



GLC DEMAND RANSOM FOR BAYLIS ROAD PARK SITE

The battle for open space on Baylis Road car park continues. After years of campaigning for the rehabilitation, money is available from the Lambeth Inner City Partnership to convert the site into a useful area for recreation. Unfortunately this money must be used before April 1980 and time is fast running out.

The GLC currently owns the car park and has agreed the transfer of the land to Lambeth. Unfortunately the GLC has set the price too high for Lambeth and the Department of the Environment may be asked to subsidise the cost.

Contrary to current policy aimed at shedding responsibilities and commitments the GLC is haggling over the price of a piece of land in public ownership involving the transfer of public money. While the authorities bide their time in reaching a decision, our chances of improving the Baylis Road site are slipping further away.

Colombo Street Open Day

The Colombo Street Sports and Community Centre in Colombo Street, (off Blackfriars Road) was once Sainsbury staff canteen. It is now used for activities for local people and is run by local people.

The open day held on Saturday 20th October was a great success with displays of karate, badminton and much more, although unfortunately the circuit training and women's combat sports were unable to make it. They also had the Young 'Uns performing in the evening which many will remember from this year's Waterloo Festival.

The Mayor of Lambeth and the Deputy Mayoress attended as did the Deputy Mayoress and Mayor of Southwark.

The organisers wish to thank all those who supported them on the open day and hope to see many more people taking part in the centre.



These Lambeth residents were among the tens of thousands who marched from Marble Arch to Trafalgar Square on Oct. 28th against the Abortion Bill now in Parliament. The Bill aims to take away the rights of most women to choose whether to have a baby, so that every child is a wanted child. The march was the biggest of its kind for years, taking over 3 hours to wind out of Hyde Park. The police (never known to exaggerate support for such events) estimated 16,000, those on the march know there were 35-40,000. Daily Express told its readers 2,000 turned up!

FIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE

The fight to stop the closure of St. Olave's Hospital took a new twist last week, when the 'gang of five' Commissioners swept aside the local Community Health Council's proposals, and announced the immediate closure of the much-loved - and badly-needed - local hospital.

The day before, the C.H.C. had published a set of alternative suggestions, which they believe would have made the closure unnecessary. But the Commissioners didn't even bother to consider them - thus making it clear that the only language they will listen to is that of massive popular protest.

cuts, cuts, cuts!

The Commissioners' arrogant announcement has also opened the way for the C.H.C. to come out clearly in support of the Guy's District Health Campaign which is committed to fighting the St. Olave's closure, and which will now need to build up its activity in the area if the hospital is to be saved.

Meanwhile, other cuts are happening in the health service too. The closure of some of the wards at the Belgrave Children's Hospital at the Oval is planned as well as the closure of St Giles Hospital in Peckham and some cuts in patient services in Guy's District are also going ahead.

These proposed cuts in the National Health Service are among many cuts that the Tory Government are planning to make in order to save money: less transport services, less house building, less home helps and meals on wheels and maybe doing away with school dinners. It might mean the government saves a bit of money, but these services are very necessary and our quality of life will become much worse if they are not maintained.

suspended

Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark Area Health Authority (our local health authority) was the only health authority to refuse to implement the cuts in services required by central government. So, about six months ago members of the Area Health Authority were suspended and replaced by 'commissioners', appointed by the government. The cuts are happening now in local health services because the commissioners have told each local health district that it must save a certain amount of money this year.

St Thomas' District have said that they can make the required savings this year without cutting patient services by doing things like taking out every other light bulb in hospital corridors. Those living in

"SE1" FACES A CRISIS. A very few people are keeping the paper going, some of these are unwilling to keep up the large commitment demanded of them. With less people involved, both production and distribution of the paper in its present form would be impossible.

"SE1" has come out every month for the last four and a half years and has provided an invaluable service of local news and comment that cannot be found in the commercial press. It would be a great loss to local groups and individuals if the paper were to stop publishing because there are not enough people to produce it.

There will be a meeting to discuss the future of the paper on Thursday 15th November at 7.30pm at the SE1 office, 12 Meymott St, SE1. We hope that you will come.

Guy's District are less fortunate as we already know from the proposed closure of St Olave's and the reduction of other patient services. Even St. Thomas' will no doubt be forced to cut patient services if similar economies have to be made next year.

how health cuts affect you

How will these cuts affect you? It will mean that you may have to wait longer to go into hospital to receive treatment, because of the shortage of beds or staff. It may mean having to walk farther to your local baby clinic or the foot clinic. It could mean having less time to talk to your doctor when you eventually get to see him/her because there are so many others waiting outside!

These cuts in local health services should not be taking place. Some of the services provided are already inadequate or not suitable. So, if anything, local health services should be improved not axed. Local people should play a more active role in deciding what services are needed for good health and have more say in the services that are provided locally.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8, col.4.

... SE1 TENANTS' NEWS ...

