutions for help with funding after the March 31st deadline. It is too early to say whether these and other approaches will succeed, but the Group will certainly not be giving up without a fight.

At the decisive Labour Group meeting, it was said about the Planning Centre grant that the Council is not not in business 'to fund an opposition'. In their determination to stifle all questioning of their policies, the Labour leadership in Southwark are treading a very dangerous path. They seem to think they can do exactly as they please, regardless of the wishes of the electorate, and ignoring the views of their own Labour Parties. But a day of reckoning will come, and let us hope that the Community Planning Centre stays alive till then.



THE MARKET THEATRE COMPANY perform in front of a willing audience of Rockingham Estate youngsters. The theatre company have been rehearsing on the estate for a couple of months, and hope to take several newly written plays around Southwark's schools and adventure playgrounds soon. Contact John Axon on 403 3006.

## Bermondsey Forum gathers strength

Tuesday 13th March saw the Annual General Meeting of the Bermondsey Forum. On a dreadful evening weather-wise representatives of most of the Tenants Associations in Bermondsey turned out to adopt a constitution and re-elect chairperson Lil Patrick of Tooley Street TA.

Formed around the temporary closure of Area 2 social services in 1976 the Forum has gone from strength to strength. Since those early days the Forum has been very active. The Bermondsey Elderly Support Team (BEST) was the brainchild of the Forum and they also undertook to try out the alarm scheme for elderly and housebound proposed by Mr. Briggs, Southwark's Director of Social Services. The alarm scheme has run for a trial period of 6 months and recently the Forum made recommendations to the Council which will be very important in the implementation of what Southwark hope will be a much expanded network covering the whole of the Borough. (see also page 5)

### Best foot forward

BEST which is based at the Solarium in Grange Road is also starting to get off the ground and their team of 8 workers are becoming a familiar sight in Bermondsey.

An important reason for adopting a constitution was that both BEST and the Alarm scheme despite being the initiative of the Forum had to be handed to other bodies to run as Southwark would not fund an unconstituted body. In the case of BEST; Age Concern run the project, and in the case of the Alarm scheme; the Church, though representatives of the Forum, sit on the management committees of both.

Both of these projects represent new services to Bermondsey people. Their latest campaign however is to keep a local facility, and the Forum has been very active in the campaign to keep Dockhead Fire Station open.

If Southwark Council was as representative as the Forum we might have a very different Borough, and SE1 wishes them well in the future.

## 'SECONDS MEAN LIVES'

"IT'S YOUR LIVES AND HOMES they are gambling with", residents were told by the Fire Brigade Union representatives at a public meeting held in Bermondsey about plans to reduce the number of fire engines at the Dockhead Station from three to one. "At the moment, you can expect 13 firemen to come to your help when you dial 999 in the Dockhead area, but after April 1st there will only be four."

In all, the GLC is removing 29 pumps and 14 pieces of special fire-fighting equipment from fire stations throughout London. Dockhead will be losing a turn-table ladder and a pump, if the plans go ahead.

Firemen at the public meeting, which was arranged with

the Bermondsey Forum, urged committees to join their protest at the danger to fire cover that will result from the GLC's cuts. The GLC has tried to bribe the firemen to accept the cuts by paying them a bonus, but the firemen are saying: "The fire cover of London is not up for sale."

Brian Harrison, of Dockhead, said that there was a great danger to the community from cutting front line fire attendance. "Seconds could mean lives", he said. "If Dockhead's only fire engine is at one end of its ground (the area covered by the station) the time needed for another station to reach a fire at the other end could be fatal."

Tom Sawyer, from the Arnold



T.A., asked if the GLC had taken into account traffic congestion in the rush hour, or the number of elderly living in basements in the Bermondsey area. Unfortunately, there was no-one from the GLC or the Fire Brigade management at the meeting, even though they had been invited.

Bob Mellish, MP for Bermondsey, told the meeting that he was taking a delegation of London MPs to see the Home Secretary and Horace Cutler. A deputation drawn from the meeting decided to see Mr. Cutler themselves.

But the GLC has refused to meet the delegation, so Ms. Lil Patrick, who chaired the public meeting, is to try and see the Chairperson of the GLC Fire Brigades Committee.

## Support Your Local Shop

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