THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR NORTH SOUTHWARK AND WATERLOO

NO. 47 OCTOBER 79. 10p

WE ST. OLAVES

HUNDREDS OF WORKERS, PATIENTS AND SUPPORTERS packed into the meeting of the Guy's District Community Health Council on September 27th to fight against the closure of St Olave's Hospital in Rotherhithe. An overflow crowd gathered in the courtyard outside the nurses' dining room at the 100-year-old hospital and listened to the proceedings through lodspeakers.

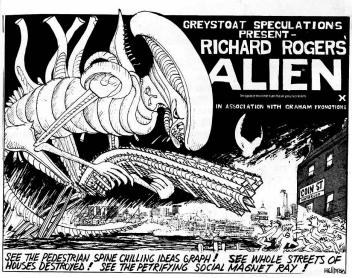
The audience enthusiastically approved a resolution passed by the council calling for the resignation of the five commissioners appointed by Tory Social Services Secretary Patrick Jenkin to implement savage health cuts in south east London. The Commissioners were appointed by Jenkin after the Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark Area Health Authority refused to carry out the Tory cuts.

A second motion, proposed by

councillor Coral Newell, passed by the CHC called on Jenkin to appoint a commission to investigate the costing of superspecialities in the area and maintain the current services until publication of a report and full consultation with the CHC.

Wally Warbey, an asthma outpatient at St Olave's said "the first thing they did was to give themselves a £10,000 rise. And the next was to cut the hospitals to pay for it. Maggie Thatcher has cut everything else and all she's got left now is to cut our throats".

An action committee of workers, patients and local residents has been formed to fight the closure plans - part of the plan of the Tory Government to cut public spending and services (see the centre pages for more news).



MONSTER ON GENERAL RELEASE - CARE OF RICHARD ROGERS, THE ARCHITECT PROPHET FOR GREYCOAT LONDON ESTATES. With thanks to Hellman of the Architects Journal, Sept. 19th 1979. See Page 8 for Coin Street story.

GLC SCRAP HEAP

THE GLC HAS SCRAPPED PROPOSALS TO BUILD HOUSING ON THE SITE IT OWNS IN THE CUT, presently used for allotments.

The land has been declared "surplus" to the Council's housing programme as the GLC has all but stopped house bouilding in London and is quickly getting rid of considerable amounts of land and buildings. The policy is part of a broader strategy - or non-strategy - which is running into considerable criticism from many quarters (see "GLC Staff Attack Council Policies", page).

Residential Use?

No alternative use for the site has been fixed, this is to

come up before the relevant area planning committee though the current GLC favourite is to sell it on the open market. The site is zoned as residential in the District Plan for Waterloo, but the Coin Street inquiry shows how little respect the present GLC and property speculators have for for such expressions of local opinion.

NEW TOWN HALL

SOUTHWARK'S NEW TOWN HALL IS STILL GOING AHEAD as planned, despite reports that it was being scrapped.

Whilst it is true that the Council have axed over £2 million that was set aside for the NTH fund next year, because of the way the £70 million project is funded it is possible to do this and still carry on as planned.

Juggling Funds

This piece of public relations by Southwark Council at a time of cuts in services is possible for 2 reasons.

(Continued on Page 2)



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LETS KEEP IT OURS

DESPITE A STRONG LOCAL CAM-PAIGN, St Andrew's and St John's school in Roupell Street closed its doors to children at the end of the summer term in July. The future of the buildings is now being considered by its owners, the Anglican Diocesan Education Board, who have several applications for use by organisations from outside the Waterloo area.

Local people are asking the Board to consider reserving at least some of the building for community needs but may be blocked by the Board † s desire to get a "commercial" retirn on the property.

Peabody Trust, which has an estate next door, may also put in a bid for housing on the site. The Board is keen to dispose of the building quickly but local people are asking for a little patience and imagination to allow solutions to emerge which will satisfy the Board's needs and also benefit the community.



GLYN & LYNNE HAVE SUPPORTED SE1 SINCE IT FIRST HIT THE STREETS BACK IN 1975, BOTH BY SELLING IT AND AS A REGULAR ADVERTISER. WITHOUT SUPPORTERS LIKE THIS SE1 WOULD HAVE FOLDED YEARS AGO.

IN ADDITION TO SELLING SE1 "TOMS" AS IT IS KNOWN LOCALLY STOCKS AN EVER INCREASING RANGE OF GOODS, THE MOST RECENT ADDITION BEING OFF-SALES OF BEERS. WINES & SPIRITS.

OPEN WHEN MOST OTHER LOCAL SHOPS HAVE CLOSED, GLYN & LYNNE, WHO LIVE ABOVE THE SHOP ARE LIVING PROOF THAT CORNER SHOPS ARE NOT NECESSARILY A DYING TRADE. SET WISH THEM EVERY SUCCESS IN THE

GLC POLICY DISASTROUS

GLC policy for London is described as disastrous in a leading article in London Town, an independent GLC Staff manazine.