NO! TO 20% RENT INCREASE



Councillors arriving for the Council meeting at the Town Hall on 24 October were greeted by a lobby of Southwark tenants. The lobby was called by the Southwark Group of tenants Associations to demonstrate opposition to the prospect of a 20% increase in rents, and 25% and 10% increased in heating and garage charges.

The lobby, which also called for opposition to the sale of Council houses, was called at short notice in response to recommendations from the Borough Treasurer and the Director of Housing, that the

increased rents and charges should be implemented from December 79/January 1980.

A spokesperson for the Southwark Groups of Tenants Associations told SE1 that they were not disappointed by the turnout of between 60 and 70 tenants. "This is just the beginning of the campaign", he said. "Tenants are not used to lobbying, and of course like so many people in Southwark, they also have to overcome the feeling - based on bitter experience - that no matter what they do, their voices will never be heard."

The group believes that it will be a different kettle of fish when the full magnitude of the increases hits people. The total increases will mean up to £5 per week extra for tenants who also pay heating charges, and this is not taking into account a possible 50% increase in rates, nor the cuts in housing and other services the Council is considering.

formalities

While formal discussions are in progress between the Council and tenants, through the District Housing Committee structure, with a final deadline of 7 November, the Southwark Group has prepared a petition against the proposed increases which it is hoping all the Associations in the Borough will take round their estates, and it is calling on all its members to support the demonstration against the Cuts organised by Lambeth Council and the Lambeth Fightback Campaign on November 7th. It has also called for a Mass Lobby of the Southwark Labour Group meeting on December 3rd.

Mr. Sawyer read the telegram and tore it up. Who the hell are tenants, anyway?

OFFICIAL WARNING

Your rent will be increased next year by

20%

If we don't stop Southwark Council

GLC ESTATES IN LAMBETH

A number of GLC tenants in the Kennington District have got together to organise a public meeting about Package Improvements and transfer of GLC estates to Lambeth Council. The tenants live on inter-war GLC estates such as:

Tanswell, Munro House, Kennington Park, Springfield, Tulise Hill, Dorset Road and Larkhall.

They have experienced the Package Improvements and feel strongly that the improvements are inadequate.

Package Improvements to flats consist of:

- Installation of gas central heating
- New kitchen sink cupboards in kitchen
- New bath, WC, wash basin if necessary
- Retiling of bathroom and kitchen.

It doesn't deal with major structural repairs such as:

- retiling of roofs
- replacement of rotten window frames
- modernisation of rubbish chutes
- environmental improvements

inadequate

The tenants decided to hold a public meeting and ask Councillor David Asby - Chairman of GLC Housing Management Committee and let him know the strength of feeling about the inadequacy of Package Improvements

- * POOR WORKMANSHIP
- * LACK OF COMPENSATION FOR INCONVENIENCE & DISTURBANCE
- * LACK OF MAINTENANCE

They also want to raise the issue of the transfer of GLC estates to Lambeth Council. They have asked Councillor Warburton, Chairman of Lambeth Council Housing Committee to attend the meeting so he is aware of the needs of GLC tenants.

If the transfer happens (and it looks like it will) then it is vital that Councillor Warburton knows what resources he needs to negotiate from the GLC to upgrade these estates - a mammoth undertaking.

If you are a GLC tenant or are interested come along to the meeting on MONDAY 19th NOVEMBER at 7.30 IN HENRY FAUCETT SCHOOL, BOWLING GREEN STREET, SE11.

ROCKINGHAM MEETING ON POLICE HARRASSMENT

Tenants of the Rockingham estate had a chance to voice their growing criticism of police activities on the estate at a meeting called by the joint welfare committee of the Tenants Association on 17th October.

Over 50 tenants and younger residents met with Chief Inspector Coxon, the Community Liaison Officer of 'M' Division, Superintendent Atwood of Borough Police Station and home beat officer PC Barry Lewis to thrash out the complaints.

criticism

The main criticism of tenants centred around the activities of Detectives Ricketts and Hurley from the Borough Station, although several tenants cited examples of rough handling at the Police Station, illegal arrest, or where the correct procedures had not been carried out after arrest.

For the police, Inspector Coxon stated that whilst every attempt was made to stamp out breaches of their 'code of practice', the Police were only human and had the same problems with recruits as any

other large organisation. On top of this he also stated that the police were under-manned.

Superintendent Atwood also defended the police, and pointed out that there was a procedure to follow if anybody had a complaint against the police.

Several tenants spoke of their dissatisfaction over the complaints procedure. All complaints against the police are dealt with by A10, a police department which specialises in investigating complaints, and this was felt to be a weakness. The Complaints Board however is constituted of people independent from the police, but again complaints do not get to them without first being investigated by the police who then make out a report on their findings to the Board.

attitude

One major complaint could not be dealt with by the A10 or Complaints Board and did not stem from the ineffectiveness of procedures but what was described as the 'attitude of the Police', which was something tenants felt should

be tackled at the local Police Station.