Headed "Strateoic retreat from London", the article says that the Council's much trumpeted intention to turn iteelf into a "strateoic authority" is a lot of talk and little action.

"The GLC is now in full retreat on all fronts. Nothing it seems is to be achieved any more, the Council appears to be shedding all its responsibilities and getting out as fast as it can from all areas where it now exercises an executive function. It is no longer prepared to do much active about London's many chronic problems."

Housing policy is sited as a particularly glaring area, with the GLC housebuilding programme savagely slashed - 500 in 79/80, compared with 5600 in 1975/76 (see article on housing in the Cut on p1).

"The current sales and disposals policies combined can only worsen the situation and add to london's growing list

NEW TOWN HALL

(Continued from Page 1) The first is that no money was required next year anyway from the NTH fund, and the second is that funding for the town hall is split between two kitties - the NTH fund and the Capital Fund. Whilst no money is needed from the NTH fund next year, £600,000 will be spent from the Capital Fund. This was always going to he the case because the Capital Fund is being used to pay for

day-to-day costs such as architects fees and land costs while the NTH fund won1t he needed until building actually starts -

of those waiting to be adequately housed. If ever there was a strategic objective, it was surely to eradicate housing need. There is something totally degrading about the sight of young people queueing outside County Hall for the chance of taking up a crumbling homestead. Also what quarantee is there that selling land to speculative builders will result in houses being built that ordinary mortals will be able to buy or rent? Selling off the best of the Council's housing stock could condemn those who are forced to live in tower blocks to a life sentence which no amount of cosmetic treatment can ameliorate.

If this is a strategic policy then it spells disaster. If Sir Horace thinks he will get anything from Whitehall in exchange for responsibilities being given away to the Boroughs then he is, we believe, mistaken. Whitehall is not giving. Only the GLC is by withdrawing in the face of the greatest challenge to London since 1945. The GLC has resources: why not use them?"

currently planned for 1983.

The NTH fund currently has over £3 million in it and even allowing for the fact that it won't now be topped up by a further £2 million next year it will still have enough cash in it to meet the bills in 1983. However in order to finish the new Town Hall by the target date of 1987 Southwark will at some time in the next 5 years have to put up the rates, killing once and for all the lie that the monster scheme wasn't costing residents anything.

SPAR SEI Letters

As a result of the election of new committee members at the tenants AGM. and the subsequent resignation of the majority of the old committee, the Rockingham Estate Tenants Association has decided to change its policy from Bingoism to Community Care.

With this in mind the Committee has decided to set un a Welfare Joint Committee with all the relevant Statutory and Voluntary Agencies.

The Committee has also decided on a policy of open government, so that in future all Executive Committee meetings will be open to tenants. observers and press, and minutes of committee meetings will be distributed to interested parties.

Chairperson. Rockingham Estate Community Tenants Assoc.

Rockingham October Events: RETA Committee meeting -Sunday 7th at 7pm

RFTA special General Meeting -Monday 8th at 7.30nm Speaker: Bob Mellish "Rockingham's Future" RETA Welfare Joint Committee

Thursday 11th at 3pm Tenants welcome and may nut forward views on any matter being discussed by prior arrangement with chairperson. John Axon - 403 3006.

All meetings in the Upper Hall of the Jubilee Centre.

Dear SE1

We hope that you will be interested to know that the Plymouth Ar_yle Supporters Association - London Branch have been regular visitors to the SE1 area virtually since our formation and on Wednesday 8 August we notched up quite a milestone in our short history.

That evening marked our 25th Committee meeting to be held at the Horse and Groom in Westminster Bridge Road.

Since our first meeting there in September 1976 we have been made most welcome by Mr O'Regan and his staff and we have attracted meonle from all over London to darts matches we have held there.

We entered a darts league this season and have already played the London based supporters of Meadowbank Thistle and of Sunderland FC.

We have become very familiar with SE1 over the last 3 years and look forward to reading it in the Horse and Groom where it is sold every month.

If anyone would be interested in further details about PASALB and its activities please do not hesitate to contact me. Geoffrey Luke 93b Markhouse Road Walthamstow, London E17 8DH

WRITE

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



KINGS ARMS RE-OPENING

Monday 30th July was quite an with the bottle) used to run evening at the Kings Arms in Roupell Street, everybody was in a party mood.

The pub, recently refurbished was officially re-opened by Mr H J Taylor, Tied Trade Direct- this money together with the or of Ind Coope London, and later on in the evening he emptied a large whisky bottle, which contained £131.84 for the Spina Bifida Association in Croydon, where Licensee's, John & Mary Davies (pictured here

another public house before they moved to the Kings Arms a year ago.

During the evening a large box of fruit was raffled and proceeds of the bottle and other funds raised during the year amounted to £232.20. A cheque for this amount was handed to representatives of NASBAH who had come up to join in the evening's celebrations.

SECRET REPORT

ON PLAY

Community run play organisations have not been cetting the help Southwark Council intended them to have, according to a secret report submitted to the Libraries and Amenities Committee on 19th September.

The report, which came as a shock to many of the Councillors on the Committee, reveals that plans to provide a service for adventure playgrounds and other community based ventures had never been fully implemented.

In July last year, an officer was appointed to Southwark's Children's Play Section to provide a back-up service for voluntary sector schemes. But she decided almost immediately that she was 'unable to continue working in the Section'. (The Play Section is renowned for its high turnover of staff.) Because it was not possible to find another suitable post for her, the report says, 'she was retained on the official establishment against the Play Section - but undertaking alternative duties!. In other words, since the middle of last year no-one has been doing the job that Councillors and the community alike wanted

Playgrounds hit hardest

Many of the play organisations in the borough have long known that they do not get the cooperation they need. and there have been a stream of complaints about the Play Section's operations and the attitude of Ken Dale, its controversial head man. Adventure playgrounds have been particularly hard hit and have had a number of meetings with Council officers to discuss the problem.

Despite all this, the Council has consistently maintained that the Play Section does a reasonable job and that the complaints are 'only' the result of personal hostility to the Play Officer. Not once has it been admitted that most of the Section's energy and resources have in fact been going into its own small-scale schemes, and very little into supporting those run by local people which form the bulk of the borough's provision, but of which Mr Dale disapproves.

Now Councillors on the Libraries & Amenities Committee are having to face up to it: their officers have been hiding the facts from them, and all these complaints are perhaps justified after all.

10 mile sponsored walk round Southwark by 20 people from Southwark Abortion Campaign raised £200 and helped publicise the cam-

What's the

Recovery Position?

This is the position in which you place an unconscious person, to ensure that they can breathe properly.

It's one of the many things we're being taught at the First Aid classes, run by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade at Columbo Street Sports & Community Centre.

At the end of the course we all hope to be qualified First Aiders!

If any readers are interests we are thinking of planning another 10 week course for the beginning of next year.

For futher information phone Monica on 261 1404. (Waterloo Health Project).

paion further. At each meeting a local National demonstration

SOUTHWARK CAMPAIGN NEWS ----

ABORTION RIGHTS

Sunday October 28th Assemble Marble Arch 11.30 am Marchino to Trafaloar Square

Please join us - Let's make sure the MP's get the message. *NO CORRIE BILL*

NO RESTRICTION ON ABORTION RIGHTS *NO CORRTE BILL*

Public meetings

If you want to know more about the Corrie anti-abortion Bill which is placing abortion rights seriously at risk, come to one of the 3 Public Meetings being held in the week preceding the National Demonstration on October 28th.

doctor will speak and a film will be shown. The Public Meetings are on: Tuesday Oct 23rd 8pm Jubilee Hall, Rockingham Estate, Falmouth Rd, SE1 Wednesday Oct 24th 8pm

Camden Tenants Hall Camden Square off Peckham Rd, SE15 Thursday Oct 25th 8pm Lordship Lane Advice Centre Lordship Lane, SE22

Jumble sale

Saturday Oct 20th 2 pm at Wendover Hall, Aylesbury Estate, Albany Road, SE17

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN OR THE BILL OR IF YOU CAN HELP IN ANY WAY PLEASE PHONE US: CAROL 701- 9328 (work) 703-5048 (home) or Ann 237-1715 (work) 732- 2633 (home).



DEMONSTRATION OF THE RECOVERY POSITION.

Age Concern Southwark

-- requires --

Neighbourhood Workers a Clerical Worker for the Bermondsey Elderly Support Team

A genuine concern for the elderly is essential. Local knowledge of Bermondsey and Southwark an advantage.

Salary £3300 per annum incl. of London Weighting for a 4-day week (under review).

Full details and application form available from Eileen McNally, Age Concern Southwark, 33 Peckham Road, SE5. Tel: 703 6105.

For informal discussion, contact Age Concern.

Closing date for application forms Monday 15 October 1979. STARTED A CAMPAIGN TO FIGHT THE CUTS being imposed by the Tory Government on all sections of the Welfare State. Health. education, public transport and public services which all oo to make up the "Social Wage" are under attack.

The Trades Council have invited trade unionists, community inviting many well known politigroups, tenants associations and cal and trade union leaders to individuals who are interested in fighting the Cuts to join with them in a Fighthack Camnaion. Only by organising all sections of the community can we stop the destruction of the services to the old, the sick, the young and the continuing deprivation of the Inner City, particularly the older areas of Lambeth and Southwark.

The aims of the Fightback Campaion are:

** That all cuts are stonned immediately and that those already made should be restored. ** That all services should be expanded in line with our real needs. We need more of these services, not less.

** That people in the community must have a real say in the running of their services, which they pay for.

The first major objective of the Campaign will be the march on NOVEMBER 7th - and we call on all sections of the trade unions and the community to show the Government that we are not prenamed to accept a reduction in our standard of living or any attacks on our social services. This march will be just the beginning of a continuing camnainn.