Whilst no commitment was given by Superintendent Atwood he gave the impression that the meeting had impressed on him the need for some action on their complaints.

Those who attended the meeting felt that it had generally been a worthwhile exercise, and the feeling was expressed that it had been a start. If things did not get any better one got the impression that another meeting would be called and further action taken.

If any SE1 reader is unclear of the rights of people under arrest they should contact:

Southwark Law Project
29 Lordship Lane, SE22
Tel. 693 0618

Cambridge House Legal Advice Centre
137 Camberwell Road, SE5
Tel. 703 3051

SE1 would be interested to know of any other residents or associations who have worries about police activities or lack of them as the case may be.

VIEW OF CAMPBELL BUILDINGS

CAMPBELL BUILDINGS

Many people in this area will know of Campbell Buildings in Baylis Road and it is possible that many people are beginning to wonder if they are ever going to be demolished. And if they are, then why are flats still being relet?

demolition

Firstly, the date for emptying the first 2 blocks to be demolished, which are the ones nearest Frazier St., is December 1979 and demolition should follow shortly afterwards.

There are still 10 flats occupied in the first block. This is due to Lambeth Council's shortage of accommodation in this area plus the fact that Lambeth are trying to house homeless families first. This has meant that there has been a 'freeze' on moving these tenants. At a Tenants Association meeting on 24th October it was agreed to write to the Council and get them to clear this block before Christmas if possible.

Also we will be asking the Council for new demolition dates as it is apparent that the dates we have been given

are not going to be met.

The demolition of the whole estate was meant to have been completed by September 1981.

Secondly, concern has grown over the reletting of the middle block. About 13 tenants attended the Housing Management Sub-Committee on 5th September. Basically, what was happening was that Lambeth Council who have a long waiting list for housing wanted to use Campbell Buildings for short-life housing. This was disputed by some tenants on the grounds that it could eventually delay the demolition. Also some new tenants would be rehoused before those who have been living there for years.

new tenants

What we managed to do was to get the Council to agree that only the middle block should be reused, instead of two blocks as the council had originally intended.

The new tenants are people who are not normally considered high priority by the council. They are generally single people and childless couples with severe housing difficulties.

Some of the tenants have

EDWARD HENRY

Interviews for the more than fifty people who have so far applied to join the Edward Henry House Co-operative have started. The first applicants will soon be hearing whether they have been allocated a flat in the buildings on which modernisation work will start early next year.

66 flats are being created out of the 2 buildings which make up Edward Henry House in Cornwall Road. There will be 34 one-bedroom flats, 25 two-bedroom and 7 three-bedroom. The buildings are owned by the Co-operative and all the people who live there will collectively own and control the property, making all the decisions on the management and maintenance of the flats as well as deciding who lives there.

demand

Although the flats won't be ready for 1½ to 2½ years, there is already great demand, particularly from local people in need of decent housing. There are still many flats available so if you need somewhere to live and fancy the idea of living in a housing co-operative ask for an application form from the Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, SE1. Tel. 261 1404.



been nominated by the Council itself and these are squatters from Milford St. which is being demolished after 19th November. The Tenants Association have accepted some of these and also some local people who were desperate for a place to live. All of these tenants have had to do basic repairs to their flats as part of the agreement of tenancy.

The Tenants Association have now allocated most of the flats and have a long

waiting list for any flat that may become empty.

All the 'new' tenants only get one offer of housing when demolition is due. Also, they are not in competition with the original tenants who need family housing rather than a small flat or bed-sit.

Further information will be forthcoming in subsequent issues. However I hope that this article explains to local people a little more clearly exactly what is happening in Campbell Buildings.

Poly nursery hunts for space

LAST JULY THE SOUTH BANK POLYTECHNIC was instructed by the ilea fire department that the nursery should be moved to a ground floor. It is situated on the 4th floor at the moment in the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Keyworth St, SE1. (928 8989 ext.2035).

Unfortunately there is a general shortage of space in the Polytechnic and they have not been able to rehouse us. So we are looking for other premises as near as possible to our present site. Apart from finding a place of our own we are considering other possibilities such as having a combined nursery with some other organisation.

We have been given an extension of time in our present premises until Christmas while we make other arrangements.

Our nursery was set up privately by the Polytechnic

four years ago after an enthusiastic campaign by students and staff. (The I.L.E.A. does not fund nurseries in full time colleges.)

We take a small percentage of outside children and would take more if we had space. We are used by local children at half terms and holidays and we take children on a temporary basis during our quiet period - May to August.

Holiday users are charged according to income - approximately £2 per day. We have some children who are paid for by the Social Services.

The nursery is open from 9am to 5pm for 46 weeks of the year. We take children aged 0-4 years. We have between 15 and 20 children a day and a staff of four.

If you think you can help us in our search for a new home we would be glad to hear from you.