Health Service

ST OLAVE'S THREAT

ST OLAVE'S HOSPITAL IN ROTH- members of the Community Health ERHITHE HAS BEEN THREATENED WITH Council, Southwark Trades Coun-THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL IN-PATIENT cil and Southwark Council as SERVICES from December 1st. The Health Service Commissioners. who were appointed by the Government to implement cuts that the Area Health Authority refused to make, decided this earlier this month.

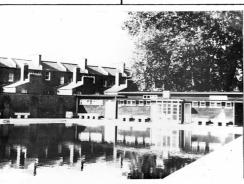
Action to stop the closure of the hospital began when 200 staff made their feelings known to Jim Callaghan as he was inaugurating Southwark Council's new sailing barge at Cherry Garden Pier, Bermondsey. Ann Knight, shop steward of Southwark NALGO branch, told SE1 of the action being taken. "Publicity has been circulated to all local shops, pubs, housing estates and tenants associations have been standing outside the hospital netting signatures for a petition. They've already got over 60,000 signatures. Bermondsey Labour Party have set up an action committee which includes

Your help is needed to make

this campaign a success. We plan many activities over the next few weeks to publicise the march including street theatre in various parts of the borough, film shows posters, leaflets and meet ings. We plan to hold a large public meeting on the night before the march to which we are

If you wish to defend your Public Services and would like to get involved, contact Chris Sutton, 74a Haverhill Road, Balham SW12. 675 1782, or John Yates, 17 Helix Gardens SW2. 67 THE CUTS -~ what's it all about

The Government is trying to cut down the amount of money spent on public services - that is, on basic needs that many neonle can't afford to pay for themselves - like building nouses, education, health, support for the elderly and nandicapped, and similar social services, as well as those needs everyone shares - like roads. fire services. public libraries, parks, public trans-



UNDER THREAT:

War Museum Park

well as members of the Tenants

Associations and Action Commit-

tee members from the hospital .

"At St Olave's it is being

aroued that it is Guy's District

Management Team that is respon-

sible for the threatened closure

at St Olave's in order to save

cuts at Guy's itself. But I

think that the most important

the DMT are the Commissioners

the Tory Government. It's the

Government that is saying that

Local Government and the Nation

closing the smaller hospitals

like St Olave's they'll be clos-

ing bigger hospitals and trying

to dismantle the NHS before our

very eyes unless we stop them.

We need more money put into the

National Health Service to pro-

prompt and proper treatment."

vide everybody who needs it with

"If they can get away with

cuts have to be made both in

Health Service.

and behind the Commissioners is

fact to remember is that behind

Open Air Pool

who do CUTS benefit?

These services are all paid for out of taxation. With our whole economy going through a severe crisis, property owners and companies are looking hard for ways of continuing to make profits. Cutting public services would benefit them in several ways.

One is that more of the money paid in taxes is then available for grants and

subsidies for private industry. Another is that when public services are closed down, opportunities open up for private business (like plans to turn St Olave's into a private hospital or the pickings available to private builders if they succeed in getting local authority building departments closed.)

A third is to reduce the level of taxation - income tax, corporation tax etc. The Tories won a lot of votes for promising to reduce taxes - but the reductions have benefited companies and company directors rather than ordinary wage earners, for whom the price increases as a result of V.A.T. going up have wiped out the benefit of tax cuts.

How do they justify the policy?

What they say is this: there's not enough money to go round: we're not producing as much, so we'll all have to tighten our helts until we do.

It's true that there is less wealth being produced, because with a crisis there is less trade and less is produced. But whose fault is it that there is less trade? It is a natural result of a system based on profit and competition, that trade goes up and down. And who pays when the crisis comes?

When they say 'all tighten belts' they mean 'some tighten belts'. Who suffers when hospitals are closed, pensioners clubs cut, or social services reduced? Certainly not the bankers and factory owners. If they say 'we'll have to work harder for the same pay', they mean 'some of you will have no job at all, and that way we will go on making profits. 1

What in practice they are saying is that although there is a crisis, they are determined not to suffer from it. They would rather cut the standards of living of working people.



UNDER THREAT:

Sna Road library

How the CUTS are enforces

Some services are paid directly by the government like pensions, defence, social security, civil service etc. The Government controls this spending itself.

services are provided by local novernment - Lambeth and Southwark Councils, the GLC, the Area Health Authority etc. To cut this spending, the Government has done two things; it has reduced the amount of money paid from central funds to support local council budgets and it has ordered the local councils to reduce their spending, with a threat that if they don't they'll get even less next year than they would other-

What can

Councils do?

Faced with these demands and threats what can local councils do? They have two ontions. One is to do what the Tories want. The other is to go on pro-

viding the services they are pledged to provide, and which they know are needed. This is what Lambeth Council has decided to do. after strong pressure from Labour parties in the borough. But making the decision is one thing; if they do this, the money still has to be found.

If the Government has said it will give less, where else can it come from? One solution is to increase the rates - which is not really a solution because it would mean paying twice for the same service - once in taxes, and once in extra rates rents, charges or whatever.

Another solution is to borrow the money from banks and other financial institutions. But if they do this, interest will have to be paid, in addition to the loan. And since it is exactly organisations such as banks that are demanding the cuts in public spending to protect their profits, they are not likely to be willing to lend money to councils that are refusing to do so.

Make them pay

A third option is for the council to go on providing the services, and demand that the Government changes its policy. and nav for these services out of central funds.

When working class organisations like labour parties and trade unions demand that councils refuse to implement the cuts, this is really what they are saying. That the Government must be forced to change its policy; that working people must not be made to pay for the employers' crisis, for the employers' desire to go on banking their profits.

St Albans Hall lunch club

for pensioners



How can they be forced to

change policy? How can the Government be

forced to change its policy? Obviously, just calling on it to do so would be like King Canute ordering the tide to stop. The only thing which makes any authority - central government, local government, or whatever - change its polic is if it finds that there is going to be so much resistance to the policy that it will be more difficult to carry on with

it than to alter it. The strength of working people lies in their numbers, in public outcry, in the fact that if enough people say 'NO' to the Cuts the Government will be unable to force them on us.

This means making sure that as many people as possible go on the demonstration to Parliam ent which Lambeth Council and Lambeth 'Fightback' Campaign are organising for NOVEMBER 7t with the support of Southwark Trades Council.

It means showing our support wherever people are organising to prevent a cut being made, like those who are preparing to resist the closure of St Olave's Hospital.

And it means not allowing anyone to get away with the argument : 'Well, if the money isn't there, what option do we have?'. The money is there, it's a question of not having it stolen from us.

UNITY MEETING

A united organisation of enants and building workers in Southwark is to be set up, following a meeting in the Rockingham Estate Jubilee Hall this month.

The aim will be to campaign together to prevent Southwark Council closing down the borough building works department (direct labour organisation) and to ensure a better repair and maintenance service on estates.

Susan Masters of the London Tenants Organisation reminded the meeting of the difference between the quality of work done by Direct labour workers, and the noise. dirt and confusion created by private contractors accountable to no-one and never seen again.

SOUTHWARK **CUTS MEETING**

SCVS is calling a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING on the evening of Tuesday 30th October, to discuss public spending cuts in Southwark and their implications

happening nationally as well as focussing on the proposals being made by the local health uthority, the ILEA, and Southwark Council. There will also be plenty of opportunity to share information on local attitudes and action. Please put the date in your diary now; Phone SCVS 703 9730 for further

STALLS

Southwark

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL HAS TO DECIDE IN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS whether it will cut 21 million pounds from its £50,000,000 budget to satisfy the savage demands of the Conservative Government.

A report now circulating in the Council reveals a trail of destruction throughout the borough that would set back services to pre-war levels. No service would be spared the axe. Social Services, being the biggest, will have to lose over £1 million if the full cut the government is asking for is implemented.

> The grim picture of day centres closing, charges for meals and nurseries doubling, lunch clubs closing, home helps being cut and recruitment of staff being frozen is just part of the view. Doubts have already been expressed about the future of St Albans Hall in Manor Place. the largest lunch club in the borough. Elsewhere, the 8 laundries on the Aylesbury Estate could be closed, and estate lighting reduced. On the leisure side a library servicing over 10,000 people is suggested for closure along with the open air baths in Southwark Park and the War Museum Park. Camberwell Baths is also facing the axe. Rents could go up by £2 per week.

Redundancies

Over 50 redundancies from the closure of public toilets are another possible way of saving money the report continues, and as if roads and pavements are not in bad enough repair it is suggested that £ million be cut from the maintenance programme.

The report has yet to be put before the Councillors, but is certain to create a storm when it does. Already the Peckham Labour Party is mobilising itself for a fight against the cuts and is calling for an emergency conference in October

Suspended

Neighbouring Lambeth have already decided that they will defy the Government and not cut services. It will be interesting to see how Southwark Council. faced with determined opposition to the cuts, will act. Already they have agreed to suspend for 1 year money to the New Town Hall fund (see article on page 1). Certainly the £3 million plus set aside at present for the NTH is more than enough to offset the demands for cuts from the Tory Government, but it would take a massive change of approach for local voluntary organisations.by Southwark Councillors to The meeting will look at what swallow their pride and do it.

The Conservative Government is to blame for the expected rent and rate increases, but Southwark Council could resist cuts in services. It is up to residents to convince the Council - as in Lambeth - that a different approach is possible. Giving in to the Tories won't help the residents of Southwark one bit.

PEOPLE'S HISTORY

The SE1 PEOPLE'S HISTORY GROUP meets every alternate Tuesday in North Lambeth library.

We are a Workers Educational Association (WEA) class, and welcome new members. We spend time discussing and recording memories from ordinary people of life round SE1 - at work, at home, in the street, in peacetime and war-time.