PEOPLE'S HISTORY Shopping in Lower Marsh

Like many streets on the fringes of central London, Lower Marsh, in the shadow of Waterloo Station, has been witness to a number of changes in both character and appearance during the last few decades. Some of these changes merely reflect the wholesale transformation of large areas of London since the Second World War, others indicate the more far-reaching changes in people's lives during the post-war years. One of the ways in which the process can be most clearly revealed in any neighbourhood is through its shops and businesses, through the way in which some types disappear, some others arrive and still others remain.

A glance at the Post Office Directory for 1936 reveals 8 greengrocers, 4 bakeries, 5 drapers, a dairy, a fishmonger and 5

butchers shops, in addition to the market stalls awaiting the local shopper in that year, not to mention Boots, Woolworths, and the Home and Colonial. There was Stewart & Price the music sellers, Mrs. Hamp the ginger beer maker, Hills the herbalist shop, Mercad's ironmongery and a wide spectrum from to furniture and linoleum dealers at hand for the prospective purchaser.

Most apparent about Lower Marsh in the latter part of the inter-war years was the profusion of tailors and theatrical costumiers, milliners and outfitters, 24 altogether in 1936.

During the 1920's an influx of such businesses, almost entirely the speciality of Eastern European Jewish emigre families taking advantage of the proximity of the South London Music Halls and West

dynamic woman

MANY SCHOOL-LEAVERS IN SE 1 have considerable difficulty getting jobs. Below we print an interview with Elaine who finally landed up as a dynamo assembler. If you've found an unusual kind of work - let us know.

R. How did you find out about the job here?
E. Through the Careers Office.
R. Is it what you wanted to do?
E. No I wanted to be a painter and decorator - but I wanted a bloke's job anyway.

R. Why is that?
E. Well it's difficult - I just didn't want a girl's job - working in shops and things like that. I tried that and it's really boring. It was just getting the clothes from the shop and sorting them out and then putting them on the rails and all that. It's really a drag.

R. So what do you actually do here at Dyna-Start?
E. Dynamos - put them together.
R. Do you enjoy working with men around you? Or would you prefer if more women were around?
E. I wouldn't mind the company of another girl but some times it's O.K., sometimes it gets a bit boring.

R. Do you find the work interesting?
E. Yes, most of the time it's O.K. because you're not doing one thing all the time. You're doing different things.
R. What do your family think about you doing it?
E. Well my mum was all for it. She was glad that I got a job anyway and said, "great, if you think you're going to enjoy it - that's the kind of thing you're looking for". Dad wasn't too sure whether I'd stick it or not. You know - something completely different.

R. And what did you do when you actually left school - when did

you leave school?
E. I left school when I was and before I left I tried all sorts of places - I tried all sorts of places. Actually when I left school I had a couple of jobs. I had a messenger job and a few others and then came to this one R. And how old are you now?
E. Seventeen.
R. How long were you on the dole for?
E. Well I was on and off. I was on for about two months at the most.
R. What did you do when you were on the dole?
E. Mostly I was looking round for jobs - that's the only way you're going to get a job.

I just didn't want a girl's job-working in shops and things like that.

R. And it's this sort of job you were looking for?
E. Yes I was, because I was always writing away for painting jobs - or to be a decorator.
R. How did you get interested in that?
E. Well I don't know - it was always something I really enjoyed doing - I used to do my own room and things like that. I just wanted to make a career of it or try to.

R. What replies did you get to your job applications?
E. Well most of them didn't want girls anyway.
R. Did they actually say that? What way did they put it?
E. Yes they did. They said you'd have to go through a training course first. Go to college or something like that. They said if they were going to take a woman on she'd have to be as good as a man. Being inexperienced they didn't want me at all.

R. Did you have any difficulty

shops in the 1930's and its dearth today in Lower Marsh, the deterioration of choice and availability is not a recent phenomenon. The process was in evidence as long ago as the First World War and its immediate aftermath when watchmakers, wig makers, photographers and stationers, tripe dealers, china retailers and a cheesemonger all vanished never to return, not to forget the demise too of the 'Three Compasses' pub on the site of today's Woolworths or the Stewed Eel House where today's library stands.

Of survivors from that era only Cornblossoms the outfitters and the corsetters at no. 87 remain. It is intriguing to wonder how many of today's businesses in Lower Marsh will remain into the 2030's.

THE SE 1 PEOPLE'S HISTORY GROUP meets every alternate Tuesday in North Lambeth library. November meetings are on the 13th and 27th.



in finding a man's job?
E. I mean one employer even said "well we haven't got a ladies toilet", and that was it full stop. That was their excuse.
R. Does the noise of the machines get you down?
E. Sometimes it does - if you come in with a headache it makes it a lot worse but you get used to it.