Do you remember Ironchest

Black Harry? These were some

of the men on the beat round

SE1 in the 1920's. At the SE1

People's History group meeting

in September, Fred Davey, Bob

the local policemen of their

youth. These are some of the

JIM: I can remember all the

one by one on their points

FRED: They used to walk out

police coming out from Stones-

end. They used to walk along

the kerb, about 6 or 8 of them

didn't they? and drop them off

the station in single file, and

as they come to their point of

duty, the Sergeant would tell

JIM: Certain parts, they was

being rough, you'd never see

less than two people, always

FRED: The years that we are

talking about, they were very

suited the times. The people

policeman was, and they had to

speak their language. If it

head with a stick, or setting

well, they'd do it - and we'd

meant hitting you across the

about you with their hands,

do it to them.

rough times, and the police-

men used the methods that

was just as rough as the

in twos, but mainly in just the

one. Any of the back turnings,

them to fall out.

in pairs.

that evening.

extracts from their discussion

Harry? Firewood? Lofty?

paper histories of working neonle.

Four such memories - by Ada Maxted, George Slayford, Helena Sime and Daisy Holah, are already in print, and can be obtained, price 10p each, at the library.

To find out more, do come to our next meeting, or ring Jane Mace (274 4617), SE1 People's History group convenor.

TRAFFIC GUM

I think it was Ironchest, one day, there was a big holdup on Westminster Bridge, where the trams were running. Apparently he had been chewing some gum. Before he run up to sort this traffic out. he stuck it on one of the trams, and he couldn't remember which one! After he's got it all cleared, they're coming off the bridge, and he's shouting to the driver, "slow down!" And the driver says "Whats up Harry?". He says "I ve got my chewing gum on one of you".

he took it. BOB: If you want to find Ironchest's name out, he finished up being the cleaner for Lambeth police court in Renfrew Road, after he retired. A good 15 or 20 years ago I'd say. Course he was in the first war, wasn't he. He had his ribbon, the Mons ribbon.

He found it at the finish, and

. . . **BLACK HARRY** or FIREWOOD?

FRED: One of the nicest policemen we used to have down there it could be Firewood or Black Harry, I'm not sure which now. (Black Harry had a real oldfashioned black moustache, one of them curly ones - that's why they called him Black Harry. But I never knew why they called Firewood Firewood.)

On a Sunday afternoon, grownup young fellows used to gamble on the street playing dice: and they used to have a chap who was out of work, down the bottom, called the doggy-out looked out. But this copper could always get into that school of gamblers without anybody seeing him.

Everybody would scatter. He would walk over to them, take his helmet off, turn the cards up. and he took all the money

All the kids he could see, "Come on - come with me" and walk them up the street. Women looking out the window, "you got any children up there, mum? send them down". He finished up with about 30 or 40 children. Took them all up the top of the street there, took all the money out onto the counter (Mrs Greenslade's) - "Give them what they want until the money goes! And he used to stand in the doorway like that! Spent the lot!

Whereas all the blokes who blued the money were all swearing and cursing.

recall the local bobby of your childhood, or other stories of police round SE1, why not join us at the next meetings of the SE1 People's History Group -Tuesdays October 2nd and 16th, 7.30 pm, North Lambeth Library.



IRONCHEST

character. You imagine this policeman, seeing him fight half a dozen men like I have, he's bound to stand in my memory. He had seven children

- more - used to pile on the back of his motorbike, and in the sidecar. He used to live in Black Prince Road.

He'd help anybody. He came down the street one day, and one of the old ladies said to him "Harry - that so-and-so in there is knocking that poor woman about something shocking". So he'd say "oh, is he?" and in he went, didn't he.

The next ten minutes there's murder, isn't there. There's Harry and this tough fighting it out. They finish up tumbling down the back stairs: and

Ironchest was an outstanding after that ten minutes, it went quiet, and Ironchest comes walking up. He walks right into his Sergeant. His helmet's gone, his tunic's all torn open, blood all over his face, and his Sergeant said 'what's up?'.

"Oh" he said, "I had two right ones over there". "Where are they?" "Oh" he said "they got right over the wall, one sticks the boot in my face as they were flying over the wall. Knocked me out." He wasn't goint to pinch him, you see, even then. He'd got his face cut, his eyes were black - but he'd given that man a good hiding and that was the end of it, you see? The Sergeant just said "Oh, You'd better get back."

Support Your Local Shop

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- * Wines, spirits & beers
- * Newspapers
- LAST DAY for articles to go * Confectionery & tobacco in the next issue is October
 - 26th.

HELP PREPARE THE PAPER It's great fun typing, thinking up neadlines and glueing down the stories: the weekend of 27th & 28th October , 11am till we finish - stay for as long as you have time.

WHARF

SOLD OUT

ANOTHER LARGE SLICE OF THE THAMES-SIDE IS ABOUT TO BE GIVEN

AWAY BY SOUTHWARK COUNCIL. THELATEST SELL-OUT INVOLVES BUTLERS

is starting to 100k 1160 our rich man's playgooud that local Davies, Potter etc."

WHARF NEXT TO TOWER BRIDGE. THE COUNCIL HAS ENCOURAGED THE

consisting of 100 private flats.

assorted tourist facilities, a

coach park plus other commerci-

Coming so soon after the

proposed destruction of St Mary

Overv wharf near Southwark Cath-

edral. and Southwark's sell-out

at Coin Street where they are

private flats, the riverside

is starting to look like the

Needless to say, the now

was full of enthusiam for the

to innove once again the wishes

for local people and for indus-

views were put forward by res-

Southwark Local Plan two years

put in writing, were not even

referred to by the committee.

SEI BULLE

12 Meymott Street, S.E.1.

MEETINGS Thursday 11th October

and Monday 22nd October

tel: 928·1643

ago but these views, which were

notorious planning committee

Butlers Wharf plan, choosing

of the community for housing

trial development. These

idents groups in the North

talking about building £85,000

al uses.

a 180 bed hotel, artists studios,

OWNERS OF THE WHARF TO DRAW UP A HUGE SPECULATIVE DEVELOPMENT

LOCAL PEOPLE OF SE1

Blackfriars Settlement needs more literacy tutors. It does not matter whether you are working class or middle class or whether you have A and O levels. All you need is to be able to read and write, and have the view that just because we can't read or write, we are not different from anybody else. Please come and find out about being a tutor, we need local people.

Councillor Rowe, from Roth-

erhithe Ward, gave his opinions

on property development which

make Harry Hyams look like a

and City's awful scheme "imag-

chorus of Cllrs. Watts, Potter,

Davies, Lee, and Lees joined

"ditch Watts.Rowe.

in whose ward Butlers Wharf

is located were not consulted.

They are angered by the prop-

Ward Labour Party told 'SEl'

"The local elections in 1982

can't come soon enough as far

as we are concerned so that

we can get rid of the present

them with councillors who do

care about the community".

planning committee and replace

Boy Scout. He called Town

inative". The committee

in the raptures applause.

We need your help. Chris Bell, literacy student

Get in touch with ERIC PYE or ALISON TOMIIN. Blackfriars Settlement Literacy Scheme. 44-47 Nelson Square, telephone 928 9521 or 261 1268.

BUTLERS "IT'S OURS" SAY LOCALS

REASON TO BELIEVE ?

Facts are hard enough to find in newspapers, but us journalists regard public relations men as the real enemy of the truth. It comes as no surprise therefore that Southwark Council are proposing to double the size of their the only 4-legged horse in the public relations department. (p8)

Southwark's PR chief Warren (Eddie Waring) Newman MIPR, TWIN CAM.MAIE.TWIT.TWOO.TWADDLE.will need an HQ the size of the empire state building before he is satisfied. He has produced a mind boggling report which aims to convert Southwark's image from the 'Sweeney' into 'Its a Knockout! His report involves a cost of £200.000.

thing is shredded and distributed to needy birds for their winter nesting boxes.



WATERLOO WOODY

I recommend that the whole



designed it, Richard Rogers, had his head in the clouds when he dreamed it all up.....

I got dizzy looking at it.

comforted by it - they're

Of course not everyone was

spreading an unkind rumour that

Greycoats are building another

model, showing their plans seen

from the moon. Copies will be

Inquiry his client's scheme is

race. Unfortunately the guy who

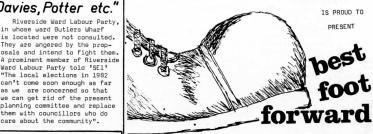
made and given away in matchboxes

Grevcoat's Head QC told the



COLOMBO STREET SPORTS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

COLOMBO STREET. SE1



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Theatre, followed by Disco with

SATURDAY OCTOBER 20TH

Further details from 261 1658.



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

ALE O Coin Street

AS THE COIN STREET PUBLIC INQUIRY MOVES INTO ITS FINAL STAGES, THE PROPERTY SHARKS ARE QUEUING AT THE DOORS OF THE GLC HOPING THAT IF THE MINISTER RULES IN FAVOUR OF OFFICES THEY CAN BUY COIN STREET FROM THE GLC.

The outcome of the Coin St Inquiry may not be known for a year or more but the GLC is behaving as if there's no doubt about what it will be.

Council officers are already starting to prepare to get rid of the GLC-owned land in the area. When the Secretary of State announces the decision they reckon all they'll have to do is put a few "finishing touches" on their paperwork and the property will hit the

They say this preparation is "so that the development can be undertaken as quickly as possible".

Megalomania

Greycoat London Estates, the last of the property companies to present its case, has had its scheme condemned as a "dinasour" by the Royal Fine Arts Commission, a "barrier block" by Lambeth Council and a "Berlin wall to cut off South London from the River" by local community groups. In a letter to the Architects Journal, Simon Jenkins (formerly editor of the Evening Standard) has described the scheme as "wildly out of scale...a classic of the architectural megalomania so well demonstrated upstream at the Shell Centre, and downstream at Kinns Reach.