R. Are there any other girls working here?
E. There's one other girl here and she drives the vehicle. She collects the dynamos and starters.
R. What does she actually do?
E. She unloads the van, the lorry and loads up the old ones when she gets to her destination and brings the vehicle back again. She drives a Ford transit truck and an Escort.

CLAIMING YOUR RIGHTS

A NEW GROUP, called Claimants Rights in Southwark (CRIS), announces its arrival on the Southwark scene this week.

The group is open to all concerned about the social security system - claimants & DHSS workers, rights workers, trade unionists and so on.

They've announced their existence in a newsletter, which mainly aims to publicise the effects of cuts on the living standards of claimants. It gives details of Tory proposals - such as halting cost-of-living increases in the pension till 1983. It also

describes the effects of cuts already taking place.

There are also one or two less usual features - such as the "Truth about Spaghetti", which blows holes in some of the lies told by large newspapers about claimants - and a 'claimant's eye view' of what it's like bringing up children on supplementary benefit.

COMPETITION

The news-letter also includes a competition, which tests your knowledge of the kind of money claimants actually get :

On 15th November, Mr. Charles Vincent, an acupuncturist, is giving a talk on his specialised form of health care.

On 24th November, we are holding a jumble sale/coffee and tea morning at the Waterloo Action Centre, and look forward to seeing you there.

In December we will have a Christmas get together.

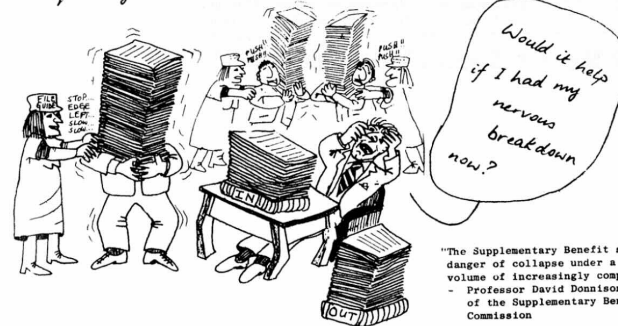
The January meeting is going to deal with prescribed medicines; what is prescribed; why it is prescribed; what effects different medicines can have on the body. The local pharmacist and our very own 'Doc' will be giving a talk and answering questions.

February will deal with the general business of the group and future plans will be discussed, so let us know your ideas.

If you have read this and are interested in anything mentioned do come to the meetings which are held on the third Thursday of every month at the Waterloo Action Centre at 7.30.

If you want further information before you come ring Jane Miller on 261 1404.

A quiet day at the DHSS...



"The Supplementary Benefit system is in danger of collapse under a mounting volume of increasingly complex work".
- Professor David Donnison, Chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission

CRIS MEETINGS

CRIS meetings are open to anyone interested. The next meetings will discuss what action the group should take - possibly campaigning to get more staff and a better service at an individual office - such as Wedge House.

The next two meetings are at 2p.m.

ON Thurs. 15th Nov.

Thurs. 13th Dec.

AT The Walworth Project Portakabin Offices St. Alban's Hall Penton Place, SE 17. (701-1038/9).

You can also get free copies of the CRIS newsletter no.1 from the same address. Ask for spare copies for your friends.

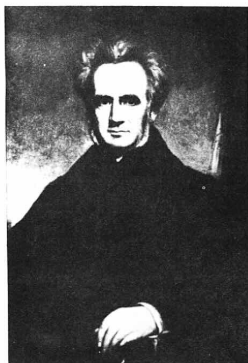
No pause for health group

Since the public meeting in January, I am delighted to let you know that the Women's Health Group (formerly the Menopause Group) is going strong. We changed the name of the group, because the issues being dealt with were not of a solely menopausal nature and therefore we wanted to encourage more people to join us.

Our progress has been steady ever since and a number of new members joined the initial group of 4. We have discussed, with and without professional medical assistance, the menopause, diseases of the womb and breasts, functions of our different organs, depression and so on.

The yoga class which started as a direct request from the Women's Health Group is a great success and even better value at 40 pence a session, 6.30-8.00 Wednesday evenings, at Columbo Street Community Centre. Gloria, our tutor, runs an energetic yet very relaxing and friendly class, and it is a lovely way to start an evening as well as keeping fit at the same time.

FRANCIS PLACE: Waterloo lad



A stockily built teenager, with an alert, serious-looking face, came out of his home on Lower Marsh - it was one of those on the south side of the road - and strode off in the direction of the river to cross into Fleet Street and spend a night on the town with his mates.

Francis Place was a new boy in the Lambeth area. He had few friends there.

The move to Lower Marsh was occasioned by the bankruptcy of his boss, to whom he was apprenticeship and with whom he had to live. Place, and his master's family, had previously lived in Bell Yard off Fleet Street, from which they did a moonlight flit (called "shooting the moon" in those days) to avoid creditors.