Lifeless

Meanwhile the National Theatre board has written to the Inquiry Inspector telling him that "It would not favour a concentration of offices, whose occupants will generally leave before evening - so taking life out of the area ... Many National Theatre employees live locally and others wish to do so. We would like to see improvements in housing and amenities both for our employees and other residents... Any development should respect the wishes of the local community in seeking a continuance of a strong local life."

Confusion

Inside the John Marshall Hall, Colombo St, where the Inquiry is being held, there has been growing confusion about the Greycoat plans. Although Greycoats are promising to include some residential and recreational facilities in their scheme, their Architect Richard Rogers has told the Inspector that the Developers are not prepared to subsidise the recreational centre which will have to be run on a commercial basis. As far as the residential accommodation is concerned only "some" subsidy would be possible and he

was unable to promise any figure at this stage. Further, although his scheme included all 1,300,000 sq ft of offices asked for in the Greycoat planning application, the recreational and residential elements were 20% less than the figures shown in the application.

It has also been found that Rogers illustrations underestimate the size of the scheme. Architects working for the Coin Street Action Group have suggested that, on average, the buildings would be 25-33% higher than illustrated, and Rogers has alteady apologised for accidentally omitting a 100,000 sq ft office block from one of the drawings.

Unbuildable

There has also been some sniping between the architects with the main office schemes. Gordon Graham, an ex-president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, hired by Greycoats to support their scheme Commercial Properties scheme would be "a disaster .. Another collection of tower blocks would be terrible". Meanwhile the Heron/Commercial Properties! Architect, Derek Stephenson, has called the Greycoats scheme "unbuildable and unfundable" and also doubts whether the illustrations show all of the offices proposed.

'Mixed Uses'

A spokesperson for the Coin Street Action Group told SE1 "At this stage all that the Property companies want is for the Inspector to recommend that the sites should be rezoned from 'Residential and Park' to 'Mixed Uses' i.e. basically offices. The Architects are just being used to 'sell' this re-zoning to the Inspector and afterwards they and their particular schemes may be dropped. That is why the $\underline{\text{principle}}$ of offices on these sites must be opposed and not just the architecture of the schemes being presented"



THE LAST CHANCE TO TELL THE INSPECTOR YOUR VIEWS COMES THIS MONTH. PLEASE CONTACT HOWARD SIMMONS OR FRED MILLER AT WATERLOO ACTION CENTRE IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK.



JUST COMPLETED, THIS MURAL ON THE SIDE OF THE ST.GEORGES TAVERN IN LAMBETH ROAD FEATURES THE LANDLORD & LANDLADY TAKING A WELL EARNED REST.

Image-Making

Southwark Council's Public told the Inquiry that the Heron/ Relations officer Warren Newman is one man who doesn't seem to have noticed that money is rather tight these days. In a recently released report, called "Framework for Understanding", he puts forward proposals to spend over £185,000 to boost the Council's image.

Much of this would be spent expanding the Public Relations Department from 11 to 19 people. Other ideas include a Radio and TV interview course for Committee Chairpersons and Chief Officers, a new Council logo, and widespread advertising of Council services with slogans like "Caring for the Community".

The Report presently being considered by the Counil's Press and Public Relations Sub-Committee, is known to have a fair body of support amongst senior council members and officers.

Opposition to the plans is growing both inside and outside the Town Hall. One factor is, of course, its timing - the knives are being sharpened for cuts, and reports asking for increased money are bound to be unpopular.

A more fundamental cause for concern to many Council members and the public is the thinking behind the report.

It talks glibly about the need to create a dialogue between Council and Community, but a glance at its recommendations of what it wants to spend money on shows this to be window dressing.

Its not about increasing the ability of local people and even ordinary Members to influence the huge Council machine. At its heart is one way communication - selling the Council.

OVER 280 PEOPLE FROM ROTHER-HITHE AND BERMONDSEY VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO OPPOSE THE GLC'S PLANS FOR THE SOUTHERN RELIEF ROAD at a meeting on 25th September at Rotherhithe Baths.

The road is planned to slice through Bermondsey and Rotherhithe from the Bricklayers Arms, through Southwark Park and Surrey schemes which fit neatly into Docks before disappearing under the river to the Isle of Dogs.

At least 800 jobs would be lost - in an area where it is already an uphill struggle to revive industry that has closed down - reported Bob Colenutt from the Joint Docklands Action Group.

Other speakers at the meeting included Ted Johns from the Isle of Dogs Action Group and John O[‡]Grady, leader of Southwark Council. Ted pointed out that the Southern Relief Road is only half the story because both Southwark and Tower Hamlets Councils have their own road the GLC's one despite the fact that they are against the SRR.

The new Action Committee, called the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Campaign against the Southern Relief Road, is working out a plan of action. Contact Barney or Francis at 231 2372