From Fleet Street (an exciting, turbulent area full of pubs and prostitutes, a famous meeting place for the wild young apprentices of London) to Lambeth was a move that few would envy in those days. It represented a definite step in the direction of the debtors' prison. For Place's boss, it was the last signpost

on the road to ruin. For young Francis, it was part of growing up

The following description of Lower Marsh and its neighbourhood is extracted from the Autobiography of Francis Place. He wrote this particular passage in 1841. It looks back to the period between 1787-89 when the young Londoner was learning his trade as a tailor.

"The house to which we removed was a small one in Lambeth Marsh, on the south side of the road called the Lower Marsh. It was the sixteenth house from the Westminster Bridge Road, it was a neat house with a large garden, beyond this house there were five or six others and beyond these Market Gardeners grounds. On the other side of the way the houses some of which were very old were continued much further, but beyond these there was nothing but gardeners grounds and open meadows to the road which led from Black Friars Bridge to the Obelisk in Saint Georges Fields. This road or lane before the building of Westminster Bridge was the only way from the Horse-ferry at Lambeth Palace to the Borough, there was then no other horse or carriage way excepting one close to the river. I have heard my father say that he has shot snipes in the marshes. Even at the time when I went to live at Lambeth there was no carriage way to Great Surrey Street but along the lane which came out into that road much further from Black Friars Bridge than the street since built called Charlotte Street, and the only foot way was through a gardeners ground, called 'Curtis's halfpenny hatch'. A town has since been built on the Garden Grounds and meadows and the lane called the Marsh has been made into a street."

TOWER BRIDGE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 24th Nov
2.30pm

Fair Street,
Tower Bridge Road, S.E.1

social security breakdown

LIFE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIMANTS may seem bad now, but it will get worse. This was the message given to workers at the Advice Centre in the Blue, Bermondsey, by two senior officials from the DHSS office at Wedge House, Blackfriars Road.

At a special meeting arranged by the DHSS to discuss the problems of claimants in Bermondsey, the officers agreed that the government cuts, pressure of work and poor working conditions have led to understaffed DHSS offices being able to process only new claimants' requests for help within a reasonable time.

Even routine increases of benefit to meet inflation and regular rent rises are not being dealt with. The officers admitted that there are still about 500 council tenants in the area living on social security who are still waiting for the extra money due to them

since their rents went up seven months ago.

Frances Sullivan, co-ordinator of the Advice Centre, explained that this meant people were owed up to £50. "This is £50 that the poor of Southwark can't afford, and means that many people - especially the old - pay their rent and then find they have no money for electricity and other bills."

"The whole situation is incredible," Ms Sullivan commented. "It's a bad joke which is causing suffering to thousands. The local social security officials are struggling to do their best but the system is simply cracking up. The public and the government must be made aware of the full horror of the hardship this is causing to the old people, disabled people, single parents and unemployed who have no other place to turn to."



Letters

St Andrew's School association

Dear SE1,

Following the closure of St Andrews and St Johns School we are contemplating the establishment of a St Andrews and St Johns School Association. The aim of such would be to maintain the spirit of the school and to continue the links that it has always fostered with the local community.

The Association will be open to all who have in the past years been connected with the school. That would include all staff, both teaching and non-teaching and of course ex-pupils. We would hope that ex-associates of St Johns Secondary School, Exton Street could also be involved.

Money contributed to the Association, as well as providing the cost of a yearly reunion (the first of which we hope to hold in 1980), will be invested in such a way that over the years it will increase in amount and could be of benefit to ex-

pupils who might find a little extra financial help, eg with further studies, of use to them.

A committee and constitution will be discussed after what is hoped will be a satisfactory reply to this letter. An amount of £1 per family will ensure membership of the Association and in due time a membership card will be forwarded to you as well as a periodic newsletter giving information of association activities.

Please contact either of the two addresses below complete with your subscription and name and address. Any suggestions you may have that would help formulate the constitution would be very helpful. We would appreciate you showing this letter to anyone you may know who has had past interest in the school. We would be delighted to hear from them as we will from you.

Yours
D.C. Phillips
2a Peabody Estate, Stamford St, SE1. (Ex-manager)

T.H. Lee
85 Norbury Court Rd, Norbury, SW16. (Ex-headmaster)

WRITE

to SE1. We want to hear your news and views. Send your letters to: SE1 Community Newspaper, 12 Maymott St, SE1, or give us a ring: 928 1643.

SE1 NEWSAGENT

OF THE MONTH

THE PURDOM FAMILY HAVE BEEN SHOPKEEPERS in Baylis Road since 1900 - longer than anyone else. Arthur took over the running of the family business twenty five years ago and now is helped every day by his elder sister Lou.



Their present shop at number 47 is the family's second. They moved from number 48 across the road in 1939 when it was demolished. Now Arthur and Lou open the shop every day of the week including Sundays, but at 7.30am instead of 5.30 as

they used to. Of course they have seen many changes in the area but they are not planning to leave.

So you'll be able to buy your SE1 at Purdom's for many years yet!

SCALE RATES - competition answer

THE ANSWER TO THE COMPETITION ON PAGE 5: Lola Pade, the single parent, would get just £30-65 to support herself and her family.

I'll explain why. But first I'll list the new supplementary benefit scale rates, which come in on 12th Nov. - and should mean that claimants get an increase on that date.

THE NEW SCALE RATES

	O.R.	L.T.R.
Couple.....	29-70	37-65
Householder (single).....	18-30	23-70
Non householder.....	14-65	18-95
Children		
Age 16-17.....	-	11-25
Age 13-15.....	-	9-35
Age 11-12.....	-	7-70
Age 5-10.....	-	6-25
Age 0-5.....	-	5-20

(notes: The non-householder rent addition is £1-70. Over-80's get an extra 25p. There are special rates for blind people. 'O.R.' = Ordinary Rate. 'L.T.R.' = Long Term Rate.)

HOW IS LOLA'S BENEFIT CALCULATED?

To calculate her benefit you add up her 'requirements' - money for things she needs. Then you take away her 'resources' - any income she has.

Lola's requirements consist of (1) Money for herself. Because she is the tenant she counts as a householder. She only gets the Ordinary Rate: £18-30. (2) Money for her children. They're aged 2 & 4, so she gets £3-20 for each - that's £10-40. (3) Money for rent. She's paying £12-45.

That adds up to £41-45 - but then you have to take away the £10-50 Child Benefit she gets. That leaves her with only £31-65.

If you want more information about how much supplementary benefit you should be getting, contact:

BIAS, Blackfriars Settlement, 44 Nelson Sq., SE 1. (928 9531). Open: Mon-Fri., 1.30-5.30.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

1st DECEMBER 1979

Archbishop Peter Amigo Hall, Lambeth Road, SE1.

*Doors open 11am. Come along and enjoy yourself while getting some Christmas shopping done.

Whose Docklands?

Residents of Docklands reacted strongly to the Government's announcement that a New Town type of corporation is to be set up to undertake the redevelopment of London's Docklands which includes the Surrey Docks area in Southwark and large areas of Tower Hamlets and Newham north of the River.

The Government's idea is that instead of the local authorities being responsible for Dockland development, a corporation of Government appointees and businessmen - a Super Quango - would take over the job.

The Joint Docklands Action Group representing community groups and trades Councils in Docklands told SE1 "This will mean that derelict land will be sold off to speculators and fly by night companies rather than be developed with the people in mind. We shall have no control over our future because the new corporation will be unelected". As to the suggestion that the local authorities could not do the job and were not getting rid of the dereliction in

Docklands, JDAG said "The problems of Dockland development are due mainly to the Government which has not come up with the money for major projects such as the Jubilee Line. If they were really concerned about the community they would put a halt to the damaging cuts in housing, health and social services which are crippling one community after another."

It is not thought likely that the new corporation, to be called an Urban Development Corporation, will be in existence until April 1981 because legislation must go through Parliament. In the meantime there may be uncertainty or panic as the local councils try to get development going under their own control. Hence Southwark's uneasily attempt to sell off the Surrey Docks to developers thus by-passing public consultation.

DISTRAINT

The Council is continuing to use distraint (see June 'SE1') against tenants with rent arrears. Southwark Rights Umbrella Group revealed this in an October press release.

Distraint is the procedure which dates back to the 13th century, which allows the Council to use bailiffs against its tenants. They can come and seize a tenant's furniture without a court hearing or even formal warning.

The press release was accompanied by a distraint warrant. The warrant proves that the Council authorised the use of distraint against an unemployed woman with three children who had only £83.56 rent arrears. The woman concerned had been made redundant in April.

A SRUG spokesperson commented:

"Doubtless people threatened with their belongings being seized will find money they can't afford. They will leave other essential bills, like gas or electricity unpaid - or borrow, sometimes even from moneylenders. The Council does not solve the problem, it just passes it on."

Come to the CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Charles Dickens School, Lant St.

NOV. 17th
at 2 p.m.

Admission 10p

INSPECTOR STOPS CONTROVERSIAL EVIDENCE

The COIN STREET PUBLIC INQUIRY ended (almost) as it had begun: with controversy. The Inspector, Mr. Walters, refused to hear the evidence of one of the witnesses, when he found that it was being presented in the form of a play which looked as if it was going to tell a few home truths about the whole system of public inquiries and the way in which they are biased in favour of big business.

One of the characters in the play was The Inspector, and this was a little too close to Mr. Walters' funny bone for his comfort, so he stopped the show after two minutes. The group presenting the play was the Battersea Redevelopment Action Group which has been fighting against the plans for offices along the riverside in Battersea.

Incredible as it may seem, the Inquiry is now all over bar 'summing-up' (when each of the main parties to the Inquiry repeat the main points in their cases). This is expected to last until mid-November, and then the Inspector will have to go away and write his report for the Secretary of State, who will then (maybe) consider it and (certainly) announce his DECISION!

COIN ST. ACTION GROUP MAKES ITS CASE

The last weeks saw the Coin Street Action Group evidence being presented, with a strong group of witnesses, including Stuart Holland, the Vauxhall MP, Ken Campbell, a former GLC Housing architect and past Vice President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and Peter Brown, who has been working on a study of the future supply of and demand for offices in London.

Stuart Holland explained how the new technology of the micro chip and the 'word-processor' (a kind of automatic typewriter which does away with typists) could mean a fall in office jobs of up to 20% over the next

10 - 15 years. A micro-computer today, the size of a finger-nail and costing less than £20, can do the job of a 1960 model computer filling an entire room and costing £200,000.

The result is that not only are office jobs going to be drastically cut, but the amount of space needed for offices will also fall by up to a fifth.

Dr. Holland also produced a letter from London Transport explaining the urgent lack of central London housing for its employees, and the effect this is having on staff shortages and the efficiency of the London transport system.

Peter Brown produced figures to show that office firms are having to recruit their staff from further and further afield. Already over a quarter of all Central London office workers commute from outside the Greater London area, and the proportion is increasing.

With rates and rents in London increasing, and new developments in technology like video-telephones etc, which mean that offices no longer have to be centralised in London, and the rising cost of commuter transport, more and more offices will be moved out of London.

He showed that there are currently 30 million square ft. of office permissions where no developer had yet been persuaded to develop, and argued that with office firms moving out, and developers refusing to develop land with existing office permissions, there could be no justification for allowing land zoned for badly needed houses on the South Bank to be used for offices.

'THE LAST CHANCE'

Ken Campbell said 'The site we are considering represents the last available opportunity to reverse the process of driving back the living areas, to open the river ... to the people of London, and to take a rare if not unique opportunity of housing a number of workers in London where all are agreed they should be - close to the centre, close to the amenities of the town and close to their work.'

Coin Street drama the final act?

Attacking the Greycoats' office scheme, he said 'the drawing seriously misrepresents the actual size of the buildings which would be even higher than shown ... Nearly one third of a mile long - well over twice the length of the Shell complex and higher than the Shell complex apart from the tower, it is indeed the 'dinosaur' described by the past Secretary of the Fine Arts Commission'.

LAST WORDS

Apart from the Coin Street Action Group case, a number of local residents have spoken, and also community groups from Paddington, Pimlico, Spitalfields, Croyden and Covent Garden, who were all speaking in support of the Association of Waterloo Groups' scheme for housing on the sites.

Pete Marsden, of the Campaign for Family Housing, described how all over London residential communities have been decimated by office and hotel developments. He said: 'There has to be a balance between the need for housing and other possible uses of land in the central areas, and we believe an imbalance has occurred in favour of offices and hotels and against housing for people on low and average incomes'.

For those who wish to hear the summing up of cases, and who can get to the Inquiry in the daytime, the programme is as follows:

GLC 9th November
London Weekend Television and Southwark Council 12th Nov.
Association of Waterloo Groups 14th November
Commercial Properties and Greycoats 15/16th November
Lambeth Council 19th Nov.



ABOVE: One of the 280 photographs in the 'Coin Street Tape & Slide Show', a fifty-minute record in words, music and slides of the local community and the fight for decent housing and facilities in the area. The show is the result of months of painstaking work by the Blackfriars Photography Project and others.

For its world premiere, the show was presented to the Public Inquiry in the gracious presence of H.M. Inspector Walters, a glittering galaxy of Queen's Counsel and other lawyers, architects and stars of the property speculation underworld, and some 30 or 40 local people who had managed to attend the daytime showing.

The Tape/Slide show is now on general release, and available free of charge for tenants' association meetings, lunch clubs, or indeed any local groups that wish to view and discuss it. For details and arrangements, contact Caro Webb or Barbara Hartley at 928 9521 (10.00am - 5.30pm).

JUMBLE SALE

In support of the
**Coin Street
Action Group**

**Saturday
November 17th**
11am - 2pm

At the Waterloo Action
Centre, 14 Baylis Road,
SE1.

ANGRY? Cont'd.

Are you angry or upset about the cuts that are taking place? Would you like more information? Why not pop in to see Jane Miller or Monica Selden at the Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, SE1. Or contact Janet Maguire, Secretary of the Campaign Against Health Cuts in Lambeth Southwark and Lewisham, c/o ECG Dept, Guy's Hospital, SE1.

Petitions against the cuts are available at the Waterloo Action Centre if you would like to add your signature.

Colombo Street Sports and Community Centre tel: 261 1658

Did you know that Colombo St. Sports Centre has
A BOXING CLUB?

WANTED: BOYS

AGED 11 AND OVER

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays: 6.00 - 8.45 p.m.
CONTACT F.BEALE at the Colombo Street Centre.